

Winston-Salem State softball team begins season

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem State University softball team definitely has some talent on its roster this season. Two of the most talented players just happen to be sisters, though. Shannon and Heather Davis led the Lady Rams to a pair of victories over the weekend.

The Lady Rams, who were defeated last Friday by Bennett, bounced back as Heather and Shannon Davis helped the team to a pair of wins over Claflin last Satur-

Ram sisters spearhead victories against Claflin

day to improve to 2-1 on the season. The Lady Rams defeated Claflin in the second game of a doubleheader last Saturday afternoon in a weather-shortened game that lasted five innings. The win also gave the Lady Rams a 2-0 record on the day. Heather Davis (Sr./P/5'11"/Detroit, Mich.) struck out six batters as she pitched the Lady Rams

to victory in her third straight pitching appearance.

The Lady Rams were also paced by Shannon Davis (Jr./C/5'8"/Detroit, Mich.), who recorded two hits in the game. The Lady Rams also received good play from Curtina Barrett. Four Lady Rams drove in runs in the contest.

The Lady Rams will

return to action on Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. as they take on Barber-Scotia in Salisbury.

Footnote:

The Winston-Salem State University Department of Athletics announced that softball player Heather Davis was named the Crown Trophy-WSSU Student-Athlete of the Week for her performance over the weekend.

The Lady Rams, behind the solid pitching of Davis, posted a 2-1 record on the weekend as Davis pitched three complete games to open the 2004 softball season.



Davis

Sports Hall of Fame applicants being sought

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It's almost that time of year to nominate the latest edition of the Winston-Salem Sportsmen Club High School Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony is set for May 14 at the Benton Convention Center, but applications are due at the beginning of next month.

The deadline for submitting applications, along with the required documentation, is March 1. Nominees may include former players, coaches, administrators, plus former and current supporters. Since 1983, approximately 200 men and women who have made exemplary contributions to athletics in Forsyth County, have been inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame.

This program is designed to honor those persons and former athletes, male and female, who by excellence of their participation in or association with high school athletics, have brought outstanding recognition and esteem to themselves and Winston-Salem. The program also seeks to capture much of the rich athletic tradition that has been generated through the years by the outstanding athletic programs of the city.

Winston-Salem Forsyth County High School Sports Hall of Fame applications are available at all county high schools, Jamie Wilkes Trophies, Winston Lake Family YMCA, Bocoek Stroud Sports, Page's Screen Printing Co. or any Winston-Salem Sportsmen Club member.

For further information, contact Ike Howard at 287-4861 or Mary Penn at 767-3238.



North Forsyth's Adrian Ford sits between his mother, Pamela Ford, and his high school head coach, Bill Oakley, moments after he signed a scholarship to play for Lenoir-Rhyne.

North's Ford signs with Lenoir-Rhyne

BY ANTHONY HILL THE CHRONICLE

North Forsyth linebacker Adrian Ford was simply happy he was able to go to college for free after he signed a national letter of intent to play for Lenoir-Rhyne last week. He wasn't really concerned with where he would fit in, or if he was going to get immediate playing time. The only thing on his mind was taking the load off of his mother's shoulders. "I love playing football," Ford said. "This is another way for me to go to school too. I'm gonna get there. I'm really happy that I signed, and I'm more excited because my mom don't have to pay for me to go to school. I'm just trying to do anything that I can to help her. This is real special to me right now."

North Forsyth head coach Bill Oakley added: "Adrian represents everything that a football coach wants. He's a good student, a gentleman, and definitely a good athlete. He's a leader in the school who gets along with everyone. He's done the right things,

academically, to put him in this position."

Ford seems to be one of those athletes that most fans, classmates and coaches like because of his personality, and how well he communicates to the general public. He's not at all the person that most people associate with linebackers. Most people think of linebackers as guys with bad attitudes and very little patience.

"That's not Adrian at all," Oakley said. "I've only been around him for a year, and I immediately saw what type of guy he was, or is. He's simply one of those people that everyone likes. He's going to play hard. That's what is going to make him successful. He treats people the right way. I think he's going to be a great addition to their program."

The 6-0, 260-pound linebacker also thinks he's going to add a little something to the Lenoir-Rhyne defensive attack. He said that he expects to bring speed and some agility to the defensive side of the ball when he suits up. He also expects to contribute in any way that he's needed.

"That's what's important to me," Ford said. "I just want to help out where I might be needed. I think I can bring some speed to the defense. I'm a big person, but I'm light on my feet. It really don't matter where they want me to play. I just want to get in where I fit in. I'm just happy to be playing. I love football, and I would've gone anywhere to play. I just love playing this game."

Oakley added: "He's very committed to being at that school. There was no 23rd hour about what he should do about this. There was no doubt that is where he wanted to be. The relationship he's built with the coach has been a very positive one. I can't say enough about Adrian."

"We're all just happy to death with him and the rest of our senior class," Oakley continued. "We've got some guys going on to places like Virginia and N.C. State - not necessarily in football. But the lessons they learned on the football field are going to take them a long ways. Adrian is one of those guys who's going to go a long ways."

Wake Forest track and field team competes at various meets

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Wake Forest track and field team split up to compete at three different meets all across the country last Saturday. At the Mevo Invitational hosted by the University of Notre Dame, Nikeya Green turned in her second consecutive NCAA provisional qualifying time in the 800-meter event, while Anne Bersagel competed for the first time this season and placed fourth overall in the 3,000-meter event.

Four Demon Deacon men competed in the mile competition, led by Brad Wharton, who finished sixth with a time of 4:11.74. Chris Catton and Kevin Jones also finished within two seconds of Wharton's time for Wake Forest.

At the Carolina Classic in Chapel Hill, the Deacons were led by Lindsay Neuberger's second-place finish in shot put and fourth-place mark in weight throw. Five Wake Forest women competed in the 800-meter race, and Catherine Fortin-Major placed fifth overall in the 3,000-meter run.

On the men's side, Eric Seely came through with a sixth-place finish in the 200-meter race and followed that up by placing third in the 400-meter. He was followed by Winston-Salem native Mike Loyd in fourth place. Wake Forest's top finisher of the day was Jesse Richert, whose 6-04.00 mark in the long jump was good for second place overall.

At the USA Cross Country Championships in Indianapolis, Ind., last Saturday, Wake Forest freshman Michelle Sikes ran a 21:42 in the 6-kilometer junior women's race, placing seventh out of 46

runners, but narrowly missed an opportunity to represent the United States at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships in Brussels, Belgium. The top six finishers in each of Saturday's races will be eligible to compete for the United States in Belgium.

In November, Sikes was selected as the ACC's Cross Country Freshman of the Year after a ninth-place finish at the ACC Championships held on Wake Forest's campus.

The Demon Deacons will return to action this weekend when they head to Blacksburg, Va., for the Virginia Tech Challenge.



Green

Reynolds

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shoulders. It just feels good to be able to hang out with my friends without worrying about it. That was also \$100,000 off my back. I'm getting my education for free. That was a big relief. I'm sure this also took some pressure off my mom."

Matters were a little more bleak for Hall, and seemed unreachable at first. Hall wasn't even a starter before the season began.

"You're right," Reynolds head coach Mike Propst said. "James wasn't even a starter at the beginning of the season. He's gone from being a nonstarter to a starter in a season. He's one of those players who should serve as an inspiration for some of the players

who have hopes of playing college ball, but haven't gotten much playing time. James didn't get any playing time until this past season. But he knew what he wanted to do, and he worked at it."

"I will be telling the James Hall story for the rest of my career," Propst continued. "I mean, he's a first for me. He's the first player that I've ever coached who has gone from basically not playing to earning a scholarship in one year. That's remarkable to me."

Hall added: "I'm real excited. This was a real long process. It was a lot of stress. Right now I'm just happy to have it over with. Norfolk State is a growing program, and I'm happy to be a part of it. Going to a historically black college is very important to me. I think most black men should be

able to experience what it's like." Both players feel they're going to be able to help out their new teams right away too.

"I want to bring a lot to the table," Hall said. "I'm just gonna go up there and play with all my heart, just like I did while I was here (Reynolds)."

Six added: "I'm going to bring some intensity and leadership to the table. Overall, I just want to learn more, though. I want to get my game going a little bit more. I've only been playing football for three years, so I've got a lot more learning to do."

Propst feels like his latest group of college-bound guys will do well on the next level. He said that the two kids are great people first, and excellent athletes second. That, alone, should take them a long way.

"We're betting on that," Propst said. "There's no doubt that they'll both do well on the next level. I'm real happy for both of them. They're both getting a free education. That's important. I say, 'free education,' but they're going to have to earn it on the practice field. I think they'll both excel athletically, as well as academically."

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