



photo by Chuck Hanes
Head Coach Stenson Conley

Lady Rams Live Up to Expectation

By Stephen Smith
Staff Writer

When the new year began, what looked like another long and dismal season suddenly changed into something positive and enjoyable. No, we are not talking about the CIAA Football Champions. No, we are not even talking about the men's Basketball Team. We are talking about Lady Rams Basketball at Winston-Salem State University.

The Lady Rams of 1990-91 are playing tremendous basketball. Their 11-6 overall record is very impressive, especially when compared to previous records over the years. At 6-1 in division play, the Lady Rams are in first place in the Southern Division, and hold a 10-5 conference record. This comes as little surprise to Coach Conley.

"We knew, coming into this year, that we would have a good season," stated Stenson Conley, who won his 100th victory a few weeks ago. "The acquisition of our Junior College Players has helped us a lot. Almost all of our returning players have two to three years experience, and that certainly has played a major role."

Coach Conley was referring to Doris Kelly, Bobbi Fluellyn, and Taja Harper. The three have brought a new dimension to the line-up.

Doris Kelly's playmaking ability has instilled a confidence in the team like never before. "We are confident with Doris out there," said Angela Courtney, the center, leading scorer, and rebounder for the Lady Rams. "We know she is capable of scoring or getting it to the people who can score at anytime."

Bobbi Fluellyn and Taja Harper both add shooting and defensive pressure which has put the coach in an unfamiliar position. "Last year, all with the exception of two of our games, were very close, yet we couldn't pull out a victory. This year, most of those games we end up winning and that help our confidence," said the coach. These acquisitions have also added experience and depth.

The Lady Rams have a deep bench that can be called on at anytime to produce when necessary. Angela Courtney, Tracy Babbitt, Tia Pemberton, Brenda Maxwell, Denise Conley, and Kim Garner are all returning veterans with playing experience ready to contribute at any moment. Coach Conley says he is confident they will come through for him, but still insists upon not overstepping boundaries and remaining focused. "The key to our success is to avoid getting ahead of ourselves, to prevent ourselves from overstepping the steps we have to take to get there." How the team heeds his warning could determine a CIAA Championship.

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