

W.S.S.U. Sports

2003 WSSU Football Schedule

Aug. 30	Carson-Newman	Home	6 p.m.
Sept. 6	Fort Valley State	College Macon, Ga. (Henderson Stadium)	5 p.m.
Sept. 13	Virginia State University	Home	6 p.m.
Sept. 20	at West Virginia Tech	Montgomery, W.V.	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Virginia Union	Richmond, Va.	1:30 p.m.
Oct. 4	Open Date	N/A	
Oct. 11	at Fayetteville State	Fayetteville	6 p.m.
Oct. 18	at Livingstone College	Salisbury	6 p.m.
Nov. 1	Johnson C. Smith	Home (Homecoming)	2 p.m.
Nov. 8	St. Augustine's College	Home	2 p.m.
Nov. 15	CIAA Championship	Site To Be Announced	1 p.m.

Rams rocky start beginning to smooth

By Samuel Harley
ARGUS REPORTER

In sport's there is a saying that states, "It is not how you start but how you finish."

The Rams certainly lived by this statement recently. Virginia State took advantage of a mistake filled first quarter by the Rams, which included a fumble, interception and roughing the kicker penalty that cost the Rams a possession.

Virginia State turned these miscues into two touchdowns and led 14-0 after the first quarter. Another fumble on the first possession of the second quarter by the Rams set up a 38-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Kevin Jones to receiver P.J. Berry for Virginia State.

This pushed the Trojans lead to 21-0.

The shock of that touchdown and the score on the scoreboard seemed to wake up the Rams because after that score the Ram's offense began to dominate the game.

Using power running and a controlled passing game plan quarterback Josh McGee and the Rams offense began to take over the game.

In the second and third quarters of the game McGee threw touchdown passes of 11 yards and 9 yards to Jared Brevard and Brandon Free respectively.

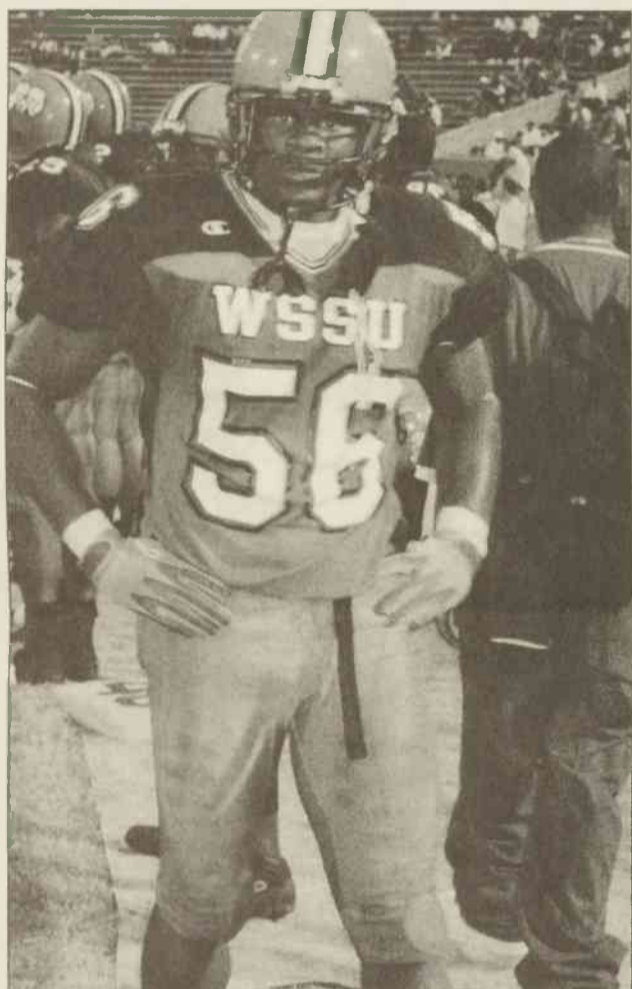
Sandwiched between those two scores was a brilliant 75-yard punt return for a touchdown by Brandon Hussey, which helped energize the team and the crowd. McGee's touchdown pass to Free in the third quarter made the score 21-19,

pulling the Rams within two points of the Trojans. Although the passing game was clicking in second half, the real story of the game was the Rams rushing attack and how they controlled the line of scrimmage.

All three tailbacks used against the Trojans ran the ball successfully, but Peete Byrd's 23 carries for 141 yards and 2 touchdowns stood out the most. Most of Byrd's yards and his two touchdowns came in the second half when the Rams were trying to seize control of the game. Byrd's first touchdown put the Rams ahead 25-21 with 9 minutes and 7 seconds left in the fourth quarter. After a Virginia State score, the Rams marched down the field in 4 minutes and 47 seconds and Byrd scored again on a 5-yard

touchdown run with 30 seconds left in the game.

Byrd's touchdown put the Rams ahead 31-27. This score along with the two-point conversion attempt, which was successful sealed the game for the Rams and finished off a great comeback victory. After the game Coach Blount said that this game was a testament of will for his team, and in his halftime speech he spoke to the players about facing adversity and showing true character. Evidently the coach's speech worked because in the second half the Rams came out and looked like a totally different team. Coach Blount also admitted the his team started slow, but in football, it's not how you start, it's how you finish and Saturday, the Rams finished



Anthony Robinson had 18 tackles against Carson-Newman.
Photo by Garret Garmes

Rams battle out with Carson-Newman

George Croom
ARGUS MANAGING EDITOR

It was week two. That was something that Winston-Salem State football players had to get through their minds.

Only a week after dropping a tough 21-14 contest to non-conference rival Carson Newman in their opener, the Rams couldn't be looking over their shoulders because things weren't getting any easier in the future. The Rams would travel to Macon, Georgia to face the Fort Valley State Wildcats.

"I want to win every game we play," Linebacker Tony Robinson said. "You are not a true player if you are satisfied with losing."

"I imagined myself having a better game (against Carson Newman). It's just the fundamental things that we have to keep up. I am not concerned if we do what we are supposed to do." Robinson, who had 18 tackles and was D2football.com defensive player of the week, and his Ram teammates did exactly that against the Wildcats.

The Rams defense gave up a

touchdown on the opening possession for the Wildcats. At first glance it seemed as if the Fort Valley State team that the Rams had beaten in their two previous contests had the upper hand. But the Rams began to trudge back.

The Rams offense began to show dominance and swagger early in the first quarter that was not visible a week prior.

The Josh McGee to Brandon Free and Brandon Hussey aerial assault proved to be a potent form of opening the offense, and allowed the running lanes for Willie "Pedie" Byrd, Martin Hicks, and Jed Bines to get seemingly wider.

The Rams at one point in the first half led by 14, after a 29-yard reception from Josh McGee to Brandon Free made the score 21-7. Key Ram defensive breakdowns led to two unanswered touchdowns to make the halftime score 21-21.

The second half was a defensive display by both squads. Quarterback Rodney Milbourne scored the only points of the second half on a one-yard fourth down touchdown run after leading the Rams on an 11play,

46-yard drive.

"I want to control the tempo of our team," said Coach Kermit Blount. "If we can control our mistakes and control the flow of the game then our chances are very good."

The Rams controlled the ball completing 14 of 19 passes through McGee and Milbourne collectively. Fumbles were also eliminated by the Rams offense, contrary to the prior week against Carson Newman when the Rams fumbled three times.

The defense, anchored by Tony Robinson who had 14 tackles, forced 7 fumbles and recovered one. The Wildcats potent running attack was neutralized with the Rams holding Duron Croson and Derrick Wimbush, who gained over 250 yards collectively a week prior against Morehouse, each under 100 yards.

After tough competition from both Carson-Newman and Fort Valley State the Rams have played the basic strength of their schedule. If they can continue to grow as a team unit, Winston-Salem State may soon be able to boast the title of CIAA champions.

Two women take top spots in WSSU athletics

Bolden named adviser to athletes

By Daysha Lynei Scruggs
ARGUS REPORTER

Student athletes have a new adviser to help them in the classroom.

Leslie O. Bolden was recently named as the coordinator of athletic/academic support services. The position was created by Dr. Percy "Chico" Caldwell, the athletics director and Tonia Walker, the associate director of athletics with the help of Chancellor Harold Martin.

"We are obviously happy to have a person with a strictly academic focus in the athletics department," Caldwell said in a release. "The academics of our student-athletes are steadily improving and Leslie brings added value and another dimension to our department."

In the position, Bolden will advise the university's more than 150 student athletes.

Bolden has worked for the university for a number of years advising students. But her connection to the university goes back much further. Her father served as the university's registrar and her mother was an instructor in the School of Business.

Bolden attended Hampton University.

After getting her degree in finance, she worked in the insurance industry for several years.

Eventually, though, she came back to WSSU. After getting her master's degree at N.C. A&T State University, Bolden began advising students at WSSU and teaching a freshman seminar class.

Bolden has been working closely with the coaches and the student athletes since June and recently moved into a new office in the C. E. Gaines Center.

In her new job, Bolden will help students with pre-registration and monitor grades and course selection. She will also monitor student athlete's academic progress and ensure that they are on track to get their degrees.

"It's a great challenge," she said.

Bolden said she is also working to improve communication between parents and the coaching staff.

She said she hopes to be able help athletes make the best of her time at WSSU.

"That's why I'm down here in the center of action, so that I have access to the coaches and they have access to me," Bolden said. "The athletes can always come by and see me anytime."

Walker is named associate AD

By Darryl Smith
ARGUS REPORTER

Winston-Salem State University's athletic program is an important pass-time for students and the Winston-Salem community. This year there is a major change in the line-up which means big hopes for Ram sports.

The change comes as Tonia G. Walker, who was formally the head volleyball coach, Assistant Director of Athletics (both part-time), and Senior Women's Administrator, assumes the role of Associate Director of Athletics.

Her official duties include working with athletics director Dr. Chico Caldwell on fundraisers, supervising finances, and reviewing staff policies and procedures.

Some of her goals include enhancing the athletic facilities, building on the current athletic programs, providing more opportunities for the athletics' staff, and assisting the progression of Winston-Salem State to NCAA Division I-AA status.

Walker carries many of the goals she has as Senior Women's Administrator into her new position. She also

"There is a journey ahead of us, but we need to celebrate the small steps."

— Tonia Walker

expressed interest in gaining recognition for women's athletics.

"Female athletes are on the rise," Walker said. "The female point of view needs to be recognized. Being a female athlete it is as important to be a lady on the field and off."

Walker said that more focus needed to be given to the female perspective and equality between males and females, not only as athletes, but as staff as well.

Walker said she is excited about her new position and feels that she is an asset. Her new position will allow her to help the athletic department accomplish its objective, while having more interaction with student-athletes.

"There is a journey ahead of us, but we need to celebrate the small steps and one day we will applaud the long journey we have taken."