

SPORTS WEEK

Also Community, Religion and Classifieds

APRIL 2, 2015

WSSU baseball team is on a roll



Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Eric Corlett (5-1) is one of WSSU's top relief pitchers.

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

At the start of last week, Winston-Salem State's baseball team was on a roll. The Rams had a seven-game win streak going and were slotted 27th in the NCAA Division II national rankings.

The rest of the week wasn't so fruitful. WSSU suffered back-to-back losses for the first time this season. The Rams were victimized in the late stages of both games, which were played at BB&T Ballpark.

Winston-Salem State (22-8, 7-1 CIAA) took a two-run lead over Lenoir-Rhyne in the eighth inning, but allowed five runs in the ninth in a 14-11 loss on March 24. The following day, the Rams gave 14th-ranked Catawba all it could handle in a contest that required extra innings. The outcome was decided in the 10th when WSSU surrendered six runs in

a 7-1 defeat. For the game, the Rams were held to four hits.

"Lenoir-Rhyne and Catawba are very good," said Coach Kevin Ritsche of WSSU. "You can't afford to make mistakes against teams of that caliber. If you do, it comes back to haunt you. What it all came down to was us not being able to finish. We've been in our share of games where we've been the team to make the come back and win."

Winston-Salem State's bats came alive in a big way against Lenoir-Rhyne. Trailing 7-1 in the bottom of the fourth, the Rams erupted for six runs on six hits.

Conner Andrus opened with a solo home run to left field and Colby Keene singled to drive in another run. With two outs, Des Roberts slapped an opposite-field, three-run double down the left-field line. Roberts raced home to tie the game 7-7 on Dylan Dombrowskas' two-base hit.

With the game tied 9-9 in the eighth, the Rams broke the stalemate on Andrus's bases-loaded single to center. Chris Kane followed up with an RBI-sacrifice fly to score Roberts from third base.

Entering the final month of the regular-season, Ritsche is concerned about run production. He realizes his team must show more consistency at the plate to enhance its chances of repeating as CIAA champs and making a return trip to the Division II playoffs.

"It's important for us to be able to string together some hits so we can push some runs across the plate," he said. "Doing so will keep us out of those situations where we're forced to play from behind."

Jacob Barber tops the Rams with a .429 batting average and Andrus has been a model of consistency. Andrus leads the team in hits with 36 and is second in batting aver-

See Baseball on B2

WSSU battles childhood hunger with 'Rams Triple Play'

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University and its Athletic Department invite you to engage in "Rams Triple Play: University, Community, and Service."

WSSU's 2015 mission is to "Strike Out Childhood Hunger," and the university is requesting assistance on Sunday, April 12, as the Rams' baseball team competes against Bluefield State College at the BB&T Ballpark, 951 Ballpark Way. It is the home of the Winston-Salem Dash.

The game begins at 1 p.m. However, the university invites fans, their families and friends to attend a tailgate in the parking lot of the stadium beginning at 11:30 a.m. to partake of fun and entertainment for all ages.

In addition, favorite Ram student-athletes, cheerleaders and band members will be there for a special meet-and-greet during the tailgate.

The cost of this event is \$5 for adults (ages 13 and up) and free for children (ages 12 and under) with a non-perishable food item.

For further information, please contact LaTaya Hilliard-Gray at 336-750-2598.

BASKETBALL



Photos by Craig T. Greenlee

Wake Forest point guard Codi Miller-McIntyre (0) was Honorable Mention All-ACC.

Wake Forest coach turns attention to restoring the basketball team

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

College basketball's Final Four is only two days away from tip-off. By this time next week, we'll all know whether Kentucky succeeded or failed in its quest to become the first team in nearly four decades to go undefeated and win an NCAA championship.

Danny Manning of Wake Forest knows a few things about this time of year. From both a player's and coach's perspective, he knows what it takes to win at the highest levels.

Prior to his 15-year NBA career, Manning fortified his reputation as one of the best to ever play the college game. The former two-time All-American led Kansas

See Team on B2

TRACK



Parkland's Katlin Sherman (light blue) finished third in the 200-meter dash to earn All-America honors at the New Balance Indoor Track and Field Nationals in New York last month.

Parkland High School girls' team is on track to be champs again

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

In spite of a training schedule set-back and minor injuries, there's not even a hint that Parkland might be slowing down. That's bad news for the contenders who desperately want to unseat the Mustangs as North Carolina's premier team in high school girls' track and field.

Parkland, winners of back-to-back state indoor team titles in Class 4-A, has its sights set on repeating as state outdoor champs. For now, though, the singular focus for Coach Antwan Hughes is to get his athletes completely healthy and fully back on schedule with their training regimens.

See Parkland on B2

APRIL 24
WINSTON LAKE
GOLF COURSE



EYE ON THE
BALL
MIND ON
SCHOLARSHIPS

