

SPORTS WEEK

DECEMBER 3, 2009

Lady Aggies beat Yale at buzzer

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — During the preseason, North Carolina A&T Women's Basketball Coach Patricia Cage-Bibbs was constantly asked how she plans to replace 45 percent of her offense with the graduation of Brittanie Taylor-James and Amber Bland.

Last Saturday evening, she was also faced with the question of how do you compensate for leading scorer Ta'Wuana "Tweet" Cook being out along with fellow starter Jaleesa Sams and key reserve Nakia DeBlanc?



Cage-Bibbs

The Aggies' surprising answer was to start three freshmen and utilize a buzzer beater by a veteran. Senior Lamona Smalley tipped in a Crystal Murdaugh miss to lead the Aggies to an 80-79 win over Yale in the consolation game of the New Mexico Thanksgiving Tournament at The Pit.



Cook

Five Aggies were in double figures, led by freshman Amber Calvin and sophomore Tierra Thomas. Both finished with 14 points apiece. Smalley finished with 13 points and seven rebounds.

"The ladies really believed in themselves tonight," said Cage-Bibbs, who played with only eight players. "They used our situation as motivation, so you really have to be proud of young people for rallying around each other to finish off a task."

The task of winning the game looked bleak when Yale's Melissa Colborne scored on a layup with 1:36 to play to give the Bulldogs a 79-74 lead. Things weren't looking any better as the Aggies turned the ball over on their next possession. But a Murdaugh steal and a JaQuayla Berry layup turned momentum in the Aggies favor.

Colborne's missed layup led to a loose ball foul on the Bulldogs. Murdaugh hit two free throws to slice the lead to one with 36 seconds remaining. After Colborne was called for traveling, the Aggies used a 30 second timeout with 16 seconds to play.

"The play was called for (Crystal Murdaugh) to pop out and hit the jump shot," said Cage-Bibbs. "But Lamona always seems to be in the right place at the right time. She made a great hustle play."

Murdaugh did take the shot, but it was Smalley's offensive rebound and put back at the buzzer that improved the Aggies to 2-3 on the season. Yale was led by Colborne's 17 points. Mady Gobrecht added 12 points and 10 rebounds.

DOWN ... AND OUT??



Photo by Joe Ropate/Newsday/MCT

The New York Jets' Calvin Pace sacks Carolina Panthers QB Jake Delhomme on Sunday behind the line of scrimmage. The Jets defeated the Panthers, 17-6, at Giants Stadium. The sack was the least of Delhomme's troubles. Many question if he will return to Panthers after this season — his worst ever.

WAKE UP CALL

Morgan State beats the Razorbacks on their own turf

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Morgan State's basketball program had never beaten an SEC opponent, until the night of Nov. 24.

Reggie Holmes scored a career-high 34 points, including a pair of free throws with 6.3 seconds remaining to lead Morgan State to a 97-94 upset victory against Arkansas on Tuesday night at Bud Walton Arena before 7,468 fans.

Prior to that night, the first and only time the teams had squared-off against each other was on December 13, 1986, when Nolan Richardson's Razorbacks ended up dropping the Bears 106-57 in Fayetteville.

Rotnei Clarke missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer for the Razorbacks after hitting a pair of 3-pointers to keep the game within reach with 14.1 seconds and 6.5 seconds remaining. Clarke finished with a team-high 26 points. Mike Washington added 21 points and Marshawn Powell and Julysse Nobles scored 17 points each for the Razorbacks (2-2).

Arkansas shot 57.1 percent (16-28 FG) in the first half, but half-time adjustments helped the Bears limit the Razorbacks to just 11 field goals in the second half, five of which were made during the closing 4 minutes of the contest.

Morgan State (4-1) hit 34-of-41 (82.9 percent) free throws. Holmes sunk 13-of-15 from the line, including the final four from the stripe to help the Bears notch their 6th non-conference victory in 8 tries.

"I'm proud of my guys. It was a hard fought victory," said 4th year MSU Coach Todd Bozeman. "I thought in the first half we fouled a lot (16 fouls), and we just came off of a game where a team



Bozeman



MEAC Photo

High-scorer Reggie Holmes.

shot 41 free throws on us. It looked as though we were going in that direction, but they shot 45 and we ended up shooting 41."

Bozeman got strong performances from a number of his players.

"We had a big lift from Joe Davis off the bench," Bozeman added. "He transferred and sat out from Cleveland State and we have been waiting for him to have a breakthrough game. He has been kind of shaking the rust off and he stepped up for us tonight."

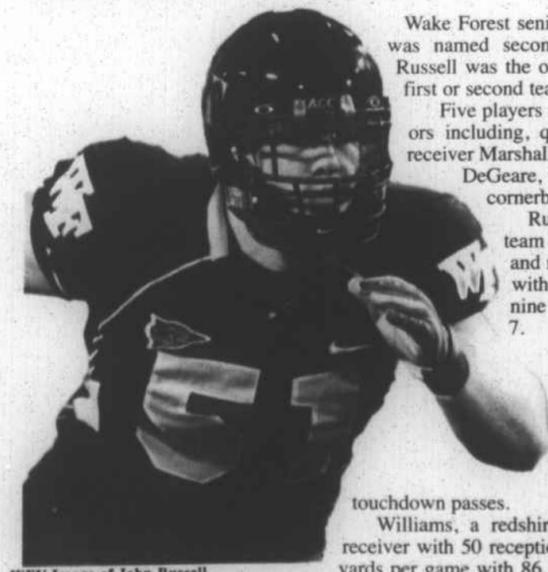
Davis scored a season-high 18 points (8-8 FT), including two free throws that gave the Bears an 87-84 lead with 1:16 left to go.

Arkansas outscored the Bears 38-30 inside the paint, however

See MSU on B10

Six Demon Deacons receive All-ACC honors

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE



WFU Image of John Russell.

Wake Forest senior defensive tackle John Russell was named second team All-ACC on Monday. Russell was the only Demon Deacon to make the first or second team.

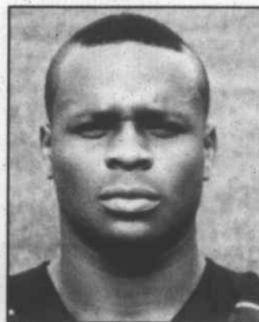
Five players received honorable mention honors including, quarterback Riley Skinner, wide receiver Marshall Williams, offensive tackle Chris DeGeare, offensive guard Jeff Griffin and cornerback Kenny Okoro.

Russell is fifth on the Wake Forest team with 46 tackles. He led the team and ranks eighth in the ACC in sacks with 4. Russell had a season-high nine tackles at Georgia Tech on Nov. 7.

Skinner, a senior, received honorable mention for the second consecutive year after being named second team quarterback as a freshman in 2006. This fall, Skinner set school records with 3,160 passing yards and 26 touchdown passes.

Williams, a redshirt junior, is the ACC's leading receiver with 50 receptions. He ranks third in receiving yards per game with 86.1. If Williams winds up leading

See Deacs on B10



Shaw's Dwayne Moss, De'Andre Okonji and Quintez Smith.

Three from Shaw named to HBCU Bowl team

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The HBCU Bowl has picked Shaw's Dwayne Moss, De'Andre Okonji, and Quintez Smith for the East Team in the First Russell Athletic HBCU Bowl.

"These young men earned this recognition, and we're happy that they will have the opportunity not simply to play, but also to go through a combine that will expose them to scouts from various professional leagues," said Shaw Head Coach, Darrell Asberry.

In addition to the game

on Dec. 19, the players will take part in a series of tests and workouts for scouts from the NFL, CFL, UFL and Arena League 2. The game will be held at the Cramton Bowl in Montgomery, Ala., at 2 p.m. and broadcast nationally on CBS College Sports.

The three Bears will be part of an East Team comprised of players from Division II's Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) and the NCAA FCS Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference

(MEAC). They will face a West Team comprised of athletes from the NCAA Division II Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) and the FCS Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC).

Okonji (WR, Upland, CA) departs Shaw University holding every career receiving record (number of receptions, reception yardage, touchdowns receiving). He also tied the season record for touchdown receptions.

While Moss (DL,

See Bowl on B10