

## Women's track and field win CIAA Indoor Championship

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The Winston-Salem State Women's Track and Field team won their first CIAA Indoor Championship in team history Feb. 13. It was the first conference title for the Track and Field program since 1960 when the men won it.

The Lady Rams finished the championships with 99 points, the majority of them coming in their performances in the middle distance and relay events.

"I always try to push my athletes for greatness," said Head Coach Inez Turner.

"They practiced hard and showed dedication. They sacrificed a lot."

The Lady Rams had good showings on both days including a first-place finish in the 800-meter run by freshman distance runner Brittany Killebrew. Killebrew also placed first in the mile run and she was a member of the distance medley that won first place as well.

"It feels good seeing our hard work reflect with the results on the field," Killebrew said.

Killebrew is also the women's cross country champion.

The championship was not the only hardware the Lady Rams brought home from the meet. Winston-Salem native Dedricka Thomas won the most valuable player award for placing second in the women's long jump, high jump and triple jump.

"It was a joy to see her win the award," Turner said.

"I'm very proud of her. She has a great future ahead of her."

Turner said the men's team was in full support of the women. Some of them were even crying from the joy of watching their teammates win.

"We are definitely proud of them," said sprinter Matthew Noble.

"They were fighting for what they knew was theirs and they achieved it."

The championship snapped a streak of 14 consecutive titles

by St. Augustine's College.

"We made history and we take pride in that," said Wright O'Neil, assistant track and field and cross country coach.

"We did something that has never been done before."

Coach Turner expressed that she wanted the coaching staff to be the role models for the team.

"When you have various athletes coming up telling you 'thank you coach' it is very rewarding," Turner said.

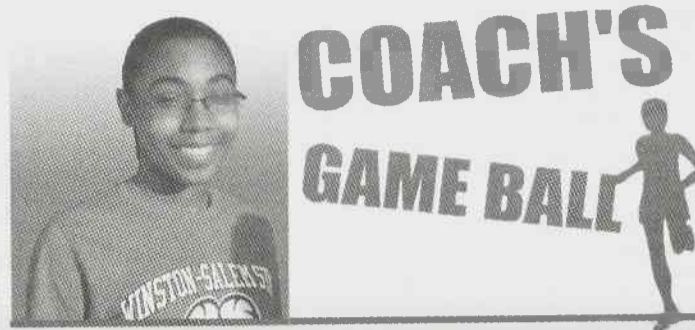
Noble said Turner is also a great motivator.

"We are here because she [Turner] believes in us. She tells us to be confident and always work hard."

The championship is the second one in the first year of Turner's regime as head coach.

The team is preparing for the outdoor season where they plan to bring home both the men's and women's championships.

"Winning is addictive," O'Neil said.



### Awarded to Brittney Killebrew

**Jordan Holloway**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Brooklyn native Brittney Killebrew was selected by her coach Inez Turner as the Game Ball recipient because of her three gold medals in the CIAA Indoor Championships.

"I feel great winning this award as a freshman," Killebrew said.

Killebrew is a computer science major.

Coach Turner said that Killebrew is very tough and determined to be a better athlete.

"This award is just extra motivation for me," Killebrew said. Killebrew took first place in the women's 800 meter run, the mile and the distance medley relay at the CIAA Indoor Championships.

Killebrew is a graduate of James Madison High School.

## Rams tennis looks to pick up 2011 NCAA tournament bid

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The Winston-Salem State tennis team started the 2011 season against some stiff competition, but looks to improve with its young team.

The Rams traveled to UNC-Charlotte to take on the 49ers in their first match of the season. The men suffered a 6-1 loss, with senior Brian Coxton earning the only win. The women were out played, losing 7-0.

First-year head coach John Martin has some experienced athletes to work with.

"Both teams look very strong to compete in the CIAA and the NCAA tournament," Martin said.

Martin is a native of Elkin, N.C., and a 2003 graduate of UNC Wilmington, where he played tennis. Coach Martin has put his stamp on the tennis program already, scheduling mandatory early morning workouts and conditioning.

"I feel like our team is in the best shape we've ever been in and that will definitely pay off in tough battles," said Sloan Holmes, a sophomore for the Lady Rams.

On the men's side, Coxton and senior Maximilian Glodde look to lead their team to a CIAA championship for the first time. They will have help from top prospect freshman Nick John, who was a five-time state champion at Mt. Airy High School.

"Brian Coxton had a huge win at UNC-C outplaying an All-Conference opponent," Martin said.

According to Martin, playing Division I teams looks good on your record when it comes to earning a NCAA tournament bid.

"We have the caliber to win. The players coming in are motivated and everyone has what it takes," Coxton said.

Coxton, a senior from Atlanta, is looking to accomplish his no. 1 goal, which is winning a team championship.

"Getting a ring would be a great achievement for the team and myself," Coxton said.

The Rams are looking for their freshmen to perform well. But the transition from high school tennis to college or university tennis can be difficult.

"The athletes are better physically and mentally than they are in high school," John said.

"You have to adjust your game or you will get outplayed."

Some other freshmen standouts are Chris Jeter, Creighton Jones and for the women, Dominique Lindsay. They will be playing in the top six of the lineup.

The Lady Rams will rely on their talented sophomores to lead them to victory. Sloane Holmes, Kayla Carter, Bianca Locklear and Kalin Jarvis will be the key components to a successful season.

"I feel like we really do have a dream team. There is absolutely no reason why we shouldn't win the CIAA title and go on to see what damage we can do in the NCAA Championships," Holmes said.

"Mental toughness and inexperience are the two major weaknesses we have, as far as talent, potential and game it's all there."

The Rams are ranked 8th in the Atlantic Region, two spots behind conference foe Shaw University. Shaw has won the CIAA tennis championship six years in a row. Competing against Shaw will be important match for us, said Martin.

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