

# Gaines promises courtside thrills

By Chronicle Staff

Losing by narrow margins seems to be a *deja vu* thing for Winston-Salem State basketball. Just like last season when the Rams dropped six games by a total of 13 points.

Last Saturday, Winston bit the dust 67-65 when they visited Virginia State. But coach Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines has a feeling that better times will begin to happen very soon -- beginning this weekend when his Rams hosts the annual Thanksgiving Classic tomorrow and Saturday.

"Neither of the teams played very well," said Gaines, referring to the Virginia State game. "We did play well in spots. But what's going to make the difference for us is improved guard play. That's the key."

Winston's backcourt wasn't

able to generate any offensive consistency and that distracts Gaines, whose team is a pre-season darkhorse pick to win the CIAA's Southern Division crown.

Around the basket, however, the Rams have more than held their own. Vernon Redmond is establishing himself as the prime force on the glass. Against the Trojans he scored 16 points and pulled down nine rebounds.

Redmond's courtside partner in crime is Michael McNeil, a tenacious defender who can also contribute offensively. He turned in a credible defensive performance against VSU's Charles Jefferson, one of the CIAA's premier forwards.

Jefferson led VSU with 17 points, but seven of those came from the free throw line. "McNeil is coming along fine," said Gaines. "He's the defensive stopper we need to help us win

## WSSU BASKETBALL

Tomorrow

Thanksgiving Classic  
Paine College (Ga.) vs.  
Catawba College @ 7 p.m.

St. Paul's College vs.  
Winston-Salem State @ 9 p.m.

Saturday

Women's Basketball  
North Carolina A&T vs.  
Winston-Salem State @ 3 p.m.

Thanksgiving Classic  
St. Paul's College vs.  
Catawba College @ 7 p.m.

Paine College vs.  
Winston-Salem State @ 9 p.m.

All games played at C.E. Gaines Center on the WSSU campus.

games." Even at this juncture, the challenge for Gaines is to help his team reach a higher level of consistency. Defense, the coach feels, is the way to do that.

"This weekend, people are going to see more excitement from us," Gaines promised. "We're going to put more heat on the other teams by having more intensity at the defensive end. That should help to make it a little easier for us because we'll get easier shots by playing better defense."

Aside from that, Gaines hopes to establish a starting five that will stay in tact for the duration of the season.

"One of the things that hurt us last year was that we didn't have enough continuity," he said. "We never had five guys together long enough where they got used to playing with each other."



Photo by Max Dunhill  
In the early going, Vernon Redmond has become a dependable performer in the paint for Winston's basketball Rams.

# Lady Rams hope to keep improving

By Chronicle Staff

The season is still brand new, but it appears that WSSU's Lady Rams could be a very formidable team by the end of the season in February.

In the season opener, the Lady Rams held off a second half rally by Virginia State to register a 68-62 road win.

Angela Courtney, a pre-season all-CIAA pick, led WSSU

## WSSU to stage community appreciation nights this week

Winston-Salem State will have Community Appreciation Nights this weekend as part of the holiday basketball extravaganza at the C.E. Gaines Complex on the WSSU campus tomorrow and Saturday.

Adults can purchase tickets for \$8 night. Children under 12 who are accompanied by an adult, will be admitted free. Tickets for college students and children 13 and over are \$5 per night.

For more information, contact the WSSU Athletic Department at 750-2141.

with 19 points and 12 rebounds. Bobbi Fleullyn chipped in with 14 points and 14 boards.

"I was pretty pleased with our overall effort," said Stenson Conley, WSSU women's coach. "We played a fair defensive game and we didn't look too bad offensively."

"One of things I liked is that we had some offensive balance. It's going to help us to have more than one person to go to when we need points."

## JAYVEE FOOTBALL NOTES

### Davis finishes strong

The Reynolds junior varsity football team didn't dominate its opponents during the '91 season. The Demons finished the year at 2-8 overall and 1-5 in city/county play.

However, RJR's below .500 record didn't stop quarterback Napoleon Davis from turning in some notable performances during the year.

In spite of missing a couple of games due to injury, Davis still threw eight touchdown passes and ran for two scores. Additionally, he had four games where he threw for 200 or more yards.

Against Greensboro Dudley he scored on a 20-yard run. In the RJR's season finale vs. West Forsyth, he connected with Torian Roseboro for a 75-yard touchdown pass.

Still, Conley was not totally satisfied with all facets of Winston's play last weekend. The Lady Rams led by as many as 16 points, but couldn't maintain that advantage.

"We lost our composure at times," the coach said. "We started rushing ourselves and making mistakes which allowed them to come back on us. That's something we'll have to work on and get better at as the season progresses."

But aside from that, Conley is liking what he's seeing so far, particularly from Fleullyn who is concentrating more on her rebounding this year. "She's been a big surprise," Conley said. "I've had long talks with her about that. In order for us to be competitive, she'll have to get eight or nine rebounds a night. When she gets more than that, it's so much better for us."

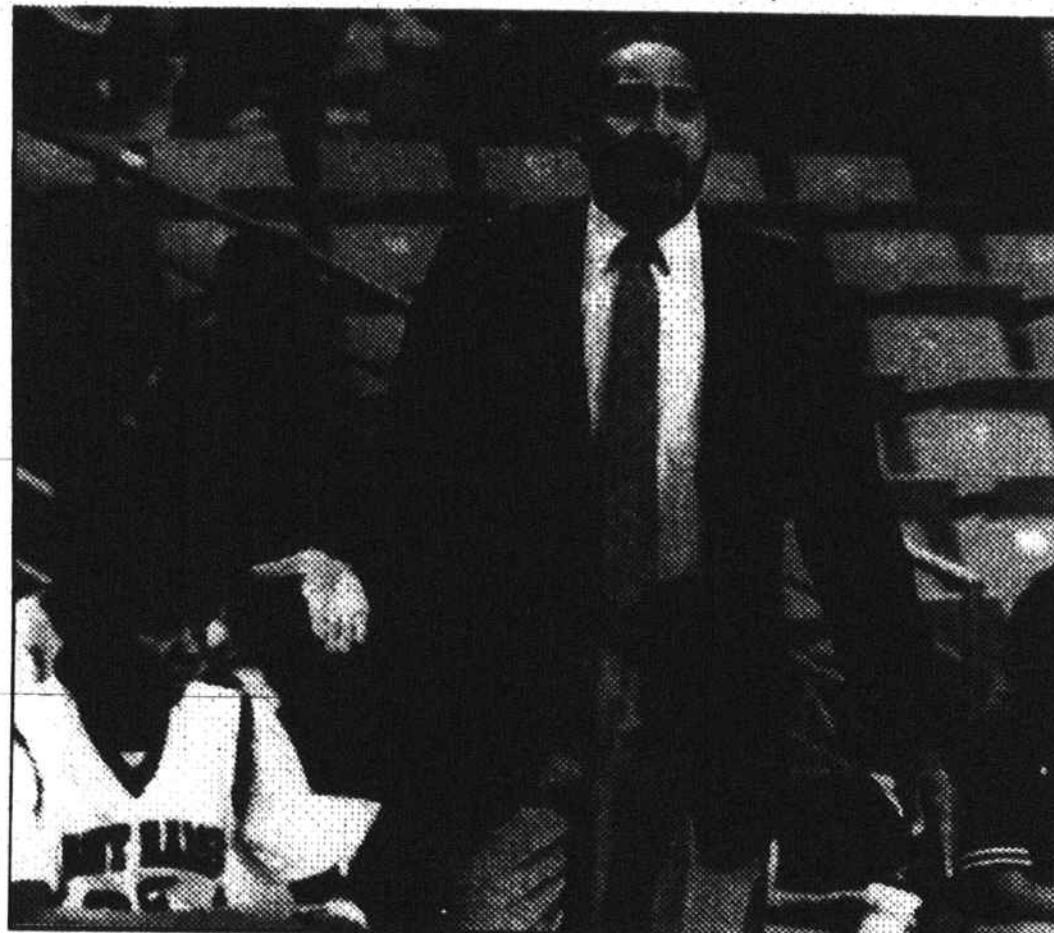


Photo By Max Dunhill  
Stenson Conley, WSSU women's coach

## WESTON TRAVEL

Weston Travel is pleased to recognize the WSSU football team on a stellar season. The Gridiron Rams finished their season at 9-2, winning another CIAA championship and playing in the 1st round of the NCAA Division II playoffs. Congratulations to Coach Pete Richardson and his staff for an excellent performance on the sidelines and in the booth. We eagerly await and look forward to the 1992 season and another strong year of Ram Football. Thanks for a great season and maintaining a powerful tradition at WSSU.

Weston Travel salutes the entire football program at Winston-Salem State University which exudes commitment and pride both on and off the field.

Ram Men's Basketball  
Thanksgiving Tournament  
C.E. Gaines Complex

Friday, November 29: 7:00 p.m. Paine vs. Catawba  
9:00 p.m. WSSU vs. St. Paul

Saturday, November 30: 7:00 p.m. St. Paul vs. Catawba  
9:00 p.m. WSSU vs. Paine

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