

# SPORTSWEEK

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SECTION B

## Rams finish more important than start

The 6-2 start by Winston-Salem State doesn't look nearly as impressive as the 8-0 record compiled at the beginning of the 1996-97 season.

But when you consider the quality of competition and the way the team has played, it might be a better omen for the team's chances in the CIAA regular season race.

The Rams squared off with arch-rival North Carolina A&T last night in what used to be a battle for bragging rights. That game was played after The Chronicle's press deadline.

The outcome of that game could figure into the equation, but regardless of who wins the Rams appear to be in position to contend in the CIAA's Western Division this season. WSSU has shown that it can compete with any team on its schedule. The Rams have been in position to win each of their games this season, but several deficiencies have cost them at critical times.

But given the fact that this team hasn't been playing together that is a positive. Given time, it looks like the team will be able to correct its ills.

That's what Coach Sam Hanger believes. "We're 6-2 and I'm happy to be 6-2," Hanger said. "But we could be 8-0. Our missed free throws

hurt us in both losses." The Rams two losses came at the hands of Virginia Union and Washburn Univ. In both games WSSU had the lead going down the stretch.

"We lost to Union in the last 35 seconds and then we lost to Washburn in the last 14 seconds," Hanger said.

In addition to their poor free throw shooting, the Rams have struggled to get rebounds in key situations. Last season, with Darryl Hardy leading the way, the Rams led the CIAA by out rebounding their opponents by an average of eight rebounds per game. That hasn't been the case this time around.

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## Grambling turns its reigns over to Williams

▲ Former Grambling, NFL standout accepts job occupied by legendary coach

Doug Williams, a former NFL quarterback was named to replace his legendary coach.

Williams, who led the Tigers team to the Black College National Championship under Coach Eddie Robinson, accepted the position late last week.

Robinson, college football's all-time winningest coach stepped down from the head post at Grambling following his team's loss to Southern in the Bayou Classic on Nov. 28. Robinson announced his resignation prior to the start of the 1997 season. However, his replacement wasn't announced until after the Tigers had completed their season.

Williams, a former first-round pick of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, led the Washington Redskins to the Super Bowl championship in 1988. During that game, he set records for passing yardage. Williams has served in several coaching positions since retiring from professional football. His most recent position was as the head football coach at Morehouse College in Atlanta. He led his team to a 3-8 season in his first year at the helm.

Williams was sought out by Grambling because of his name appeal and that might be advantageous to the program in the recruiting process. But Robert Piper, Grambling athletics director said Robinson was hired because of his ability to coach.

"It's OK to be famous," Piper said. "But we were looking for a football coach first and foremost."

Robinson said he was happy to have one of his own replace him. He said Williams' performance in the Super Bowl was a highlight in his career.

"This man gave me the greatest moment that I've ever received in football," Robinson said. "The great thrill was when he crawled up and limped over and came back with that 80-yard bomb. It was the high point of what we had all worked for."

Williams said he looked forward to getting out on the recruiting trails and replenishing the stock of Grambling football players.

"I will tell recruits that if they are looking for a degree, they can get it here," Williams said. "I'll tell them that if they're looking to play in the NFL, they can do that from here. I'll tell them that we can do as much as any school in the country and they can learn to survive in the world when they leave here."

Williams said being a Grambling alumnus will help him in the process of rebuilding the program.

"When I came here I didn't have the best bed, I didn't have the best

field, I didn't have the best of anything," Williams said. "I did so much with so little that I learned I can do almost any-

See DOUG on B4

Press Box



Sam Lekwauwa of Mount Tabor drives around Keegan Haggins. Lekwauwa scored 11 points before fouling out.

## Haggins' 21 help Carver hold off Mount Tabor

▲ Sophomore forward gets 14 in second half to fuel Yellowjackets' comeback

By SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE Sports Editor

Keegan Haggins scored 21 points to lead Carver to a come-from-behind 64-56 victory in Coach Ricky Holt's home debut last Friday night.

Haggins' inside play helped the Yellowjackets fight back from a 30-24 halftime deficit. Rashad Davis also came through with six points and some big rebounds in the critical fourth quarter.

Haggins' and Davis helped Carver nullify Mount Tabor's inside strength. The Spartans started a front line that consisted of 6-6 Sam Lekwauwa, 6-5 Curtis Moncus and 6-4 Craig Clark. Lekwauwa scored 11 points before fouling out of the game with 4:24 remaining.

Holt said the key to the game was his team's defense. The Yellowjackets went to full-court

pressure to mount their comeback effort.

"Defensively we did a good job in the second half," Holt said. "We had to stretch our defense. At one time the was a little race-horse, but that favored us."

"We went to a 1-3-1 trap and on our little floor that plays to our advantage," Holt said.

Mount Tabor had the upper hand in the first quarter, jumping out to a 13-10 lead. The Spartans stretched their advantage to 30-24 at the break on the strength of their inside game.

But Carver came out with pressure in the second half and that speeded up the tempo of the game. It also caused the Spartans to turn the basketball over and allow Carver to rally and take the lead.

Ryan Braham's 3-pointer with seven seconds remaining in the

See HAGGINS on B3

## Brown leads North Forsyth JV girls to win

By SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE Sports Editor

The end result wasn't exactly what Coach Dawn Walton hoped it would be when her Parkland jayvee team played host to North Forsyth. But it was a far cry from the previous outing.

Parkland, coming off a blowout in its season opener, dropped the game to North Forsyth by a 38-25 score. That scored was much better than the 60-point loss the team sustained in its first game.

"That was a big turnaround for us," Walton said. "I think they're coming together and playing better every day."

Walton inherited a team that returned only one player from last season.

"Some of our girls were really nervous," Walton said. "But now they're starting to settle down and play. We have a lot of ninth graders. I'm still trying to find out what some of them can do."



The action was heated inside as Parkland and North Forsyth's girls battled. North escaped with its first win of the season.

The Mustangs fell behind by an 18-4 score in the first quarter. Parkland was scoreless in the second quarter and North increased its lead to 20-4 at the half.

Parkland got untracked in the third quarter, scoring nine points. North also scored nine points and led 29-13 at the end of the period. Parkland continued to play well in the fourth quarter, outscoring North 13-8 to cut the margin to 38-25 at the final margin.

Martise Brown led the way for North with a game-high 22 points. Coach John Murphy said his team played much better than it did in its season-opening loss to Reynolds.

"Today was a big improvement," Murphy said. "We're a very young team, with 13 freshmen and two sophomores. I think we are getting better with experience."

"We have to look to Martise to score points," Murphy said.

See BROWN on B6

## Athletics, academics remain balanced on Otis Attucks' scale

By VINCE WOODY  
THE CHRONICLE Sports Intern

For many athletes, athletics is the key that unlocks the door to a professional career in sports.

For Otis Attucks, Winston-Salem, State's senior point guard, athletics is the key that unlocks the door to academic opportunity.

And it is one that seemed highly unlikely. Attucks has had to overcome much adversity to put himself in a position to succeed, both on and off the basketball court.

Growing up in Piedmont Circle, one of Winston-Salem's public housing developments, Attucks had his share of opportunities to do the wrong thing. But participation in a variety of athletics and stern parental guidance kept Attucks from being a part of that negativity.

"In the beginning athletics was a way for me to stay out of trouble in my neighborhood," Attucks says. "I always played some type of sport so I didn't have time to get in trouble."

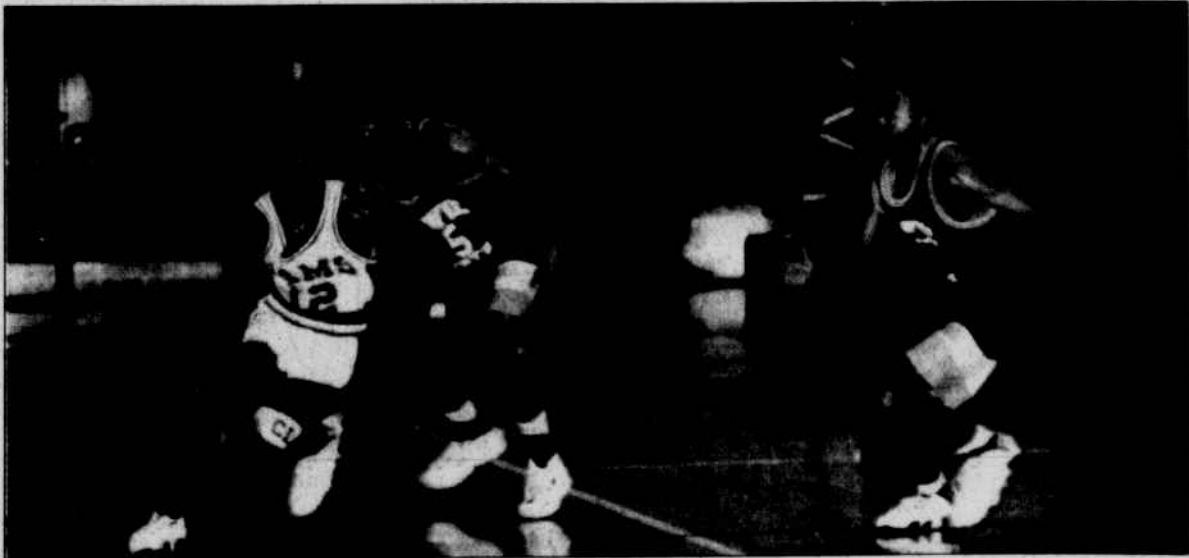
Basketball was the first sport Attucks played. He was introduced to the sport around the age of 12 by his friends James and Tyrone Leach.

"We went into sports together," Attucks says. "Tyrone was always very good in all sports. That was how it started, we all just kept playing together."

From his humble beginning at age 12 to the present, Attucks has been a team leader and a leader by example.

At Carver High School, he quietly led the Yellowjackets to a conference basketball championship and earned all-conference honors. He also excelled in the classroom and was on the honor roll throughout his career there.

His exploits have continued since being on the national honor society in high school.



Otis Attucks drives as hard off the court as he does on it. The Winston-Salem native plans on pursuing a medical career after he finishes his career at WSSU.

Since coming to WSSU, he has emerged as one of the CIAA's most thorough point guards and his teammates say he doesn't get the respect he deserves.

Attucks has a consistent jumper and can take his man to the whole. He's good at keeping his defender in front of him and agitating the defender. He would like to perfect his jump shot to a greater extent and hone his leadership skills.

"My role as team leader is just trying to keep everybody focused, basically I'm like a coach on the court," Attucks says.

He is well respected by his teammates.

"Otis Attucks is like the energizer bunny," says Wesley Linzy, one of his teammates. "When the rest of the team is tired he just keeps going and going and going. Last year he played like 38 or 40 minutes of the CIAA tournament in both games, and he's just an outstanding person. I think everybody on the team should strive for his athleticism." "He's a steady point guard, he has minimized turnovers and he gets the ball to people who have the hot hand," says center Thad Young.

Although athletics plays a strong role in Attucks college career, his greater goal is a career in the field of microbiology.

Attucks is a consistent Dean's list student who

is carrying a 3.0 in biology, one of WSSU's toughest fields.

He is a member of Project Strengthen and works extensively in the Biology Department.

"Project Strengthen has really helped me a lot as far as a graduate program," he says. "They bring in professors to talk and give information on how to get in professional schools. We have workshops on what we have to do to get in our fields."

Although most of his attention is focused on finishing up strong academically at WSSU and trying to lead the Rams to a CIAA championship, Attucks has his long term sights on other things.

Attucks has been looking at N.C. State, John Hopkins University, Howard, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Wake Forest as potential vehicles to further his education. His main interest is in John Hopkins University's medical program.

"I remember always being amazed by science and loving it," he says. "In ten years I see myself graduating with a degree in microbiology and becoming a doctor."

He carries with him a burning desire to be suc-

See ATHLETICS on B7