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Football Release 13 - October 16, 2002

West Chester Univ. Golden Rams @ Cheyney University Wolves

Saturday, October 19, 2002 - Kickoff 1 p.m. - O'Shields-Stevenson Stadium, Cheyney, PA

WEST CHESTER, PA - The Golden Rams of West Chester University (2-4/1-0) will visit the Wolves of Cheyney University (0-6/0-1) on Saturday afternoon in a Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Eastern Division battle. Kickoff at O'Shields-Stevenson Stadium is 1 p.m.

The Golden Rams are coming off a tough 34-28 loss at Clarion last Saturday, while the Wolves were beaten 48-7 by East Stroudsburg.

This will be WCU's third visit to Cheyney in the past four years.

Golden Rams fall in heartbreaker

CLARION, PA - The West Chester University football team suffered a 34-28 loss at Clarion to fall to 2-4 overall on the 2002 season. The game marked the Golden Rams' final PSAC crossover tilt of the year.

WCU was plagued by a pair of turnovers and 71 yards of penalties in the setback.

Trailing by six with over two minutes to play, the Golden Rams had the ball at their own 20-yard line, worked their way down the field, but then saw a game-tying touchdown flagged because of an offensive pass interference call.

Sophomore QB **Bob Findora (Downingtown/Coatesville)** surpassed 300-yard passing mark for the second time in his career, completing 18 of 30 passes for 300 yards and two touchdowns. Findora also added a one-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

WCU junior TB **Mike Eckmeyer (Glendora, NJ/Triton)** carried the ball 29 times for 104 yards in the loss, extending his school record 100-yard rushing streak to 12 games. Eckmeyer registered his team-leading seventh rushing score of the season on a one-yard plunge in the fourth quarter.

Senior WR **Brian Bradley (Philadelphia/South Philadelphia)** caught three balls for 91 yards against Clarion, including a 61-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter. Junior WR **Cory DeForrest (Wycombe/Council Rock)** posted four receptions for 43 yards, while senior FB **Joe Shay (Lancaster/Lebanon Catholic)** hauled in three passes for 34 yards and a 24-yard score in the first quarter. It was his first touchdown since high school.

Sophomore TE **Joe Bernatowicz (Langhorne/Neshaminy)** added two catches for 51 yards, and red-shirt freshman **Brandon Simmons (Williamsport/Williamsport)** caught his first collegiate pass - a 39-yarder in the second quarter.

Sophomore FS **Eric Engstrom (Phoenixville/Spring-Ford)** led the WCU defense with a career-best 12 tackles against Clarion, while junior OLB **Scott Linus (New Castle, DE/William Penn)** posted 11 total hits. Sophomore SS **Chad Weaver (Mechanicsburg/Red Land)** made 10 tackles and senior MLB **Brandon Neely (Willow Grove/Upper Moreland)** registered nine stops.

Sophomore DE **Graham Eggleston (Mechanicsburg/Mechanicsburg)** had six tackles, including 4.5 TFL's for - 21 yards. Junior DB **Calvin Braxton (Philadelphia/Central)** and sophomore OLB **Tim Garman (Leola/Conestoga Valley)** each made five stops in the loss.

This Week's Opponent: Cheyney

EAST STROUDSBURG, PA - Despite winning the time of possession 39:33 to 20:27, as well as running 23 more offensive plays, Cheyney University came out on the short end of a 48-7 decision at East Stroudsburg in its PSAC East conference opener last Saturday.

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The lone score for Cheyney came on a Lacy Lancaster 35-yard strike to Ron Martin. Lancaster was one of four Cheyney quarterbacks head coach Lee Brown called upon to shake up an offense that hasn't been able to put points on the scoreboard.

Lancaster completed 8 of 11 passes for 128 yards. Trevis Willingham was the Wolves top rusher, gaining 45 yards on seven carries. Ed Giddings was the top receiver catching five balls for 126 yards.

This week is homecoming for the Wolves as they prepare to face West Chester.

The Last Meeting: November 3, 2001

WEST CHESTER, PA - West Chester University then-sophomore running back **Michael Eckmeyer (Glendora, NJ/Triton)** rushed for 187 yards and then-freshman QB **Bob Findora (Downingtown/Coatesville)** completed 17 of 34 passes for 248 yards and three touchdowns as the Golden Rams defeated Cheyney University 57-34 on November 3, 2001 at John A. Farrell Stadium.

Eckmeyer carried the ball 15 times for his 187 yards and two scores, while Don DeFilipo rushed for 121 yards on 20 attempts. This marked the third time in 2001 that the duo had rushed for over 100 yards in the same game. That had never been done before in WCU history in a single season.

Former WR Adrian Wilkerson had six catches for 112 yards (his first career 100-yard game) and one touchdown, while current sophomore TE **Joe Bernatowicz (Langhorne/Neshaminy)** scored a pair of touchdowns on throws from Findora. According to the rookie tight end, it was the first time he had ever caught TD passes in a football game - college or high school. He had four grabs for 70 yards.

Current senior RB **Greg Van Alstine (Trappe/Perkiomen Valley)** almost completed the 100-yard trifecta for WCU, gaining 87 yards with a pair of touchdowns.

Wilkerson started the scoring for West Chester when he caught and then sprinted 57 yards for the game's first touchdown just 1:00 into the game. Bernatowicz made it 14-0 with his first career TD grab late in the first, then OLB Duane Thomas sacked Cheyney's quarterback in the end zone for a safety and a 16-0 lead. That hit also counted as an 11-yard sack.

Cheyney struck quickly on 51-yard and 43-yard pass plays, but Eckmeyer rumbled in from nine yards out and Bernatowicz completed a 25-yard connection with Findora for a 23-12 Golden Ram halftime lead.

Cheyney scored again to open the fourth quarter on a 42-yard pass, but Eckmeyer barreled 54 yards and Shariff Blackwell returned an interception 85 yards for a score to widen the WCU lead to 44-18. It was the fourth longest in school history. Blackwell also earned three pass breakups and three tackles.

Cheyney opened up the fourth with a 13-yard touch-down run, but Van Alstine countered with touchdown runs of 20 and four yards to close out the game.

Current WCU junior CB **Calvin Braxton (Philadelphia/Central)** led the team with 12 hits - 11 tackles, one assist - two tackles for loss (-6 yards), an interception (9 yards) and a four-yard sack.

Then-junior MLB **Brandon Neely (Willow Grove/Upper Moreland)** posted eight tackles, four for losses of -21 yards, two pass breakups and one-half sack (-5 yards). Current junior DE **Jake Walker (Doylestown/Central Bucks East)** was credited with the other half of Neely's shared sack.

WCU and Cheyney teamed up for 91 points - the most ever between the two schools. Both teams scored season highs, while the 34 points allowed by WCU was the most by its defense in 2001.

Success when the leaves fall

Much had been made of the Golden Rams lack of victories in late August and September...since 1997, the Golden Rams have produced a 4-19 record during the first full month of the season...however, since 1997, the Golden Rams are 25-10 in the months of October and November...of the 23 games played before October 1, the Golden Rams have competed against NCAA I-AA clubs seven times and NCAA Division II perennial playoff powerhouses IUP, UC-Davis, New Haven and Bloomsburg on 10 different occasions.

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The Coaches

Cheyney University head coach Lee Brown (Lincoln '86) is in his first season with the Wolves...Rick Daniels is in his 14th year as the head coach of the Golden Rams...he is 83-61-1 all-time...Daniels is second on the all-time win list behind the legendary Dr. W. Glenn Killinger.

WCU vs. Cheyney - The History

The Golden Rams have a dominating 34-1-1 advantage over the Wolves...the teams first met in 1958 when WCU set a record for points in game by beating the Wolves 85-0...Cheyney's lone win in the series occurred in 1979 when the Wolves edged the Golden Rams 36-34...that victory took place in Farrell Stadium...in 1980 the teams tied 24-24...WCU has won 21 straight games over the Wolves since the deadlock...including this season, three of the last four games have been played at Cheyney...WCU has never lost at Cheyney.

Milestones & Honors

Eckmeyer has extended his consecutive 100-yard game streak to 12 straight...he is now tied for third all-time in career 100-yard games at WCU with 12...he shares that spot with Scott Eberly and Ron Perkins (also 12 each)...he is 14th all-time on the career rushing charts.

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 four 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 132.2 yards per game average...he is first in all-purpose yards as well (155.8) and 6th in scoring (8.0 ppg.)...Findora is 4th in passing yards per game (243.0), 3rd in total offense per game (230.3) and 5th in pass efficiency (136.6 rating)...DeForrest is 5th in receptions per game (4.83), tied for 7th in scoring (7.0 ppg.) and 8th in receiving yards per game (68.0)...sophomore ***Joe Brooks (Clark Summit/Abington Heights)*** is tied for first in 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 7th in the country in rushing and 13th in all-purpose yards...Findora is tied for 34th in total offense.

Team PSAC Leaders

West Chester is 2nd in passing offense (249.2 y/g) and 6th in rushing offense (144.8 y/g)...WCU is third in total offense (394.0 y/g)...WCU's 124 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 41.0 yards per game...WCU is the best in the league at converting third downs (46 for 93 for a 49.5% rating)...WCU's defense is third-best in the PSAC at stopping teams in the red zone...opponents only score 68.0% of the time (17 for 25).

NCAA II Team Leaders

West Chester is ranked 35th in total 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 at Cheyney beginning at 12:45 p.m. EDT.

Radio Broadcast

All seven day games will be broadcast on WCHE 1520 AM...Saturday's game at Cheyney will be simulcast with the internet broadcast and begin at 12:45 p.m.

The Next Game

The Golden Rams will host East Stroudsburg University on Saturday, October 26, at 1:30 p.m. in a crucial PSAC East match.

