

Tom Di Camillo, Sports Information Director
Office: 610-436-3316; Home: 610-857-1353; Hotline: 610-436-2100
Fax: 610-436-2966; E-Mail Address: tdicamillo@wcupa.edu

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Kutztown Golden Bears @ West Chester Golden Rams

Saturday, October 5, 2002 - Kickoff 7 p.m. - John A. Farrell Stadium, West Chester, PA (Homecoming)

WEST CHESTER, PA - The Golden Rams of West Chester University (1-3/0-0 PSAC East) will battle the Golden Bears of Kutztown University (1-3/0-0) on Saturday night in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Eastern Division opener for both clubs. Kickoff at John A. Farrell Stadium is 7 p.m.

The Golden Rams are coming off a tough 41-27 loss at home to Shippensburg University last Saturday, while Kutztown was thumped by Clarion 31-7 at home.

Saturday night is Homecoming for WCU and marks the second straight season that Kutztown will visit Farrell Stadium for the prestigious event.

Saturday night will also feature the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Cement Bowl Championship team. In 1962, the Golden Rams bulldozed Hofstra 46-12. It was WCU's third and final victory in a bowl game.

Shippensburg disappoints Golden Rams

WEST CHESTER, PA - Shippensburg (2-2) quarterback Tyler Novak completed 13 of 22 pass attempts for 236 yards and two scores, and the Red Raiders rushed for three more touchdowns in a 41-27 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference crossover victory vs. West Chester last Saturday.

The loss by the Golden Rams dropped their record to 1-3 overall as they prepare to take on Kutztown University in the PSAC East opener this weekend.

The win by Shippensburg was its first on the WCU campus since 1924 and stifled an eight-game losing streak by the Red Raiders at WCU.

Sophomore WR **Cory DeForrest (Wycombe/Council)** gave the Golden Rams a 7-3 lead after collecting a four-yard pass from sophomore QB **Bob Findora (Downingtown/Coatesville)** with :42 left in the first quarter, but Shippensburg then scored three straight touchdowns on a 61-yard pass play from Novak to Brian Sekel, a nine-yard throw from Novak to Will Perry and a five-yard run by Jarrod Dech.

DeForrest closed out the first half with a 31-yard touch-down grab with :37 left on the clock when a pass deflected off the hands of senior tight end **Ryan Koch (Muncy/Muncy)** and into DeForrest's as he dove into the end zone.

DeForrest would finish the game with six catches for 93 yards and three touchdowns, setting career highs for catches, yards and touchdowns in a game.

Shippensburg made it 30-13 on a seven-play, 80-yard march in the third quarter, but DeForrest's 31-yard catch and run into the end zone with 6:00 left in the third cut the lead to 10 at 30-20.

Ship kicker Craig Lough hit a 23-yard field goal - his second field goal of the day - to extend the lead to 13 to start the fourth, but WCU junior tailback **Mike Eckmeyer (Glendora, NJ/Triton)** blitzed his way to a 74-yard run that brought WCU within six at 33-27.

Eckmeyer would finish the game with 129 yards on 26 carries and one touchdown, extending his WCU record for consecutive 100-yard rushing games to 10. He has rushed for 100 yards in every game he has started. It also marked the first time this season that an individual player or a team had rushed for over 100 yards vs. the Shippensburg defense.

Findora would finish the day 17 of 28 for 229 yards and three touchdown passes - all to DeForrest. He would connect with seven different receivers, including senior **Brian Bradley (Philadelphia/South Philadelphia)** twice for 50 yards and Eckmeyer four times for 17.

Senior MLB **Brandon Neely (Willow Grove/Upper Mereland)** finished the game with 11 total hits - nine tackles and two assists - while sophomore OLB **Tim Garman (Leola/Conestoga Valley)** posted eight tackles, an assist and a one-yard tackle for loss.

Sophomore **Eric Maynard (Camp Hill/East Pennsboro)** finished the game with four tackles, one assist and a one-yard tackle for loss.

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This Week's Opponent: Kutztown

KUTZTOWN, PA - Adam Almashy rushed for two touchdowns and passed for another to lead Clarion University to a 31-7 victory over Kutztown University in a Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) crossover matchup at University Field last Saturday.

The Golden Eagles, the PSAC's top rushing team, rumbled for 306 yards on the ground and were led by Robert Walker's 87 yards on 19 carries.

KU's Stephen Gammage rushed for 85 yards on 26 carries, scoring the Golden Bears' only touchdown. After a scoreless first period, Clarion drove 60 yards on 10 plays on its first possession of the second quarter. Almashy capped the drive with a one-yard dive with 7:01 left in the half.

Kutztown drove to the Clarion 21-yard line on its next possession, but CU cornerback Myron Hargon picked off Rob Flowers' pass and returned it 40 yards to the Kutztown 37. Ten plays later, Chris Carlton kicked a 27-yard field goal to make it 10-0 heading into halftime.

The Golden Bears' offense came alive at the start of the second half. Flowers completed two passes for 27 yards and rushed for 21 more to fuel a nine-play, 69-yard drive. Gammage capped the drive with a one-yard scoring run. KU trailed 10-7 with 11:18 left in the third quarter.

On the Bears' next possession, Flowers was injured throwing the ball away to avoid a sack. He would later return, but KU was forced to punt. Clarion's Chris Robert blocked Jon Corson's boot, giving the Eagles the ball at Kutztown's 27. Five plays later, Almashy found Justin Sickeri all alone for a 14-yard touchdown. It was one of just two completions on the day for Almashy.

After a Kutztown punt, Clarion had the ball at the Golden Bear 38, setting up Walker's five rushing attempts for 20 yards that moved Clarion in the red zone. Almashy finished the drive with a six-yard run with 7:20 left in the game. Clarion backup quarterback Frantz Charles rounded out the scoring with a one-yard run late in the second half.

Bo Busch and Scott McGrady led the CU defensive effort with 10 tackles apiece.

For Kutztown, Earl Thornton led all players with 14 tackles. He had a tackle for loss and two pass breakups. Tyhiem Gaston added 11 tackles.

The Golden Rams will visit Clarion on October 12 after facing Kutztown this weekend.

The Last Meeting

WEST CHESTER - Kutztown University defeated West Chester 26-25 on a 21-yard field goal by Golden Bears place-

kicker Marcel Kottke with eight seconds remaining in regulation on October 13, 2001, in John A. Farrell Stadium.

Eckmeyer ran for 213 yards in the loss – the 11th highest total in school history. His performance marked the first time a WCU rusher topped 200 yards in a game since Thomas Fulton accomplished the feat at Mansfield on October 25, 1997. The previous time a WCU runner reached 200 yards at Farrell Stadium was on October 30, 1993, when Scott Eberly set the school record of 294.

Don DeFilipo ran for 113 yards on 26 carries and scored one TD. Eckmeyer scored once and averaged 10.7 yards per return.

Current sophomore DE **Graham Eggleston** (*Mechanicsburg/Mechanicsburg*) gave the Golden Rams a 7-0 lead on the infamous "Leon Lett Play." Several years ago on Thanksgiving Day in the rare snow of Texas Stadium, Lett - a defensive lineman for the Cowboys - attempted to pick up a blocked Miami Dolphin field goal instead of allowing it to be downed thus giving the Cowboys possession. But Lett slipped in the snow and booted the ball, allowing the Dolphins to cash in with a touchdown.

At Farrell Stadium on Saturday night, red-shirt freshman kicker **Chris Snyder** (*Akron/Ephrata*) had his field goal attempt blocked, but Kutztown tried to pick up the ball once it had crossed the line of scrimmage. The ill-advised attempt was fumbled back into the Kutztown end zone where Eggleston landed on it for a touchdown. Eggleston finished the game with three tackles and his score.

After Kutztown tied the game on a 52-yard bomb, DeFilipo capped an eight-play, 80-yard drive with an 11-yard touchdown run. But Snyder's PAT was blocked and returned for a Kutztown defensive two-point conversion. It would prove to be the difference in the game.

The Golden Bears then took a 23-13 lead, but the Golden Rams again marched down the field behind their rushing game, this time scoring on a one-yard burst by Eckmeyer. The PAT was no good, but the Golden Rams took the lead on another strange play early in the fourth.

First a bad snap over the head of six-foot, seven-inch punter Ron Minck seemed to spell disaster, but no KU rush and a heads up play by Minck landed the ball just outside the goal line. Kutztown attempted to run a sweep, but Donovan Reifinger made a smashing hit that jarred the football loose in the end zone for senior CB Shariff Blackwell. One quick scoop and Blackwell had a touchdown and had given the Golden Rams a 25-23 lead.

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Blackwell finished the game with two tackles, one assist, the fumble recovery for a score and two pass breakups. Reifinger not only had a caused fumble, but he recovered a fumble in the fourth quarter.

Minck boomed five punts a total of 200 yards (40 yards per kick), while current junior CB **Calvin Braxton (Philadelphia/Central)** led the team with six tackles. Brian Kersey had five tackles, including three for losses of -12 yards. Two of his TFLs were sacks totaling -10 yards.

Current junior DB **Jim McCullough (Laurel Springs, NJ/Triton)** had four tackles, an assist, a five-yard TFL, a pass breakup and an interception he returned four yards.

Golden Ram 2001 co-captain LeRoy Miller recorded four solo tackles and returned four punts a total of 48 yards, but his last return was the final play of his collegiate career after suffering a season-ending knee injury.

The Coaches

Kutztown head coach Dave Keeny (Kutztown '83) is in his fifth season with the Golden Bears...he is 23-22 overall at KU and in his head coaching career...Rick Daniels is in his 14th year as the head coach of the Golden Rams...he is 82-60-1 all-time...Daniels is second on the all-time win list behind the legendary Dr. W. Glenn Killinger.

WCU vs. Kutztown - The History

The Golden Rams have a dominating 40-6-1 advantage over the Golden Bears...the teams first met in 1937 when WCU won 19-0...the teams tied 0-0 in 1938...WCU outscored KU 87-0 over the first four meetings, going 3-0-1...from 1937-66, the Golden Rams amassed an 11-0-1 record over the Golden Bears which featured 10 shutouts and a combined score of 397-6...extend that streak to 1972, and the Golden Rams owned a 17-0-1 mark and a 700-33 scoring advantage...WCU has shutout Kutztown 17 times...the Golden Bears won for the first time over WCU in 1979 - a 28-20 win at Kutztown...the Golden Bears won again in 1983 at home 16-7...twice during the 1990's the Golden Bears picked up wins at Farrell Stadium - 42-3 in 1991 and 21-12 in 1995...the Golden Bears have won two straight games over the Golden Rams for the first time in the history of the series.

Ramblings

The Golden Rams entered the season as the second winningest Division II program in the nation behind Texas A&M Kingsville...WCU needs just five wins to reach 500...the Golden Rams have finished first or second in the PSAC East in 30 of the 36 years they have competed in the league...WCU has won 18 PSAC East crowns.

Individual PSAC Leaders

Eckmeyer is the leading rusher in the PSAC with his 134.0 yards per game average...he is first in all-purpose yards as well (167.2)...Findora is 4th in passing yards per game (236.2) and 4th in total offense per game (228.2)...DeForrest is 6th in receptions per game (5.5) and 2nd in scoring (9.0 ppg.)...sophomore **Joe Brooks (Clark Summit/Abington Heights)** leads the PSAC in fumble recoveries...he has three...all three came at Delaware to tie a school record for most recovered fumbles in a single game.

NCAA II Individual Leaders

Eckmeyer is ranked 10th in the country in rushing and 17th in all-purpose yards...Findora is 31st in total offense...DeForrest is tied for 34th in catches per game and tied for 24th in points per game.

Team PSAC Leaders

West Chester is 3rd in passing offense (245.5 y/g) and 6th in rushing offense (156.5 y/g)...WCU is third in total offense (402.2 y/g)...WCU's 85 first downs ranks as the third best in the PSAC...WCU is the least penalized team in the league...the Golden Rams are penalized an average of 38.8 yards per game...WCU is the best in the league at converting third downs (34 for 67 for a 50.7% rating).

NCAA II Team Leaders

West Chester is ranked 28th in total offense and 27th in passing offense.

Internet Broadcast

All 11 Golden Ram football games will be broadcast on Red Zone Media this season...fans may access Red Zone Media through the WCU webpage: <http://iws.wcupa.edu/athletics/>...on the main page will be a link to the football games...seniors **Sean Kane (Guthriesville/Bishop Shanahan)** and **Chris Rudolph (Mortonville/Bishop Shanahan)** will handle this week's broadcast vs. Kutztown beginning at 6:45 p.m. EDT.

Radio Broadcast

All seven day games will be broadcast on WCHE 1520 AM...next Saturday's game at Clarion will be simulcast with the internet broadcast and begin at 1:45 p.m.

The Next Game

The Golden Rams will visit Clarion University on Saturday, October 12, at 2 p.m. for a PSAC mandatory crossover contest with the Western Division foes.

