

SPORTS

Basketball Review

by Bryon Tinnin
Sports Writer

NCCU vs. WSSU

The Rams and the Eagles met last Friday in a pretty evenly matched competition at the Winston-Salem Coliseum. North Carolina Central, however, prevailed and went on to defeat the Rams 49-48. A driving lay-up over center Gary Cromartie proved to be the game winner. After trailing throughout most of the game, the Rams had one last chance to get the ball downcourt for one last shot. The effort failed when guard Mike Lesane's jumper was partially blocked and the final seconds ticked off.

J.C. Smith vs. WSSU

Sophomore forward Kevin Reid led all scorers with 20 while leading his Ram basketball team to a 74-51 victory over the Golden Bulls of J.C. Smith University. Playing in the Winston-Salem Coliseum before a relatively small crowd, the Rams led through the entire game while pacing themselves through the blowout victory. Team scoring was well-balanced as each of the starters scored in double figures. Reserve guard Matthew McMillan came off the bench to contribute to the Ram scoring attack.

Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines has his Winston-Salem State Rams Men Basketball Team off and running to a 9-4 start midway through the season. Early losses to the Aggies of North Carolina A&T, Norfolk, and Virginia Union set the Rams back. They have begun to regain their footing with impressive victories such as the Holiday Tournament at Springfield, Massachusetts. The Rams shocked the University of Massachusetts with an impressive 64-62 victory. Big play came from guards Charlie Spell and Steve Hood, while big rebounding power was supplied by Gary Cromartie and Kevin Reid.

There is a rough road ahead for the Rams with big games against the Eagles of North Carolina Central, A&T at Greensboro, and J.C. Smith in the always tough Charlotte Coliseum. However, Coach Gaines and his assistants hope to have their team ready for the CIAA Tournament at the end of February.

WSSU Reaches Heaviest Part Of Schedule As Tournament Draws Near

by Bryon Tinnin

As the month of February reaches its midway point, the Winston-Salem State University Rams are gearing up for the CIAA Tournament. With recent victories against Fayetteville State, and Hampton University, and a narrow loss against Livingstone, the Rams are heading possibly into the roughest part of their basketball schedule. Road games against N.C. A&T, J.C. Smith, U.D.C., and N.C. Central are ahead of the Rams before they start preparing for the tournament at the end of this month. Let's all hope for a positive outcome to the chain of events about to face the Rams.



Matthew "Iceman" McMillan goes up for two points against NCCU opponents.



Brothers of the Phi Alpha Fraternity and the sisters of the Alpha Kappa Alpha cheer the Rams to victory



Guard Charlie Spell makes his way past an NCCU opponent.

Congratulations Evans & Beasley

by Bryon Tinnin

Congratulations are extended to Donald Evans and Derrick Beasley for their accomplishments this past season in the NFL. Both men were star players for the 1986-87 Winston-Salem State Rams football team. Both men had extraordinary college football careers and showed tremendous character once they made it to the pro ranks.

Donald Evans, playing various positions throughout his college career, but most effective at the defensive end position, was drafted in the 2nd round by the Los Angeles Rams. The Rams have high expectations of Evans and plan on trying him out at the full-back position at spring training Camp.

Derrick Beasley, who played strong safety during his college career, was drafted in the 4th round by the New England Patriots. Beasley was hampered most of the year with a toe injury, but showed impressive play when given the opportunity during his rookie season.

The character of these two athletes is often admired because it is not easy to make it in the NFL. Facing men of equal or greater size than you or men of equal or greater speed is an uneasy feeling because you never know what to expect. Both athletes have been given a great opportunity to prove that they have the right stuff. So as they venture off to spring training in the coming months, let us wish them good luck and hopes of continued success.

WSSU vs. UDC

by Bryon Tinnin

The Firebirds of the University of District of Columbia downed the Rams 90-82 in a non-conference battle. After being tied with the Firebirds at halftime, the Firebirds outscored the Rams 16-2 to open a 61-50 lead. Team scoring for the Rams was pretty much well-balanced as the Rams fell to 12-8 overall.

WSSU vs. Va. State

by Bryon Tinnin

Steve Hood led the Rams with a 27-point performance as his team defeated Virginia State 76-68. The Rams increased their lead to as many as twelve points in the second half. Charlie Spell and Jamal Pierce contributed 12 points each to round off the scorers in double figures.

WSSU vs. St. Augustine

by Bryon Tinnin

The Rams suffered two heart-breaking defeats January 28th against the St. Augustine Falcons. In the first game, the Lady Rams lost a disappointing overtime game 87-82. The Lady Rams were led by Angela Henderson with gutsy play coming from the other starters.

In the second game, which was equally disappointing, the Rams lost to the Falcons with four seconds remaining on the clock. A 78-76 victory by the Falcons lifted them to a 5-2 record in the Southern Division, while the Rams fell to third place with a 3-3 conference record, 11-6 overall.

Charlie Spell led all scorers with 16 points, while "Ice" McMillan scored 13. Guards Steve Hood and Michael Lesane contributed 11 and 10 points. Reserve guard Jamal Pierce came off the bench for a 6 point performance.

Photos by M. Wilson