

# SPORTS

## Games In Review

By Louquender Robinson  
Sports Editor

### WSSU, 15 - Ft. Valley State, 10

The Winston-Salem State University football team kicked off their season with a 15-10 win over the Fort Valley State Wildcats. Bolstered by an easy victory over the Wildcats the previous year, the Rams were confident and focused and never trailed Fort Valley.

The first touchdown of the year for the Rams was delivered by running back Eric Hendley, a transfer from Georgia Military Institute. Hendley scored with 1:16 left in the 1st quarter with a eighteen yard run to the end zone. Shawn Thomas converted on the point after touchdown and the Rams were off to a 7-0 lead. The Rams extended their lead in the 2nd quarter when senior linebacker Donnell McDonald forced, then returned a fumble for a 71 yard touchdown. The Wildcats attempted to mount a comeback with a 23 yard field goal and a 1 yard touchdown in the 2nd and 4th quarters. Fortunately the Ram defense remained tough and prevented the Wildcats from scoring for the remainder of the game and also forced a safety.

### N.C. A & T, 31 - WSSU, 7

In front of 15,594 fans, the N.C. A & T Aggies beat the Rams for the fourth consecutive time since 1991.

Carl Walker, the Rams starting quarterback, suffered a separated right shoulder, while scrambling out of the pocket during a second quarter play. Sophomore Travis Pender, replaced Walker as quarterback.

The Aggies scored on their first possession after

taking the opening drive 46 yards on six plays. A five-yard run by Basnight and Luther Leak's point after made the score, 7-0. Later in the first quarter, a 16-yard field goal by Leak took the score to 10-0.

The Rams just couldn't seem to get any of the big plays. They just couldn't get it together. Early in the second half, the Rams moved the ball to the Aggie's 39-yard-line, but on fourth and three from the 39, the Ram's quarterback was sacked.

The Rams finally scored in the fourth quarter with a two-yard run by Murphy and a point after kick by Thomas.

### Elizabeth City State University, 14 - WSSU, 11

Roebuck Stadium in Elizabeth City, was the site of the Rams third consecutive road game. The start of the contest was temporarily delayed when the lights at the stadium failed to come on. Once the lights were fixed, Elizabeth City's fans were excited when the Vikings scored a touchdown and completed a two point conversion to lead 8-0 early in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, the Rams fought back when running back Tyrone Murphy scored with a four yard run. Travis Pender tied the score 8-8 when he ran into the end zone for two points. With 5:30 left in the second quarter, Shawn Thomas kicked a 30 yard field goal to move the Rams into the lead.

At the end of the third quarter, Elizabeth City took the lead by marching 80 yards down the field and scoring

a touchdown. The Ram defense stopped the Vikings from completing the two point conversion.

The defense, lead by LaTori Workman, who had 17 tackles and Donnell McDonald, who had 16 tackles and a sack, kept the Vikings from scoring the fourth quarter giving the Rams a chance to win.

Trailing by three points and with little time left in the 4th quarter, Tremaine Graham threw a pass for the win to an open Tano Davis who was unable to hold on to the football.

### Southern Illinois, 48 - WSSU, 18

A 6-0 lead early in the first quarter, quickly vanished before their eyes as the Rams watched the Salukis run off a 48 straight points in a 48-18 victory. The Salukis of Southern Illinois, are a Division I-AA team.

Early in the first quarter, quarterback Travis Pender capped a 74-yard, 10-play drive with a 10-yard dash into the end zone. The Rams missed the extra point.

Turnovers haunted the Rams throughout the game. They were intercepted twice in the first half and the Salukis turned the mistakes into 10 points. The Salukis were ahead 31-6 at the half.

During the second half, the Salukis scored 17 points in the third quarter and held the Rams scoreless. During the fourth quarter, the Salukis scored 17 more points. The Rams scored six final points in the fourth quarter, when Pender took a quarterback option off the right guard for a 17-yard play and the score.

## Pender Named Quarterback

BY LOUQUENDER ROBINSON  
Sports Editor

The Winston-Salem State University football team was dealt a blow when starting quarterback LaCarl Walker was side-lined with a shoulder injury early in the season. With the loss of Walker, sophomore Travis Pender was named starting quarterback by Head Coach Kermit Blount.

Pender, a Winston-Salem native, began his football career with one of the local Pop Warner Football teams. He played behind Tremaine Graham, who is also a quarterback for the Rams. Pender attended Carver High School where he

was twice named All-City as a quarterback and wide receiver and the team won two conference titles. While at Carver, during his 9th and 11th grade years, Pender once again played behind Graham.

Pender also excelled in baseball and until recently had been playing with the Winston-Salem Pond Giants, a semi-professional baseball team, since he was 14.

When asked why he chose to play for Winston-Salem State Pender responded, "This is my hometown and I have been going to WSSU's games since I was a kid. I knew some of the coaches, so the decision was an easy one."

Throughout the summer Pender prepared himself to quarterback the Rams and now he has his chance. "The team still looks to Carl as their captain, but I think they see me as their field general," explains Pender.

Tremaine Graham, Pender's childhood friend will also be seeing some playing time. When asked if the years of competing against Graham had effected their friendship, Pender said, "We are good friends, work together and push each other to become better players."

As the season progresses Pender hopes that everything comes together and that he can help lead the Rams to a winning season.

## Schedule

from Page 8

**Homecoming Football Game**  
1:30 p.m.  
**WSSU Rams vs Livingstone Bears**  
Bowman Grey Stadium

**Block Party**  
4 - 7 p.m.  
WSSU Campus

**Homecoming Show**  
8 p.m.  
LJVMC  
\$16 - \$18 General Admission

**Alumni "Old School House Party"**  
10 p.m - 2 a.m.  
\$10 - Adams Mark Hotel

**GO RAMS GO!! BEAT THE BEARS!!!**