

Lady Rams extend winning streak to three games with 78-75 win over St. Aug's

By KENNETH M. GRIFFIN, JR.
Special to the Chronicle

Coming off a two-game winning streak, Coach Debra Clark hoped to continue to get her players to play together as a unit when the Winston-Salem State women squared off on Monday against conference rival St. Augustine's.

The Lady Rams did just that in the first half leading by as much as 8 points.

But WSSU had to hold off the late Falcons rally to take a 78-75 victory in a Southern Division battle at the C.E. Gaines Center.

The Lady Rams got off to a quick start with great ball movement and interior play in the first half. Chellia Nelson, who scored 22 points and grabbed five rebounds in the game, helped to key the Rams to their early lead.

With help from Keshia Broadnax and Renee Cameron, the Lady Rams took an 8 point lead at halftime, 31-23.

However, the Lady Falcons played more aggressive defense during the second half and took the Rams to the wire before losing.

The Lady Rams had problems with rebounding throughout the game. St. Augustine's



Rachel Hicks of WSSU (#40) tries to prevent Norfolk's Michelle Sessoms from passing the basketball to a teammate.

out-rebounded the Lady Rams 59 to 41.

"Rebounding has been a deficiency for us all year long," said Coach Clark.

The Lady Falcons also caused seven turnovers within the last five minutes of the game to take the lead for the first time.

"We had problems with their two-man press," Clark said. "The press wore us out. Luckily, we were able to escape this game with a victory."

Tinita Vick of St. Augustine's led the way for the Lady Falcons by scoring 22 points. Sparked by the aggressive play of Vick, the Lady Falcons made up seven points in the last five minutes of the game.

After battling back from their half-time deficit, Bianca Beardon of St. Augustine's hit a three pointer to give the Lady Falcons a three point lead with 40 seconds left in the game.

However, the Lady Rams caused the opposition to turn the ball over twice with under 40 seconds left. As a result,

the Lady Falcons were forced to foul and Nelson and Cameron hit both of their free throw attempts giving the Lady Rams the final 78-75 score.

Cameron scored 17 points to help back Nelson for the Rams. Broadnax also played a key role with 14 points and seven rebounds. Sharonda Moore chipped in with eight points and 12 rebounds.

The victory helped the Lady Rams (10-9) extend their winning streak to four games. The Lady Rams are second in the division with North Carolina Central coming to town tonight (Feb. 5). WSSU is hoping to continue playing well and finish the regular season strong, they are also very optimistic about their chances going into the CIAA tournament.

Clark hopes to continue the Rams' winning streak, but doesn't want her team to overlook anyone on the remainder of the conference schedule.

"I just want to take it one game at a time," she said.

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Winston Lake to host 1997 AAU Basketball tryouts

The Winston Lake Lakers, one of the largest AAU basketball programs in North Carolina, will begin holding tryouts for their teams beginning on Saturday at the Winston Lake YMCA.

The Lakers offer quality coaching and provide fundamental instruction at the highest level. The 12-and-under team will be first to get its tryouts started. The 12-and-under team, coached by John Jowers, will hold tryouts on Sat., Feb. 8, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. It will also have tryouts on Feb. 9,

from 3:30-5 p.m.

The 11-and-under team will hold its tryout on Sun. Feb. 9, from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Winston Lake's 13-and-under team has its initial tryout on Sun. Feb. 16, from 5:30-7 p.m. and another on Sat., Feb. 22 from 4:30-6 p.m.

The 14-and-under team will have its tryouts at Atkins Middle School on Feb. 24 and Feb. 26, from 6-8 p.m.

Winston Lake's 15-and-under Lakers will hold tryouts on March 3, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Winston Lake YMCA.

The 16-and-under tryouts will also be held at Winston Lake, March 3, from 3-5 p.m.

Tryouts for the 17-and-under team will be held on March 8 and March 15, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the YMCA.

The 19-and-under team will hold its tryouts on March 15, from 3-5 p.m. and March 22, from 10-11:30 a.m.

Anyone interested in trying out for the teams must bring a copy of their Birth Certificate and copy of their last grade report from school.

Mount Tabor dominates West JV's

from B1

team became apparent as well. Brian Rucker came in and plugged right into the chemistry of the Spartan's post play. He joined Moore, and Rutherford atop the Tabor scoring heap with 12 points of his own. Mount Tabor went into the locker room with a 28-17 advantage and their best basketball still ahead.

As if to show they could, Mount Tabor abandoned their highly effective half court game and went to an even more potent transition attack. Led by Derrick Chilsolm and his perimeter shooting (9 points), three assists in the quarter, and Coleman who ended the game with 10 points, the Spartan's got out on the break and broke the back of the Titans. Kevin Barefoot did his best to keep West in it with a shooting barrage that included 4 triples and a game high 16 points, but it was far too little. Mount Tabor used the entire third quarter to fashion a thoroughly demoralizing, 22-4 run, and led 50-21 when it was over.



Coach Dennis Ring

The fourth quarter gave Coach Ring a chance to play his bench and get all his players some time on the court. When the dust settled the Spartan's owned 27 points worth of revenge, with a 67-40 win.

Ring was not surprised by his team's dominance. "We have out scored our last 5 opponents by an average of 25 points and held those teams to an average of 41 points for the game," he said. But he attributes the discipline and skill of his players to his assistant, Mike Deal and ninth grade coach,

Mike Kneesle.

"Our ninth grade program just gave us a head start. I got six kids from the ninth grade program and the first day we started they already knew the offense," said Ring. "They're both great coaches and great teachers."

As good as the guys team is they are stilling chasing the stellar start their female comrades have forged. The Lady Spartans also blew out West Forsyth in their game earlier and came away with a 46-24 win. The Spartans, paced by Tiffani Teachey's 9 points, so thoroughly dominated the first three quarters, that they won by 22 points despite only scoring one field goal in the fourth quarter. Megan Stahle, Bekah Ford, and Anne Tackeberry all aided the Lady Spartan's charge with 6. Shannon Reed led the West effort with 6 but was overwhelmed by the hottest basketball team in the county.

Both Spartan clubs look to continue their outstanding play when they welcome Davie County on Friday, Feb. 7.

Cougars suffer first loss in 2 years

The Cook Cougars 8th grade basketball team closed the week with a win and a loss. The loss was especially painful since it was the Cougars first in two years.

The Cougars started with a one point win over Mineral Springs Middle School, Monday, Jan. 27. The Mineral Springs team came in fired up and gave Cook all it could handle. Led by Mitchell Bittle's 19 points, Mineral Springs led by 10 points at halftime. Cook

shored up some poor play on the defensive and fueled a comeback. Michael Brinkley led the resurgence with 16 points and 12 rebounds and Derrelle Mitchell added 11 points and 7 rebounds. Nathan Ernst who had made several key defensive take-aways stole the ball with 9 seconds remaining in the game to preserve the 46-45 win.

The Cougars hampered went into their Jan. 29 match-up with Atkins with the services of

Turner Battle, who was out with a foot injury. Cooks bid to stay undefeated was bolstered by Michael Brinkley's 25 points, 12 rebounds and Nathan Ernst's 9 points and 9 assists but was shot down by the spectacular play of Kenneth Allison who scored 34 of Atkins 52 points. His cause was helped Darris Fleming who ended the game with 10 points.

Coach Devalden Penn said he believes the team will bounce back in their next game.

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Ernest Dickerson
Filmmaker

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