

## Sports

# Rams trailblaze through CIAA championship and head to Bowl

Sports With the Rash

Congratulations are in order for the Winston-Salem State University Rams football program for their CIAA championship season. After going undefeated in the conference and maintaining consistency all season, the Rams proved that they had the hearts of champions.

But if anyone is wondering why the Rams are playing in the Pioneer Bowl and not in the Division II playoffs for the national championship, all they have to do is look back at this year's schedule to September 4. That was the date of the Rams season and home opener against Catawba. The game, the Ram's only game against a D-II program outside of the CIAA, provided the Rams with the perfect opportunity to show that they were a force in Division II. Unfortunately, the Rams lost a close one 17-14.

At the time the game may not have proven to be a big deal. But now, with the regular season over and post season plans being made, the game has come back to haunt the Rams. After finishing the regular season 10-1, in second place in the Southern Athletic Conference, Catawba received a bid to play in the D-II tournament. The Rams were left out in the cold during selection for the D-II playoffs. Fortunately, the Rams were able to



Congratulations to the 1999 CIAA football champions!

Courtesy of Adrian Ferguson

receive a bid to play in the Pioneer Bowl against Tuskegee University on Dec 18.

### Lennox Lewis vs Evander Holyfield

Finally, Lennox Lewis has been awarded a victory over Evander Holyfield. Everyone who saw the two of them fight the first time, including Holyfield's family, must know that Lewis won the fight. Regardless of what new information from investigations bring to light, it will

not change the fact that Lewis was robbed.

Even though the performances of both fighters were lackluster, Lewis again proved that he was the superior fighter. But here's something to think about. As unimpressive as both fighters were, there's a good chance that neither one would defeat Mike Tyson. Assuming that Tyson doesn't kick, bite, or push them.

## Newkirk doesn't mind being a role model

Semaj Robinson  
Reporter

His mother was his inspiration to play football. Now Terrie Newkirk is one of the most exciting running backs in the CIAA.

A junior and mass communications major from Wallace, Terrie Newkirk's dream of playing football began at the Pop Warner level. "It's always been my first love," he said, "I would say my mom really inspired me to play."

In a season full of excitement for the Rams, Newkirk has been an important part of their success. He has rushed for over 100 yards five times this season, along with combining for 1,058 all purpose yards.

Newkirk says he models his running techniques after the late great Walter Payton. "He was a physical type of runner and he liked to punish the player before they punished him."

When the season began, the WSSU Rams lost their first two games. The team then went on the road and began their 7-game winning streak. Newkirk says that it has been an entire team effort.



Newkirk

"I attribute the success to everybody on the team. Because everyone on the team stepped up and got the job done. But the defense is the biggest reason, because we would have lost a lot of games without them."

Charles Barkley of the NBA Houston Rockets, says he is not a role model. But Terrie Newkirk says he doesn't mind the title of being called a role model.

"In some ways, yes I consider myself a role model. I'm not the kind of person who would disrespect women and I make sure I get my work done."

He said that his mother and grandmother are his role models. "My mother and grandmother. My mother because she's been through a lot and still has maintained to keep the family together. I would say they are both strong black women."

A graduate of Wallace Rosehill High School, he says his most memorable moment was winning the State Championship in his senior year. Upon graduating from WSSU, he plans to find a job in TV production or film.

He had much more to say in this Q&A:

Q: What is more important to you: winning or having an opportunity to play?

A: "Winning. When I first came in, I was on the sideline. If I'm not getting the job done, I want

coach to put someone in who can."

Q: How do you prepare before a game?

A: "On Friday night after the team meeting, I lay out my equipment and make sure I go to bed by 10. The first thing I do when I get up is yell and squeeze the football."

Q: If you had the opportunity to go pro, would you?

A: "Yes I would. It's a great opportunity. I don't think I could be a premiere back, but maybe a 3rd down back."

Q: What has been your most complete game this year?

A: "I would say against Virginia State, because everybody depended on me, and coach needed somebody to step up."

Q: Is having an opportunity to go to a bowl the biggest team success you've been apart of at WSSU?

A: "Yes it's the biggest. Getting the chance to go to a bowl is an honor."

Q: How would you like to be remembered as a student and football player at WSSU?

A: "I would like to be remembered as someone who came to class everyday-tried hard and didn't take shortcuts. And as a football player who came to practice and gave 100% every time I played the game."