

Ram cheerleaders place second

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem State University cheerleading squad made history last Saturday with a dynamic performance at the 2008 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Cheerleading Championship. The meet was a historic one for the WSSU squad as it was the team's first appearance in an official meet since the athletic department's transition to NCAA Division I classification. The team did not disappoint bringing home numerous honors and giving the rest of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference a taste of what's to come.

The Lady Rams had a stellar performance at the meet, earning second place honors in the All-Girl Division. Also competing with the Lady Rams in the All-



Ram cheerleaders pose with their trophy.

WSSU photo

Girl Division were teams from Morgan State University, Howard University, North Carolina A&T State University, and Florida

A&M University.

The effort was the result of three long seasons of preparation by the Rams and Lady Rams

under the supervision of WSSU Red Team head coach Joevanne Estrada and White Team head coach Latoya Whitfield.

Two Lady Ram cheerleaders earned individual honors at the meet with WSSU senior Jeanette Wallace earning first place honors in the All-Star Division with fellow Lady Ram sophomore Deanna Wala earning second place honors in the All-Star Division.

North Carolina A&T won the MEAC Cheerleading Championship. The Lady Aggies took home top honors in the Overall performance as well as the All-Girl Division. South Carolina State won the title in the Co-Ed Division and were runners-up in the overall performance grouping. Norfolk State earned third place overall honors.

Mt. Tabor's Macon receives big honor

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Mt. Tabor senior basketball player Brent Macon, who's the school's top rated senior, has displayed his leadership ability for years.

On the basketball court, he's been a solid leader for the Spartans JV and varsity squads. While playing JV ball, he was selected as the Lash/Chronicle Tournament MVP two years ago. Macon was the leader of the scout team when he first moved up to varsity. Last year, he finished with almost 10 points per game, 3.3 rebounds and 2.1 assists while playing the two, three and four positions for the Spartans. He's also credited for leading a charge against West Forsyth after hitting three 3-pointers to help his team to the win.



Macon

Macon was recently rewarded for his ability to lead off the court, though. Macon was selected as a Morehead-Cain Scholar earlier this month. The Morehead-Cain Scholars Program is a unique, life-changing educational opportunity that combines a four-year undergraduate merit scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a lifelong challenge to make a difference in the world. The Program provides four summers of global travel and experiential learning, personal mentoring by experienced staff advisors and accomplished Program Alumni, and a remarkable group of motivated Morehead-Cain peers.

Scholars are selected based on four criteria — leadership ability, moral force of character, academic excellence, and physical vigor — and are expected to be leaders and role models, both on the UNC campus and after they graduate.

"It's definitely a tremendous honor to be selected," Macon said. "It's something that I've

been wanting to pursue for a while. I applied in October and went through an interview process in January. I found out that I won this month. I was ecstatic. UNC is a great school. This also takes the burden off my parents. I'm also happy for them."

Mt. Tabor head coach Andy Muse added: "This was great news to receive about a fine young man with great character that plays for the Spartans. What a leader. He always got our players in the right spots and ran the other teams sets. He could be President one day."

Each summer, scholars participate in a range of customized experiences and internships aimed at giving them greater self-knowledge and an understanding of how they can contribute to their local or global communities. Morehead-Cain

Scholars forge relationships with a vibrant network of nearly 3,000 alumni — some of the most influential and prominent people in a wide array of careers around the globe.

"This summer I will be going to Wyoming for rock climbing," Macon said. "After my freshman year I will spend 10 weeks doing community service in a foreign country. After my sophomore year I will do 10 weeks of research in a foreign country. After my junior year I will spend 10 weeks at a private enterprise internship."

Macon still hopes to ball a little while he's in college as well.

"I might have an opportunity to play JV at Carolina," Macon concluded. "I think Ryan Delapp wants to also play. We're planning to room together. That would be pretty awesome if we got to play JV together. I'm definitely going to miss playing ball full time. Even if I don't play JV I'll still be on the court playing intramural ball."

W-S Prep

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25 points and 23 rebounds (state record for a championship game), even began the game slow. He scored Prep's first 2 points, though. Then, Pamlico put the clamps on him for most of the first half. He was only able to score 8 points in the first half, despite his towering advantage over Pamlico's junior center Braelyn Blount. Blount, who's 6-1, caused numerous problems for Johnson by blocking shots, stripping the ball and boxing out the Miami signee.

"They did a great job of defending me," Johnson said during post game interviews. "Marcus Wright and Calvin Gantt, all the guys stepped up when they took me away. They did a heck of a job containing me."

Pamlico couldn't slow down Wright, Calvin Gantt and Eric Grant, though. With the score tied at 4 with 5:08 left in the opening quarter, Grant connected with a layup to give the Phoenix the 6-4 lead. Gantt then scored to make it 8-5 with 3:06. Prep increased its lead to 13-5 to conclude the first quarter.

Pamlico started the second quarter with a made jumper by



The Phoenix let the birds fly high over the weekend.

Photo by Anthony Hill

Kendall Hamm to make the score 13-7. Pamlico would later make the score 13-12 with 5:41 to go in the second quarter. But that was the last time the Phoenix allowed them to get close. Prep went up 17-12, 21-12, 27-13 behind the hot shooting of Grant, Wright and Idris Delvin — who scored with a slick layup after flashing to the basket late in the first half. Prep went into the locker room with a comfortable 27-14 lead.

Johnson turned up things in the second half after a hard foul by Blount. The foul occurred while Johnson was going up for a basket and Blount caught up him with a tough blow to the

mid section. The two squared up briefly, before being split apart by teammates.

"That foul kind of did get me motivated," Johnson said. "That altercation got me going."

Johnson went on to score 17 points in the half and record nine additional rebounds, to give him the state record for all classes. Other players to step up big in the second half for Prep were Josh Hogg, Parham, Wright and Grant to close out the overmatched Pamlico. Wright finished with 21 points, while Grant followed with 8 points.

Pressure to win it all

Gould said he couldn't be happier to win his first state title as a head coach. He also said there was no pressure to get it done right away, though.

"We're still a young program," Gould said. "There was never any real pressure. But we didn't see why we couldn't get it done now. We had no excuses. Excuses are the tools of incompetence. Those who specialize in them rarely succeed at anything else. We felt like we had a great chance to get it done last year. Unfortunately we didn't. We wanted to make sure we worked harder this year, and sacrifice our own agenda for the betterment of the team."

"I grabbed a couple of the returning guys, like Justin Parham, Calvin Gamble, Corey Gantt and my superstar Josh Hogg," Gould continued. "I asked the guys what kind of legacy do they want to leave? I asked them how hard are they willing to work. If they think this was hard then they can't imagine how hard it's going to be next year. We'll have to take everybody's best punch. Everybody probably thinks they got us where they want us with our first class out of the way. But this second class might be just as special."

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