

SPORTS

To go, or not to go

Gaines Center versus LJVM Annex: Does it affect attendance?

Grant Fulton
PHOTO EDITOR

Eric Price is a faithful Winston-Salem State basketball supporter. He goes to all of the games, whether they are located at Joel-Coliseum, the LJVM Annex, or on campus.

Unfortunately, Price appears to be in the minority. The average attendance for games this season is about 980 people per game—a drop-off of about 1,600 attendees from last season's average. Since the start of the season, the Rams have played five games in the Annex and five games in the Joel-Coliseum. In contrast, the team has played only two games at Gaines Center, and this may account for the decline in attendance.

Some students feel that the games would have a better turnout if they were played on campus at the Gaines Center.

Price is one of them. "I think that until we can prove that we have a strong student support for games, we should not play [off-campus]. If we play our rivals such as North Carolina A&T or North Carolina Central then we should go to the Annex," said Price, during a recent women's game against Longwood. The game was held in the Gaines Center and more than 1,300 attended.

Junior Dekeila Perry thinks that the concessions at the Annex are a lot better than those offered at the Gaines Center and says that the Annex offers more space. The Annex seats approximately 4,500 people. The Gaines Center has less space and seats approximately 3,500 people.

"We should have more games in the Annex opposed the Gaines Center because we will have more people there to support our team. The game will not sell out as fast, and it could hold more people. They have better concessions over there [at the Annex]," Perry said.

This is WSSU's second year as a



Photo by Grant Fulton

Top: Students cheer on the women's basketball team held in the C.E. Gaines Center during the "Think Pink" women's game on Feb. 12. Bottom: The Rams have been playing to small crowds at home this season in the annex.

member of Division I. Last year, the Rams played just six home games and had an average attendance of 2,615 people. By contrast, the MEAC (which the Rams will officially join in 2020-2011) had an average attendance of 1,774 people.

Many students feel that the inconvenience of playing home games across town is one factor that is hurting attendance.

"I think there would be more attendance if games were held in the Gaines Center because it is more convenient for students," said junior Tamara Grayson.

Junior Ginnerfra Daniels likes the Annex, but she also appreciates the convenience of attending on-campus games.

"I like having games in the Annex because it has more room," said she said. "But the Gaines Center is more convenient for me because of where I [live in] Gleason-Hairston Terrace."



Photo by Garrett Garms

Eagles top Rams in women's tennis

WINSTON-SALEM

North Carolina Central's women's tennis team defeated Winston-Salem State on Feb. 17 by winning a decision in the sixth singles flight as NCCU's Comesha Hickman earned a 6-4, 5-7, 7-5 victory over WSSU's Jade Heggins that propelled NCCU to a 4-3 victory at the WSSU Tennis Complex in Winston-Salem.

The Rams started out by securing the doubles point as the Rams' Terese Lavan and Johanna Nunez defeated NCCU's Comesha Hickman and Stephanie Lee 8-4 at second doubles and WSSU's Gabrielle Benjamin and Jade Heggins defeated NCCU's Ambra Mason and Antionette Spain 8-6 at third doubles as WSSU earned the two match victories necessary to receive the doubles point in the contest.

With the doubles point in hand the Lady Rams fell just short to the Lady Eagles as NCCU won four of the six singles matches en route to the 4-3 match victory.

With the match tied at three points each, the Lady Rams could only watch as Heggins dropped a three-set match to Comesha Hickman in the final singles match of the evening.

After dropping the first set 6-4, Heggins earned a 7-5 victory in the second set to tie the match before dropping the third, and deciding, set 7-5 as NCCU earned the final point of the evening and secured their first win of the season.

The loss dropped the Rams to 0-9 overall while the Eagles improved to 1-4 overall with the victory.

WSSU returns to action on Thursday, Feb. 24 at 10:00 am as they face the Wildcats of Bethune-Cookman University at the MEAC Tennis Round-Up. The match is part of a four-day event that will take place in Orangeburg, SC.

Results

NCCU 4, WSSU 3

Singles competition

A. Rogers (NCCU)	def. S. Loughnan (WSSU) 6-1, 6-0;
T. Velasquez (NCCU)	def. L. Joyce (WSSU) 6-1, 6-0;
T. Lavan (WSSU)	def. S. Lee (NCCU) 7-5 (11-9), 6-1;
J. Nunez (WSSU)	def. A. Mason (NCCU) 6-0, 6-0;
A. Spain (NCCU)	def. G. Benjamin (WSSU) 6-0, 6-3;
C. Hickman (NCCU)	def. J. Heggins (WSSU) 6-4, 5-7, 7-5.

Doubles competition

Velasquez/Rogers (NCCU) def. Loughnan/Joyce (WSSU) 8-6;
Johanna Nunez/Terese Lavan (WSSU) def. Hickman/Lee (NCCU) 8-4;
Benjamin/Heggins (WSSU) def. Mason/Spain (NCCU) 8-6.

Records: North Carolina Central 1-4, Winston-Salem State 0-9.

WSSU alums and family donate \$12,000 to Athletic Department

WINSTON-SALEM

Four Winston-Salem State alumni and their spouses donated \$12,000 to the WSSU Department of Athletics on Feb. 13 at the WSSU Bowman Gray Fieldhouse to fund a technology upgrade initiative that will be used to purchase flat-panel monitors for coaches' offices within the Bowman Gray Field House. With this technology upgrade initiative, the Department of Athletics seeks to enhance the recruiting and scouting needs for WSSU head coaches and their coaching staffs.

Associate Director of Athletics, Tonia Walker accepted the donations from Eugene and Wilma Weeks, Class of 1964; John Sigers, Class of 1967; Edna Sigers, Class of 1993; and William and Juanita Bowman Tatum, Class of 1964.



Photo by Garrett Garms

Bowman Gray Fieldhouse

Eugene and Wilma Weeks, and John and Edna Sigers each donated \$5,500 for the technology upgrade while William and Juanita Bowman Tatum donated \$1,000 for the initiative.

2008 Winston-Salem State University Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
August 30	Open Date	N/A	N/A
September 6	N.C. A& T University	Greensboro	6:00 PM
September 13	Savannah State University	Winston-Salem	6:00 PM
September 20	Morgan State University	Winston-Salem	6:00 PM
September 27	S. C. State University	Winston-Salem	6:00 PM
October 4	Howard University	Winston-Salem	6:00 PM
October 11	Florida A&M University	Tallahassee, FL	6:00 PM
October 18	Open Date	N/A	N/A
October 25	Bethune Cookman Homecoming	Winston-Salem	2:00 PM
November 1	Hampton University	Hampton, VA	1:00 PM
November 8	Delaware State University	Dover, DE	1:00 PM
November 15	N. C. Central University	Durham	1:00 PM
November 22	Norfolk State University	Winston-Salem	1:30 PM

* Home Games at Bowman Gray Stadium noted RED FONT

* Game times subject to change

INSURANCE, from page 4

grace period after graduation in which they are still covered by Dillard's insurance. Students covered under Koster's Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan are eligible to continue coverage under a separate Continuation Plan. A student can enroll in this Continuation Plan prior to graduation.

A survey of U.S. insurance consumers by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) indicated nearly a fifth of young singles would go without health insurance to save money.

"It is vital for recent graduates to remember that forgoing health insurance is a dangerous decision," said Doug Ommen, director of the Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions & Professional Registration. "Purchasing health insurance provides financial security and peace of mind to graduates as they make life-altering changes and responsible transitions into adulthood."

If a student is unable to meet any of the qualifications for the insurance options stated earlier in this article, they may apply for a short-term plan. Short-term policies are generally good for six months to a year. You have to reapply for coverage each time your policy expires, meaning you must be healthy enough to qualify.

Some states are extending coverage beyond graduation. Colorado, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Utah have such laws in which they allow a student to stay on their parents insurance after graduation. Some laws require adult children to live with their parents or to be unmarried in order to remain on a parent's policy. Others allow insurers to charge a higher premium for the additional coverage.

In the first half of 2006, nearly 35 percent of 19- to 24-year-olds were without health insurance, according to a June 2007 report from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

"My concern is that I've always been lucky and blessed to have health insurance," said Franklin Brown, a senior physical therapy major. "But it's going to be really hard to pay for it by myself because it's difficult to find a job that offers health insurance benefits anymore."

Some students at Dillard are not concerned about insurance after graduation. Some students have put more focus into passing classes and graduating.

"I am not worried about medical insurance post graduation. I am just trying to focus on what is important to me presently. I will get insurance but no, it is not a priority," said Jonathan Bryant, a senior biology major.

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