

Rams sweep double header with Lincoln Lions

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State University Rams swept a double header with The Lincoln University Lions 10-0 and 6-3, in two games played at Mando Field in Mocksville on Saturday, March 21.

With the two wins, Winston-Salem State improves to 20-6 overall and 5-1 in the CIAA, while the Lincoln Lions fall to 1-8 overall and 0-2 in the CIAA.

In game one, the WSSU Rams got going early and often, scoring four runs in the first and two in the third, behind a Colby Keene home run to left field, to jump out to a 6-0 after three innings.

Sam Burton was masterful on the mound, sitting down the first 11 batters he faced, before allowing a walk.

The Rams would score another run in the fourth inning, and then would blow it wide open in the sixth, with another three runs, to go ahead 10-0 and come away with the win.

Sam Burton (3-1) continues to pitch well for the Rams, as he would go four innings in earning the win, with one walk and four strikeouts, while holding the Lions hitless. Tyler Scarce came out of the bullpen, pitching 2.0 innings, allowing one hit and three strikeouts, and Hayden

O'Neal pitching an inning allowing one hit and striking out one.

Colby Keene led the Rams at the plate going two for three, including a double and a home run, while also scoring twice and driving in two runs. Dylan Dombrowskas finished one for two with two runs batted in a run scored. Alex Grubb also went one for two with two runs batted in. Connor Andrus went one for two with a run scored and a run batted in, and Gavin Culler was one for one with a run scored and three walks. Phillip Page also went one for one with a rbi, and Des Roberts scored two runs. Aaron Hatch also scored twice and Nathan Steger scored a run.

In game two, The Lincoln Lions got

10-0 & 6-3
WSSU moves to 5-1 in the CIAA



out quickly on WSSU and scored three runs on four hits in the first inning to take the early lead.

Winston-Salem State would answer in the bottom of the second inning when Aaron Hatch double to left center field and Jacob Barber would score to cut the Lions lead to 3-1.

The Rams would surge ahead in the fourth inning, as they would plate three runs, with two of those runs coming on an Alex Grubb pinch hit double that scored Aaron Hatch and Des Roberts, as WSSU took a 4-3 lead.

WSSU would slam the door in the bottom of the sixth inning, as Alex Grubb would belt a two-run single to deep left center field to give the Rams the final scoring of the night, and a 6-3 victory.

Austin Cole (1-0) picked up the win for WSSU, going 3.2 innings, striking out six and walking three out of the bullpen. Nathan Steger started for the Rams, and allowed three runs on four hits, with three walks and two strikeouts. Jordan Cummings picked up his second save of the year, going 2.1 innings with one hit and three strikeouts.

Alex Grubb led the Rams at the plate going two for two with four big rbi's, while Aaron Hatch finished one for two with a run scored and one run batted in. Gavin Culler went one for four with a run scored, and Colby Keene went one for four. Des Roberts was one for two with two runs scored and Jacob Barber also went one for two with one run scored. Phillip Page scored one run.

Winston-Salem State and The Lincoln University will conclude the weekend series on Sunday at BB&T Ballpark in downtown Winston-Salem. The double header is schedule for a 1:00 pm start.

Germain

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duties included writing press releases, contacting event contributors and assisting with annual events. Germain helped to coordinate the "America's Next Top Model" casting call in Fayetteville, N.C., UPN 28's "Most Soulful Gospel Sound hosted by 'Play' of "Kid and Play," WWE promotions and

other network related events and promotions.

In the fall of 2005, Germain began coaching volleyball with the Jammers Volleyball Club (JVC) in Durham, N.C. Over three years with JVC, she was the head coach of the girl's 15 and under team, girl's 16 and under team, the assistant to the girl's 17 and under team, and the setting coach.

After her stint with JVC, Germain traveled to Greensboro, N.C., to become the assistant women's volleyball coach for the Lady Aggies of North Carolina A&T State University. Aside from her coaching responsibilities, she implemented additional study hall requirements, developed a volleyball alumni club, and coordinated various community service projects.

In her spare time, Germain enjoys

playing competitive volleyball, volunteering, tutoring and serving her community. She is a member of the Order of the Eastern Stars.

Germain is from Detroit, Mich. She is the daughter of Lio (deceased) and Brenda Germain and has a younger sister, Alessys R. Pullen, who is also a collegiate volleyball student-athlete at Virginia State University.

WSP girls

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mileage from a nine-player roster. In spite of losing center Kristain Saunders for the season to injury after 17 games, Winston-Salem Prep relied heavily on a six-player rotation to hammer all challengers in post-season play.

When you stop to consider that the relentless Phoenix won the crown with limited depth, you come to appreciate how special this season turned out to be.

Prep, which finished the season at 24-3, dedicated its efforts to sharing the basketball on offense while

consistently shutting down opponents at the defensive end. The Phoenix had seven players who averaged between 7 and 11 points per game. As a team, WSP averaged 13.6 assists, 15.2 steals and four blocked shots for the season.

Coach Eugene Love has a squad which is well-stocked with interchangeable parts. The most versatile of the group is Dominique Claytor, a multi-dimensional type who was voted MVP of the state-championship game.

Claytor's stat line (9 points, 6.3 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 3.4 steals per game) is a credible indica-

tor of her value. But, it doesn't tell the entire story. Depending on floor matchups, Claytor can play all five positions and her on-court presence serves as a calming influence. Defensively, she has few peers who can effectively defend at several positions as well as she does.

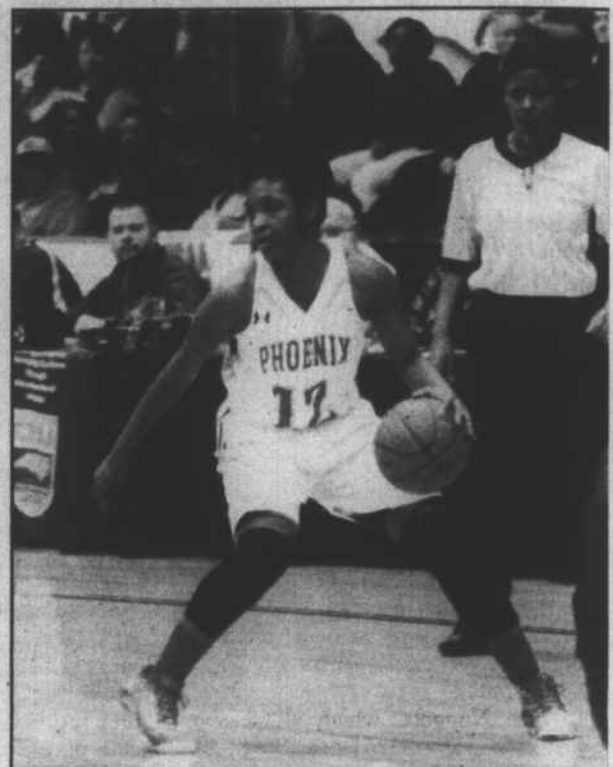
Swing players Christina Caesar (8.9 points, 3.2 rebounds, 2.9 steals) and Kayla Robinson (8.9 points, 4.1 rebounds, 2.6 assists, 1.7 steals) are versatile in their roles, especially on defense.

In the paint, Chrysalyn Boston (7.3 points, 9.3 rebounds, 2.8

blocks, 2 steals) emerged as a major factor. With a healthy Saunders (8.1 points, 5.1 rebounds) coming back, Prep's front line will be more dominant.

The backcourt is formidable with Jada Craig (10.7 points, 2.3 rebounds, 3.6 assists, 3.2 steals) and Mychala Wolfe (10.3 points, 2.9 rebounds, 2.4 steals). Both are exceptional passers who shoot well from the outside and can generate their own offense off the dribble.

The future looks promising for Winston-Salem Prep to complete another successful state-championship run. Even so, untimely injuries and/or complacency could conspire to crush those title dreams. When next season arrives, nobody knows how the Phoenix will handle being the defending state champs that every team



Prep's Christina Caesar (12) averaged 8.9 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2.9 steals per game.



Zaire Williams blossomed as an inside presence as a sophomore.

WSP boys

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realized that our (championship) run would eventually come to an end. But now we'll go back to work and see if we can start another run.

When our players look at that runner-up banner, they'll be more motivated than ever. We're looking to continue to play for championships for years to come. That's the culture that we've established. Sure, we have players with talent. But it's more about the hard work they put in on and off the court."

Winston-Salem Prep (20-8) loses three seniors (Kwa'Tre Hollingsworth, D.J. Harrison and Keeshon Patrick) who got meaningful playing time. Gould's cupboard, however, is hardly bare.

At the guard slots, Davien Williamson, Justice Goodloe, Josh Gould and Daviar Dixon are skilled and seasoned. These first-year players gained a lot of experience from playing in big games this season. All four will continue to elevate their

level of play as they mature.

Kendrick Edwards, a 6-foot-4 forward, operates mostly from mid-range and in the paint on offense. Edwards is a relentless offensive rebounder who gives the Phoenix an added dimension with his size, strength and quickness. Those attributes allows Edwards to guard every position on the floor.

The emergence of Zaire Williams as a premier post player gives Prep a decided advantage. Williams, a 6-foot-seven, 250 pound-sophomore with an array of inside moves, wreaked havoc at both ends with his bulk, passing skills and lateral quickness. Ne'quan Carrington provides stability on the front line as a dependable inside scorer, rebounder and defender.

Williams, who finished with nine points and nine boards, had a significant impact on the game's final outcome. The Mariners didn't have anyone who could match-up against Williams one-on-one. He made them pay by scoring Seven points and pulling down six rebounds in the

East Carteret adjusted its defense in the second half, which made the Phoenix more dependent on outside shooting. The Mariners applied intense on-ball pressure, which made it difficult for Prep's guards to feed Williams whenever he posted up.

This was especially problematic of Prep in the fourth quarter, when Williams failed to score because he couldn't get any quality touches in the paint. East Carteret used its quickness to swarm Prep's passers and deflect or steal entry passes intended for Williams. When Williams did get the ball inside, he was immediately surrounded by three defenders and had little or no room to maneuver.

"As a coach, I'm always learning," Gould said. "East Carteret did an excellent job of bracketing Zaire and he got a little frustrated. There are ways to counter what they did defensively. We'll go to work on that and be better prepared as a result."

Atkins girls

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learning what it takes to compete against more experienced players in big-game situations. It's been very satisfying to watch them grow and mature."

The key piece for the Camels is leading scorer Armani-Hampton, a 5-foot-dimensions forward who's attracting much attention from Division I programs. Hampton (16.5 points per game) makes an impact at both ends of the floor with her length, quickness and athleticism.

While Hampton is the undisputed central figure, she doesn't have to be a solo act. Atkins has another Division I prospect in Saryna Carpenter (12.2 points per game), who complements Hampton as a productive low-post player who's equally effective as a perimeter shooter.

The rest of the supporting cast includes combo guard Tyler Mercer, point guard Mikalah Muhammad and all-purpose forward Tyler Davenport. The development of Chandler Robinson is expected to produce handsome dividends. Robinson, an agile 6-foot-2 center, is a force on defense and she continues to improve as an offensive contributor.

"We have a core group of players who were able to step up in due time," Lowery said. "They've learned how to win."

As a whole, it was a highly-satisfying season for Atkins. But the way things ended was unexpected. The Camels suffered a stunning 44-35 upset loss to Bishop McGuinness in the opening round of the state playoffs. In reviewing what transpired on that day, it was clear that idle time had a lot to do with how Atkins performed.

Due to the winter storms in late February, the Camels had not played for nearly two weeks and were obviously rusty. They were sluggish on defense and had what was probably their worst shoot-

wants to beat.

It's one thing to cast oneself in the role of being the hunter. It's quite another to be the team with the

bulls eye on its back.

Will the urgency and passion still be there?

Will this team remain hungry?



Armani Hampton (14) is the first Atkins player to score 1,000 career points.

ing performance of the season. The outcome in the playoffs was vastly different from the regular season, when Atkins topped the Villains in decisive fashion in their two meetings. Hampton averaged 24 points in those match-ups, but scored only six points in that playoff game. Carpenter, in the meantime, led all scorers with 18 points, but her teammates struggled from start to finish.

The memory of how the season ended will undoubtedly give the Camels plenty of added incentive for next season. They've proven they can more than hold their own against Prep. Whether or not they can handle the Phoenix in a playoff setting is anyone's guess.

In any case, the Camels will be fun to watch.