

Lady Rams looking to keep improving each game

By CRAIG T. GREENLEE
Chronicle Sports Editor

The Lady Rams appear to be coming around slowly but surely during the early part of this basketball season. At presstime, they were 3-5. But more importantly,

Southern Division. In the coaches' pre-season voting, they were picked to finish fifth.

Conley's team will face an uphill climb in terms of being a top contending team with experienced squads like Johnson C. Smith, Shaw University, and St.

sive attack with 22 points, followed by Denise Conley's 16. Marquita Misenheimer added 13 and Angela Courtney tossed in 12 points and pulled down eight rebounds.

Courtney, 6-3, was instrumental in the Lady Rams' win over

Pirates was their ability to eliminate late game mistakes. "Before then, we lost a couple of game that I felt we shouldn't have," said Conley. "And what happened is that we made some bad decisions during the final minutes of those games and that cost us victories.

ence," said Conley. "She's very aggressive, isn't shy, and I haven't seen her back down from anyone. So she's not intimidated one bit by the competition."

Sophomore forward Denise Conley has started off slowly this season. At presstime, she was averaging 6.1 points and 2.9 rebounds -- which is down from her totals of 10.3 ppg and 4.7 rpg last season.

"Denise has a tendency to get down on herself when she makes mistakes," said Conley, who is her cousin. "When that happens, she gets away from her game and the things she does best. We've been working with her to get her to play through those moments. I feel that she will help us a lot by being a more aggressive rebounder. By going to the glass more, she get to the free throw line more often and we'll get points out of that."

Point guard Brenda Maxwell, last year's MVP continues to be the guiding light for the Lady Rams.

Maxwell, a 5-6 senior led the team in assists last season (6.2 a game) and was averaging 4.7 presstime. The WSSU coach, however, feels that Maxwell's assist total will climb as the season gets into full swing and the ladies become more familiar with each other.

Team still developing
Conley is aware that his team is in the development stage. But he's hoping that they will continue to improve as the season progresses. "If we can play decent ball, I feel we can bat .500 at least," the coach said, "or hopefully we can do better."



Photo by T-Lee

Angela Courtney, a Greensboro sophomore, helped to start the Lady Rams on their surge in the win over Hampton's women's team.

they are showing that they are beginning to pick up coach Stenson Conley's system.

Youth and inexperience
Conley's team is filled with youth and inexperience. There are only three seniors. Seven are sophomores, and the remaining three are freshmen. Nevertheless, Conley feels his players are beginning to get comfortable with one another on the floor.

"The one positive thing that has happened for us so far," the coach said, "is that we have improved in every game. The ladies are getting more of a grasp of what their roles are and what's expected of them. Right now, everyone is still getting our concepts down as to what we want to do."

Coming into the season, the consensus on the Lady Rams was that they would finish among the lower echelon in the CIAA's

Augustine's being viewed as the bona fide contenders to win the league crown in late February.

"I felt we would be better than our 6-20 record last year," said Conley. "I also know that we will have to take our lumps against the more talented and experienced

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-Stenson Conley
WSSU Women's Basketball Coach

teams that we'll face this season."

After defeating Bennett College in late November, the Lady Rams lost three straight games before winning in come-from-behind fashion against Hampton University last weekend, 84-71.

Michelle Griffin led the offen-

Hampton. The sophomore center entered the game for Conley who had fouled out, and went to work at both ends of the floor to lead a surge to put her team back in contention.

"Hampton was in the driver's seat with five minutes left to

play," said Conley. "Then Angela comes up with a key basket and a key rebound that changed the momentum of the game and helped us to come back and win it." Conley feels that the difference for his team against the Lady

But now that's beginning to change for the better."

Griffin leads the offense
Offensively, the team's scoring ace is Griffin, who averages 12.7 points, 5.7 rebounds, and 3.1 assists per contest. Latia Pemberton contributes 10.1 points and nine boards a game. Pemberton is described by Conley as a garbage player who is always around to get the rebound or a loose ball, the kind of player who often makes the difference between winning and losing.

However, the Lady Rams' improvement should continue on a grander scale once Kim Garner is completely healthy. Garner, a 5-11 freshman power forward, has been hampered by shin splints during the early portion of the season. "She has shown signs that she has the potential to be one of the better players in the confer-

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