

SPORTS

A New Era In Ram Basketball

BY KEVIN MANNS
WSSU Sports Information Director

The 1993-94 basketball season will mark a new era for the Winston-Salem State University men's basketball team. Gone from the sideline is the legendary Clarence "BigHouse" Gaines. His replacement, Thomas "Fox" Snowden.

Snowden joins the Ram family after spending several very successful seasons as an assistant coach and recruiter at Norfolk State University. He brings to this position a youthful look into what could be a turnaround season for WSSU.

Known as a masterful recruiter, Snowden did his homework on the WSSU basketball program and in a short time frame, enlisted some very quality student-athletes to don the Ram uniforms for the 1993-1994 basketball campaign.

The Rams return five players from last year's team that went 6-17 for the

season. Patrick Herron (5-8, 165) returns at a guard position, as well as Louis Williamson (6-3, 180). Williamson led the Rams in scoring a year ago averaging 16.2 points per game. Antoine Glover (6-6, 230) returns at the C/F position. Also returning is William Gray (6-3, 190) the 1993 CIAA Tournament 3-point shootout champion, and Casey Simmons (6-4, 185).

Also returning for the Rams is Darnell Middleton (6-6, 240). Last season Middleton played in only two games before missing the rest of the season due to a collapsed lung.

A host of new faces are set to pick up the slack to help boost WSSU back into the basketball spotlight.

Look for freshman Phenizee Ransom (6-6, 205) to make an impact quickly for the Rams. Ransom is a definite candidate for All-Rookie Team honors. Another All-CIAA candidate is Marcus Boyd (6-5,

200). Boyd was a JC All-American at Detroit Jordan Junior College where he averaged 30 points per game. This pure shooter will turn heads quickly in the CIAA.

In past years, the Rams have been without the "Big Man" in the middle, but not anymore. Anthony Johnson (6-11, 285) will be a force to be reckoned with in the middle. Also joining Johnson is Mayiik Deng (7-1, 245). Deng is the cousin of NBA player Manute Bol. Also coming from Detroit Jordan Junior College is 6-7, 225 pound John Rice. Rice is strong in the paint and a tremendous rebounder.

Bernard Powell (6-7, 220) is expected to see considerable action at the power forward position, and maybe at the small forward spot.

Jonathan Haggler (6-6, 220) is expected also to be a force inside and

around the short perimeter. Haggler sat out last season due to a torn rotator cuff injury.

Snowden also enlisted Neisac Brown (6-6, 210); Verlon Salley (6-5, 200), and Carl Hines (6-1, 190), all from Florida. Brown, known for his strong inside game, and Salley a shooter, will help bolster the Rams backcourt. Hines is a great ball handler with the ability to score.

With the CIAA Tournament coming to Winston-Salem, look for the Rams to make an impact in the CIAA season.

Undoubtedly, N.C. Central, Virginia Union, Elizabeth City, and Johnson C. Smith will be the teams everyone looks for in the challenge for the 1993-94 title, but don't count out the WSSU Rams. The "Fox" is sure to have something up his sleeve when teams travel to the C.E. Gaines Complex, and that could mean rough times for the opposition.

Lady Rams Lose Opener, 76-69

• Kendra Horne Leading Scorer

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The Lady Rams of Winston-Salem State University so far this season have had their share of ups and downs.

The Lady Rams opened their season with a loss to Dillard University of New Orleans, LA 76-69. Kendra Horne led the scoring for the Lady Rams with 21 points, Shondra McSwain added 13, Manita Broaddus had 12 and Denetra Parker chipped in 10 points and 8 rebounds.

The WSSU Lady Rams next game was with the Lady Bears of Shaw University, who proved to be too much for the Lady Rams, and escaped with a 67-54 win. The Lady Rams were led by Denetra Parker with 14 points and 12 rebounds, Tiffany McKinnie added 13 points and 10 rebounds, and Kendra Horne had 10 points and seven rebounds.

On November 26, Virginia State invaded C.E. Gaines Center. The Lady Rams held a 20 point lead, but the "Trojanettes" battled their way back into the game and narrowly defeated WSSU 93-89. Once again preseason All-CIAA Kendra Horne paced the Lady Rams with 22 points, Shondra McSwain chipped in

13 points and 10 rebounds, and Manita Broaddus pumped in 19 points.

After a long bus ride to Bowie State University, the "Lady Bulldogs" took advantage of the lagging Lady Rams defense and cruised to a 58-39 victory. Kendra Horne led the pace for WSSU with 13 points and 8 rebounds, Shondra McSwain added 5 points and 10 rebounds.

The weekend of December 3-4, the Lady Rams participated in the Norfolk State University Invitational Tournament.

