

Missed free throws lead to Rams 81-73 loss



Photo by Garrett Garms

McIntoché Alcius No.42 attempts a lay-up against Livingstone College on Feb. 5. Alcius scored four points and snatched five rebounds.

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The Rams struggled to take advantage of opportunities from the free throw line in an 81-73 home loss to the Livingstone College Blue Bears Feb. 5.

The Rams struggled to hold on to the ball turning it over 20 times and only having five assists for the game.

"When you have 20 turnovers and five assists, you don't win games that way," said Head Basketball Coach Bobby Collins.

In the first half, the Rams had an early two point lead that they would relinquish early in the half and never attain again. The pressure from the Blue Bears zone defense had the Rams taking shots from deep in the shot clock and turning the ball over.

"They did a good job of playing zone defense and really keeping the pressure up and forcing us into mistakes," Collins said.

The Rams also struggled from deep in the first half shooting one-for-11 and not really taking advantage of open shot opportunities.

"We need to shoot with more confidence," Collins said.

"When we shoot with confidence, we can hit more shots. I just did not see that tonight."

The Rams went into the half trailing 33-24.

The Rams opened the second half cutting the Blue Bears lead by four 35-30.

The Rams attacked the basket early and often, drawing fouls in the first six minutes of the second half and putting the Blue Bears in the bonus situation.

With this advantage, the Rams struggled from the free throw line missing 13-of-34 attempts.

"When you miss that many free throws, it makes it harder to play from behind," Collins said.

The Rams were looking for a bright spot in this game and they got it from two familiar sources. Paul Davis had another impressive performance shooting six-of-seven from the field and snatching down 18 rebounds.

Lamar Monger contributed with one of his better performances on the season, despite his five turnovers. Monger had 23 points and shot 14 of 20 from the charity stripe.

"We know what we are going to get from him [Monger] every night," Collins said.

The Rams failed to take advantage of the turnovers they forced and could not control the points off turnovers they surrendered.

"We dug ourselves in too deep a hole," Monger said.

The Rams next four games are on the road, including a rematch with the Blue Bears Feb. 14 in Salisbury.

Lady Rams show balanced offense in 75-53 victory

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The Lady Rams 13-7 (8-3) showed just how dangerous they can be in a 75-53 home win over the Lady Blue Bears of Livingstone College 12-4 (7-3) Feb. 5.

The Lady Rams had three players in double figures.

"We have a very unique offense," said Women's Basketball Head Coach Steven Joyner.

"We can score from all five positions and that is something that a lot of teams can't do."

In the first half, the Lady Rams wanted to get out and run, and they did just that with 10 fast break points.

"We wanted to push the ball against their press," Joyner said.

The Lady Rams also attacked the glass with vigor and aggression in the first half. They hit the offensive boards, snatching down 10 of them. The Lady Rams also had 11 second-chance points.

WSSU took advantage of a poor shooting effort in the first half by the Lady Blue Bears. Livingstone shot nine-for-40 from the field and two-of-14 from three point land.

"We did a great job all game on the boards," Joyner said.

The Lady Rams ended the half on an 11-2 run that gave them momentum going into halftime.

They continued their stellar play on both sides of the floor early in the second half, led by forward Vontisha Woods. Woods scored 16 points on six-of-13 shooting from the field and pulled down 11 rebounds.

"Woods is finally showing what she is about," Joyner said.

"She is a double-double machine."

It is good to see that in her senior season she is coming into her own and that she is seeing individual success while the team is winning."

It was business as usual for junior guard Courtney Medley. Medley scored 15 points, pulled down eight rebounds, and dished out four assists.

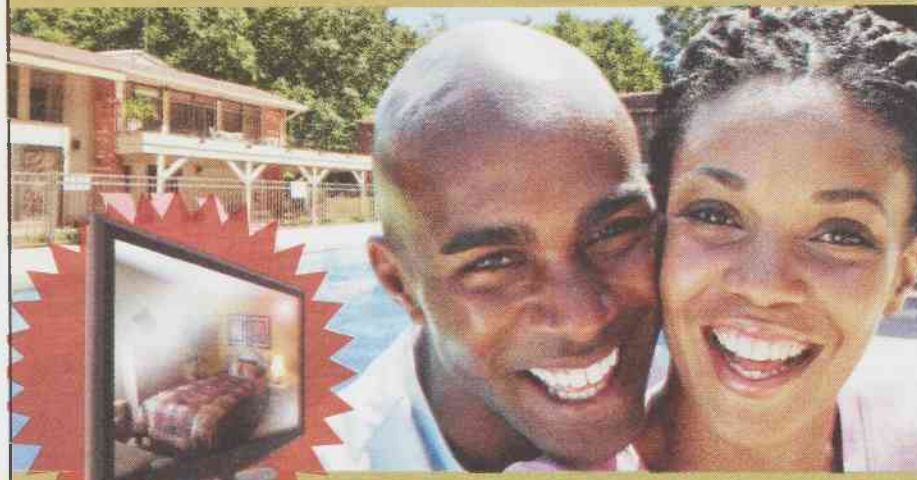
"She is definitely our scoring leader and a great asset to this team," Joyner said.

The Lady Rams continued their strong defensive play throughout the second half with 14 forced turnovers while holding the Lady Blue Bears to eight-of-27 shooting from the field.

With this win the Lady Rams move into second place in the CIAA Southern Division.

"Everything finally came together and it showed tonight on the floor," Joyner said.

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