

Rams down No. 7 Queens 76-56

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Behind Darnell Gregory (sophomore/forward/6'5"/200/Fayetteville, N.C.), who nearly recorded his first-ever triple-double, the Winston-Salem State University Rams improved to 10-2 on the season (1-1 CIAA) after they defeated the Queens University (N.C.) Royals 76-56 in men's basketball action at the C.E. Gaines Center last Saturday.

Despite missing the triple-double, Gregory was able to record his first career double-double after he tallied 14 points (on 5-of-8 shooting from the floor and 4-of-6 shooting from the free-throw line) and pulled down 10 rebounds. Gregory also dished out seven assists and recorded two steals, all in 27 minutes of turnover-free basketball.

He was not the only Ram to shine as sophomore superstar Allegrie Guinn (sophomore/guard/6'3"/170/Charlotte) chipped in with 12 points and two rebounds in 31 minutes of playing time, and point-guard Rashad McGee (junior/guard/5'10"/190/Waxhaw, N.C.) turned in a career game with 17 points, two rebounds, four assists and two steals in 30 ferocious minutes.

The game also marked the return of sharp-shooting guard

Men's CIAA Standings

Through games of Jan. 4

EASTERN DIVISION						
Division	Conference		Overall			
W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.	
Bowie State	2-0	1.000	4-1	.800	9-2	.818
Virginia Union	0-0	.000	3-0	1.000	7-0	1.000
Shaw	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	3-7	.300
Elizabeth City	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	6-5	.545
Virginia State	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	4-4	.500
Saint Paul's	0-1	.000	0-3	.000	0-9	.000

WESTERN DIVISION						
Division	Conference		Overall			
W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.	
Winston-Salem State	0-0	.000	1-1	.500	10-2	.833
Johnson C. Smith	0-0	.000	2-1	.667	7-6	.538
N.C. Central	1-0	1.000	1-0	1.000	5-5	.500
Saint Augustine's	0-0	.000	1-1	.500	7-2	.778
Livingstone	0-1	.000	0-2	.000	1-9	.100
Fayetteville State	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	6-4	.600

Jay Maynard (senior/6'1"/190/Jacksonville, N.C.), Maynard, who has not played since scoring 17 points

versus Longwood in the Rams' opening game of 2003-04, returned from surgery on his left leg with a breakout performance coming off the bench. Maynard scored a game-high 17 points (along with McGee) on 6-of-9 shooting from the floor, including going 5 of 8 from 3-point range, many of those from a very deep distance. He also tallied a single steal, all in 21 minutes of work for the Rams.

The Ram offensive outburst was by no means the only storyline in the game as the Ram defense is what would ultimately lead WSSU to victory. The Rams committed only 10 turnovers and forced the normally mistake-free Royals into giving up the basketball 22 times, which resulted in 31 Ram points off of turnovers.

The Rams held two-time CVAC Player of the Year and All-American Spencer Ross (senior/guard/5'11"/175/Chesapeake, Va.) to a season-low 10 points and forced him to cough the ball up seven times.

With the win, the Rams improved to 10-2 overall with three straight wins. The Royals, whose two-game winning streak was snapped, fell to 6-2 overall.

The Rams will host Elizabeth City State tonight at 7:30.

Hill

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homme hit Smith in the flat, and Smith dipped inside a Cowboy defender and raced 70 yards to the Cowboys 1-yard line. The Panthers came away with only a field goal, but from that moment on, the Panthers knew the game belonged to them. Fox thought it may have been the "most complete game he's been a part of in a long time. The Panthers played a near perfect game."

"It is up there," Fox said after the game. "I had the opportunity to win 41-0 in a championship game. This



Fox

rivalled that in the sense that for our capabilities and what we had done this season with this group it was our best effort.

"I think focus was the key for us. We do have a young team, but I think sometimes it is easier to get their attention. We also have enough veteran leaders on the team who are able to explain what a playoff atmosphere is like. We had a very, very good week of preparation and tremendous focus and a little luck."

Now Carolina advances to the NFC Divisional Playoffs round, where the Panthers will travel to face the Rams on Saturday. The Rams were champions of the NFC West Division and posted a 12-4 record. The

Panthers have not faced their former divisional rivals since the 2001 season.

"I have some familiarity with St. Louis from working there and competing against them," Fox said. "They are a very, very talented football team. They are very wide open offensively. Defensively, they have done an outstanding job. They have good team speed. Playing them there (at the Edward Jones Dome) is a fast track, and it is very, very loud."

And what if the team is still hyped about beating the Cowboys? How do you just immediately shut out a great accomplishment?

"You just forget about it and go back to business, just like we have done and preached all season," Fox concluded. "We have a very worthy opponent that is undefeated at home. We have already moved on. Our staff is not even grading this tape. We are right into St. Louis as we speak."

Want to see the Deacs play Clemson on Saturday?

The Deacs beat the Clemson Tigers two times last season. What were the final scores of those two games, and which player led the team in scoring both games?

E-mail your answers, name and phone number before noon Friday for a chance to a pair of tickets to the game on Saturday. The game will tip off at noon at the Joel Coliseum.

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WFU women rebound with Wolfpack win

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Deacs lost a heartbreaker to the Tar Heels last Friday, but they rebounded with a four-point victory over N.C. State on Monday night.

Wake Forest sophomore Cotelia Bond-Young poured in a career-high 27 points, including 21 in the second half, to lead the Demon Deacons to a 70-66 win earlier this week.

The victory not only snapped a 14-game losing streak to N.C. State, but it was the Deacs' first win over the Wolfpack in Raleigh since Feb. 25, 1996 - a span of seven consecutive road losses. In fact, the triumph was only Wake's second victory in Raleigh in program history.

Bond-Young made her first start of the season for injured senior Bianca Brown and did not disappoint. The guard connected on 8-for-12 from the field, including 4-for-5 from 3-point territory. The sophomore was also 7-of-9 from the free-throw line. The Deacs (8-6, 1-2 ACC) found themselves down two points, 32-30, at halftime, but rode the momentum of Bond-Young's 21 second-half points.

Wake Forest opened the second half on a 19-5 run to grab a 49-37 lead with 14:02 left in regulation. Bond-Young totaled 11 of the 19 Demon Deacon points. The Wolfpack (8-7, 0-2 ACC) wouldn't go down quietly. N.C. State slowly chipped away at the lead, eventually climbing within

two points, 66-64, after Nanna Rivers buried a 14-foot jumper with 1:44 remaining.

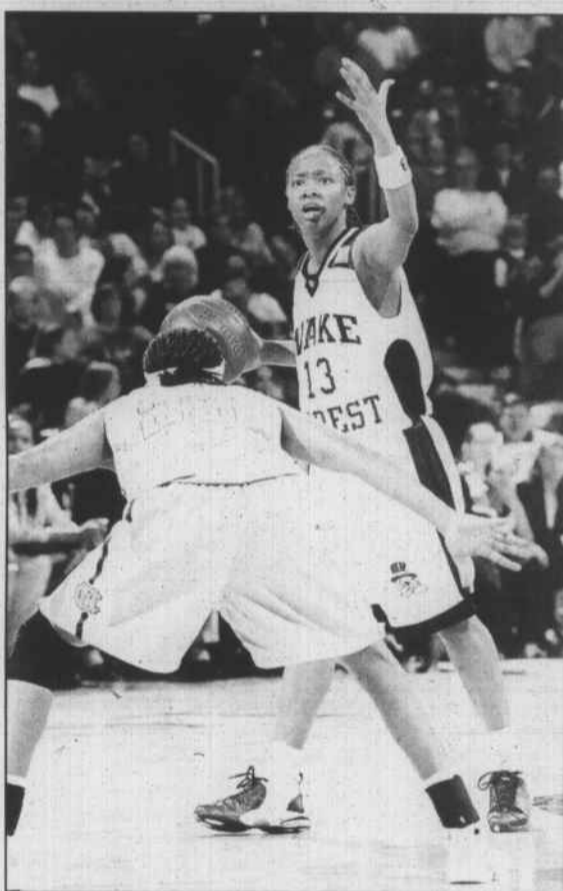
Bond-Young was then fouled and converted on just one of two free throws, giving WFU a 67-64 lead. Liz Strunk grabbed a key offensive rebound after the Bond-Young miss, but the Deacs were unable to score on that ensuing possession.

Alvine Mendeng got a decent look, but the jumper glanced off the rim and Tonia Brown snagged the rebound with only 35 seconds left. The Deacs raced up the floor, only to have Brown force a shot up early in the shot clock, giving the Wolfpack one final chance. The talented Porsche Jones then forced a turnover that led to a free-throw conversion by Bond-Young to give the Deacs a 68-64 lead with 18 seconds remaining.

Kaayla Jones scored with five seconds left, narrowing the Wake Forest lead to a single basket, 68-66, but Porsche Jones got fouled on the inbounds pass and calmly sank a pair of free throws to seal the victory, 70-66.

In addition to Bond-Young's game-high 27 points, Strunk added 12 points, while Brown poured in 10 points. Brown also added eight rebounds and six assists.

The Deacs will return to action on Friday, when they host Maryland. The game will be a second attempt for the Deacs to have Middle School Day. Tip-off at the Joel Coliseum is scheduled for 11 a.m.



WFU's Cotelia Bond-Young led the Deacons in scoring with a career-high 27 points in a 70-66 victory over N.C. State on Monday.

Reynolds

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aggressive. I didn't have any problem with that. I hadn't been getting that all game.

"Finally, one of my men got aggressive and just threw the ball in (before stepping out of bounds. The ball hit a Grimsley player.). I don't know how late or early it was. I just know that he teched my guy up, and was going to tech me up. Luckily the basketball gods were on our side, and we got the win."

Grimsley seemed to totally take the Demons by surprise in the early going. The Whirlies displayed a lot of athleticism en route to taking as much as an eight-point lead in the first half. Grimsley got easy scores on a series of fast breaks in the opening half. The Demons stayed close, thanks to the play of ninth-grade forward Calvin McNeil. He scored eight straight points to help the Demons end the half with a 2-point lead, 36-34.

"We really began the game sluggish," McCoy said. "I don't know if it was because of their cover or what. They came out and warmed up with eight guys that didn't look very athletic. And they didn't look too skilled. They came out and executed, shot well, and played great defense."

"I jumped my guys for that. I got on them real hard at halftime. I wasn't getting what I

wanted from them. I told my veteran players that I have a ninth-grade team that has come to play. That sparked a spirit in some of the guys. We came out and played a little better."

Grimsley also turned up his play in the second half. Both squads battled back and forth, trying to grab control of the game. The Whirlies were led by Curtis Duff, Marlon Smith and Chris Weatherly. All three players relentlessly attacked the RJR defense in the second half.

Too much Hicks, in the end, was all the Demons needed to come away with the victory. He scored the last six points for the Demons, with under a minute left in the game. He scored 10 of his total, 20 points, in the fourth quarter alone.

"I've been in this situation many times," Hicks said. "We need to start picking it up in the first half. We don't ever play like we can until the second half."

Reynolds also got strong performances from Gilbert Monk, Howard Costen, Thomas Moore, Matt Brown and Bill Grevin.

With the season getting in gear, what are the Demons going to have to do to play better in the second half, and finish the season strong?

"I don't know," Hicks concluded. "I don't know what to say about that one."

Face the Facts



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