

# Sports

## BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

### Rams shut down Falcons with 4th quarter defensive stand

By Joyce McMillan  
SPORTS WRITER

The month of January was a see-saw that wouldn't come up for the Rams this season, and it didn't appear that their luck was going to change until they hosted the Falcons of St. Augustine.

Last month they defeated St. Augustine by a score of 72-70. Rams guard Chuck Swaringin held one of the keys that unlocked the door to that win. He repeatedly scored in must-score situations.

Tied 67 all with 67 seconds remaining in the game, St. Augustine's forward Milton Pouncey was at the line, hoping to give his team the lead. Pouncey, who had earlier made two free throws, missed the front end of this trip to the line. Rams center Toby Barber snatched the rebound and once again they were off to the races.

After several passes, the ball ended up in the "good hands" of Swaringin, who with St. Augustine's LaShun McDonald closely pressing was able to connect. That shot broke the tie and put the Rams up by two. On the next play Barber made a steal which led to Rams forward Lance Jones being fouled and hitting the front end of a one-and-one.

With 34 seconds remaining, the Falcons called a time out to map out their strategy. St. Augustine's coach, Harvey Heartley, told his team to take the 3-pointer if it was open but to look first for a two-pointer, then press and foul in the remaining seconds. Swaringin put a damper on that plan by pressing McDaniel so closely that he didn't get off a clean shot and missed.

From that miss, Barber scored with a breakaway dunk which put them up 72-67 with 15 seconds left to play. The Falcons' John Willis hit a meaningless three-pointer at the buzzer. This victory ended a five-game losing streak for the Rams, who had not won a game since November. WSSU's Lesane, Swaringin and Barber all finished in double figures at 22, 17 and 13, respectively.

### Eagles crush Rams 70-37

The Rams' losing streak continued when they lost 70-37 to North Carolina Central University's Eagles in a televised game. That victory was Central's largest against WSSU since 1949 when they beat them 119-65.

WSSU jumped to an early 8-1 lead, but lost it on an eight-point spurt by the Eagles. The Rams were outscored repeatedly and were not able to capitalize on the Eagles' 14 turnovers. WSSU trailed by 12

points midway in the second half; but were outscored again 29-8 with 10:30 left in the game.

Lance Jones made a pair of free throws to pull the Rams within 12. Central outscored the Rams 17-3 within a 4:20 time span. Four players were in double figures for Central whereas no WSSU player scored more than eight points.

### Virginia State knocks off Rams

The WSSU Rams have been struggling against their opponents all season. Their struggle continued when they met the Trojans of Virginia State University on Jan. 26.

The Rams put up a valiant fight for most of the 40 minutes, but the Trojans overpowered them 91-79.

The Rams cut Virginia State's lead to two points three times early in the second half. With the score 59-57, the Trojans captured and kept the control they needed for the rest of the game.

### Falcons shake off struggling Rams

After being victorious over the Falcons of St. Augustine's at home earlier this season, the Rams traveled to Raleigh, hoping to repeat their earlier feat. No dice! WSSU lost.

Throughout the game, the Rams were plagued with turnovers, cold shooting and foul trouble which made the Falcons' 94-82 victory an easy one. Although five players scored in double figures for the Rams, it was not enough to give them a win.

Chuck Swaringin, who had been instrumental in the Rams' earlier win against the Falcons, was held to only two points. Point guard Jamaal Pierce led the Rams in scoring with 17 points. Tony Barber and Mike Phillips each added 14 points, while Lance Jones scored 12 and Boris Battle added 10 points.

This loss gave the Rams their first conference loss, making them 4-7 overall and 3-1 in the conference.

### UDC hammers Rams 76-68

The Rams took a road trip to play the University of the District of Columbia with victory on their minds, but UDC had other plans. The Rams were defeated 76-68 for yet another loss in a non-conference game.

Even though the Rams never led in the game, they were able to cut the 10-point deficit that UDC built in the first half to five points. UDC was ahead 36-25 at the half.

During the game, the Rams attempted 92 shots and made only 27 of them. Many of those shots were taken during the game's final seven minutes when the Rams were trying to cut UDC's 22-point lead.

Charles Swaringin, who finished with nine points, hit a three-pointer with 18 seconds left and Boris Battle connected

with a three-pointer at the buzzer. Michael Lesane led the Rams in scoring with 17 points and Toby Barber had an impressive 22 rebounds and eight points.

### Broncos nip Rams 76-74

Many Rams fans had hoped that Coach Clarence A. "Bighouse" Gaines would win his 790th game on Jan. 29 in Fayetteville. WSSU's 76-74 loss nipped that dream.

Even though the Rams rallied in the final minute of the game, the Broncos held them off.

WSSU's Michael Lesane tied the game at 74-74. Fayetteville States' Darrell Harris gave the Broncos a two-point lead with a little more than a minute to play. Ironically, neither team scored again even though both had ample opportunities.

With this loss the Rams are 4-11 overall and 3-4 in the Southern Division in the CIAA.

### Wrestling team peaks after a rough start

By Marcus Myers

After a dismal start, Winston-Salem State University's wrestling team endured

stiff competition and now seems to be back in their CIAA Championship form.

The Rams looked tough as they had individual champions as well as second-, third- and fourth-place finishers in all of the tournaments in November. In December the Rams went 0 for 5, losing to UNC-Chapel Hill, Appalachian, N.C. State, the University of Virginia and Morgan State. This month, the Rams lost five straight before winning one against Norfolk State and losing to Virginia State in the CIAA duals.

The turning point for the Rams was a close loss to Campbell at home. Although the team lost, everyone wrestled well. The Rams later traveled to Tennessee for the Mid-South Tournament. In this tournament, the Rams showed their championship form. James McLinnaham (126), Andrew Flagler (142), and Willie Mouzon (158) all were individual champions. Jimmy Hester (134) and Danny Boden (150) were runners-up, while Shawn Williams (177) placed fourth. Coach Melvin Fair was named "Mid-South Coach of the Year."

The wrestling team traveled to Gardner Webb on Feb. 4 and then on to Pembroke State Feb. 7, before hosting the CIAA Championship Tournament Feb. 18 in the C.E. Gaines Center at WSSU.

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