

W.S.S.U. Sports

2004 WSSU Softball Schedule

03/16/2004	Shaw	Raleigh, N.C.	1:00 PM
03/16/2004	Shaw	Raleigh, N.C.	3:00 PM
03/19/2004	Indiana (P.A.)	Winston-Salem, N.C.	12:00 PM
03/19/2004	Indiana (P.A.)	Winston-Salem, N.C.	2:00 PM
03/21/2004	St. Paul's	Lawrenceville, VA	12:00 PM
03/21/2004	St. Paul's	Lawrenceville, VA	12:00 PM
03/21/2004	St. Paul's	Lawrenceville, VA	2:00 PM
03/24/2004	Bowie State	Winston-Salem, NC	1:00 PM
03/24/2004	Bowie State	Winston-Salem, NC	3:00 PM
03/25/2004	St. Augustine's	Winston-Salem, NC	1:00 PM
03/25/2004	St. Augustine's	Winston-Salem, NC	3:00 PM
03/27/2004	Virginia Union	Winston-Salem, NC	12:00 PM
03/28/2004	Virginia State	Winston-Salem, NC	12:00 PM
03/28/2004	Virginia State	Winston-Salem, NC	2:00 PM
03/30/2004	North Carolina Central	Durham, N.C.	4:00 PM
03/30/2004	North Carolina Central	Durham, N.C.	6:00 PM

Rams CIAA hopes crushed in first round of tourney

COURTESY OF WSSU WEBSITE

RALEIGH, NC

Once again the Winston-Salem State University men's basketball team failed to play a full 40 minutes, and once again, it led to a loss for the Rams. The Rams fell to the Trojans of Virginia State University for the second time in the 2003-04 season on Wednesday evening and were summarily eliminated from the 2004 CIAA Basketball Championship Tournament after being dealt a 67-58 loss.

The contest, one that started out as a back and forth affair, saw the Rams lose the contest in the first half.

"As everyone that watched the game knows, we lost it in the first half. As was a trend in the second half of this season, we dug ourselves a hole, and couldn't quite dig out. That led to the loss. We just didn't come to play in the first half." WSSU Head Coach Philip Stitt said of his team's effort.

The Trojans took their first lead of the contest, one that they would never relinquish, only nine minutes into the game. Back-to-back three-point field goals made it 13-9 as Virginia State started to hit a stride that would ultimately earn them the victory.

VSU built their lead to a game-high 14 points with just 4:41 remaining in the first

"We played good defense in the second half, and really came out determined. We are not a big team, and we know that we have to pride ourselves on our defense if we want to win. We just came up short tonight. That first half hurt us"
senior guard Vince Sessoms said in the post-game press conference.

— Head Coach Philip Stitt

half of play, and would take an 11-point cushion to the locker room, leading 33-22 when the first period came to a close.

The second half of play saw a determined Winston-Salem State University team make several runs as they looked to get back into the contest. A 10-2 run trimmed VSU's lead to one point with 13:11 remaining in the game but the Rams failed to retake the lead on their next three consecutive possessions.

After failing to earn an advantage,

the Rams fell behind again, and were never able to regroup, despite a valiant effort.

"We played good defense in the second half, and really came out determined. We are not a big team, and we know that we have to pride ourselves on our defense if we want to win. We just came up short tonight. That first half hurt us" senior guard Vince Sessoms said in the post-game press conference.

Sessoms, who turned in, arguably, his best performance of the season was unable to help his team regain the lead, and would ultimately conclude his college playing career with a loss despite scoring a season-high 18 points.

The Rams finish the season, Head Coach Philip Stitt's third as Head

Coach of the Rams at 16-12 overall (6-10 CIAA). The record is an improvement over the 2002-03 season when Stitt guided the Rams to a 15-14 overall mark despite the fact that the current edition of the Rams consisted of seven players who were either freshman or sophomores. Stitt summed up his team and this season with this final comment:

"We are a young team, and I think that the beginning of the season saw us playing above everyone's expectations, including our own as coaches."

The second half of the season was a roller coaster ride. After the Queens game [a 78-58 victory over then #7 in the nation Queens University] we were up and down and were a bit disappointing. With seven freshman and sophomores, I think some of our guys underestimated the length of a college basketball season. But we are a young team and will continue to improve."

Lady Vikings end Lady Ram's season with 73-59 Defeat In CIAA

COURTESY WSSU WEBSITE

Revenge is a dish best served cold. That is what the Lady

Vikings of Elizabeth City State were thinking ever since January 8th, 2004 when the Lady Rams defeated them in Winston-Salem, NC by the score of 72-58. Elizabeth City State came into the CIAA Tournament looking for retribution on Monday afternoon, and that is exactly what they got as they dismantled the Lady Rams of Winston-Salem State University 73-59 in a game they only trailed for one inute and 32 seconds en route to a first-round CIAA Tournament victory.

Winston-Salem State never got anything going in the first half of play as the fourth-seeded Lady Vikings used an 11-0 run and a pair of 7-0 runs to jump out to a commanding lead over the sixth-seeded Lady Rams, breaking the game wide open.

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Loss of season opener won't discourage Lady Rams softball

By Janell J. Lewis
 ARGUS MANAGING EDITOR

The Lady Rams softball team has a history of good talent stemming from a 2000 CIAA championship and a 2003 Western Division regular season title. In fact, the team has been unequivocally dominating the western division for several years now.

The team is returning six starters from last season along with second-year head coach, LaTanya Hilliard-Gray. The ladies are pouncing from a victorious 21-11 2003 season and a CIAA Western Division regular season title.

The Lady Rams opened their season recently, a month earlier than last year, with a four-game road trip.

Unfortunately, the season-opener was a 9-0 upset by the Lady Tigers of Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. Though pitcher Heather Davis (Sr/ 5'11/ Detroit, Michigan) headed an 11-4 record last season she gave up

nine runs on 14 hits for five innings of the game.

"They weren't able to overcome their jitters," Coach Hilliard-Gray said, and then added that she was confident that the loss to Benedict College was not a prelude for the coming season.

"We're pretty confident that we're going to have a good season," she said.

The team quickly rid themselves of all jitters and started to focus on their next opponent--- Claflin College. The following day, the team rode to Orangeburg, South Carolina to defeat Claflin in both games of a double header and improved to 2-1 on the season.

Coach Hilliard-Gray said, "Once we won, I think they realized that we can achieve anything."

Hilliard-Gray said that with six freshmen coming on the team this year, she has one primary focus.

"We're going to have to work a lot on defense," Hilliard-Gray said.

Half of the team may be new-

comers, but Coach Hilliard-Gray said she doesn't see that playing a huge role in the team's ability and skills.

"Even though we're young, we still have a whole lot of talent," she said.

The six veterans on the team are Heather Davis, Shannon Davis (Jr/5'4/C/Detroit, MI), LeAndrea Suggs (Jr/OF/5'7/Kinston,NC), LaKelsha Carney (Sr/5'4/SS,3B/Greenville, NC), Toyia Vaughn (So/5'6/3B/Burlington, NC), and Tameka Ferguson (So/5'6/OF/Charlotte, NC).

The six 1st-year players are Curtina Barrett (FR/5'6/2B/Monroe, NC), L'Tisha Bell (FR/5'5/UT/Kings Mountain, NC), SaRhonda Hawkins (JR/5'8/OF, 1B/Greenville, AL), Jennifer Jones-Cockerham (Jr/5'0/OF,SS/Thomasville, NC), Whitney Lewis (FR/5'2/OF/Charlotte, NC, and Alexis Portlock (JR/5'5/OF/Charlotte, NC).

Baylor athlete's murder trial set for August

By Jeff Caplan
 KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS (KRT)

WACO, Texas

Carlton Dotson, the former Baylor University basketball player charged with murder in the death of teammate Patrick Dennehy, will go on trial in August.

State District Judge George Allen set a tentative Aug. 9 trial date Friday after lead defense attorney Russ Hunt said he needs additional time to study evidence. Hunt said he has reviewed "99 percent" of "10 to 15 pounds of documents." The trial had been set for March.

The judge also set a June 18 deadline for filing defense motions. A pretrial hearing on those motions is set for July 15.

"I think the dates are very reasonable," Hunt said. "We will continue doing what we've been doing, and that is discovery. We will now be talking to people we think we need to assist us in preparation for the case."

Dotson, 21, was brought into the courtroom for Friday's brief pretrial hearing. Shackled at the wrists and ankles, he sat, mostly motionless and expressionless, between Hunt and assis-

tant defense attorney Abel Reyna. Dotson is charged in the slaying of Dennehy, 21, who had been missing for six weeks before his body was found July 25 in a field near a gravel pit south-east of Waco.

An autopsy report showed that Dennehy had been shot twice in the head. Dotson was arrested July 21 in his home state of Maryland and has been jailed in Waco since October. He faces five years to life in prison if convicted.

Hunt said he is "not seriously entertaining" plans to seek a change of venue, although he has not ruled it out.

"I feel comfortable trying it in Waco," he said. "But we might come up with something that we haven't thought of before, and perhaps we'll ask for a change of venue."

On Thursday, Baylor President Robert B. Sloan Jr. said the university's seven-month internal investigation found that Baylor missed "red flags" that could have stopped wrongdoing by former basketball coach Dave Bliss, who resigned in August after revelations of major NCAA violations. The allegations arose in the wake of Dennehy's slaying.