

Rams turn out victory in first matchup with Bears

By Bill Franklin
SPECIAL TO THE ARGUS

You get one chance to make a first impression. For the first time in history the Rams of Winston Salem State University played the Bears of West Virginia Tech in Montgomery, W.Va. Three thousand fans climbed the hill to Martin Field to witness what started out to be a Ram blowout but ended a match to remember.

The Rams scored on the sixth play of the game as running back Martin Hicks, who scored four touchdowns and had an 88-yard kick-off return nullified what would have been his fifth, streaked 56 yards around the left end untouched.

Hicks followed with a six yard burst minutes later giving the Rams a 14-0 lead. He completed a strong

first quarter with his third touchdown from 11 yards with 3:28 left.

The Ram defense got three interceptions, two from safety Ray Barksdale and one from Dion Thompson with 13.8 seconds left in the second quarter. The two helped deny the Bears several scoring opportunities in the first half.

The Bears managed a 25-yard field goal from kicker Caleb Hunter with 6:28 remaining in the first quarter for the Bears only points in the first half.

Running back Willie "Pedie" Byrd, who finished with 204 yards on 34 carries, answered in the following series scoring his only touchdown of the game to give the Rams a 28-3 lead.

Quarterback Phil Reed found Kalem McRae on a 14-yard touchdown pass near the end of the second quarter, leaving the Rams with a 28-10 lead at the half.

Coach Mauro Munz made some defensive adjustments at the half to try and stop Byrd and Hicks, who combined with 122 yards on 12 carries. The Bears came out roaring and quickly scored on a 5-yard plunge again by McRae to cut the Ram lead to 28-17.

It was Hicks to the rescue again on a two-yard touchdown run to give the Rams a 35-17 lead after kicker Ashton Oakley nailed his fifth extra point kick.

But the Bears wouldn't hibernate, and behind the scrambling and running of Reed, scored 16 unanswered points. Linebacker Tony Robinson tackled Reed inches short on a two-point conversion attempt with 39 seconds left in the fourth quarter that would have sent the game into overtime.

The Rams then had to endure an on-side kick effort that they recovered near midfield giving them a 35-33 win.

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