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Football Release 14 - October 21, 2002

East Stroudsburg Univ. Warriors @ West Chester Univ. Golden Rams

Saturday, October 26, 2002 - Kickoff 1:30 p.m. - John A. Farrell Stadium, West Chester, PA

WEST CHESTER, PA - The Golden Rams of West Chester University (3-4/2-0) will host the Warriors of East Stroudsburg University (5-1/3-0) on Saturday afternoon in a battle for first place in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Eastern Division. Kickoff at John A. Farrell Stadium is 1:30 p.m.

The Golden Rams are coming off a 56-0 victory at Cheyney last Saturday, while the Warriors are also coming off a 48-7 thumping of Cheyney two weeks ago. ESU did not play last weekend.

Golden Ram offense explodes

CHEYNEY, PA - Junior TB *Mike Eckmeyer (Glendora, NJ/Triton)* rushed for a career high four touchdowns and red-shirt freshman TB *Kyle Stockton (Media/Ridley)* ran for a career high three scores as the West Chester University football team blanked Cheyney 56-0 on Saturday.

The victory by the Golden Rams pushes their record to 2-0 in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Eastern Division and sets up a first-place showdown with East Stroudsburg (3-0 PSAC East) this coming Saturday at Farrell Stadium.

Eckmeyer scored twice in the first quarter on runs of four and 15 yards to give WCU a 13-0 lead, then he punched home a two-point conversion after sophomore QB *Bob Findora (Downingtown/Coatesville)* found sophomore WR *Omar Harris (West Chester/Henderson)* with a 47-yard touchdown strike. Stockton's two-yard run closed out the first-half scoring and gave WCU a 28-0 lead.

Eckmeyer finished off his day with runs of one and six yards in the third period for scores, then Stockton bolted across the goal line from 26 yards out and again from one yard away to end the WCU offensive attack.

Eckmeyer finished the day with 24 carries and 152 yards

- his 13th straight 100-yard game. His 13 career 100-yard games moves him into third place all-time. Stockton had a career best 98 yards on 18 attempts.

Findora completed 15 of 26 passes for 255 yards and one score in the contest, hitting sophomore WR *Cory DeForrest (Wycombe/Council Rock)* five times for 86 yards.

Junior DE *Jake Walker (Doylestown/Central Bucks East)* recorded five hits in the game. He had four tackles for loss (-25 yards), three of which were sacks for -20 yards. He also had a fumble recovery and a pass breakup.

For his efforts, Walker was named the **PSAC East Defensive Player of the Week**.

The Golden Rams were also led by sophomore OLB *Tim Garman (Leola/Conestoga Valley)* who had seven total hits on four tackles and three assists. He also recovered a fumble just before stepping out of bounds, and he swatted down a pass attempt by Cheyney.

Sophomore DE *Graham Eggleston (Mechanicsburg/Mechanicsburg)* posted five hits in the game (3 tackles, 2 assists) and forced one fumble. One of his tackles was an 11-yard sack.

Junior QB *George Caroulis (Upper Darby/Upper Darby)*, who plays special teams for WCU, caused a fumble and recovered a fumble in WCU's victory. He also had a tackle and an assist.

Sophomore DT *Gary Whitehead (Boothwyn/Garnet Valley)* and sophomore DL *Eric Maynard (Camp Hill/East Pennsboro)* each had fumble recoveries in the game for the Golden Rams. Red-shirt freshman *Jared Souders (Allentown/Parkland)* registered a 10-yard tackle for loss.

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This Week's Opponent: ESU

EAST STROUDSBURG, PA - The Top 25-ranked East Stroudsburg Warriors breezed to an easy 48-7 victory over Cheyney on October 12 to produce the school's best start since 1993. Leading 13-0, ESU put three touchdowns on the board in the last 6:35 of the second quarter for a 34-0 halftime lead and rolled from there. ESU quarterback Jeremy Palm equaled his 2001 performance against Cheyney with five scoring passes and Greg Vaughn became the first Warrior rusher over 100 yards in a game in 2002 with 133 on 11 carries.

Freshman Zach Toomey stripped Wolves' quarterback Tyree McCants at the Cheyney 18-yard line and the ball was recovered by Warrior Rob Marcantoni. Palm found Matt Triolo from 18 yards on the first play for a 6-0 lead.

The Warriors went 70 yards on four plays to extend their advantage to 13-0 with 2:51 in the first quarter as Palm hit Justin Kondikoff from 23 yards out. Vaughn had runs of 35 and 12 yards to account for the majority of the drive.

ESU put three touchdowns on the board in the last 6:35 of the half. Anthony Carfagno plunged in from a yard out after an ESU punt hit a Cheyney player and Nick Beisker recovered the ball at midfield. Blaec Saeger forced Jamar Kinder to fumble and Phil DeCecco scooped it up to ramble 44 yards for another score. Palm hit Kondikoff for an identical 23-yard touchdown to run the tally to 34-0 at intermission.

Cheyney's lone score came on a 35-yard strike from Lacy Lancaster to Ronald Martin. ESU added two more scoring passes in the second half around the Wolves' touchdown for the 48-7 final.

The Wolves had a large time of possession advantage for the game - 39:33 to 20:27 - while amassing 322 yards of total offense.

The Last Meeting: September 8, 2001

EAST STROUDSBURG, PA - The Golden Rams offense rolled up 363 yards of offense, but WCU managed just one touchdown on Don DeFilipo's one-yard run in a 28-9 loss to East Stroudsburg.

DeFilipo bolted for 121 yards on 17 carries in the contest, while then-sophomore **Michael Eckmeyer (Glendora, NJ/Triton)** added 81 yards on 10 attempts. All totaled, the duo from New Jersey posted over 200 yards on the ground combined.

Current sophomore kicker **Dan Wilbourne (Doylestown/Central Bucks East)** connected on a 25-yard field goal.

Brian Kersey had seven tackles and one assist in the contest, while 2002 senior captain and MLB **Brandon Neely (Willow Grove/Upper Moreland)** added five tackles and three assists in the game last year.

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 26-10 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.

The Coaches

East Stroudsburg University head coach Denny Douds (Slippery Rock '63) is in his 29th season with the Warriors...he is 167-121-3 all-time as ESU's head coach and as a collegiate head coach...Rick Daniels is in his 14th year as the head coach of the Golden Rams...he is 84-61-1 all-time...Daniels is second on the all-time win list behind the legendary Dr. W. Glenn Killinger.

WCU vs. East Stroudsburg - The History

WCU leads the series 46-19...ESU ended WCU's three-game winning streak in 2000 by beating the Golden Rams 12-6 at John A. Farrell Stadium...ESU has won the last two games...from 1997-99 WCU dominated the series, including taking two out of three in the Poconos...the Golden Rams whipped ESU 49-3 in Farrell Stadium in 1999...in 1998 WCU defeated the Warriors at ESU 57-35...Mike Mitros set a school record in that win by passing for 481 yards...he would break it later that year vs. Clarion...in 1997 WCU rallied for a 32-31 win at ESU...in the 90's the Golden Rams held a 7-3 edge...because the PSAC East schedule is based on two-year cycles, the Warriors are visiting the Golden Rams for the third time in the past four years...WCU played at ESU in 1998, 1997 and 1995.

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The teams first met in 1926 - a 6-0 ESU win...on November 14, 1992, ESU and WCU battled for the PSAC East title and a berth in the NCAA II Playoffs in Farrell Stadium on the season's final day...the Golden Rams - behind former NFL standout Lee Woodall - shut out the Warriors 3-0.

Milestones & Honors

Eckmeyer has extended his consecutive 100-yard game streak record to 13 straight...he is now third all-time in career 100-yard games at WCU with 13...he passed Scott Eberly and Ron Perkins (12 each) on Saturday...he is now 12th all-time on the career rushing charts with 1971 yards...although many individual game records are unavailable, it is believed this marks the first time since at least 1970 that two Golden Ram players have combined to rush for seven touchdowns in one game...Eckmeyer pulled off the four-TD stunt for the first time since Ron Perkins scored four TDs on November 14, 1981, in a 51-13 thumping at Salisbury State...Jason Sims (2) and Todd Madison (3) combined for five scores at Mansfield in 1987 in the most recent prolific example of WCU running backs getting into the end zone...current Shippensburg University head football coach Rocky Rees (1968) shares the single-game record of five with Joe Iacone (1960).

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 three 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 135.0 yards per game average...he is first in all-purpose yards as well (155.7) and in scoring (10.6 ppg.)...Findora is 3rd in passing yards per game (244.7), 3rd in total offense per game (234.3) and 4th in pass efficiency (138.5 rating)...DeForrest is 4th in receptions per game (4.86), tied for 9th in scoring (6.0 ppg.) and 7th in receiving yards per game (70.6)...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...Walker is tied for 8th in the PSAC in tackles for loss

per game (1.60)...Eggleston is 10th in TFL's (1.57) and tied for 4th in sacks (0.71).

NCAA II Individual Leaders

Eckmeyer is ranked 6th in the country in rushing, 8th in scoring and 11th in all-purpose yards...Findora is tied for 34th in total offense...Findora is 26th in pass efficiency and 32nd in total offense.

Team PSAC Leaders

West Chester is 2nd in passing offense (250.0 y/g) and 6th in rushing offense (161.4 y/g)...WCU is 2nd in total offense (411.4 y/g)...WCU's 148 first downs ranks as the third best in the PSAC...WCU is 2nd in pass efficiency (138.2)...WCU is the least penalized team in the league...the Golden Rams are penalized an average of 44.6 yards per game...WCU is the best in the league at converting third downs (52 for 106 for a 49.1% rating)...WCU's defense is third-best in the PSAC at stopping teams in the red zone...opponents only score 65.4% of the time (17 for 26).

NCAA II Team Leaders

West Chester is ranked 26th in total offense and 30th in passing...WCU is tied for 28th in scoring offense (31.3 points per game).

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 from Farrell Stadium vs. East Stroudsburg beginning at 1:15 p.m. EDT.

Radio Broadcast

All seven day games will be broadcast on WCHE 1520 AM...Saturday's game vs. ESU will be simulcast with the internet broadcast and begin at 1:15 p.m.

The Next Game

The Golden Rams will visit Danny Hale and the Huskies of Bloomsburg on Saturday, November 2, at 1 p.m. in another crucial PSAC East contest.