

# Lady Rams give game to A&T with poor free throw shooting

By COURTNEY DANIEL  
Chronicle Intern

Free throw - a wide open set shot from 15 feet.

Even the name, free throws, denotes that these shots are expected to be easy, if not automatic conversions.

Conventional wisdom calls free throw shooting college basketball's lost art, and last Thursday's (Jan. 9) match-up of the Winston-Salem State Lady Rams and the Lady Aggies of North Carolina A&T provided an interesting argument both for and against that thinking.

Those who inhabit the cities of Winston-Salem and Greensboro, N.C. know what to expect from a Rams/Aggies clash, and through the first 29 minutes the hard-nosed, neck and neck play

of rivals is what they got.

Then with 11:18 left to play, the Lady Aggies went on a 9-2 run and ballooned their 43-41 lead to 52-43. Sparked by sophomore guard, Latania McIntyre's driving basket, steal, and assist for a three-point play in just over three minutes the Ladies of NC A&T sought to put the Rams away.

The Rams would not fold and led by the up-tempo play and scoring of freshman guard, Renee Cameron, and some defensive gems by sophomore Erica Leggett, the Ladies of WSSU stormed back into the game with a 6-0 run of their own.

The clock crept steadily towards four minutes and the unmistakable buzz of crunch time filled the arena. Fans of

both teams readied themselves for a dogfight at the finish.

The Rams had been in the bonus since the 6:10 mark and with the game within their reach they were given several opportunities to close in on the Aggies and even take the lead, from the charity stripe, but did convert.

The Rams shot an abysmal 45 percent from the line and missed five front ends of one and one free throw opportunities.

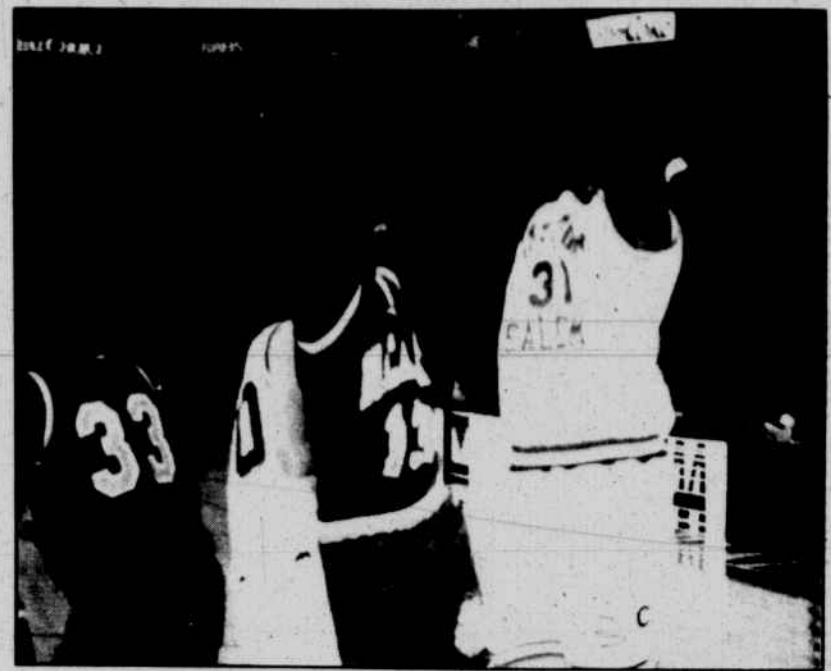
While the Lady Rams mired in their poor shooting from the stripe, McIntyre stopped the Aggies' bleeding, with a long three. And by, ironically enough, sinking two free throws. In fact, the last four minutes would see the Aggies, in stark contrast to their opponent's, bury WSSU with a clinic of 80 percent free

throw shooting.

Nisha Watson was especially deft with her touch from the foul line and lead the Ladies of A&T on a 12-3 scoring binge to close out the Rams and the game.

Rams head coach, Debra Clark said of her team's performance, "We played hard the first 20 minutes but free throw shooting did us in. We shot 45 percent in the second half - they shot 80 percent. That's the ball game right there."

The Lady Rams can take some solace in the fact that their defeat was not at the hands of a conference opponent. Coach Clark offered this as a summary "We'll regroup and move on to a conference game Saturday, that's a little more important than this one."



Chellia Nelson of WSSU goes up for a jumper against A&T's Nisha Watson.

# Furies overcome deficit to hand Reynolds 9th-graders defeat

Forsyth Country Day overcame a nine-point halftime deficit to defeat Reynolds 56-20 in ninth grade basketball.

Led by Evan Williams' 13 points, FCD went on 21-9 run in the third quarter to erase 29-20 halftime lead for the

Demons.

Reynolds started out strong thanks to Sean Cummins and Kennard Plummer. The two

combined for 15 of the Demons' 29 first half points. Reynolds used a small lineup for most of the first half because of foul trouble by Robert Adams and the absence of Demons' leading scorer and rebounder, J.R. Lynch, who didn't dress.

The quickness of the smaller lineup proved an advantage and the Demons' press was the difference in their first half success.

The Furies took a page out of the Reynolds play book and opened the second half in a full-court press of their own. Fueled by their aggressive defensive set, the Furies scored 11 consecutive points in the quarter.

In the fourth quarter, Reynolds settled down and cut the lead to 46-44, but the Demons' missed a series of wide open lay-ups. They had five opportunities to tie up the game but could not convert.

While Reynolds squan-

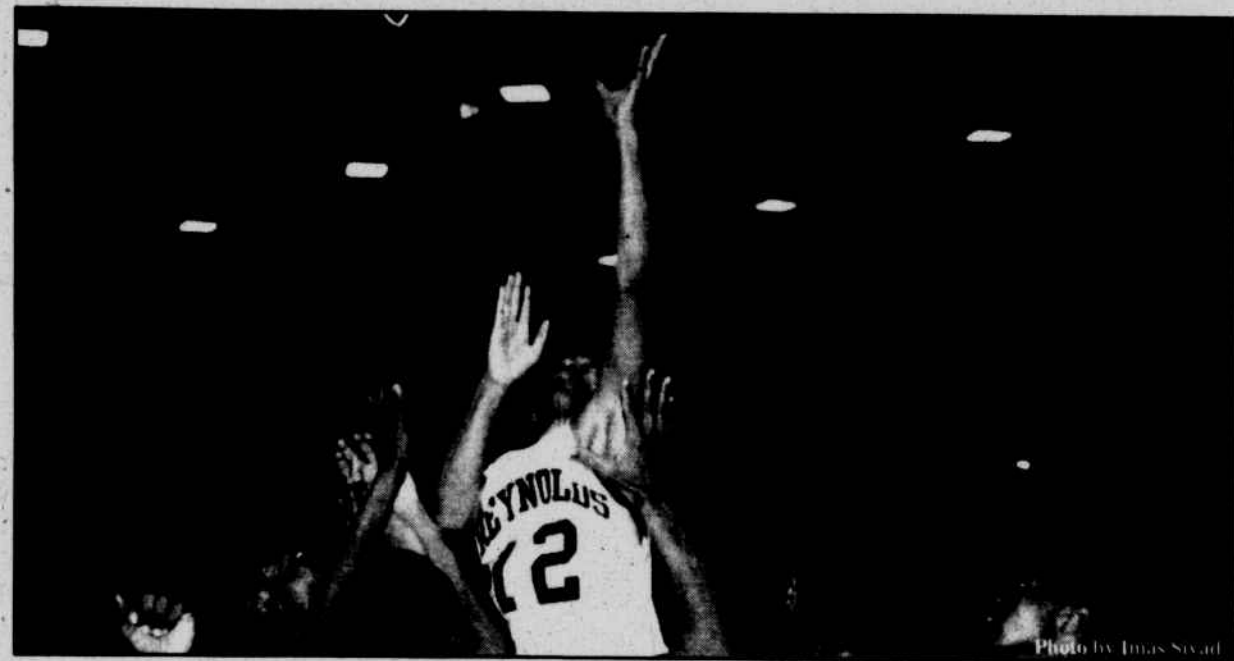
dered opportunities, the Furies' Nathan Battle would use a 4-4 performance from the free throw line to propel his club to a 9 for 13 shooting performance, in the last three minutes, to seal the victory.

Williams led Forsyth Country Day with 13 and Battle added 10. Frank Wilson had 11 points to pace the Demons and Brandon Largent had 10.

"We got real excited in that stretch of the third quarter and rushed ourselves like it was a fire drill," said Brian Robinson,

Reynolds' coach. "We need to learn how to calm ourselves down and concentrate in situations like that."

"We then got our heads back, but missed too many point blank shots that were uncontested. We have been in position to win in almost every game, but if you lose your concentration on simple things and get caught up in the excitement, those simple things missed can make things really hard that don't need to be. We'll keep going though, they're my boys."



Kennard Plummer, shown here in action at the Lash/Chronicle Tournament, led Reynolds to a 29-20 halftime lead but FCD battled back to win.

## Black Coaches Association and American form marketing alliance

### American Becomes "Airline of Choice" for Major Coaching Group

The Black Coaches Association announced recently that it has entered into a marketing relationship with American Airlines.

The airline is now the preferred airline to all BCA events, including the Association's national convention in Miami from May 22-24, 1997. This is the second national sponsorship signed by the BCA. Last month, NIKE entered into a relationship with the organization to help fund

a series of youth sports clinics and scholarships.

"We welcome American Airlines as a partner and look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship," said Rudy Washington, executive director of the BCA. "We appreciate their effort to work with minority organizations and strongly encourage our members as well as our supporters to fly American whenever possible."

As a part of the relationship, American was a featured sponsor at the BCA's annual benefit banquet in Indianapolis on Nov. 14, 1996. Attended by more than 800 guests, the event raised money to support several local youth sports and educational organizations as well as the BCA's scholarship fund. Highlighting the banquet was baseball Hall-of-Famer Henry Aaron receiving the BCA's Lifetime Achievement

Award. The BCA was founded in 1987 and has grown to more than 3,000 members. It strives to help minorities achieve their goals of professional development at every level of coaching and sports administration and serves as an advocate for student-athletes. The organization has its headquarters in Culver City, Calif., and chapters in several cities throughout the United States.

## Twin City to hold signups for Little League Baseball on Saturday

Twin City Little Leagues will host signups on Saturday (Jan. 18) at recreation centers throughout Winston-Salem.

Signups will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The league will also have representatives available at its complex on Waterworks Road and at the Winston Lake YMCA. The

league, which fielded 40 teams last year is open to boys and girls between the ages of six to 18 years-old. This week's signup is the first for the

upcoming season. The league will also hold signups at the same sights on Jan. 25 and Feb. 5.

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