

House-less Rams stop Elizabeth City 100-78

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Grant said of Lesane. "We want to know whether he plays better coming off the bench or as a starter." Gaines defended the decision. "I started him up in Massachusetts," said Gaines upon return from Japan.

"He's improving and we thought maybe we could get a little better rebounding and defense out of him."

Gaines said he was pleased with how Grant handled things while he was gone.

"He did a great job. The team must've been playing awfully good ball to win like that."

Gaines said the focus now is upon tonight's matchup with Shaw

and a visit to Saint Augustine's Saturday night.

"This will be a crucial week for us," said Gaines.

"Both of these clubs play well on the road and it should be a good test for us. Shaw has a new coach in Al Carter. he was an outstanding athlete at A&T, so I know he'll have his team ready for us."

"Saint Augustine's beat us at their place last year," he said.

"They play an upbeat tempo with a lot of pressure. They play a

solid 2-3 zone and have some quick players."

Gaines said to scout Shaw, he had to go back two years.

"They've had some guys com-

ing back that sat out a year. I recall they were big and quick, so we might be in for a real game down there."

"When we get off the road this week, then we have five straight games at home. We should pretty much know where we stand after that."

"This team is still improving. Right now, the hottest team in our league is North Carolina Central, they're undefeated and playing some good basketball. They still have a lot of conference games to go."

The Rams had a pretty easy time of things while "the chief" was away.

They played so well, in fact,

"When we get off the road this week, we have five straight games at home. We should pretty much know where we stand after that."

**-- Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines
WSSU Head Basketball Coach**

Grant said coaching was a breeze.

"It makes it easy when they play like that," he said.

"Really, it's quite an honor to stand in for someone with a reputation like Coach Gaines. He is one of the best in the business."

WSSU started red hot, hitting their first five shots and zipping out to a 10-0 lead.

The Vikings called a time out, but it did little good.

The Rams shot 53% from the floor and never trailed.

Steve Hood led the Rams with 18, followed by Kevin Reid's 17, 14 from Charlie Spell and 11 points from Gary Cromartie at center.

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Ram Wrestling

From Page B1

but so is the officiating. Everyone is as good as you are at this level, so you have to really be sound in the techniques."

Though Fair is pleased with his progress of his freshmen, sophomores have also made the future appear bright at WSSU.

Led by Boden, Carver and McLinnaham, ten second-year performers comprise half of the Rams' roster.

Donavon Cole (Albemarle High School), Daron Johnson (Plymouth High School), Marcus Myers (Crest High School), Todd McIntosh (High Point Andrews), Shawn McMillan (Westover High School), Harry Winford (South Iredell High School) and Dexter Williams (Wadesboro High School) complete the Ram's barrage of sophomores.

Jimmy Hester of Southern Durham High School and Andrew Flagler, a transfer from Deerfield Beach Florida, are the team's two true juniors.

"We don't have any seniors," Fair exclaims. "This is a very young squad, but a lot of our sophomores have wrestled quite a bit already."

"I think the transfer from Florida will help us," he said.

"If we continue to have some success, then we might really have something in a year or so. I don't think we'll be too bad this year."

Fair says Livingstone, the defending CIAA champs, along with Norfolk and Virginia State, expect to be their biggest conference rivals.

"Those three are tough," he said. "But if we wrestle the way we're capable of, then we'll be okay."

which featured 16 teams in a format focused on individual performance. The Rams best finish was second in the 126 pound weight class, where Harry Winford was runner-up.

James McLinnaham took third at 126, while teammates Bennie Carver and Bernard Terry finished fourth and fifth respectively at 118. At 150, Willie Mouzon took fourth and Danny Boden was sixth.

Michael Smith was third at 158, while Reginald Douglas took fourth at 177.

In the Pembroke State Classic, Terry was sixth at 118, Winford likewise at 126 and Flagler was sixth at 134. Boden carried the team's best finish, a third place at 150.

WSSU then took on UNC in a duel meet, losing a few close matches in the 43-4 loss. Shawn Williams was the Rams' only winner -- taking the 190-pound class.

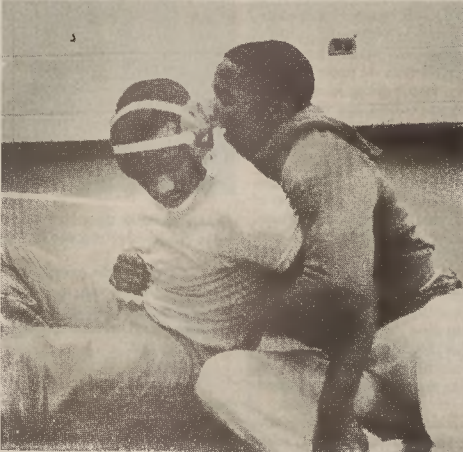
The Rams had similar luck against Appalachian State, dropping a 35-3 decision at home. Mouzon won at 160 for the team's only win. The Rams face the Mountaineers again on January 19, traveling to Boone.

In the Livingstone Classic, Daron Johnson and Boden paced the Rams with second-place finishes at 115 and 150. McLinnaham and Winford were third and fourth at 126 and Flagler fourth at 134.

Perhaps the team's biggest win came in the form of a 44-8 victory over Norfolk State. Carver, Juan Smith, Douglas and Dexter Williams all won by decision -- accumulating more points than their opponents.

Shawn Williams and McLinnaham both won by forfeit, while Boden and Donovan Cole managed to pin their foes.

The Rams wrestle at home this Friday, when they host Liberty University at 7 p.m. on campus.



Bennie Carver (left) tries to break the hold of teammate James McLinnaham in a practice session. McLinnaham is the defending 126-pound CIAA champion (photo by Randy Pettitt).

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WSSU Wrestling Results

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