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Football Release 16 - October 30, 2002

West Chester Univ. Golden Rams @ Bloomsburg Univ. Huskies

Saturday, November 2, 2002 - Kickoff 1 p.m. - Robert B. Redman Stadium, Bloomsburg, PA

WEST CHESTER, PA - The Golden Rams of West Chester University (4-4/3-0) will visit the Huskies of Bloomsburg University (6-2/3-1) on Saturday afternoon in a battle that could go a long way in deciding the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Eastern Division. Kickoff at Robert B. Redman Stadium is 1:00 p.m.

The Golden Rams are coming off a thrilling 17-14 victory over East Stroudsburg last Saturday, while Bloomsburg defeated Cheyney 37-12.

Wilbourne kicks WCU into first place

WEST CHESTER, PA - West Chester University sophomore kicker **Dan Wilbourne (Doylestown/Central Bucks West)** 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 moved to 3-0 on the season (4-4 overall). ESU fell to 5-2 overall and 3-1 in the PSAC East.

WCU junior TB **Mike Eckmeyer (Glendora, NJ/Triton)** 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 shut out the Warriors in the second half, and WCU sophomore QB **Bob Findora (Downingtown/Coatesville)** found senior WR **Brian Bradley (Philadelphia/South Philadelphia)** 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.

Last season he kicked a 19-yarder in overtime to give the Golden Rams a 24-21 lead before the WCU defense forced a turnover on MU's possession. Then in the regular-season finale, Wilbourne missed a game-tying PAT in the third quarter vs. Clarion, but redeemed himself with just over 10 minutes left in the fourth with a 26-yarder that would prove to be the deciding score.

Eckmeyer now is tied for ninth in the single-season yardage department after pushing his 2002 total to 1130 yards and counting. He is the first Golden Ram to rush for over a 1000 yards since Thomas Fulton did it in 1997. Eckmeyer, who has been nominated for the Harlon Hill, has also surpassed the 2000-yard mark for his career, moving into 11th place all-time with 2156 yards.

Findora finished the game for WCU completing 15 of 33 pass attempts for 203 yards and the one score, while sophomore wideout **Cory DeForrest (Wycombe/Council Rock)** - 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 after it was ruled he stepped out of bounds before catching the ball.

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Bradley finished the game with three catches for 90 yards.

The WCU defense held Palm to just 18 of 42 completions 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.

Defensively, the Golden Rams stunted the ESU offense, especially in the second half when the Golden Rams shutout the Warriors.

Senior MLB and team captain **Brandon Neely (Willow Grove/Upper Moreland)** led WCU with five tackles, one assist and a 13-yard tackle for loss on a completed pass by ESU that helped change the field position and set up WCU's winning field goal.

Sophomore DE **Graham Eggleston (Mechanicsburg/Mechanicsburg)** had two assists in the game, but both went for losses. He had 1/2 sack for -2 yards and a one-yard TFL.

This Week's Opponent: Bloomsburg

Bloomsburg defeated Cheyney last week 37-12...in the PSAC, the Huskies are ranked 4th in scoring offense, 8th in scoring defense, 6th in passing offense, 10th in passing defense, 6th in total offense, 3rd in rushing defense and 5th in rushing offense...Mike Ceroli leads the Bloomsburg rushing attack (85.2 y/g)...Andrew Herrmann is 6th in the PSAC in passing (196.8 y/g)...Rocco Forgione is 3rd in the PSAC in receptions per game (5.8) and 2nd in yards per game (97.2).

The Last Meeting: September 29, 2001

BLOOMSBURG, PA - West Chester fell to Bloomsburg on Saturday, September 29, 2001, by the score of 27-14. The Golden Rams were led by current junior backup **George Caroulis (Upper Darby/Upper Darby)** who had one of his most productive games as a quarterback. Caroulis completed 17 of 23 passes for 215 yards and one touchdown - an 80-yarder to Bradley.

The Golden Rams were killed by turnovers however, coughing up the ball three times on fumbles while throwing one interception. WCU lost the ball on the first play from scrimmage that led to Bloomsburg's first score, while another fumble at the Husky four was returned 96 yards for a touchdown, putting Bloomsburg up 21-14.

Don DeFilipo recorded his second 100-yard game of the season and fourth of his career by rumbling 13 times for 109 yards and an 83-yard score. He fumbled the ball on the first play from scrimmage, but then made up for his miscue

by going the distance on his second touch of the game. It tied the score at 7-7.

Bradley finished the game with two catches for 91 yards, while current senior TE **Ryan Koch (Muncy/Muncy)** caught six for 54.

Defensively, the Golden Rams were outstanding. Brian Kersey led the Golden Rams with 11 total hits (9 tackles, 2 assists). He had two tackles for losses of nine yards, including a seven-yard sack.

Current junior free safety **Jim McCullough (Laurel Springs, NJ/Triton)** recovered a fumble to go along with his eight hits (5-3), while current junior CB **Calvin Braxton (Philadelphia/Central)** posted identical numbers with his eight hits (5-3) and a recovered fumble. Neely recorded five tackles and three assists.

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 27-10 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

Bloomsburg head coach Danny Hale (West Chester '68) is in his 10th season with the Huskies...he has amassed a 79-31-1 mark at Bloomsburg and a 119-44-1 career record...this is his 15th season as a head coach...Hale coached WCU from 1984-88 and produced a 40-13 record during his tenure...he was Rick Daniels' boss while serving as head coach of WCU...he led the Golden Rams to their first NCAA Division II Playoff appearance in 1988 against Jacksonville State University...Daniels took over in 1989 and promptly returned the Golden Rams to the NCAA Championships...WCU also made the NCAA's in 1992 and 1994....Rick Daniels is in his 14th year as the head coach of the Golden Rams...he is 85-61-1 all-time...Daniels is second on the all-time win list behind the legendary Dr. W. Glenn Killinger.

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WCU vs. Bloomsburg - The History

The Golden Rams defeated Bloomsburg in the Hale Era for the first time in 1998...until that season's 21-10 win, Hale had beaten his alma mater five straight times...the Golden Rams defeated Bloomsburg in both 1998 and 1999...the rivalry with Bloomsburg goes back to 1925 when WCU shut out the Huskies 13-0...the Golden Rams own a 41-16 margin over Bloomsburg in the all-time series...over the past 24 years the Golden Rams and Huskies are even at 12-12 - a testimony to the competitiveness of the series...WCU is playing at Bloomsburg for the second straight season... Bloomsburg has won the last two games.

Milestones & Honors

Eckmeyer has extended his consecutive 100-yard game streak record to 14 straight...he is now third all-time in career 100-yard games at WCU with 14...he needs three more to catch Jason Sims (17 from 1985-87)...he is now 11th all-time on the career rushing charts with 2156 yards...he is just the 12th Golden Ram to rush for over 2000 career yards...he needs 84 yards to catch current Shippensburg University head football coach and former WCU standout Rocky Rees for 10th all-time...Eckmeyer now is tied for ninth in the single-season yardage department after pushing his 2002 total to 1130 yards and counting...he is tied with Jim Lindsay (1994)...he 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 and needs just 332 yards during that span to break Joe Iacone's (1461 yards in 1962) 40-year-old single-season rushing record.

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 two 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 141.2 yards per game average...he is first in all-purpose yards as well (159.4) and in scoring (10.0 ppg.)...Findora is 3rd in passing yards per game (239.5), 3rd in total offense per game (232.0) and 3rd in pass efficiency (132.9 rating)...DeForrest is 4th in receptions per game (4.88) and 6th in receiving yards per game (72.2)...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...junior DE **Jake Walker (Doylestown/Central Bucks East)** is 3rd in the PSAC in sacks per game (0.83), while Eggleston is tied for 4th in TFL's (1.62) and tied for 6th in sacks (0.69).

NCAA II Individual Leaders

Eckmeyer is ranked 4th in the country in rushing, 8th in scoring and 13th in all-purpose yards.

Team PSAC Leaders

West Chester is 3rd in passing offense (244.1 y/g) and 5th in rushing offense (165.8 y/g)...WCU is 2nd in total offense (409.4 y/g)...WCU's 168 first downs ranks as the third best in the PSAC...WCU is 3rd in pass efficiency (132.8)...WCU is the least penalized team in the league...the Golden Rams are penalized an average of 42.5 yards per game...WCU is the best in the league at converting third downs (56 for 122 for a 45.9% rating)...WCU's defense is third-best in the PSAC at stopping teams in the red zone...opponents only score 64.3% of the time (18 for 28)...WCU's pass defense efficiency improved to 6th (110.5)...WCU leads the league in field goal percentage (3 for 4 - 75%).

NCAA II Team Leaders

West Chester is ranked 28th in total offense and 33rd in passing.

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 Robert B. Redman Stadium in Bloomsburg, PA, beginning at 1:15 p.m. EST.

Radio Broadcast

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

The Next Game

The Golden Rams will visit the Marauders of Millersville University on Saturday, November 2, at 1 p.m. in another crucial PSAC East contest.