

Lady Rams basketball uses momentum

Jacqueline Wittman
jr Wittman@mail.txwes.edu

The Texas Wesleyan Women's basketball team is currently No. 3 in the RRAC standings, headed to the conference tournament with an overall record of 19-9.

The Lady Rams have seen success this season as they rolled through conference play with an eight-game winning streak after defeating Wiley College.

Head Coach Stacy Francis said she didn't realize the

team's winning streak until the Lady Rams reached eight.

"I was surprised of our winning streak and very proud of our team," she said. "It was a turning point for our program. We are on the right path to be competitive in the conference."

The streak ended Feb. 20 when the Lady Rams fell to Jarvis Christian College, 58-46.

Francis said she credits the efforts of the new recruits and the team working together for the success on the court.

"Our new recruits have made an impact on our differences this season," Francis said. "The team chemistry is also stronger. The girls are willing to work hard and put in extra effort to better their game."

The Lady Rams are led by two seniors this season, forward Ashley Davis and guard Keona Ray.

"The leadership has been great from our seniors," Francis said. "They keep up the morale of the team and encourage the girls to do their

best."

Captain Keona Ray credits the success of the Lady Rams to the team's determination to win.

"Our team chemistry is better, and we all work hard," she said. "All of us are willing to fight back when the game gets tough and keep trying."

Francis said the Lady Rams are shooting for nationals once they take the win at the conference tournament.

The conference tournament will begin March 4 with eight

teams competing in the quarterfinals.

As the third seed in the tournament, the Lady Rams will play the sixth-seeded University of Southwest. The Lady Rams are tied with Southwestern Assemblies of God University in wins, but behind in point differential. SAGU is second in the RRAC standings. Langston University is at No. 1.

"Our goal for the tournament is to make it to the final," Francis said. "We will need to

stay focused and play hard."

The Lady Rams fell to Langston University 77-64 on Feb. 22, but Francis said she expects to play Langston University in the championship game.

The Lady Rams finished their season last year with a record of 8-23. As the seventh seed in the conference tournament, the Lady Rams suffered a loss to SAGU in the quarterfinals.

This year's championship game is March 6 at SAGU.

Upcoming Sports:		
Game	Time/Place	
Thursday	Men's & Women's Basketball Conference Tournament	Waxahachie
	Table Tennis	Sid W. Rich.
	World Team Trials	Sid W. Rich.
Friday	Softball vs. University of the Southwest	Noon Hobbs, NM
	Men's & Women's Basketball Conference Tournament	Waxahachie
	Table Tennis World Team Trials	Sid W. Rich.
Saturday	Men's & Women's Basketball Conference Tournament	Waxahachie
	Table Tennis	Sid W. Rich.
	Leone TWU Open	Sid W. Rich.
Sunday	Softball vs. Texas College	1 p.m. Tyler
	Table Tennis	Sid W. Rich.
	Leone TWU Open	Sid W. Rich.
Tuesday	Baseball vs. Tarleton State University	3 p.m. LaGrave Field
Wednesday	Baseball vs Howard Payne University	2 p.m. Brownwood

Wesleyan Week in Sports

- **Rams Softball** (6-5) went 5-1 at the Central Baptist College Tournament Feb. 26-28.
- **The Rams Baseball team** (7-3) beat UT-Dallas 9-8 Feb. 24, and followed up with a 5-2 win against Concordia University Feb. 25.
- **The Women's Basketball team** (19-9, 15-5 RRAC) recorded a 79-64 win against Huston-Tillotson University Feb. 25 and lost 75-70 to Our Lady of the Lake University Feb. 27.
- **The 18th-ranked Rams Basketball team** (22-8, 16-4) lost 87-82 to Huston-Tillotson University Feb. 25, before clinching their third consecutive regular season conference title and place at nationals with an 87-85 against Our Lady of the Lake University Feb. 27

Nabassi makes difference



Jacqueline Wittman | Rambler Staff

From left: Josh Gibbs, Theo Nabassi, Gaspar Martinez and Kevin Millikan.

Jacqueline Wittman
jr Wittman@mail.txwes.edu

Theo Nabassi isn't your average international student-athlete.

Nabassi came to Texas Wesleyan University from the West African country Togo to earn a master's degree in accounting and play soccer, and to help make a difference for those he left behind.

Nabassi has worked with the Texas Wesleyan soccer program and athletic department to supply his former teammates in Togo with basic soccer equipment and necessities to enjoy the game.

"Someone's old cleats here are new to my friends in Togo," Nabassi said. "No one needs to throw away their soccer stuff because there is always someone who can use it."

Nabassi collects used soccer gear, such as uniforms and cleats to send back home to a few soccer clubs so they are able to play with proper equipment.

Nabassi said he began his efforts because his friends back home often asked him to help get soccer gear they weren't able to get on their own. Nabassi said he sends money sometimes, but it's hard as a full-time graduate student without a job.

Josh Gibbs, women's head soccer coach, was more than willing to help Nabassi.

"Theo came to us and mentioned that he wanted to find ways he could do more for his friends back home," Gibbs said. "I offered him our equip-

ment from previous seasons because we were interested in helping him make a difference for the soccer teams in Togo."

Nabassi has collected cleats by asking players from the men's and women's soccer teams to donate any used pair of cleats they no longer use. He has collected about 20 pairs from the players.

Gibbs and Gaspar Martinez, men's head soccer coach, gave Nabassi equipment that was in the storage closet such as game jerseys, shorts, warm-up jerseys, practice jerseys and socks.

"I wanted to help Theo because he seemed like he really cared about the people back home," Martinez said. "He told me stories about teammates playing soccer barefoot because they didn't have any cleats. We just gave him gear that we weren't using anymore and knew his friends would benefit."

Kevin Millikan, athletic director, helped Nabassi by donating \$300 in shipping for two of the three large boxes sent to Togo.

"Theo is a fantastic student-athlete and a great representative of Wesleyan," Millikan said. "We had the stuff; it's for a great cause, and it's important to give back."

The gear is sent to Basar in northern Togo. Nabassi said he splits the shipments with Beyakpabe Football Association and Caima Football Club. Beyakpabe FA is a third division team from Nabassi's hometown. Caima FC is in Lome, the capital of Togo, and is the team Nabassi played

with for three years prior to Wesleyan.

According to Nabassi, the equipment for the teams has made a significant impact.

"The players are very appreciative of the generosity and support from Wesleyan," he said. "They are able to replace their worn out cleats and their uniforms are definitely a lot nicer. The soccer balls the players use are also worn out, and Nabassi said he is currently working on collecting some."

Nabassi said he is thankful to the Wesleyan soccer program and athletic department.

"Gibbs, Martinez and Millikan have all been wonderful in helping me share the game of soccer with my friends in Togo," Nabassi said. "I also appreciate all the Wesleyan soccer players who donated their cleats and everyone's efforts to contribute."

Nabassi also credits the Wesleyan soccer program, especially Gibbs, for giving him the opportunity to get a degree at Wesleyan.

"I want to share all of the positive things that have come from my schooling at Wesleyan," Nabassi said. "Wesleyan has done so much for me, and I wanted to share that with my former teammates by giving them quality gear to play soccer."

Nabassi said he still needs to send the collected cleats, but the expensive cost of shipping is a setback.

To help Nabassi with soccer equipment contact him at Theo9nabassi@yahoo.com.

The Weekly Sports Quote

"I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body."

Winston Bennett

former professional basketball player

What's next?
Competition for jobs is fierce. Get your MBA and build your resume with the **Early Career MBA** at the University of Dallas.

Early Career MBA

- Unique, 18-Month Cohort
- Resume-Building Professional Internships and Experiences
- No Prior Professional Work Experience Required
- Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduates Encouraged to Apply

Classes begin in May 2010.
Apply now, seats are limited!

The University of Dallas is a private, Catholic, co-educational university founded in 1956

UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS
College of Business

udallas.edu/earlymba

90 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

1920  **SGA** 2010
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

CONTACT US AT
PHONE: 817-531-7550
EMAIL: STUGOV@TXWES.EDU

VISIT US AT
OC HALL 202 AND 204