

SPORTS WEEK

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East Forsyth looking for a repeat

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Now that the junior varsity basketball season is in its final two weeks, East Forsyth is looking to have a déjà vu experience. A year ago, the Eagles won the Piedmont Triad 4-A Conference. For now, however, it remains to be seen if East can repeat as league champions.

"I like our chances to win it (conference title) again," said Coach Rodney White, whose team was 9-5 overall and 4-2 in conference play at the start of this week. "It's taken this group half a season to realize that they're at their very best when they play together."

White is convinced that recent performances are a positive sign that the Eagles are primed to run the table in their final five games. A week ago, East posted impressive wins over Glenn (75-66) and Northwest Guilford (80-70) on consecutive nights. In both games, the Eagles put a padlock on the opposition with their frenzied pressing and trapping defense.

"Our defense is our offense," said White. "When we get after people, run down loose balls and get in the passing lanes, we're tough to deal with. Our guys have figured out that if they don't play tough defense, they don't win games."

Against Glenn, the Eagles blew a 38-30 halftime lead and the Bobcats rallied to tie the game at 43-43 with less



Guard Tirek Vance (12) applies defensive pressure. Submitted Photo

than three minutes remaining in the third quarter. East Forsyth turned up its defensive pressure, which created a bevy of Glenn turnovers. Halfway through the fourth quarter, East went up by 20 points and coasted the rest of the way.

Four starters delivered all the offense that East needed. Swing player Chrishon Springs was tops with 21 points, followed by Jarian Johnson, a 6-foot-5 center who contributed 17 points. Three-point sharpshooter Cameron Mack started the game slowly, but warmed up in the second half and finished with 16 points. Tirek Vance rounded out the double-digits scoring for East with 15 points.

The next night, the Eagles' man-to-man defense was sufficient to shut down Northwest Guilford. It was the first conference loss of the year for Northwest. Aside from Johnson, Mack and Springs, East Forsyth got scoring help from Chris Curry and defensive specialist Carson Sharpe.

"Those wins on back-to-back nights tell me something about where we are as a team," said White. "I knew they would probably be a little tired on the second night, but they managed to play through it. We're ready to make this run and hopefully, we'll finish up in first place (in the conference) by the end of the season."

The Eagles have remaining games against High Point Central, Ragsdale, Parkland, Southwest Guilford, Northwest Guilford and Glenn.

Decent finishes for Lady Rams at NYC meet

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State University Lady Rams Track and Field team posted a solid performance at the NYRR College Night at the Armory II on Saturday in New York City.

With the effort, the team finished ranked fifth among the 11 teams in the event. As a team, the Lady Rams totaled 38 points in the event.

The meet saw several great individual performances by the Lady Rams. Winston-Salem State junior Ebone Evans posted the top finish of the day for the Lady Rams when she finished second in the finals of the women's 60m hurdles.



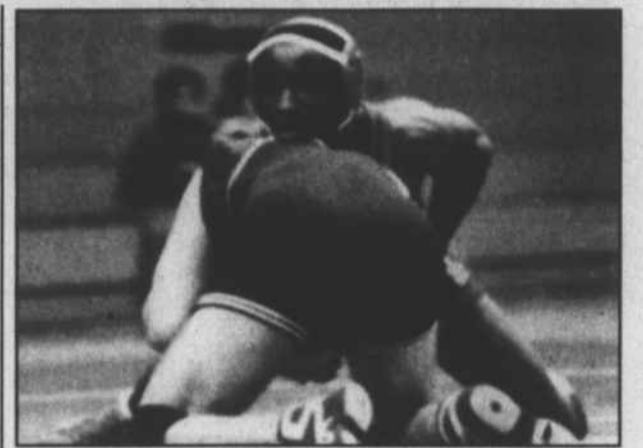
Members of the WSSU Track & Field squad. WSSU Photo by Garrett Garnes

She finished the event with a 9.08. WSSU senior middle distance runner Manuela Rigaud also had a great effort, posting a 5:29.53 in the women's mile run to place 14th. She was followed by freshman Danisha Wiggins who finished with a 5:31.79. Junior Kristi Baptiste also had a strong day in the women's 800m run when she placed eighth in the event with a 2:19.03.

There were also impressive performances in the jumps. Freshman

Elesha Alyn placed fourth with a 17'10.25" (5.44m) leap in the long jump. Sophomore Tajanel McNeil placed seventh in the event with a 17'4.25" (5.29m) jump. Alyn also had an impressive performance in the women's triple jump with a 38'2" (11.63m) jump.

The Lady Rams will next compete in Geneva, Ohio at the NCAA Division II Team Challenge.



James McLinnaham in action during his days as a star wrestler at WSSU. Photo courtesy of WSSU

McLinnaham among CIAA HOF inductees

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The CIAA will induct several people into the 2013 Class of the John B. McLendon Jr. Hall of Fame.

The honorees will be enshrined on Friday, March 2 at the Charlotte Convention Center at 11 a.m. The ceremony is one of the highlights of the upcoming CIAA Basketball Tournament.

Former WSSU Rams wrestling standout James O. McLinnaham made the cut. He was an All-Star wrestler at WSSU who won four consecutive CIAA Championships at the 126-pound weight class from 1987 - 1990.

He was an NCAA Division II All-American in 1989. James was an All-Conference member and lettered in his sport for four consecutive years (1987-1990). McLinnaham earned a degree in Business

Administration in 1990 from WSSU and a Master's Degree in Management from the Florida Institute of Technology in 2003. He continued his wrestling career in the United States Army, earning a spot on the All Army Wrestling Team in 1992.

McLinnaham currently holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army and has also been inducted into the Winston-Salem State University Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

McLinnaham will join Alfonza Carter of (Shaw University); Damon "Redd" Thompson (Virginia State University); Frederick Bibby (Fayetteville State University); The Flying Foursome (Morgan State College); Lou Anderson (Virginia State University) and Leonard Carmichael (Elizabeth City State University) in the Hall of Fame.



Carter

Lady Broncos dominate at locally-held tournament

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Fayetteville State women's bowling team opened its 2013 Spring season on a strong note, finishing with the best record among the six teams participating in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Southern Division Meet II, which was hosted by Winston-Salem State University.

The Lady Broncos wrapped up the three-day event with a 14-1 record. Kiara Reid, a senior from Rocky Mount, received the Southern Division's Most Valuable Player Award after finishing with the third highest average in ten games bowled.

Fayetteville State (25-5, 25-5 CIAA) concluded team competition with a perfect 10-0 record and followed with a 4-1 record in Baker matches. FSU collected 11,799 total pins with 8,452 coming in team match play.

Reid bowled an average of 184.30 overall including a 207 against host Winston-Salem State in the final match of day one. Her teammates Crystal Mujica and De'Andrea Bethea both posted 167.20 averages, while Ashley Cooper was the fourth-highest bowler with 165.10. She was followed by Megan Maynor with a 161.50.

The Lady Broncos cruised through team match play, winning all ten matches. The Lady Broncos return to action Feb. 8-10 when they travel to Richmond to participate in the CIAA North/South Round-Up.



Kiara Reid

Wolfpack and Heat among youth league winners

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

In Hanes Hosiery Rec Center 6-10-year-olds basketball league play last week, the Deacons beat the Blue Devils 33-23.

Josiah Banks, Aaron Potter and Elijah Horton led the way for the Deacons. The Devils were led by Jordan Timmons, William Capizzi and D. J. Barkley.

In the other match-up, the Wolfpack beat the Tar Heels 32-31, with Jimmy Britt, Alisa Davenport, Noah Marshall and the Crowell brothers (Jordan, Michah and Isiah) leading the Pack. Many on the team come from strong athletic stock. The Crowells are the sons of former NFL player Germaine Crowell, while Noah Marshall's father is Laymarr Marshall, the head football coach



The Wolfpack (left) and Celtics pose with their coaches.

at Mt. Tabor High School.

The Heels were led by Lee Sales, Zach Gibson, Christian Sutton and R. J. Knight.

In 11-15-year-olds league play, the Bulls beat the Heat 31-

15. Caleb Burgess poured in 22 of the Bulls' 31 points. Jonathan Deatherace led the Bulls in rebounding with 12. The Heat, playing without their leading scorer, Nick Gainey, who was out with

an injury, were led by DeShaun Eaton, Reggie Miller and Harry Capizzi.

In the other game, the Celtics beat the Nuggets 20-19. Peyton Bennett hit a three-pointer at the

buzzer to lead the team to a narrow victory. Bennett and Joseph Kasper led the Celtics, while Brian Carter, Aquide King, Gianni Smith and Michael Snow led the Nuggets.



Submitted Photos