

SPORTS

Albury, Cowan Bring Experience To Softball Team

BY JERMEL WIGGINS AND SHARONDA WILCOX
Staff Writers

What can you say about two young ladies who together have played softball for 18 years?

Antionette Cowan, a senior, mass communications major and Mickelle Albury, a senior, sports management major, are the two seniors on Winston-Salem State University's softball team.

Albury, who is the team's captain, has played softball for 8 years, three years at WSSU, four years in high school and one year at the University of Nebraska. Cowan began her softball career playing in little league and then moved on to junior high, high school and at WSSU.

These two young ladies are carefully balancing academics and athletics.

"Given that I am an all around athlete I always put my studies first. Since I

participate in all these sports it encourages and motivates me to do well in my studies and allows me to practice good time management," said Albury.

Cowan says being a student athlete and a college student involves time management. "You have to set aside time for each," she explained.

When asked what is the difference between this year's team and last year's team, Albury said "the team has more drive, seriousness and willingness about playing the game. As a team we are also more focused."

During Spring Break, in the game against Virginia State, Albury injured her ankle while going in to 2nd base. Due to her injury, her teammates had to step up their playing.

"Everyone is hitting the ball more," explained Cowan, who plays in outfield and right field positions. "We want to go



Kelly Albury



Antionette Cowan

to the CIAA tournament so we are playing more intense and faster."

The Lady Rams play their home games from 3-5 p.m., on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays on the softball

field behind Anderson Center. At presstime, they had two home games left in the season. Their game against Shaw University will determine whether they go to the CIAA Spring Tournament.

Softball Rams Finish Season With A 12-12 Record

BY JERMEL WIGGINS
Sports Writer

If you have noticed a group of young ladies on the field below the football team's practice field and wondered who they are... well, they are members of this year's WSSU women's softball team.

Under the leadership of Coach Michael Winbush these young ladies finished the season with a 12-12 record. They had hoped to improve upon last season's 13 - 12 record.

"Last season we made too many mistakes," said Winbush. "We left too many runners on base. I feel very good about this year's team."

Although the the Lady Rams were not one of the four top teams in the division (which would have gotten them a spot in the Spring Tournament), Winbush is proud of his team.

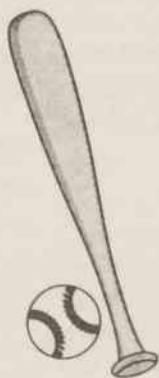
Earlier during the season, he saw the team's "ability to bunt the ball and their aggressive ability running the bases." "Mickelle Albury has 17 stolen bases in our first four games. Last season Albury led the nation in stolen bases and walks," explained Winbush.

According to Winbush, the team's infield was more solid this year than last year. "We have one of the best outfielders in the conference in Kelly Albury. Our pitching staff was young, but they were hard working young

ladies. Team unity will be the key for our success this season."

Antionette Cowan and Mickelle Albury are the seniors on the team. Other members on the team include: Nakendra Magee, Nichelle Woodard, Keneisha Williams, Rachel Hicks, Monnette Frye, Erica Leggett, Asuria Watts, Kellita Poindexter, L'tanya Samuels, Natacha Miller, and Vanessa Nieson.

Keneisha Williams and Rachel Hicks, both finished the season with 27 RBIs and Erica Leggett finished with 25 RBIs.



Track Team Needs More Money, Equipment

BY MONICA ALEXANDER
Sports Editor

Winston Salem State University does have a track team.

But, the members of the 1996 - 1997 WSSU Track Team: Tonya Arnold, Yvette Brown, Patrick Carrington, Deitrich Hancock, Michelette Lewis, Exazevia Logan, Darrick Neely, and Barton Nixon, feel they receive little support and participation from the Ram Family.

The track team meets everyday between 3 and 5 p.m. So far this semester, they have participated in two track meets: one at North Carolina State University, and one at Wake Forest University. Darrick Neely and Deitrich Hancock represented WSSU at these meets. Although they did not place in either meet, according to Coach James Braswell, "they did not do bad considering the conditions we run under."

Exazevia Logan and Barton Nixon also explained how the track team decided to purchase their own uniforms because the old ones, which were three years old and too short, did not fit them. The sophomore runners also said the team, "doesn't have the proper training equipment and every year the team seems to be missing from the yearbook."

The members of the track team feel

if more money was allocated to them many of their problems would be solved. More money would increase the number of scholarships WSSU could offer to talented athletes which would encourage more students to come and run for the university. More money could also be used to purchase state of the art training equipment and help to eliminate players having to wear old uniforms.

Albert Roseboro, WSSU's athletic director, explained that, "each sport has its own budget and it is left up to the coaches to use their budget how they see fit. The coaches also determine how many scholarships will be given and the monetary amounts of the scholarships. Scholarships also may carry an athlete through two sports such as cross country running and basketball. The track team has a little more than \$9,200 in their budget."

Even with the many problems that the track team has to face, Braswell is still very proud of his young runners. "They work hard because they want to. I have nothing to use to entice them, except for a good meal. They are good hard working kids," he said.

