

SPORTS

Lady Rams Have A Rocky Season

BY TOLLY CARR
Sports Editor

The Winston-Salem State Lady Rams began the season with a lot of optimism with a new coach, all five starters from last year and a highly touted new comer in Chellia Nelson.

The Lady Rams opened the season with two away games where they were still getting adjusted to the new coach and the new system of full court pressing and looking for the fast break. The ladies lost to Shaw and Elizabeth City State before returning home to play Bowie State during the Thanksgiving break.

In the Bowie State game the Lady Rams got off to a slow start but made a dramatic comeback with their full court trapping defense but in the end the Lady Bulldogs took the Lady Rams by the horns and put their record at 0-3.

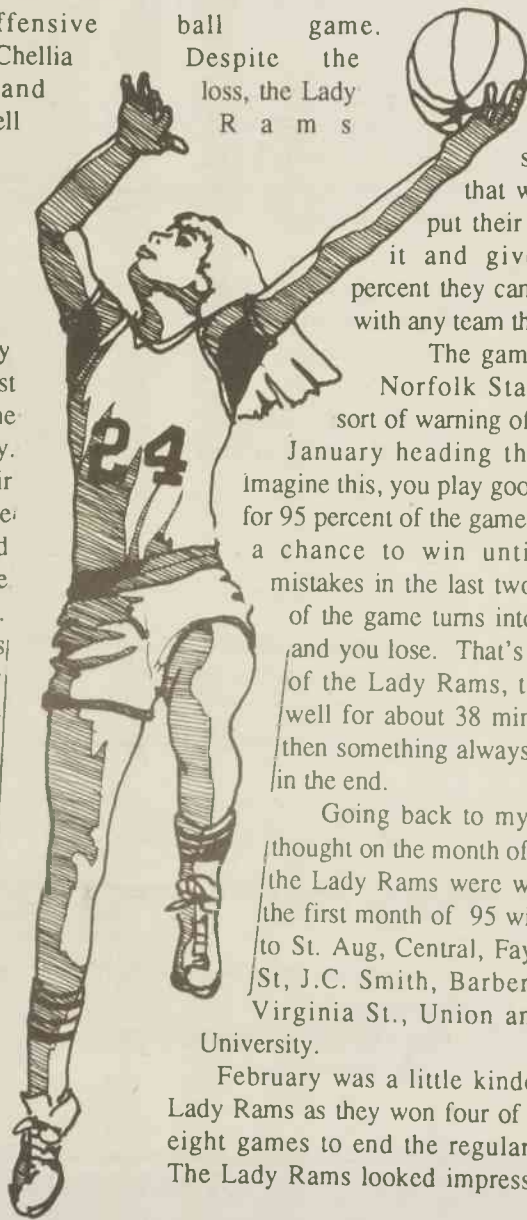
In the next four games the Lady Rams played .500 ball with a huge win over Bennett and a big road win over Hampton. The Lady Rams did not fare to well out of the conference with losses to Gardner Webb and Mars Hill but they did manage a victory over Mount Olive right before Christmas.

The Rams started the new year off with a home game against Elizabeth City State on Jan. 2. The Lady Rams were hurting themselves with a lack of defensive rebounding against a fairly large Lady Viking front line but managed to stay within striking distance. The

Rams got pretty good offensive balance from their big three Chellia Nelson, Kendra Horne and Denetra Parker but they fell short only by a little. The Lady Rams had a chance to tie the game with about five seconds left but a shot in the lane rimmed out as time expired.

Three days later the Lady Rams were going up against their toughest opponent of the year, Norfolk State University. Norfolk State had four of their five starters placed on the preseason All-CIAA squad and hardly anybody gave the Lady Rams a fighting chance. Surprisingly the Lady Rams played very well and only trailed by two points at the half. The Lady Rams played very well and showed maturity as a team opening up the second half by coming out and scoring the first four points to take a lead that they would hold until about the last five minutes of the game. Norfolk State's full court pressure caused the Lady Rams to breakdown in the final minutes of the game as they lost the lead and the

ball game. Despite the loss, the Lady Rams



showed that when they put their minds to it and give a 110 percent they can compete with any team they face.

The game against Norfolk State was a sort of warning of a dismal January heading their way. Imagine this, you play good enough for 95 percent of the game and have a chance to win until a few mistakes in the last two minutes of the game turns into disaster and you lose. That's the story of the Lady Rams, they play well for about 38 minutes and then something always happens in the end.

Going back to my original thought on the month of January, the Lady Rams were winless in the first month of '95 with losses to St. Aug, Central, Fayetteville St, J.C. Smith, Barber-Scotia, Virginia St., Union and Shaw University.

February was a little kinder to the Lady Rams as they won four of their last eight games to end the regular season. The Lady Rams looked impressive with

two wins against Livingstone, a victory over J.C. Smith and a win over St. Pauls on the road. The Lady Rams even looked good in close losses to A&T and Fayetteville State.

At press time it seemed as if the Lady Rams would face either Virginia Union or Virginia State in their first round of the women's portion of the CIAA tournament.

The Lady Rams will miss seniors Natasha Buford and Kendra Horne but have a lot to look forward to with returning players Keisha Butler, Chasity Whitaker, Denetra Parker, Manita Broaddus and prime time player Chellia "Church" Nelson.

Good Luck
Lady
Rams!!!

Herron: An Underrated Ram

BY TOLLY CARR
Sports Editor

You figure if you lead the CIAA in steals and assists your sophomore and junior years you should be a preseason, All-CIAA selection heading into your senior year. Wrong!!

Patrick "Pearl" Herron, a 5 foot 8 inch guard from Charlotte, N.C., is one of the most underrated players in the CIAA.

That is really not much of a surprise though seeing that short guys are always discriminated against in basketball. One only has to look as far as Herron's hometown of Charlotte, N.C. and the Charlotte Hornet's Mugsy Bogues. Night in and night out people complain about Bogues, a 5 foot 3 inch guard, saying he is so short, he is a liability on defense, but the Hornets are currently playing above .500 with Bogues at the starting point

guard position and no one can match Bogues' speed in the open court.

Back to Herron who last year totaled 202 assists and 97 steals in 27 games to lead the CIAA in both categories for the second year in a row, but no preseason consideration for All-CIAA.

Obviously, he is the quintessential point guard leading the league in assists and steals along with five points per game.

One reason Herron was looked over is that the powers that be in the CIAA have a tendency to vote for Norfolk State players. Norfolk State had four men and four women on the preseason squads, leaving only six spots open for the men's squad and nine for the women's.

Let's not forget Hampton's preseason All-CIAA selection, Kevin "Wink" Gregory. Was he going to be eligible to play during the fall semester or during

the spring semester.

Not only is Herron a crowd favorite with the Ram fans for his hard play but he is a "Pearl" in the oyster for Head Coach Thomas Snowden also.

During the preseason Snowden said "Herron's quickness was so unbelievable that it requires opposing teams to have to make adjustments."

It seems that the CIAA voters need to make some adjustments in their balloting when it really counts, post season All-CIAA selections. Herron has not done anything to detract voters with a 12 assist and eight steal performance against Bowie State and a career high 16 assists versus High Point University.

Do not just take my word for it, watch him play during the CIAA Tournament this week and make your own choice.

HEY RAMS!!!

GET BUSY
STUDYING
FOR
MID TERM
EXAMS
AFTER
CIAA!!!

MARCH 7 -10