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*Football Release 5 (New Haven Preview) - August 26, 2002*

## **Univ. of New Haven Chargers @ WCU Golden Rams**

***Thursday, August 29, 2002 - Kickoff 7 p.m. - John A. Farrell Stadium***

**WEST CHESTER, PA** - The West Chester University Golden Rams begin the 2002 season on Thursday night, August 29, in West Chester, PA, against the Chargers from the University of New Haven. Kickoff is slated for 7:00 p.m.

### ***What's up in 2002?***

The Golden Rams have another interesting and challenging schedule this season with six road games, five home dates and four night contests.

Three of the four games under the lights will take place during the first three games of the season. The Golden Rams host New Haven on Thursday night, then visit Glenville (WV) State on September 7 at 6 p.m.. It marks a bit of history for the Golden Rams who have never faced a West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference team. On September 21 the Golden Rams will visit Delaware for a 7 p.m. contest. The two teams did not square off last season following September 11.

WCU will jumpstart the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Eastern Division season at home vs. Kutztown on October 5. The game will be played under the lights of Farrell Stadium as the Golden Bears play homecoming foe for the second straight year.

WCU will host East Stroudsburg and Mansfield in PSAC East play, while road games feature WCU at Bloomsburg and Millersville for the second straight season. The Golden Rams will also take the short jaunt over to Cheyney on October 19.

The mandated PSAC West crossovers will feature Clarion on the road and Shippensburg at home.

### ***Shedding the Ghosts of September***

The Golden Rams are looking to exorcise some spirits that have haunted the team during the opening month of the season for the past six years.

WCU has not won its season opener since 1996 when the Golden Rams thumped Cheyney 62-0, and the Golden Rams

are 0-for-September since beating Shippensburg 36-21 on September 26, 1998. But don't be fooled. The Golden Ram schedule during that stretch has featured I-AA power Delaware twice, and perennial national powers UC-Davis, IUP, Bloomsburg and New Haven six times. In losing their last four openers, the Golden Rams have lost by a combined total of 23 points - or just under six points per game.

### ***Scouting the Chargers***

A perennial Division II Playoff contender, the Chargers finished 5-4 in 2001 after back-to-back .500 records in 1999 and 2000.

Last year the Chargers became something of a de facto member of the North Central Conference by taking the place of the departed Morningside (IA) on four of the teams' schedules. New Haven took on Northern Colorado, North Dakota, St. Cloud State and Minnesota State - Mankato, coming away with a win only over St. Cloud. The Chargers did produce one of the biggest shocks in college football last year by upsetting I-AA Villanova 17-14 out on the Main Line.

New Haven again will face a difficult docket in 2002 as the Chargers travel to IUP, Tiffin (OH), Western Washington and St. Cloud (MN). Carson-Newman, Central Washington and Northern Colorado will all visit New Haven. The Chargers will also face C.W. Post and UMass-Lowell at home.

Junior QB Rob D'Innocenzio will take the snaps for UNH, while Matt Marcks and Osric Bittle return as receivers.

### ***The Coaches***

David Patenaude (Central Connecticut State '90) earns his first college head coaching stint this season...he comes from Columbia...Rick Daniels begins his 14th year as the head coach of the Golden Rams...he is 81-57-1 (.586) all-time...Daniels is second on the all-time win list behind the legendary Dr. W. Glenn Killinger.

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## ***WCU vs. New Haven - The History***

Series record: New Haven leads 6-3-1...in 1990 New Haven arrived at John A. Farrell Stadium for what would become one of the most spectacular games played at WCU...the Chargers and Golden Rams combined to score 115 points, but New Haven ultimately rallied for a 58-57 win...QB Ed Brown (449 yards passing) and WR George Reid (17 catches) set WCU milestones in the contest...the Golden Rams have never beaten New Haven in West Chester (0-4-1)...1991 (58-57), 1992 (38-26 NCAA II Playoffs), 1995 (36-36, WCU's last tie), 1997 (32-26)...success has come on the road for the Golden Rams (3-2)...1991 (W 34-20, Scott Eberly tied rushing attempt record with 41), 1993 (L 45-33), 1996 (W 24-17), 1998 (W 33-27 in triple overtime).

### ***The Last Meeting***

The Golden Rams seemed to have D'Innocenzio sacked, but the shifty quarterback scrambled 50 yards for the game-winning touchdown early in the fourth quarter as New Haven won 32-28. The game was played at Robert B. Dodds Stadium on September 1, 2001.

Current junior backup QB **George Caroulis** (*Upper Darby/Upper Darby*) completed 15 of 40 passes for 259 yards. He hit current senior TE **Ryan Koch** (*Muncy/Muncy*) four times for 81 yards, and found present sophomore WR **Cory DeForrest** (*Wycombe/Council Rock*) with a brilliant 75-yard connection. Koch and Adrian Wilkerson each caught eight-yard TD passes, while Don DeFilipo burst into the end zone on a one-yard dive. Current sophomore kicker **Dan Wilbourne** (*Doylestown/Central Bucks East*) connected on two field goals of 22 yards each.

### ***The Last Meeting in West Chester***

The Golden Rams stifled the powerful New Haven offense, but the Chargers scored just once and held WCU scoreless in a 7-0 win at Farrell Stadium...the game was played on a Thursday night (August 31).

## ***Ramblings***

The Golden Rams need just six wins to reach 500 all-time...WCU is now the second winningest Division II program in the nation (.684) behind Texas A&M - Kingsville...the Golden Rams have finished first or second in the PSAC East in 30 of the 36 years they have competed in the league...seniors **Brandon Neeley** (*Willow Grove/Upper Moreland*) and **Jason Cserpnyak** (*Bethlehem/Southern Lehigh*) are the team captains in 2002...WCU was picked to finish fourth in the PSAC East in the league's preseason poll voted on by the head coaches.

### ***Internet Broadcast***

For the first time ever, 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: [wcupa.edu](http://wcupa.edu), then click on 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 the play-by-play and commentary for nearly all of the games this season.

### ***Radio Broadcast***

All seven day games will be broadcast on WCHE 1520 AM again this season...the games will be simulcast with the internet broadcast.

### ***The Next Game***

The Golden Rams will visit the WVIAC for the first time when they take on Glenville State on Saturday, September 7, at 6 p.m.