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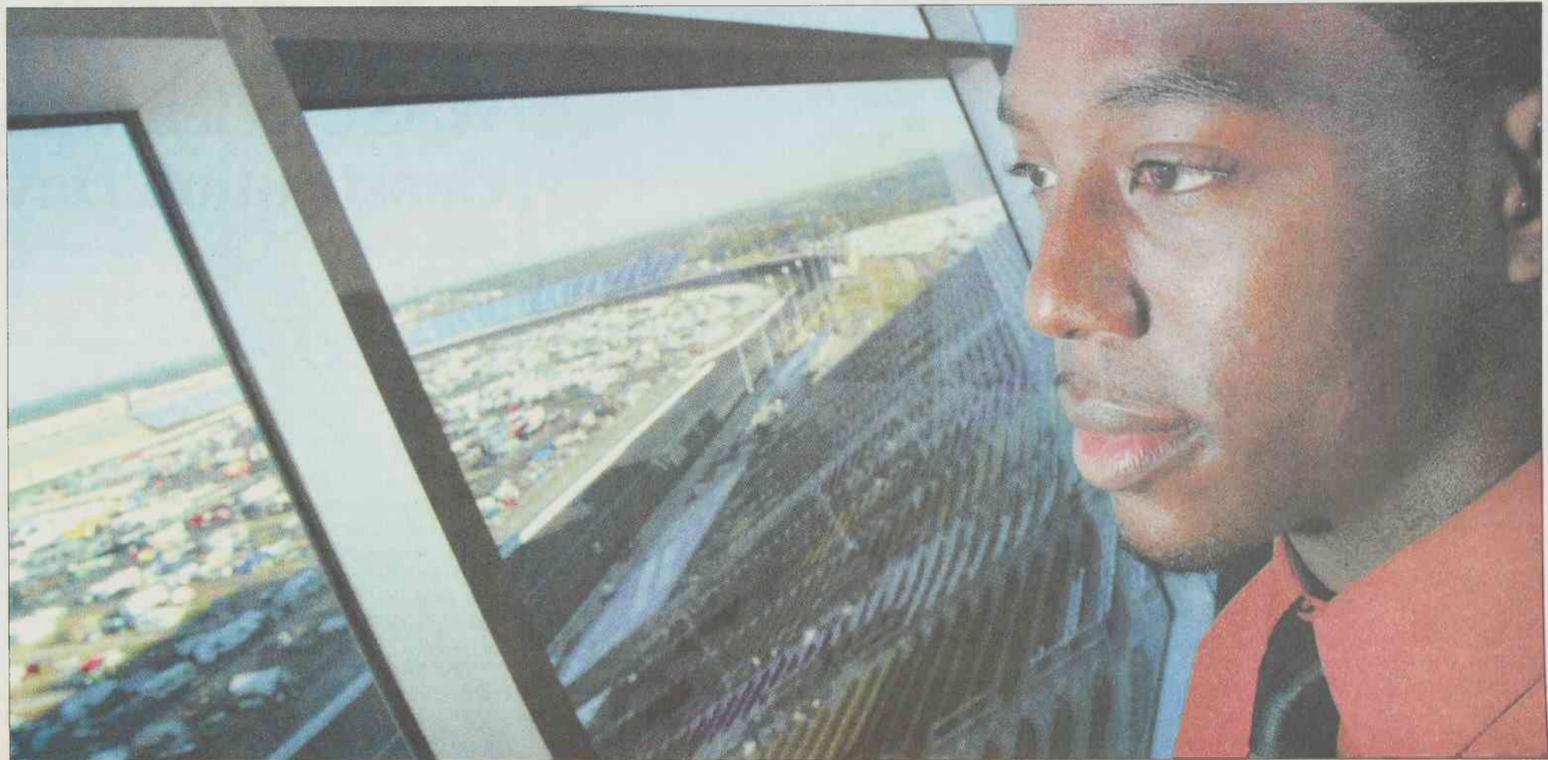


Photo by Garrett Garms

This summer, the UNC Board of Governors approved WSSU's Motorsport management program. The program was announced last October.

Motorsport program is approved, up and running

Larry Williams
NEWS ARGUS STAFF

Last October, Winston Salem State University unveiled plans to launch a new bachelor's degree program in motorsport management. The curriculum planned to focus on two areas: motor sports operations and motorsport marketing and event planning. The one-year mark is on the horizon next month and the program seems to be picking up steam.

The Board of Governors approved the motor sports curriculum at WSSU in May. Since then, the university and staff have gone full speed ahead in trying to make the program a success.

"The focus has been on recruiting students and getting the word out about the program as well as building partners and contacts in the industry," says Dr. Travis Teague, program coordinator for the WSSU Motorsport Management program.

The University has also added a second staff member, Dr. Jim Hand. Hand was added as the assistant professor for the program.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity

for the students and school and about the untapped opportunities," Hand said. He also hopes to bring a new perspective on the field of motorsports.

"I hope to bring out the other side of racing other than NASCAR, to show the other forums like drag racing, off-road racing and the diversity in types of racing."

Starting a bachelor's degree program from the ground for a university requires a dedicated team of faculty. It also requires support from all aspects of the university. "Being part of the school of education, we have received tremendous support from the dean and chancellor as well as valuable supports from the marketing and communications department at WSSU," said Teague.

One of the more recognizable marketing campaigns has been the billboards placed on North Carolina interstates. There is one on Interstate 85 in Charlotte, as well as Interstate 40 in Greensboro. These billboards stand out to students on campus each time they pass one.

The motorsports program provides

numerous opportunities for students to get hands-on training and experience through various avenues, events and frequent educational trips. Teague spends a considerable amount of time and effort building relationships throughout the NASCAR community. Also in the works are upcoming endeavors with the Indy Racing league and open wheel racing.

"We are committed to continuing to explore every lead that can help students succeed in this program," Teague said.

The motorsport curriculum has been involved in or sponsored several events since last year. They went to the AMA Super Bike competition in Virginia at the International Raceway. Also this past summer the program was part of the UNC Tomorrow program where it was highlighted. In attendance were various committee members and Erskine Bowles, the president of the UNC school system.

With the program in its infant stages, current enrollment is rather small. The program has three full-time majors and Teague would like to see that number around 30. To make sure those students



Photo by Garrett Garms

NASCAR and the motorsport industry are becoming increasingly diverse.

have the resources needed Teague and staff face all challenges head on.

"The whole thing is a challenge; with a new curriculum we are constantly trying to recruit sponsors from the program for scholarships and experimental adventures," said Teague.

"Everybody we talk to seems to be excited and welcoming and feel it [the program] will be able to meet the needs of the industry."

Rams roll over Aggies

By Steven J. Gaither
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Maybe it's not so hard to be a Ram after all. Winston-Salem State defeated North Carolina A&T 28-7 at Bowman Gray Stadium on Sept. 1. Senior running back Jed Bines was named WSSU's offensive player of the game after gaining 126 yards on 16 carries in his first game back in over a year.

"It feels real good to be back," Bines said after the game. "I just want to give credit to my offensive line for making holes for me to run through."

Head coach Kermit Blount beamed when talking about Bines' return.

"It's great to have him back," Blount said. "I missed him out there."

Quarterback Monte Purvis, who played with Bines at Parkland High, benefited from having Bines and sophomore running back Brandon McRae behind him in the backfield. Purvis went 9 for 15 with two touchdown passes. He also ran for 63 yards.

"It's great to have #1 and #26 back there," Purvis said after the game.

McRae added 85 yards on 15 carries, including a 30-yard touchdown, as the Rams racked up 286 rushing yards and nearly 400 yards of total offense.

The game wasn't all offensive fireworks for the Rams. Other than a brief lapse late in the third quarter, the Rams defense stifled the Aggie offense. Senior linebacker Thadeus Griffin was all over the field, notching 10 tackles and two interceptions. Defensive lineman William Hayes added nine tackles.

The game started off slowly, with neither team able to muster up much offense in their first two drives. WSSU was finally able to get on the board after Griffin's first interception gave them the ball on the Aggie's 23-yard line. A few plays later Purvis was able to score on a 1-yard plunge into the endzone, giving the Rams a 7-0 lead which they never relinquished.

The Rams' next score came when Purvis hit



Photo by Garrett Garms

Monte Purvis and William Hayes await the coin toss.

receiver Bryant Bayne with a 19-yard touchdown pass. The Aggies scored their only touchdown when Herb Miller connected with Curtis Walls in the third quarter. The Rams finished up the scoring when Purvis connected with Brent Thomas early in the fourth quarter.

The win marked the Rams' second consecutive in the "I-40 Showdown." The game was played in front of a capacity crowd of over 22,000 fans. The win also put Blount in sole possession of second place on the Rams all-time wins list with 82 victories.

WSSU reclaims No. 1 in U.S. News & World Report magazine ranking

STAFF REPORT

Winston-Salem State University has reclaimed its number one ranking among Top Public Southern Comprehensive Colleges Bachelor's category in the 2008 America's Best Colleges issue of U.S. News & World Report magazine.

WSSU has been ranked either number one or number two in this category since 2002. The rankings are part of the magazine's 2008 annual ranking of top universities in the nation.

The ranking marks the seventh consecutive showing by WSSU in the Publication's Best Colleges rankings in the past eight years.

"We are proud of the ranking we have earned while moving forward

With our strategic planning," said WSSU Chancellor Donald J. Reeves.