

# Sports

Larry Patterson, the CIAA's player of the year, has high hopes for Rams and basketball

## HE'S GOT GAME

**Semaj Robinson**  
Sports editor

Larry Patterson, the sharp shooting guard for Winston-Salem State University, was named CIAA's player of the year.

A panel of league coaches and sports information directors conducted the voting, as Patterson became the fourth WSSU player to win the award since the voting began in 1969.

Patterson's leadership has helped propel WSSU to the top of the CIAA and to their first division title since the 1986-87 season.

Averaging 15.3 points a game and leading the team in scoring five times, Patterson has carried WSSU to a western division record.

Although he scored a season-high 30 points against Stonehill College, he said that his best game came against N.C. Central University.

"I came out really focused and I knew what was on the line," he said. "I was shooting really accurate from the field and I had a lot of energy and emotions flowing in that game."

Patterson's teammates also think that he has been a strong leader.

"His play this year has been tremendous," Russell

English, a center, said. "His defense has really helped us to get where we are today."

"He's not a selfish player," Tony Williams, a point guard, "...he'll pass up a shot to let someone else shoot."

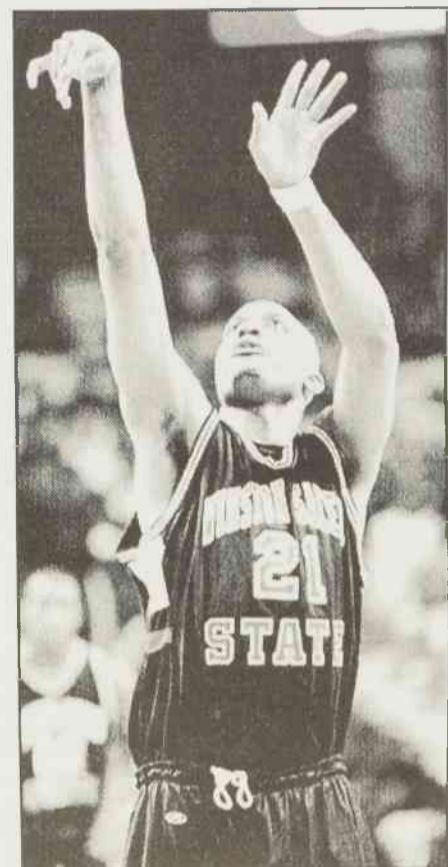
Patterson contributes a great deal of WSSU's success to Rick Duckett, the head coach. "He has brought discipline and the family oriented atmosphere around the team," he said. "He doesn't sugar-coat anything. If you're not playing well, he'll sit you on the bench and play someone who can get the job done."

The past two years have been very successful for WSSU. Last year, the team came within one point of going to the Elite 8 of the Division II playoffs.

But this year, Patterson predicts the team will win it all. "I expect to go to the national championship game." He said he appreciates the support the student body has provided for the team.

"My first two years, people would ask if we lost. Now people ask if we've won."

Patterson is a Mass Communications Major with a concentration in Radio/Television. He said that earning his degree is very important. "I'm really focused on graduating. If basketball comes after that, then I'll go play."



Larry Patterson is the CIAA's player of the year.

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