

Sports

BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

By Joyce McMillan
SPORTS EDITOR

Rams Nip Bears

"It ain't over 'til the fat lady sings." This appeared to be how the Rams felt in their last home game when they nipped the Livingstone Bears 79-78.

Tied 75-75 midway through overtime, WSSU's Mike Phillips stole the ball and fed Mike Lesane for a fast-break layup and a 77-75 lead with 2:18 remaining. It took the Bears 1:69 before they got off another shot. Livingstone's Abe Williams hit the front end of a one-and-one, making the score 77-76.

WSSU ran the clock down to eight seconds before calling a time out. On the inbound Jamaal Pierce, an 82.8 free throw shooter, was fouled before any time ran off the clock. Pierce sank both shots to put the Rams up 79-76. Before time expired, the Bears' Lucinni Kaba scored on a miss by a teammate.

If an Oscar for "Best Supporting Player" had been awarded, WSSU's Mike Lesane would have been the recipient. He scored 37 points, 23 of which came in the second half. Phillips had 11, and Toby Barber pulled down 17 rebounds, while Lance Jones had 11.

Paine Beats WSSU

The Rams were on the road to Augusta, Ga., to meet Paine College, hoping for what has come hard for them -- a win. However, this trip, like many others, did not produce a win. The Rams lost 60-57.

With 2:33 to go, the Rams trailed 56-47, then hit six straight to cut the lead to three with a minute remaining. Paine's Michael Jones scored to give them a 58-53 lead with 47 seconds remaining.

WSSU's Mike Phillips hit two free throws with 24 seconds left to cut the lead to three, but Paine's Scott Johnson sealed the victory from the foul line.

Both Toby Barber and Battle finished in double figures at 23 and 13, respectively.

Eagles Crush Rams

In their last game to be played in the Memorial Coliseum, Winston-Salem State lost to North Carolina Central 60-45.

The Rams were down by 11 but made a comeback that resulted in a 43-43 tie. Despite the comeback, the Rams made several turnovers that the Eagles turned into fast break points. With four minutes to play, the score was 49-43 Central.

WSSU missed six straight shots before center Toby Barber broke the spell. Central was able to score eight points during the last minute of the game. The Rams

fell to 6-17 overall and 4-7 in the conference.

Lesane was the leading scorer, with 23 points, and Central's Miles Clark led his team with 14 points.

WSSU Spanks UDC

Is vengeance really sweet? It was for Coach Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines and the Rams, when Winston-Salem State University beat the University of District of Columbia 89-67, ending a five-game losing streak. That win gave Coach Gaines his 790th victory.

At the half the Rams led 42-33 and ran a 21-4 spurt at the beginning of the third period.

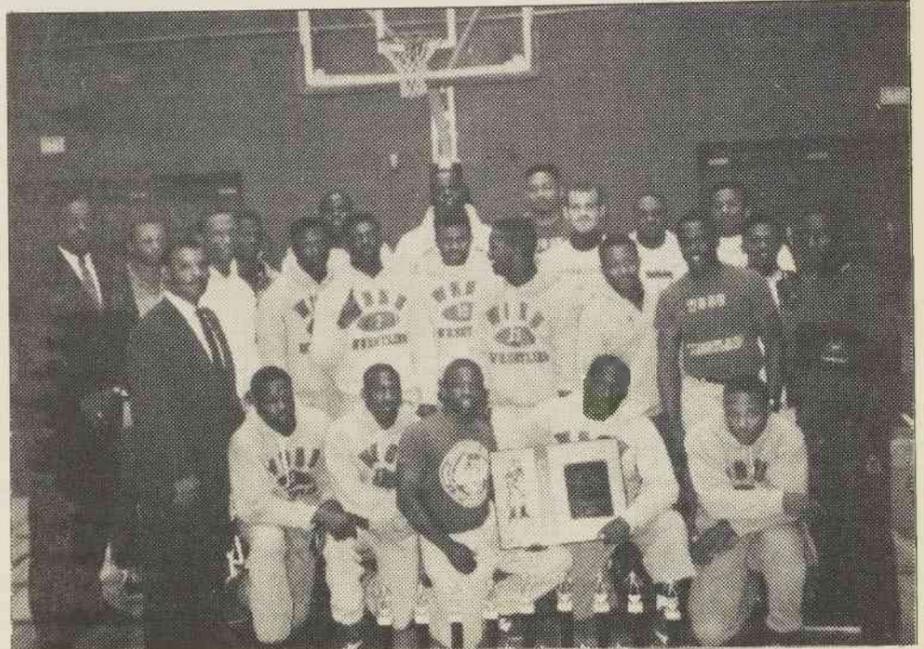
Rams guard Mike Phillips finished with 20 points, 11 rebounds and four assists. Center Toby Barber had 19 points and 23 rebounds, 13 of which were offensive, and Lesane added 19 points.

Aggies Crush Rams

The Winston-Salem State University Rams met their rivals the Aggies of A&T State University in a game that was to be a revenge match for the loss the Rams suffered earlier in the season to the Aggies.

Unfortunately the Rams were not able to hang onto the lead before time expired and suffered a 59-54 defeat. With 1:13 left, WSSU trailed just 55-54 after a pair of free throws by Mike Lesane. The Rams planned to hold the ball for a final shot with seven seconds remaining when the Rams' Jamaal Pierce lost the ball out of bounds as he drove to the baseline. As a result, A&T's Glenn Taggart was able to connect with two free throws.

Throughout the game the lead changed hands 11 times and neither team led by more than five points. Lesane finished the game with 17 points and Mike Phillips added 10.



WSSU wrestling teams CIIA champs

By Marcus Myers
STAFF WRITER

Repeating as champions seems to be the "in" thing nowadays. The Los Angeles Lakers, the World Basketball Champions, became the first team to repeat as champions since the Boston Celtics in 1969. The Winston-Salem State University Ram Football Team also repeated as CIIA champions in 1987. The wrestling team recently mimicked the feat of the football team and won back-to-back titles.

In February, the wrestling team won the CIIA championship tournament. The three teams that participated in the tournament were Virginia State, Norfolk State and Winston-Salem State. Livingstone, who was last year's runner-up in the tournament, did not participate because of a measles quarantine in Salisbury. The same quarantine also caused the site of the tournament to be changed from its original site at Livingstone to Winston-Salem.

Individual champions from WSSU were Bennie Carver (118 lbs), James McLinnaham (126 lbs), Andrew Flagler (142 lbs) and Danny Boden (150 lbs). Runners-up were senior Jimmy Hester (134 lbs), last year's CIIA champion and freshman all-American Willie Mouzon (158 lbs), Shawn Williams (177 lbs), Terrence McNeil (190 lbs) and Daron Peebles (Hwt) who was also an all-American in Sheridan's Black College Football Poll.

James McLinnaham, a junior, is a three-time CIIA champion. Carver and Boden are two-time CIIA champions and were runners-up last year. They are returning next year along with CIIA champion and team captain Andrew Flagler. All four wrestlers traveled to Pennsylvania March 2 through March 4 for the Division II National Wrestling Tournament.

According to the University's statistics, the wrestling team is the winningest team at WSSU. Also in the last decade, the program has won seven CIIA titles. In the other three years, they were runners-up in one tournament and placed third in the other two.

Coach 'Big House' Gaines closes out another basketball season

By Bryon M. Tinnin
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Coach Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines and his Winston-Salem State Rams Basketball Team are at the end of another season. This season was, however, a not so great one for the Rams' team. They finished 3-7 in the Southern Division and 6-18 overall.

The team lost in the first round of the CIIA tournament to Elizabeth City State University. They also had no one placed on the All-CIIA Team for the first time in quite a while.

The reasoning behind the Rams' less productive season? Well, youth and inexperience killed them down the stretch. They also blew some very close games in the last couple of minutes.

Team leader Michael Lesane carried most of the scoring burden this season. He was aided by league leading rebounder Toby Barber and newcomer Mike Phillips, who began to progress as the season neared its end.

Coach Gaines acknowledged that the entire team progressed as a whole and that it was a true learning experience for the guys. "By us being inexperienced in the tournament that certainly hurt us," said Gaines. "We certainly have to do some heavy recruiting for next season," he added.

Even though the Rams basketball team had a mediocre season, the student body and everyone associated with the team were very supportive. "I don't believe a student body could be more supportive of a team than the students here at Winston-Salem State," said Gaines. "The pep band and Scarlet Lace (WSSU's dancing girls) were also tremendous assets to our program," he added.