



The halftime show at Winston-Salem State University's Homecoming game was spiced with a foot stomping performance by the WSSU Marching Band (photo by James Parker).

Rams Whip Smith For Homecoming

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The Ram offense showed a marked contrast to last year's 2-0 embarrassment at the hands of Lenoir-Rhyne. This year's homecoming game saw quarterback Watson passing for 233 yards, hitting on 11 of 14 tosses. The rushing attack, meanwhile, churned out 288 yards, with Horn following Turner with 89 yards.

Still Hayes admitted to some anxious moments in the contest. "Smith is very explosive and there were a lot of anxious moments," he said. "That's why we threw the

ball the last time we had it. When we got the waggle pass going, that opened everything up. Then, when they tried to take that away, it left the buck sweep wide open."

Hayes was also glad to get Watson back into action after seeing the Rams' passing game suffer the past two weeks without the starting signal caller. "The doctor cleared him to play on Thursday," said Hayes. "If he hadn't, I would have cleared him myself," he said joking and in a much better mood than after last year's homecoming contest.

This Week In The CIAA

St. Paul's Battles Hampton; Loser Will Face Elimination

By ROBERT ELLER
Sports Editor

No one can remember when, if ever, St. Paul's has entered its ninth game of the season with a winning season assured and an outside chance of a division title.

But that is just the case when the resurgent Tigers play host to Hampton Institute in the top CIAA match-up this week.

The Pirates enter the game in the driver's seat in the race for the Northern Division title. Hampton (4-1 in league play) has beaten Virginia Union and needs to win only this week's game and its season finale against Virginia State to claim the crown.

St. Paul's, on the other hand, has two losses, and while it has little chance of winning the division, a win Saturday would continue to enhance its growing reputation.

Hampton's offense has struggled all season. But its defense has kept the Pirates in every game. Last Saturday, they shut down Fayetteville State's offense in a 14-7 win.

St. Paul's has come up with some fine offensive weapons in quarterback Mike Mayfield and runner Anthony Mills, and the defense has been sound.

This is a hard one to pick but, for some reason, I have the feeling that the Tigers may come out on top and give Virginia Union the division title. St. Paul's by 1.

In other league action,

Livingstone, a team in a situation similar to St. Paul's, faces winless Bowie. The Bears are 5-2 overall and would like to give Mel Rose an 8-2 season. Bowie has been happy just to stay close, which it hasn't been able to do too often. Jo Jo White set new conference and school rushing marks against the Bulldogs last season and he might do the same again. Livingstone by 20.

Winston-Salem State entertains Elizabeth City in a key clash for the Rams, who hold a slim lead over North Carolina Central. The Eagles travel to Charlotte to play Johnson C. Smith on the Bulls homecoming. Wylie Harris resigned last week but that

didn't help the Bulls against the Rams. The Eagles will play this one with one ear glued to the radio listening to the Rams-Vikings game. Smith, meanwhile, will have its homecoming spoiled even if Gerald Fraylon doesn't play for the Eagles. Central by 14.

Norfolk State rebounded from three straight losses to knock off Howard with fine performances from its special teams. Virginia State stayed close to Virginia Union, giving up only 16 points in a loss.

The Spartans have no place to go and neither do the Trojans. But Norfolk is at home, and if Orlando Goodhope is healthy, he

will give them the edge. Norfolk by 6.

Fayetteville State Coach Bill Head will be the first person to say that close only counts in horseshoes. He has seen his team lose a number of close games this year while stumbling to a 1-6-1 record. I must confess ignorance of this week's opponent West Chester. But the Broncos are at home, and if they can play as well as they did against WSSU, Head should get a win. Fayetteville by 3.

Last week, my bid for a second straight perfect record was spoiled when the Hampton Pirates avoided being upset by Fayetteville. The 6-1 record for the week puts my year-to-date mark at 46-11.

Black On Sports

WSSU Red-White Game 'Ragged,' But Displays Rams' Raw Talent

By ROBERT ELLER
Sports Editor

It was ragged to say the least, but a great deal of talent took to the floor last Friday night when Winston-Salem State University held its annual Red-White game sporting the 1983-84 edition of the basketball team.

In the end, it was the experience of the white team that gave it a close 81-78 win.

"This is the most they have scrimmaged this year," said WSSU Coach "Bighouse" Gaines after watching the game from at least three different vantage points at various stages.

Both teams looked ragged early in the contest before Troy Russell opened the scoring for the white team with two of his game-high 26 points at the 18:42 mark.

The two teams stayed close for much of the first half, trading the lead on nine occasions before freshman Linwood Gorham, who scored 10 of his 14 points in the first half, scored the red team's last eight points for a 36-28 halftime lead.

Gorham's team held the lead behind the inside play of Buck Mitchell (18 points to lead the team) and Kevin Vaughn (nine of his 12 points after intermission) until the 1:48 mark when Russell tied the contest at 76.

Roger Mason hit one of two free throws for the white with 1:02 left. And after Gorham scored from 18 feet, junior college transfer Steve Calhoun scored on a tap-in to seal the win. With nine seconds left, Russell's basket set the final margin.

Gaines had a number of observations after the contest. "I learned quite a bit tonight," he said. "We can go with the biggest line-up

we have ever had if we want." And Gaines praised a number of the players, including Calhoun. "Calhoun should help us inside," he said, after watching the Indiana native score all nine of his points in the second half.

Eugene Pennick scored 23 points for the winning unit, and John Watkins was also in double figures with 10.

For the red team, freshman point guard Marcus Washington followed Mitchell in scoring with 16 points, 10 in the second

half. James Gwynn added eight points in the second half, which prompted Gaines to say, "Gwynn is very sound fundamentally and he knows what he can do and can't do."

Gaines, however, saw problems at the guard position. "Our guard positions are as weak as I've ever seen them at this stage, and we will have to get our guard forward exchange worked out," he said. "I've never had a guard problem here before but I can't really tell that much from tonight."

Gaines, starting his 38th season and one game shy of his 700th win, said he will begin work in earnest with the team this week. "We are ready to go to work now," said the coach. "We have finished our conditioning. Now we just need to find six or seven guards who can play together. We figure out what we are going to do and do those things well."

"This year, I have a bigger puzzle than ever before but I may have more pieces than ever to work with."

PEPSI PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Felicia Poplin, Number One in tennis at North Forsyth, is the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week. Miss Poplin entered the Winston-Salem Sectional Tournament as the top seeded player after posting a record of 13 and 1 during the regular season. The Pepsi Cola Bottling Company is pleased to recognize Felicia for the second time in two years as the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week.

In honor of Felicia Poplin, the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem will make a cash contribution to the North Forsyth Senior High School Athletic Program. Congratulations, Felicia Poplin, the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week.

Listen each Wednesday at 8 p.m. on WSJS for Gene Overby TALKS SPORTS where he highlights Pepsi's Prep Athlete of the Week.

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