

## New Gateway Classic could be boon or bust

It's easy to hit a target that's standing still.

Conversely, drawing a bead on a moving target is much more difficult. So far, Anne Little, Winston-Salem State's athletic director hasn't learned that. As the head of the Rams' athletic department, she's not very proactive on vital issues.

The fiasco that started when she fired Sam Hanger wasn't far behind her when she recently announced plans for the Midway Football Classic.

It is a fact that "Classic" games have done much to aid the coffers of black college teams. But the circumstances and situations must be ideal for it to happen. In this case, that doesn't seem to hold true.

The classic, which wraps a list of social events around the annual WSSU-North Carolina Central football game, comes short in adding the missing financial links to the WSSU sports program. It looks to be ill-timed and not well conceived, for a number of reasons.

The venue, Durham County Stadium, is definitely a question mark. The facility, which seats 10,000, is not the drawing card needed to put excitement into the rivalry between the two CIAA squads.

It also looks like a cop-out in terms of the promotional aspect for WSSU's end. By playing a game of this type it builds in a "guaranteed" income for the

Rams. But it also has its share of restrictions and limitations. When the athletic director's position became available, a little over a year ago, experience in promotions was supposed to rank high on the list of requirements for applicants. But thus far it doesn't appear to be one of Little's strong suits.

From all indications, Little appears to be working backwards. The announcement of the classic comes at a time when the Rams' 1998 football schedule still hasn't been officially released. The start of the football season is less than three months away and Ram fans still don't have a schedule in hand. Rather than settling that first, Little went off and made a deal with North Carolina Central that doesn't appear to add much in the long run.

The only good thing for WSSU is the fact that it will receive more income for the 1998 season. But, that will be wiped out in 1999 when the Rams should be hosting the Eagles in Winston-Salem and receiving the bulk of the gate. Instead, they'll again split the pot with NCCU.

What also appears to make this a bad marriage is the fact that the game will be a conference battle. If the venue remains the same neither team will have a "home field" advantage. However, the fact that it is being played in Durham

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## Dodger Blues



Photo by Bruce Chapman

After a 3-0 start to the season, the Dodgers of Twin City Little League's Major League division have gone into a slump. At the break for Memorial Day, the Dodgers were in third place in the league's West Division.

## Carver season ends in close playoff loss

BY THERESA DAVIS  
The Chronicle Sports Intern

The 1998 baseball season ended for Carver High School last Friday, but the Yellowjackets still have a reason to be proud.

After falling to the middle of the pack down the stretch of the Piedmont Triad 3-A Conference regular season, it looked like the Yellowjackets would be handing in their gear at the end of the post-season tournament.

But all of that changed quickly when the team went on a roll to end the regular season, then swept through the conference tournament to earn a berth in the State 3-A playoffs.

Coach Greg Starbuck, the team's coach, said his team had to overcome a rash of injuries and other setbacks during the regular season.

"One of the reasons that we came in 4th place during the season was due to health with some of our key players," he said. "So we managed to leave the season with a record of 17-12."

Midway through the season didn't look bright. But that's when the team's character began to show.

The experiences from the previous two seasons paid major dividends.

"We have been in the playoff for the last three years, but we've never made it as far as we have this year, thanks to the help of our two pitchers Dan Pegram and David Nelson."

After making the playoffs in consecutive seasons, Starbuck said the team needed to get back again this year in order to continue to progress.

"That was a very important factor," he said. "We needed to make it. It was hard at the beginning of the year, but as soon as we got Dan back every thing just fell right in place."

But Pegram and Nelson weren't the only players who stepped up to jump start the team. Starbuck had a group of crafty veterans who wanted to make it to the playoffs for the third consecutive year.

"Another reason we made it as far as we did in the playoff, was with the help of our top five hitters: John Schaefer, Mike Rucker, Marcus Gray, Kris Kleean, and Billy Wright," Starbuck said.

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## Bitter-Sweet



Photo by Wade Nash

The Duncan, former ACC Player of the year at Wake Forest, was named NBA Rookie of the Year last week. However, his team, the San Antonio Spurs, were knocked out of the NBA Final.

## Jacket's Coach Ricky Holt to conduct youth basketball camp at Winston Lake YMCA

BY THERESA DAVIS  
The Chronicle Sports Intern

No matter what level young basketball players aspire to compete on, learning the fundamentals is the key to getting off to a good start.

That's one reason Ricky Holt, Carver High's boys basketball coach, is starting a basketball camp for young players.



Coach Ricky Holt

The Carver/YMCA Youth Basketball Camp, for boys and girls ages 5-15 years old, will be held at the Winston Lake Family YMCA on June 1-5.

Holt said the camp is designed to teach the fundamentals of basketball. Coaches will use proven teach progressions to teach. Camp participants will be split into age-groups for individual and group demonstrations. They will be put through drills and also have an opportunity to work in team situations.

A newcomer to this area, camp served as the head basketball coach at Knapolis' A.L. Brown High School for seven seasons. His teams earned a berth in the state playoffs each year during his tenure there.

Holt also served as an assistant football coach and head track coach for the Wonders. He recently completed his first season as the Yellowjackets' coach. Carver captured the Piedmont Triad 3-A Conference Tournament and advanced to the Eastern 3-A Regionals.

He said the camp should help give the participants a head start on their future athletic aspirations.

"This camp is a hands-on type thing," he said. "We want to take the time out with each individual kid to help them develop their skills. A lot of the time people look more on the natural ability of the kids rather than the fundamentals."

"We're not going to stress playing basketball games, but more on the little things that can become a part of the players development as he or she progresses up the ladder."

In addition to Holt, the staff will consist of many of the players from the Yellowjackets' varsity team.

Participants at the day camp will be expected to have their own transportation to and from the camp. Campers will need to wear a T-shirt, shorts and basketball shoes. They will also need to bring a snack and drink for each day. All campers should have a physical or have had one on the past calendar year.



The basketball camp will stress fundamentals to all ability and age levels of kids 5-15.

The cost of the camp is \$50.00, which includes insurance coverage. Anyone interested in participating or having their child participate should call the Winston Lake YMCA at 724-9205 or Holt at 727-2668. Checks should be made payable to Winston Lake YMCA no later than Monday, June 1.

## Gateway Classic pits rivals Winston-Salem State against N.C. Central

BY SAM DAVIS  
The Chronicle Sports Editor

An old football rivalry is the subject of a new classic game recently announced between Winston-Salem State and North Carolina Central.

The two CIAA foes will battle on Oct. 17, in Durham County Stadium in the first annual Gateway Classic.

The athletic directors at the two institutions announced the establishment of a promotional agreement between the two schools as the initial project of a "newly-formed partnership."

"We have entered into a joint promotional agreement," said Anne Little, WSSU's director of athletics. "This new partnership

allows us to cross promote our events, in order to maximize the fan base of the two schools and create stronger revenue possibilities."

The agreement is not limited to football, according to Little. Possibilities exist for men's and women's basketball, volleyball and spring sports. But football represents the greatest potential for increased revenue because of the natural rivalry between the teams and the competitiveness of the two programs.

That's one reason William Lide, NCCU's athletic director believes the classic will be a financial boon for his program. He said he expects the 1998 Midway Classic to generate \$200,000, with NCCU receiving a three percent administrative fee and the remainder being split evenly between the two institutions.



The Gateway Classic, pitting Winston-Salem State against North Carolina Central, should rival the Aggie-Eagle Classic in many ways.

Among the events planned are step shows, concerts, a pre-game joint alumni barbecue and an alumni dance and social.

Last year NCCU captured a 30-29 victory when WSSU missed a last-second field goal. The rivalry between WSSU and NCCU dates back to 1945. The teams have met 32 times on the gridiron and the Eagles hold an 18-14 advantage in the all-time series.

Coach Kermit Blount of WSSU says the classic will be another point of emphasis for his team.

"This rivalry has always been there, even as I look back to my playing days," said Blount, an All-CIAA quarterback at WSSU in 1977 and 1978. "Now this will take it to another level."

Coach Larry Little of North Carolina Central said he sees big things ahead for the battle between the two schools.

"The game has the potential to be one of the best black college classics in the country," he said. "If last year is any indication, this game is going to gain momentum and draw more and more people each year."

WSSU has won twice and lost three times to NCCU during Blount's five years at the helm of the Rams program. His teams defeated the Eagles in his first two seasons, but have lost three games in a row to NCCU.

The Rams held a 29-16 halftime advantage over the Eagles last season, only to see NCCU come back in the second half for the victory.