



ECAC Classic

News & Notes

Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Champion vs. Northeast Conference Champion • November 23, 2002

DUQUESNE CONTINUES TO ROLL

October 22, 2002

Duquesne Continues to Roll; Albany and Sacred Heart locked in tie for NEC Lead



MAAC NOTES

Canisius - The Griffis fell 44-14 at Albany in their first non-conference game of the year...James Bialasik led Canisius with six receptions for 100 yards...Bryan Butterworth caught his first touchdown pass of his career and led Canisius in rushing with two carries for 20 yards...Canisius is in the midst of a three-game road trip, playing at Fairfield...**Duquesne** - Top-ranked Duquesne scored 63 consecutive points in a 63-7 win over the St. John's...The victory upped the Dukes' league win streak to 20...Duquesne, ranked No. 1 in NCAA Division I-AA in total defense, forced seven Red Storm turnovers and held St. John's to 110 yards of total offense...Leigh Bodden led the defense with two interceptions and a 29-yard fumble return for a score...Niel Loebig was 9-of-20 for 217 yards and four scores...**Fairfield** - Fairfield fell to Siena 36-20...Mike Cerchio completed 24 of 49 passes for 219 yards and two touchdowns for Fairfield...Cerchio threw a seven-yard touchdown to Andrew Turf, and an 18-yard touchdown to Rishawd Watson while Maurice Stallings added a one-yard touchdown run for the Stags...**Iona** - Iona defeated La Salle, 30-23, in its annual homecoming game...Rob Terry rushed 25 times for 140 yards and two fourth quarter touchdowns while Tom Adams rushed 18 times for 88 yards and a score...Billy Brieden was 7-for-14 for 177 yards and a touchdown and an interception...Frank Meade, Mike Ferranti, and John Dugan each registered six tackles while Jesse Oriol made five stops, including two sacks...**La Salle** - La Salle lost its third straight game 30-23 against Iona...Kevin McCarron led the team with 8.5 tackles, including 1.5 sacks, while Vernard Abrams had his first interception of the season...**Marist** - The Red Foxes fell 36-24 to Saint Peter's...Kevin Bielen threw a career-best three touchdown passes...Jason Hooper had four catches for 59 yards and two for touchdowns...while Eric Bost caught three passes, one for a touchdown, for a game-high 66 yards...Alfredo Riullano had 96 yards rushing, and two receptions for 61 yards...**St. John's** - St. John's fell to Duquesne 63-7...Matt Millheiser was 9-16 for 109 yards in the first half... Chinedu "Chi Chi" Momah led the Red Storm defense with 10 tackles and Dimitri Facaros had nine tackles... Mike DeVore also added to his team leading interception total by picking off his sixth pass of the season...**Saint Peter's** - Saint Peter's earned a 36-24 victory over Marist...James Galea kicked a school-record 45-yard field goal with 15 seconds left in the first half...Head coach Rob Stern achieved his 20th victory as head coach, tying the school record set by the late Joe Coviello...Matthew Ward posted 229 all-purpose yards while Derek Clayton had 19 carries for 93 yards and caught a pass for 41 yards...**Siena** - Christian Karolus threw three touchdown passes and added a fourth rushing touchdown as Siena defeated Fairfield, 36-20...The victory marked the most points Siena had scored in head coach Jay Bateman's three years at the school...Karolus completed 7-of-18 passes for 98 yards and three touchdowns and added 67 yards on 11 carries and one touchdown rushing...Siena rushed for 249 yards and finished the game with a season-high 347 yards in total offense.



NEC HAPPENINGS

Albany - Albany scored on its first five possessions in a 44-14 win over Canisius...Ryan Roeder was 9-12 for 119 yards and two touchdowns and scored on an eight-yard run...Albany snapped a three-game non-conference losing streak...Albany totaled 547 total yards, including a season-best 392 yards rushing...Gary Jones ran 12 times for 101 yards and two scores...Albany's defense held Canisius to a season-low 30 rushing yards...**CCSU** - For the first time since 1989, CCSU has won four straight with their 10-9 win at Monmouth...CCSU hasn't had a .500 record this late in the season since 1997...Major Cole rushed 27 times for a game-high 93 yards and the Blue Devils' lone touchdown... Donnie Rose didn't make an official tackle but he picked off two passes to halt Monmouth drives...CCSU has not won five straight games since the last five games of the 1973 season...**Monmouth** - The Hawks fell 10-9 at the hands of CCSU...Ryan Peterson set a school record with a 69-yard punt and had a 60-yard punt to become the first player in school history with two punts of 60 yards or more in a game...The offense has used trick plays to score including a 51-yard run by Mike DiBella off a fake punt and a 55-yard wide receiver double pass from Dennis Carriero to Billy Worfolk...Sentipal totaled a team-high 13 stops (three solo)...**Robert Morris** - Robert Morris was idle last week...The Colonials look to end a two-game losing streak when they visit Division II Gannon...Two weeks ago, the Colonials were shutout for the second straight game, dropping a 29-0 decision at Wagner to mark the first two shutouts in Robert Morris' nine-year history...**Sacred Heart** - Sacred Heart fell into a second place tie after its 24-14 loss to Stony Brook...Sacred Heart outgained Stony Brook, 336-204, but had two turnovers that led to ten Seawolves' points...Mike Kraft's 296 punting yards made him the career leader at SHU with 8,195 yards...Kayode Mayowa's 13 tackles put him over 400 for his career...Marlon Ward caught his fifth touchdown pass of the season, making him the only Pioneer receiver other than current Dallas Cowboy DeVeren Johnson to catch that many scoring passes in a year...**St. Francis (PA)** - The Red Flash fell 7-0 to Wagner in the lowest scoring game in NEC history...St. Francis has now dropped 29 straight games dating back to 1999...Derek Border was 10-19 for 96 yards with one interception while Michael Hall had 30 carries for 74 yards...Daunte Neal posted a game-high 12 tackles (eight solo)...**Stony Brook** - Stony Brook beat Sacred Heart 24-14, defeating the Pioneers for the first time since 1999...A win over Siena would guarantee Stony Brook its first .500 or better season since 1999...Chad King had a 61-yard punt return and a 90-yard interception return for a touchdown...Londre Blocker caught two touchdown passes in the first quarter and finished with a season-high six catches for 133 yards...Aden Smith had 12 tackles for his sixth double-digit tackle effort this season...**Wagner** - Wagner posted its second straight shutout with a 7-0 win over St. Francis (PA)...The three shutouts tied the single-season record in Walt Hameline's 22-year tenure...Wagner held St. Francis to 134 total yards, including 38 rushing and has allowed only 41 rushing yards in its last two games...Jeremy Balina had ten tackles (two for loss) and an interception...George Scott scored the game's lone touchdown on Wagner's first drive on the game

2002 ECAC CLASSIC NEWS AND NOTES



METRO ATLANTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Standings Through October 21

Team	MAAC		Overall		Streak
	W	L	W	L	
1. Duquesne	4	0	7	0	W7
2. Saint Peter's	4	1	5	3	W1
3. Iona	3	2	4	3	W1
Marist	3	2	5	2	L1
5. Fairfield	2	2	2	5	L1
6. Siena	2	4	2	4	W1
Canisius	2	4	2	5	L1
8. St. John's	1	3	1	5	L5
9. LaSalle	1	4	1	6	L3

Last Week

October 19

Albany 44, Canisius 14
Siena 36, Fairfield 20*
Iona 30, LaSalle 23*
Duquesne 63, St. John's 7*
Saint Peter's 36, Marist 24*

Coming Up

October 26

Canisius at Fairfield*
Duquesne at LaSalle*
Saint Peter's at St. John's *
Stony Brook at Siena
Iona at Marist*

*- MAAC Contest

MAAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Rob Terry - Iona

Senior - Running Back - South Salem, N.Y.

Terry rushed for 140 yards on 25 carries and scored two touchdowns in Iona's win over LaSalle. He scored on a four-yard run to give the Gaels the lead for good in the fourth quarter. He also scored on a two-yard run and caught one pass for 16 yards.

DEFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Dan Smacchia, Siena

Junior - Linebacker - Thornwood, N.Y.

Smacchia recorded 10 tackles, including three from behind the line of scrimmage, and forced a fumble in Siena's win over Fairfield. He also had one pass defended and half a quarterback sack. Smacchia has tallied 75 tackles, 39 solo, so far this season.

ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

Matthew Ward, Saint Peter's

Freshman - Fullback - Spring Valley, N.Y.

Ward had 103 yards on 15 carries with two touchdowns to lead all rushers in Saint Peter's victory over Marist. His touchdowns came on runs of 19 and 44 yards. Ward also returned three kickoffs for 126 yards to give him 229 all-purpose yards for the day.



NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

Standings Through October 14

Team	NEC		Overall		Streak
	W	L	W	L	
1. Wagner	3	1	5	2	W2
Albany	3	1	4	3	W1
3. Stony Brook	3	2	4	2	W1
Sacred Heart	3	2	3	3	L1
5. Central Connecticut	2	2	4	4	W4
Robert Morris	2	2	3	3	L2
7. Monmouth	1	3	1	5	L1
8. St. Francis (Pa.)	0	4	0	6	L6

Last Week

October 19

Albany 44, Canisius 14
CCSU 10, Monmouth 9
Wagner 7, St. Francis (Pa.) 0*
Stony Brook 24, Sacred Heart 14*

Coming Up

October 26

St. Francis (Pa.) at Albany*
CCSU at Sacred Heart*
Monmouth at Wagner*
Robert Morris at Gannon
Stony Brook at Siena
*- NEC Contest

NEC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Londre Blocker, Stony Brook

Junior - Wide Receiver - Manhasset, N.Y.

Blocker caught two touchdown passes (15 and 67 yards) in the first quarter in Stony Brook's win over Sacred Heart. He had six catches for 133 yards and also rushed the ball twice for 13 yards. Despite being hampered by an ankle injury, Blocker leads the team with three receiving touchdowns and ranks second in receptions.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Donnie Rose, Central Connecticut State

Sophomore - Defensive Back - Hartford, Conn.

Rose helped lead CCSU to a win over Monmouth without making an official tackle. Rose had two interceptions to halt Monmouth drives, including a pivotal pick late in the fourth quarter that preserved the win. He also broke up three passes on the day.

ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

Eddie Unverzagt, Albany

Freshman - Fullback - Middletown, N.Y.

Unverzagt rushed for a career-high 95 yards in Albany's win over Canisius. He had seven carries and set up the Great Danes' final touchdown with a 49-yard run. Unverzagt also had two receptions for 24 yards and accounted for 119 all-purpose yards.

SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Mike Kien, Central Connecticut State

Senior - Punter - Penfield, N.Y.

Kein not only averaged 37.0 yards on seven punts, with two inside the 20-yard line, but he also set up the Blue Devils' go-ahead scored on a fake punt in the third quarter. Kein faked the punt and ran 18 yards for a first down. The Blue Devils scored two plays later to take the lead.

2002 ECAC CLASSIC NEWS AND NOTES

THE ECAC Classic

The ECAC Classic, resurrected in 2001 by the Eastern College Athletic Conference, matches the regular-season football champions from the Northeast Conference and Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. The site will rotate annually between the two conferences with the NEC Champion serving as host this year. The ECAC Bowl Game was conducted from 1993 to 1997 as the season-ending game for the now defunct Intercollegiate Football Conference, which was comprised of many of the MAAC and NEC members.

ECAC Bowl Results

1993 Wagner 32, Iona 0
1994 St. John's 34, Wagner 14
1995 Duquesne 44, Wagner 30
1996 Robert Morris 28, Duquesne 26
1997 Robert Morris 35, Georgetown 13
2002 Sacred Heart 31, Duquesne 15

The Sports Network I-AA Mid-Major Top 10 Poll

Team (First-place votes)

1. Duquesne (30)	7-0
2. Dayton	6-1
3. Morehead State	7-1
4. Saint Peter's	5-3
5. Wagner	5-2
6. Marist	5-2
7. Albany	4-3
8. Drake	5-3
9. Austin Peay	5-3
10. Stony Brook	4-2

Dropped Out: No. 6 Sacred Heart

Others receiving votes: Sacred Heart,
Davidson, San Diego

Head to Head Competition

Through the first half of the season, the Northeast Conference holds a 5-3 advantage over the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference in the head-to-head meetings between the two leagues.

NEC

Sept. 7 Wagner 42, LaSalle 7
Sept. 14 Wagner 44, Iona 0
Sept. 14 Stony Brook 34, St. John's 0
Sept. 28 Central Connecticut State 16, St. John's 8
Oct. 19 Albany 44, Canisius 14

MAAC

Sept. 7 Marist 38, Sacred Heart 27
Sept. 14 Saint Peter's 24, St. Francis (Pa.) 19
Sept. 28 Marist 31, Wagner 16

Remaining Meetings

Oct. 26 Stony Brook at Siena
Nov. 2 St. Francis (Pa.) at LaSalle
Nov. 9 Siena at Sacred Heart
Nov. 16 Canisius at Stony Brook
Nov. 16 Iona at Sacred Heart

League Races

With four weeks remaining in the league schedule, Albany remains in control of its own destiny as the Great Danes look to secure their first conference title and a berth in the ECAC Football Classic. Although Albany and Wagner are tied for the league lead with 3-1 records, Albany had the inside track to represent the league against the MAAC champion on November 23.

If the two teams remain tied, Albany advances to the post season by virtue of its 35-14 win over Wagner on October 5. Stony Brook and Sacred Heart are a half a game behind the leaders. Stony Brook is the only team to defeat Albany on the season and Albany defeated Sacred Heart.

Duquesne remains undefeated on the season with a 4-0 conference mark. Saint Peter's is close behind with a 4-1 record with its lone league loss came at the hands of Duquesne. The Dukes have four league games remaining



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