

Rams leave Hornets stinging 27-26

By Sharrod Patterson
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Nov. 8, 2008 will be a day marked in the Winston-Salem State record books.

On that dreary day, head football coach Kermit Blount won his 90th game making him the winningest coach in football history.

"This is very emotional for me...I never thought I'd be this emotional, but my players really showed they loved me in this game," Blount said.

The Rams showed up big time for Blount beating Delaware State, the defending MEAC champions on the road 27-26.

The game started out fast with the Hornets scoring in just three minutes and 25 seconds, capping the drive with a 14-yard pass from Vashon Winton to Kareem Jones.

The Rams fired back with a three minute 11 second scoring drive that ended with a four yard dive into the end zone by fullback Willie Wilson.

Even though the Rams were holding their own against the Hornets, the game looked very similar to last season's heartbreaker at homecoming.

The Rams shutout the Hornets in the second half but could not contain Hornets running back Kareem Jones who had a staggering 230 yards rushing on 35 attempts.

The Hornets rushing game was a force to be reckoned with, hurting the Rams on a simple play action read handoff from Winton to Kareem Jones.

The Rams did not let his massive run totally sway them from their game plan.

Junior quarterback Jarrett Dunston stole the show for a second straight game rushing for two touchdowns and throwing a two-point conversion to Lamarci Jenkins.

The two hour and 45 minute game ended on a 10-second mistake by Hornets head coach Al Lavan.

With the Rams up by one with less than a minute remaining in the contest, Hornet kicker Peter Gaertner stood anxiously, waiting for his opportunity to be the hero against the Rams once again.

Lavan then decided not to kick the field goal from 37 yards but draw the Rams defense offside with a hard count.

Winton had a different idea and tried to pick up the first down on his own and it was immediately stuffed by the Rams defense.

During last seasons game, the Rams were defeated by the Hornets on another 37-yard attempt by Gaertner with no time on the clock.

The Rams came out of Dover, Del. unscathed for the first time since 1949 when they tied the Hornets 12-12.

As for Blount he was thankful after



Photo courtesy of Delaware State University

Winston-Salem State receiver Michael Scarbrough slips out of the grasps of a Delaware State defensive back after hauling in a pass.

the game.

"They really stuck to it in the second half, never let up, and we came away with the win," he said.

"It is an honor to even be mentioned

in the same sentence as a man like Bill Hayes, and to do it at the institution that I love so much and played my college football at. It is truly a special moment."

Men's and women's 2008-09 basketball previews

Lady Rams coach: 'I really think we finally have a Division I team on the floor.'

By Grant Fulton
NEWS EDITOR

The 2008-09 Lady Rams Basketball team looks to improve from last season's 3-25 record.

Eight players return from last year along with six newcomers.

"The key returners from last season are Vontisha Woods and Rene Rector," said head coach Dee Stokes.

"They were our top two leading scorers last year, and Vontisha is our leading rebounder from a year ago. They have started off really well this year."

The Lady Rams recruited six freshmen: Porsche Herrell of Fayetteville; Shatara Jackson from Wilmington; Jillian Charlet from Nabb, Ind.; Jordhan Patterson from Norfolk, Va; Elizabeth Maas from Clemmons,

N.C; and, Chloe Morse from Sumerduck, Va.

Once again, the Lady Rams will be playing in three locations: C.E. Gaines Center, LJVM Coliseum Annex and the Joel Coliseum.

Stokes requested that



they play all of their non-conference opponents in the Gaines Center so that students would have easier access.

"The key this year is that we are a lot better defensively. I am really pleased at how we have been doing on the defensive side of the ball," Stokes said.

She says the most anticipated game of the

year will be against rivals North Carolina A&T.

Stokes said A&T is a good team and plays a difficult schedule.

The Lady Rams will open their season in a tournament in Elon, N.C.

On the first day they take on Elon University, and the second day they will face UNC-Wilmington.

Stokes says the team is a lot better than last years squad. She said that the team is a year older and more aggressive.

"I really think we finally have a Division I team on the floor," she said.

"We have depth that we have not had in the last two years and we are playing an exciting brand of basketball."

Rams coach: 'We're going to be much more exciting to watch.'

By Steven J. Gaither
SPORTS EDITOR

Bobby Collins isn't making any guarantees about his team heading into his third year coaching at Winston-Salem State.

But one thing he does promise is a more exciting game than last year's season.

"We'll be a much more athletic team," Collins said. "We're going to be much more exciting to watch."

Last season, the Rams finished 12-18. The Rams lost five players from last year's squad, including starters Roy Peake and Darrell Wonge.

Sophomore guard Isaiah Tucker will be given the task of replacing Peake, a four-year starter at point guard.

Last season Tucker started nine games at shooting guard. He also got some experience running the team while Peake took a breather.

Collins says he is looking for Tucker to take his game to another level.

"I want him to make better decisions," Collins said.

"He's a talented point guard. He can be one of the best to come through the program."



Senior Jamal Durham will once again be the Rams' go-to-guy in the '09 season. The 6-6 forward averaged a team-high 12.2 points, leading the team in scoring 12 times.

Collins said that Durham's impact on the team extends beyond what shows up on the stat sheet.

"What I'm most impressed about is Jamal Durham's leadership,"

he said.

Durham will be joined by sophomores Corey Morris and Paul Davis.

Collins said that Morris has dropped 25 pounds and is hopeful that Davis will be fully recovered from a hip sprain.

The Rams will start the season on the road with trips to Georgia Tech and Eastern Kentucky before returning to Winston-Salem Nov. 24 to take on Wake Forest.

The Rams will also have several chances to play their two biggest rivals.

WSSU plays North Carolina Central and North Carolina A&T twice.

A&T head coach Jerry Eaves said he enjoyed competing against WSSU and was impressed by the atmosphere at both arenas.

"Our gym was electric and so was the (LJVM) Coliseum," Eaves said.

