

# SPORTS WEEK

MARCH 13, 2014



Submitted Photos

Co-captains Kyala Searcy and Celia Tibbs.

## Prep Girls look to improve

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE FOR THE CHRONICLE

It may take a few more days – perhaps even a few more weeks – for Winston-Salem Prep's girls' basketball team to find its groove.

The Phoenix gave eight-time state champ Bishop McGuinness all it could handle in the semifinals of the NCHSAA 1-A Western Regional last Saturday. In the end, however, Prep lost 49-46 in a game that wasn't decided until the final seconds.

For the Phoenix, who finished the season at 22-7, the trip from Greensboro back to the school probably seemed to take a lot longer than the usual 30-minute bus ride. Coach Eugene Love's crew had a lot to ponder. They more than held their ground against the Villains in every facet of the game except one – free-throw shooting. Prep, which shot close to 70 percent from the foul line during the season, had a cold streak at the wrong time, converting on just 5-of-13 freebies in the second half. With two wins in the regional, Prep would've advanced to the Class 1-A state championship game set for March 15.

Dominique Claytor provided a good portion of the offense with 17 points, 8 rebounds and 4 assists. Kyala Searcy came off the bench to contribute 10 points and four boards, while Celia Tibbs pulled down a game-high 10 rebounds.

In spite of the disappointment in the aftermath of defeat, Love, in his first year at WSP, recognizes that the future is very promising. This year's team was the best by far since Prep first fielded a girls' team for the 2006-07 season. It was the season of superlatives – the first time that Prep's girls ever won 20 or more games; the first time to advance to the Mary Garber Tournament finals; first time to play a conference tournament title game; and its first trip to the regional championships.

"The season was a success," said Love. "When I came here, I saw the potential in them. It was all a matter of getting them to see it. We were able to put in a system that fit the talent of the people we have and the kids bought into it totally. They listened, they learned and things came to fruition."

Winston-Salem Prep loses four seniors, but is well-equipped to build on this season's success. The remainder of the roster is comprised of freshmen and sophomores. Claytor will get plenty of support from Kayla Robinson, Mychala Wolfe, Christina Caesar and Chrisalyn Boston.

"The biggest challenge we faced all year was coming to realize how good we could be if we played together," said Searcy, a senior forward. "At the start of the season, I don't think there was much respect for us because of our past record."

Looking back on the season, Tibbs, a senior post player, believes that Prep got everybody's attention by reaching the championship game of the Garber Classic.

"It took us four years for this team to get to where it is right now," said Tibbs, who has signed with Gardner-Webb. "That's when we earned respect. People started hearing about us, and they started to come out and watch the games to see for themselves."



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garris

Tajanel McNeil celebrates a great performance at the recent CIAA Indoor Championships.

## Rams to compete before hometown crowd

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem State Women's Track & Field duo of sophomore sprinter Raven Covington and junior jumper Tajanel McNeil was selected to compete in the NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field National Championship meet for the second straight year.

The 2014 meet will be held March 14-15 in Winston-Salem at the DL Fast Track.

The two speedsters were among the field of 270

women selected to compete in the championships. Covington earned the chance to compete in the women's 60m dash by virtue of running a season-best 7.61 at the NCAA D-2 Challenge in Geneva, Ohio. For her efforts, she will enter the meet as the 10th seed. She is a provisional qualifier for the meet.

McNeil will head into the meet as one of the front-runners in the women's long and triple jumps. She will enter the long jump as the fourth seed after her 19'6.25" (5.95m) leap at the



Covington

2014 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Indoor Track & Field Championship. She

will enter the women's triple jump with a sixth seed on the strength of her 40'5.5" (12.33m) leap at the NCAA D-2 Challenge in Geneva. Both efforts were automatic qualifying performances.

The duo were also named last week as members of the United States Track & Field/Cross Country Coaches' Association (USTFCCCA) NCAA Division II All-Region team. The honors go to the five top performers in each event from each region.

## CIAA HQ moving to Charlotte, too

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

As part of a new deal with the City of Charlotte, the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) will continue to host its Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament in the Queen City for at least the next seven years and will eventually relocate the conference's headquarters from Hampton, Va. to Charlotte.

The tournament has been a boon for Charlotte since the city began hosting it nine years ago. As part of the new agreement, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (CRVA) will provide various benefits, including \$1.4 million in funding annually that will be distributed among the 12 conference colleges and universities.



Carpenter



Cannon

"We look forward to forging an even more enhanced, collaborative and positive partnership with the City of Charlotte," said CIAA Commissioner Jacquie Carpenter. "It's been a home that has truly embraced the tournament and we look forward to growing the momentum we've experienced in these last nine years with renewed vision and energy that will

help to shape the next generation of this event."

According to a CRVA study, the 2013 tournament had a \$47.17 million economic impact on the region. It is believed to be the third most-attended basketball tournament among all NCAA divisions.

"On the heels of such a tremendous tournament, this news couldn't have come at a better time," said Charlotte Mayor Patrick Cannon. "I still remember helping to recruit this event to the Queen City more than a decade ago as Mayor Pro Temp, so being able to keep it here for six more years is a testament to the depth of our relationship with the CIAA. This economic generator, that attracts tens of thousands of visitors here and infuses millions of dollars into our local economy, will pay dividends for years to come."

## FSU Athletics receives generous donation

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Dr. William and Glennette Murphy made a \$55,000 donation to the Fayetteville State University Athletics Department on Feb. 15 during halftime of FSU's home game against Winston-Salem State University. FSU Athletics will use the funds to offer scholarships.

"We must support our HBCUs because of the financial pressures they are having and because they are the ones that educate a majority of African Americans," said the physician. "Athletics, in my opinion, create more school spirit than any other department because sporting events generate a lot of excitement. We love FSU and are fully committed."

Murphy credits the school with giving him his start athletically and professionally. He played baseball at FSU from 1966-68. It was during that time when he heard about an exchange program with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The program played a crucial role in his decision to enter the medical field.

"I only attended FSU for two years. FSU had an exchange program with



FSU Photo

(From left) Assistant AD of Development/Marketing Kevin Wilson, AD Dr. Edward McLean, Mrs. Glennette & Dr. William Murphy and their grandkids and Chancellor Dr. James A. Anderson.

UNC and the program allowed a student to go to UNC and transfer back to FSU for their senior year," Murphy said. "I decided that since I chose medicine as a possible career, that I would stay at UNC because they had a medical school. I applied and was accepted."

FSU Chancellor James A. Anderson

said the gift came right on time.

"The donation from the Murphy comes during an important time at FSU," he said. "The university is in the midst of a \$25 million campaign to raise money for scholarships. One million dollars is earmarked for support for student-athletes."

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