

SPORTS

Basketball Rams Are Ready To Play

BY RASHEED OLUWA
Sports Editor

The loss of an "all everything pivotman" would cause many coaches to have several sleepless night. If you don't believe me, just ask Wake Forest's Head Basketball Coach Dave Odum.

However, Winston-Salem State University's Head Basketball Coach Sam Hanger and the rest of his basketball squad must embark on a season that could be titled, "Life without Hardy."

Darryl Hardy, WSSU's All-Conference performer at the center position last season, left and took his 19 points and 11 rebounds with him. In the process, the team also lost one of its hardest workers and a player that Hanger described as "a great kid on and off the court." There is no doubt that the team lost a great player whose presence will be irreplaceable this season.

As bleak as Hardy's departure may seem, there are still some positives. The bulk of last year's team returns this season. The team is stocked with perimeter players. To take advantage of this, expect the team's offense to be more open this year.

"A lot of times when Darryl had the

ball last year, everybody else had a tendency to be stagnate. This year look for the offense to be more freelance," explained Hanger.

Leading this attack will be senior point guard Otis Attucks. Attucks, who started for the team last year, was second in the league with 5.8 assists.

"Otis Attucks gets no credit from anyone and he does a tremendous job for us. He takes care of the basketball and gets it to people where they need it. He runs the show for us," explained Hanger.

Starting at the other guard spot will be Baltimore transfer Tyrone Thomas. Hanger describes Thomas as "a player who can score without sacrificing defense at the other end."

Other guards who are expected to contribute include sharpshooter, Larry Patterson and combination guard Johnny Watkins. The forward positions will be manned by last year's starting duo of Windell Owens and Michael Broadnax. Both of these players have impressed the coaching staff with improved shooting and physical strength. Other players rounding out the rotation include: Mike Dunn, Trevor Redfearn and Bradley Taylor at guard; and Joe Henderson, Mark Clark and Wesley Linzy at

forward.

The center position will consist of a four man rotation. Senior Anthony Peake will begin the season as the starter with freshman Greg Lee, transfer Thad Young, and senior David Howerton getting minutes. Out of the foursome, Hanger expects Young to get the most minutes and freshman Greg Lee to get the least minutes. Although none of these four, are expected to duplicate Hardy's offensive output this season, Hanger does expect them to provide interior defense and rebounding.

If these four players give the Rams quality inside play, it will not be out of the realm of possibility for the Rams to be a factor in the CIAA equation come tournament time.



Good Luck
Basketball Rams

Lady Rams Picked To Finish 3rd In the Division

BY DANIELLE PROPHETE
Editor

As the fall semester comes to its end, Ram basketball is gearing up for another exciting, but competitive year.

Head Lady Ram Basketball Coach Deborah Clark enters into her fourth season of coaching Lady Ram Basketball. After a 16,12 record last year, in a preseason poll, her team has been selected to come in 3rd place in the Western Division of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA).

"Our team has the potential and quality to be a major contender in the CIAA," said Clark.

With Norfolk State University pulling out of the CIAA conference last year, the Lady Rams will now be competing in a new division, the Western Division. Five teams were left in the South and seven teams were left in North. One of the northern teams came to the south, thus creating the Western Division.

"Collectively, we hope to win the Western Division," said Clark. "Since a good part of our team are veterans,

hopefully experience will be a factor."

The Lady Rams' squad has eight returning players: Renee Cameron, Erica Leggett, Nikki Blackwell, Kesha Broadnax, Sharonda Moore, Holley Griffin, Christy Brooks and Rachel Hicks. The seven new players include: Christa West, Kesi Nobles, Lekeisha Covington, Tamika Clark, Demetrius Platter, Keisha Madkins and LaToya Cobb.

Since the season began, The Lady Rams have participated in two tournaments, The Denise Holden Invitational in Raleigh where they placed 2nd; and the Carol Eckman Tournament in Lockhaven, Pa., where they also came in 2nd place.

"This year we have a lot of depth in each position," said Clark. "Depth in players like Cameron and Moore who made All Tournament in the Holden Tournament and Nobles who made the All Tournament Team in the Denise Holden Invitational.

According to Adrian Ferguson, WSSU's Sports Information Director (SID), "After one or two more games of



Head Lady Ram Basketball Coach Clark
File Photo

fine tuning, the Lady Rams will be a definite contender for the CIAA Championship as well as a spot in the NCAA Division II Finals."

Good Luck
Lady Rams!!!