

SPORTS WEEK

From The Press Box

Sam Davis

Onlookers aplenty arriving for CIAA

Lots of eyes are looking as the CIAA Tournament makes its Swan Song in Winston-Salem. After a six-year run here, the tournament moves on to Raleigh next season.

But before it can make its exit, the tournament has to deal with a series of complex issues. After Winston-Salem lost its bid to host the tournament for three more years, many local people lost interest in the tournament. That could hurt the tournament's appeal and drawing power this season.

As the tournament made its stretch run toward the tournament, there were many seats left to be sold for this year's games which will be played at Lawrence Joel Coliseum. According to insiders, the hardest ticket to find is in the lower level of the arena. Those tickets have been given to corporate sponsors who have made considerable commitments to the conference. Conversely, student tickets, offered for the first time this season, did not go over well at all on the league's 12 constituent campuses and most were returned to the league office.

A national television audience has been treated to CIAA Tournament fare for nearly a decade. Corporate sponsors have stepped up to the plate and enabled the tournament to be televised from the quarterfinals up to the championship game of the men's tournament.

This year, however, many of the contracts for sponsorships are set to run out. Executives are looking long and hard as they ponder whether they want to continue their involvement with the tournament. And prospective sponsors are being wooed to help fill the void. All involved want to see a packed house as the tournament gets closer to its championship game.

No one wants to go down with a sinking ship. That's why potential corporate sponsors will view this tournament with a great deal of apprehension. CIAA officials know this as well and are going out of their way this season to make sure that the tournament is exciting and entertaining.

Give the CIAA credit. After watching the tournament's popularity steadily decline over the last decade, league officials finally stepped in to try and revive it.

Granted, the tournament is still one of the nation's top African American attractions. Few institutions in this country can boast of the same type tradition, pageantry and cultural attractions. But the competition on the court had started to take a back seat to the off-the-court activities in recent seasons.

One of the highlights of the tournament is the appearance of Mr. CIAA in his array of attire that showcases the colors of league participants. Although some consider that sort of thing a "side show", it is all now part of CIAA lore. That includes such things as the vendors' tent and Virginia State's infamous cheerleading squad, the "Woo Woos".

Rather than try to eliminate the ancillary items that go along with the CIAA Tournament, league officials would do well

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Reynolds JV's score season-high in 107-46 win, finish undefeated

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Reynolds' junior varsity capped an undefeated season by recording a season high 107 points in a victory over South Stokes.

The Demons, who finished the season 22-0, jumped out to a 28-7 lead at the end of the first quarter and rolled the rest of the way in the 107-46 win. Reynolds finished its conference season with a 10-0 mark to capture first place.

Derrelle Mitchell and Brandon Senter led the way for the Demons with 20 points each. Teddy Petree added 15 points, Marcus Herndon added nine and Maurice Evans added eight.

RJR had 10 players to score in the first quarter. With Mitchell and Senter leading the way, the Demons reeled off 11 unanswered points to start the first quarter.

The offense continued to roll in the second quarter, as Reynolds stretched its lead to 56-27 at the half. The Demons again picked up their defensive intensity in the second half, holding South Stokes to 14 points in the third quarter and four in the final period.

Mitchell's first half heroics got the Demons into the game offensively. Mitchell caught an alley-oop pass from Kedrick Carpenter and threw it down to get the Demons going. That helped to force an up-tempo game, according to Coach Kevin King.

"South Stokes got caught up in our pace and that allowed us to spend most of the game in transition," King said.

In addition to playing well inside, Mitchell also did considerable damage from the perimeter. He added two 3-pointers. Senter did even better from the outside,

knocking down three 3-pointers. Herndon also added two 3-pointers.

Reynolds also scored a lopsided win earlier in the week against West Forsyth, taking a 79-48 conference victory. Mitchell led the way in that game, scoring 16 points. Petree also made into double figures, scoring 10. Kedrick Carpenter and Andre Reid added nine each.

Reynolds took a 14-9 lead at the end of the first quarter and stretched it to 33-18 at the half. The Demons blew the game open in the third quarter when they outscored the Titans 24-9. Through the first three quarters, RJR held the Titans to only 27 points.

"The defense did a great job holding West to nine points



Photo by Bruce Chapman
Brandon Senter of Reynolds helped spark the Demons to victory in the season finale.

See Reynolds JV, on B2



Marcus Best (above) and Torrian Wynn (left) did their best to help WSSU reach the top of the division, but the Rams came up short in their loss to NCCU.

High Risers!

Photos by Bruce Chapman



Rams bow to Eagles, let divisional title slip away in 68-61 defeat

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

The table was set for Winston-Salem State, but the Rams just couldn't step up to the plate and record the victory it needed against North Carolina Central at the Gaines Center on Tuesday night.

The Rams couldn't take advantage of opportunity and then Brett Harper's long range shooting dashed a hole in Winston-Salem State's hopes for a CIAA Western Division championship.

Harper, who scored only two points in the Eagles' previous two games, knocked down two critical 3-pointers from long range and then added a layup off a steal late in the game to help the Eagles secure a 68-61 victory. Harper, a 6-2 guard from Hampton, Va., finished the game with 16 points, including 14 in the decisive second half.

Harper was the difference in the opening minutes of the second half when the Eagles came out and opened the half with a 14-8 run to take a 38-33 lead with 13:24 remaining.

Harper's outside shooting complimented the inside play of Jimmy Boston, who scored a game-high 25 points.

Coach Rick Duckett of WSSU said the duo allowed the Eagles to dictate the tempo with their offense.

"I think (Harper) was so effective because Boston was able to move us around down low," Duckett said. "We had to double down on him and then he was able to kick the ball out. In a situation like that we had to make a decision and then you have to try to make plays."

The Rams didn't get it done against the Eagles. In a similar situation on Sunday at the Coliseum, WSSU was able to come through with a big effort and remain in the running for a divisional championship by defeating Fayetteville State.

See Rams, on B5

Lady Rams lose divisional finale to NCCU as Kongolo scores 26

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

A CIAA regular season that began with overwhelming optimism ended on a sour note when Winston-Salem State's women's basketball team closed out their conference season with a 66-59 loss to North Carolina Central at the Gaines Complex on Tuesday night.

The loss was the Lady Rams' third consecutive in the Western Division and dropped the team to 11-14 overall. WSSU came into the season as the favorite to capture the divisional title.

However, the Rams suffered through a host of early setbacks



Erica Leggett

and never reached their stride after losing point guard Nikki Blackwell before their first game.

The Lady Rams showed signs of progress during the game, as they have throughout the season, but didn't have the stamina to sustain it down the stretch.

The Lady Rams had things going their way in the first half and ran out to a 32-21 lead at intermission. But that wasn't enough to hold off the Eagles and Amba Kongolo, their 6-2 post player. Kongolo, who transferred to NCCU and became eligible in the second semester, connected on 11 of 19 field goals and was 4-of-6 from the free throw line for a game-high 26 points.

See Lady Rams, on B5



Agnew

NFL's Ray Agnew sacks new role

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

As the starting defensive tackle for the NFL's St. Louis Rams Ray Agnew, Jr. normally suits up in pads and a helmet on Sundays looking to take down quarterbacks and running backs. His usual opponents are people like Randall Cunningham of the Minnesota Vikings or the Denver Broncos' Terrell Davis.

This past Sunday, the 6-3, 297 pounder faced another challenge. But this time he wasn't looking to get a sack or cause a fumble.

Following the call of several other NFL colleagues like Reggie White and Deion Sanders, Agnew can now add minister to his name after giving his initial sermon at New Institutional Christian Center Church in Win-

ston-Salem.

"I know that God has given me a platform to stand on," Agnew said. "Because I am a football player people will listen."

"It's important to let kids know that the person they look up to is a Christian. To hear a professional athlete stand up for God-that's powerful!"

In 1990 Agnew was drafted by the New England Patriots out of N.C. State University. After five years he signed with the New York Giants and currently he is in the mist of a multi-year contract with the Rams.

With family and friends present Agnew, a 1986 graduate of Carver High School stepped to the podium with a purpose in mind. After acknowledging loved ones, he opened his bible to the

See Agnew, on B4