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Wilbourne's field goal lifts WCU over ESU

Sophomore QB earns PSAC East Player of the Week honors; Eckmeyer sets mark

WEST CHESTER, PA - West Chester University kicker Dan Wilbourne booted a 34-yard field goal - the longest of his career - with :02 left in regulation to lift the Golden Rams of West Chester University over the Warriors of East Stroudsburg University 17-14 on Saturday afternoon at John A. Farrell Stadium in West Chester, PA.

The victory gave the Golden Rams an edge in the race for the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Eastern Division title as WCU moves to 3-0 on the season (4-4 overall). ESU falls to 5-2 overall and 3-1 in the PSAC East.

WCU junior TB Mike Eckmeyer rushed for his 14th straight 100-yard game by reeling off 185 yards on 37 carries. He scored from 13 yards out in the second quarter to tie the game at 7-7, and he exploded for 136 yards in the second half as the WCU offensive line took control of the game.

ESU's Anthony Carfagno helped get the Warriors a 7-0 lead in the opening period when he capped a short drive with a one-yard plunge. ESU closed out the half with a 30-yard touchdown connection from quarterback Jeremy Palm to Craig Mahon, giving the Warriors a 14-7 lead.

But WCU's defense shutout the Warriors in the second half, and quarterback Bob Findora found Brian Bradley with

an 18-yard touchdown throw to knot the game at 14-14 in the third.

Neither team could budge in the fourth, but the Golden Rams - mostly on the back of Eckmeyer - drove down the field and set up Wilbourne with his career-long 34 yarder. It was the second game-winner of Wilbourne's career.

Eckmeyer now is tied for ninth in the single-season yardage department. He has 1130 yards and counting and is the first Golden Ram to rush for over a 1000 yards since Thomas Fulton did it in 1997. Eckmeyer still has three games to play. He also surpassed the 2000-yard career total and moved into 11th all-time with 2156 yards.

Findora finished the game for WCU completing 15 for 33 for 203 yards and the one score, while Cory DeForrest - who made a spectacular diving grab to sustain a WCU fourth-quarter drive - caught five passes for 84 yards. He also had a 95-yard TD called back because of a penalty. Bradley had three catches for 90 yards.

Palm finished the game 18 of 42 for 238 yards. He hit Justin Kondikoff five times for 53 yards and Tim Strenfel four times for 62. Greg Vaughn carried the ball 12 times for 79 yards.

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