



# POST-SEASON *history*

## 1949 SMOKY MOUNTAIN BOWL

November 24, 1949

West Liberty 20

Western Carolina 0

BRISTOL, Tenn. — West Liberty's defense put the turkey on the table in the school's first post-season game, pitching a 20-0 shutout against Western Carolina before a rain-soaked Thanksgiving Day crowd in the inaugural Smoky Mountain Bowl.

Coach Joe Bartell's unbeaten squad overwhelmed the Catamounts from the start as Western Carolina's return man slipped and fell at his own 1 while trying to bring Gene Deprosperis's opening kickoff out of the end zone.

A short punt set West Liberty up at the Catamount 27. Five snaps later, Bill Young – the Hilltoppers' Little All-America back – slashed into the end zone for a 6-0 West Liberty lead.

That proved to be all the offense the Hilltoppers needed as Western Carolina never got inside the WLSC 30. The Catamounts were held to 32 rushing yards and were kept bottled up all day by West Liberty punter Earl Schaub, who averaged a booming 47 yards per kick on his five punts.

The Hilltopper defense gave its offense a short field to work with on the other two touchdown drives, as well.

In the second quarter, Don McGhee intercepted a Western Carolina pass and ran it back to the Catamount 38. Jerry Mosso capped a 7-play scoring surge with a 1-yard dive and Young tacked on the PAT with a pass to Wilbur Staley on a fake kick to give West Liberty a 13-0 halftime lead.

A fumble recovery by Moe Mirides at the Western Carolina 28 set up the game's final score midway through the third quarter. Coach Bartell dug deep into his bag of tricks as Jack Saunders sprinted untouched into the end zone on a 16-yard run off a "Statue-of-Liberty" handoff from Young.

Despite the sloppy conditions, the Hilltoppers rolled up more than 200 rushing yards and Young was voted "Back of the Game" by the local media.

West Liberty 20, Western Carolina 0

Western Carolina 0 0 0 0 – 0

West Liberty 6 7 7 0 – 20

WL: Bill Young 3 run (kick failed)

WL: Jerry Mosso 1 run (Wilbur Staley pass from Bill Young)

WL: Jack Saunders 16 run (Gene Deprosperis kick)

## 1950 PYTHIAN BOWL

December 9, 1950

West Liberty 28

Appalachian State (N.C.) 26

SALISBURY, N.C. — Pete Tuccio slammed into the end zone from a yard out with just 55 seconds remaining to cap West Liberty's 28-26 come-from-behind victory against Appalachian State in the 1950 Pythian Bowl before 4,500 fans at Shuford Stadium on the campus of Catawba College.

The Mountain Staters rallied from a two-touchdown deficit in the final 8 minutes to post their 19<sup>th</sup> straight win.

Appalachian State took a 26-14 lead on Jack Groce's 11-yard fourth-quarter touchdown run but West Liberty answered with a 77-yard scoring drive – capped by a 3-yard Tuccio touchdown burst – to pull within range at 26-21.

The WLSC defense forced a punt, and West Liberty took over at its own 29. Tuccio quickly went to the air, nailing Frank Gerard with a 38-yard bullet to move into Appalachian State territory.

Back-to-back penalties pushed West Liberty back to its own side of midfield but the stadium erupted when Tuccio found Wilbur Staley on a 55-yard bomb inside the Appalachian State 5 to set up the game-winning score.

Appalachian State grabbed a quick 13-0 lead but West Liberty – which got a total of 250 rushing yards from workhorse backs Henry Healy, Jack Donovan and Tuccio – answered with a 1-yard touchdown dive from Healy.

Following a scoreless second quarter, the teams traded scores in the third stanza to set up the thrilling finish.

Tuccio set a West Virginia Conference record with 296 yards of total offense, completing 7-of-8 passes for 221 yards and rushing for another 75 yards.

West Liberty 28, Appalachian State 26

West Liberty 7 0 7 14 – 28

Appalachian State 13 0 7 6 – 26

App: Dan Felton 60 pass from Al Hooks (Cross kick)

App: Gabriel 1 run (kick failed)

WL: Healy 1 run (Bartell kick)

WL: Tuccio 13 run (Bartell kick)

App: Groce 25 run (Cross kick)

App: Groce 11 run (kick failed)

WL: Tuccio 3 run (Bartell kick)

WL: Tuccio 1 run (Bartell kick)

A: 4,500

### Game Statistics

**First downs:** West Liberty 18, App. State 14

**Rushing yards:** West Liberty 250, App. State 135

**Passing yards:** West Liberty 221, App. State 157

**Total yards:** West Liberty 471, App. State 292

## NAIA NATIONAL SEMIFINAL

November 26, 1970

No. 1 Wofford 12

No. 6 West Liberty 6

GREENVILLE, S.C. — No. 1 Wofford, behind the running of Bobby Jordan and the defensive play of safety Dean Lemler, pounded out a 12-6 victory over No. 6 West Liberty in an NAIA national semifinal at Furman University's Sistine Stadium.

Jordan ran for 137 yards on 19 carries and scored both Wofford touchdowns while Lemler turned in a pair of drive-killing interceptions.

Lemler almost single-handedly kept West Liberty off the scoreboard in the first half, ending the Hilltoppers' first drive with an interception at the Wofford 31 and snuffing out another scoring threat with an end zone pick.

Jordan provided the only scoring in the first two quarters, bolting 61 yards over right tackle for a touchdown at 8:31 of the first quarter. The PAT sailed wide right and the Terriers nursed the 6-0 lead for the rest of the half.

The Hilltoppers hit the board in the third quarter when Lou Piccone capped a 73-yard, 14-play march with a 4-yard TD run over the right side. The PAT was blocked, keeping the game tied at 6-6.

Wofford answered with a 74-yard, 9-play scoring drive. Jordan's 6-yard TD run in the final minute of the third quarter put the Terriers ahead to stay.

West Liberty drove deep into Wofford territory in the game's final



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minute only to see the Terriers' Ronnie Wilson make a diving interception at his own 24 to preserve the victory with just 45 seconds to play.

Piccone, who would lead the NFL in kickoff returns a few years later as a member of the New York Jets, ran for 102 yards on 19 carries.

## Wofford (S.C.) 12, West Liberty 6

West Liberty 0 0 6 0 - 6  
Wofford 6 0 6 0 - 12

W: Bobby Jordan 61 run (kick failed)

WL: Lou Piccone 4 run (kick blocked)

W: Bobby Jordan 4 run (run failed)

A: 8,600

### Game Statistics

	Woff	WL
1st downs	14	17
Yds rushing	250	209
Yds passing	74	78
Passing	7-15-1	8-18-3
Punting	6-34-1	5-28-4
Penalties	3-42	6-53
Fumbles-lost	2	2

## NAIA NATIONAL SEMIFINAL

November 26, 1971

No. 1 Livingston (Ala.) 25

No. 5 West Liberty 2

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio - No. 1-ranked Livingston (Ala.) used a stifling defense and opportunistic offense to knock off No. 5 West Liberty, 25-2, in an NAIA national semifinal at Harding Stadium.

West Liberty struck first with a safety on Livingston's opening possession when a bad snap on a Tiger punt sailed out of the end zone but that proved to be the high-water mark for the hosts.

While the defense held Livingston scoreless throughout the first half, the WLSC offense had just one first down all night and never threatened again.

The Tigers returned the second half kickoff across midfield, setting up a short TD toss from Clemit Spruiell to Tommy Cartwright. Spruiell then found Leo Wright for a 36-yard touchdown to make it 12-2.

Coached by the legendary Mickey Andrews - who would go on to greater glory as Bobby Bowden's long-time defensive coordinator at Florida State - Livingston switched to a wishbone attack in the fourth quarter and Larry

Lightfoot padded the final margin with a pair of short touchdown runs.

Hilltopper quarterbacks completed just 4-of-20 passes for 20 yards and threw 3 interceptions. With sack yardage subtracted from West Liberty's rushing total, the Hilltoppers finished the game with just 9 net rushing yards.

Spruiell completed 10-of-17 passes for 136 yards while Lightfoot ran for 81 yards on 18 carries to lead Livingston, which now competes in NCAA Division II as the University of West Alabama.

## Livingston (Ala.) 25, West Liberty 2

Livingston (Ala.) 0 0 12 13 - 25

West Liberty 2 0 0 0 - 2

WL: Safety, punt snapped out of end zone

Liv: Tommy Cartwright 1 pass from Clemit

Spruiell (kick failed)

Liv: Leo Wright 36 pass from Clemit Spruiell (run failed)

Liv: Larry Lightfoot 7 run (pass failed)

Liv: Larry Lightfoot 6 run (Green kick)

### GAME STATISTICS

	Liv	WL
First downs	14	1
Yards Rushing	161	9
Yards Passing	148	20
Total Offense	309	29
Passing	12-21-0	4-20-3
Punts	6-36.3	9-34.9
Fumbles-lost	3	0
Penalty yards	125	0

## NCAA DIVISION II REGIONAL SEMIFINAL

November 21, 2009

Edinboro (Pa.) 63

No. 9 West Liberty 84

WEST LIBERTY - Zach Amedro passed for a school-record 540 yards and 6 touchdowns while Kevon Calhoun scored 6 touchdowns and topped the 100-yard mark in rushing and receiving as the Hilltoppers routed Edinboro (Pa.), 84-63, in an NCAA Division II regional semifinal.

The overflow crowd had barely settled into their seats at Russek Field before Kashif Walls raced 80 yards to paydirt with the opening kickoff and West Liberty had a 7-0 lead.

The Fighting Scots answered with a 21-yard scoring toss from Trevor Harris to David Bostic but the Hilltoppers scored touchdowns on their

next nine possessions to put the game out of reach in the third quarter.

Amedro went over the 400-yard passing mark in the first half as West Liberty rolled to a 56-21 lead at intermission but the Hilltoppers were far from finished.

Edinboro tried to stop the bleeding when Gary Nolen returned the second half kickoff 88 yards for a touchdown, cutting the gap to 56-28, but Amedro's fifth and sixth TD tosses of the day - 11 yards to Willie Walker and a 4-yard flip to Walls - put the game on ice with an eye-popping 70-28 lead midway through the third quarter.

Amedro completed 27-of-32 passes for 540 yards and 6 TDs. He blew past the 10,000-yard passing mark for his career and shattered the WVIAC single-season record for passing yards (4,580) and TD passes (47).

Calhoun carried 18 times for 173 yards and 4 TDs and was one of West Liberty's four 100-yard receivers with 3 catches for 116 yards and 2 more scores. His 6 touchdowns were also No. 2 on the NCAA single-game playoff list.

Walls had 6 catches for 137 yards and 2 touchdowns while Eddie Hills caught 5 passes for 116 yards and a score. Ryan Travis added 110 receiving yards on 8 receptions.

Edinboro's Harris set NCAA Division II playoff records by completing 50-of-76 passes for 630 yards.

## West Liberty 84, Edinboro 63

Edinboro 7 14 28 14 - 63

West Liberty 28 28 21 7 - 84

WL-Walls 80 kickoff return (Blewett kick)

Ed-Bostic 21 pass from Harris (Romanias kick)

WL-Amedro 13 run (Blewett kick)

WL-Walls 46 pass from Amedro (Blewett kick)

WL-Calhoun 1 run (Blewett kick)

WL-Calhoun 85 pass from Amedro (Blewett kick)

Ed-Brown 4 pass from Harris (Romanias kick)

WL-Calhoun 13 pass from Amedro (Blewett kick)

Ed-Bostic 2 run (Romanias kick)

WL-Hills 33 pass from Amedro (Blewett kick)

WL-Calhoun 1 run (Blewett kick)

Ed-Nolen 88 kickoff return (Romanias kick)

WL-Walker 11 pass from Amedro (Blewett kick)

WL-Walls 4 pass from Amedro (Blewett kick)

Ed-Marino 33 pass from Harris (Romanias kick)

Ed-Harris 2 run (Romanias kick)

WL-Calhoun 20 run (Blewett kick)

Ed-Jeter 9 pass from Harris (Romanias kick)



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Ed-Johnson 6 pass from Harris (Romanias kick)  
WL-Calhoun 12 run (Blewett kick)  
Ed-Harris 1 run (Romanias kick)

### Game Statistics

**RUSHING:** Edinboro 26-50, Bostic 6-30, Harris 17-17, Battles 2-3, Nolen 1-0. West Liberty 31-174, Calhoun 18-173, Hills 3-9, Burress 4-3, Travis 1-2, Amedro 5-(-13).

**PASSING:** Edinboro 50-76-630-5td-1x (all by Harris). West Liberty 27-32-540-6td-0x (all by Amedro).

**RECEIVING:** Edinboro 50-630, Nolen 11-136, Johnson 11-126, Bostic 6-72, Brown 6-43, Marino 5-95, Jeter 5-83, DePaolo 5-64, Walker 1-11. West Liberty 27-540, Walls 6-137, Hills 5-116, Calhoun 3-116, Travis 8-110, Walker 5-61.

**First downs:** Edinboro 40, West Liberty 30

**Fumbles:** Edinboro 0-0, West Liberty 2-2

**Penalties:** Edinboro 12-109, West Liberty 9-101

**Time of Possession:** Edinboro 33:04, West Liberty 26:56  
A-4,131

## NCAA DIVISION II REGIONAL FINAL

**November 28, 2009**

**No. 22 California (Pa.) 57**

**No. 9 West Liberty 35**

WEST LIBERTY – A nightmarish second quarter proved too much for the nation’s No. 1 offense to overcome as playoff-tested California (Pa.) handed West Liberty a 57-35 loss in the NCAA Division II Super Region One championship game at Russek Field.

The Vulcans held the ball for more than 11 minutes during the second quarter, outscoring the Hilltoppers by a 23-0 margin over that span to take a 36-7 lead at intermission.

California opened the second half with a 55-yard TD from Josh Portis to Terrance Moore and WLU found itself on the short end of a 43-7 tally.

Kevon Calhoun answered for the Hilltoppers with a 3-yard touchdown run and West Liberty cut the lead to 43-21 at 2:26 of the third quarter when Jeremy Presley blocked a California punt and Derrick Evans recovered in the end zone.

But the Vulcans put the game away with a pair of fourth-quarter scoring drives. Playing with an injured throwing shoulder, Zach Amedro fired touchdown passes of 40 and 57 yards to Willie Walker in the final 15 minutes but it was too little, too late.

Amedro put the wraps on an historic junior season by completing 29-of-45 passes for 365 yards and 2 TDs. It was his 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive 300-yard game in passing and total offense – both NCAA Division II records. His 4,945 passing yards were the second-highest season total in NCAA Division II history.

Calhoun ran for 81 yards and 2 TDs on 13 carries while adding 74 receiving yards on 4 catches. His season totals of 1,529 rushing yards, 26 TDs, 22 rushing TDs and 156 points were all West Liberty records.

Ryan Travis had 14 receptions for 85 yards to go over 100 catches for the year while Walker had his second career 100-yard receiving game with 3 catches for 113 yards.

**California (Pa.) 57, West Liberty 35**

<b>California (Pa.)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>– 57</b>
<b>West Liberty</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>– 35</b>

Cal-Moore 17 pass from Portis (Domonkos kick)  
WL-Calhoun 2 run (Blewett kick)  
Cal-Brown 40 run (run failed)  
Cal-Jackson 26 pass from Portis (run failed)  
Cal-FG Domonkos 31  
Cal-Williamson 22 pass from Portis (Domonkos kick)  
Cal-Jackson 2 pass from Portis (Domonkos kick)  
Cal-Moore 55 pass from Portis (Domonkos kick)  
WL-Calhoun 3 run (Blewett kick)  
WL-Evans recovered blocked punt in end zone (Blewett kick)  
Cal-Bacco 7 run (Domonkos kick)  
WL-Walker 57 pass from Amedro (Blewett kick)  
Cal-Bacco 6 run (Domonkos kick)  
WL-Walker 40 pass from Amedro (Blewett kick)  
A-4,137

### Game Statistics

**RUSHING:** California 42-283, Bacco 17-173, Brown 13-74, Portis 8-26, Johnson 2-6, Anderson 2-4. West Liberty 20-89, Calhoun 13-81, Burress 1-13, Hills 1-8, Travis 2-(-1), Amedro 3-(-12).

**PASSING:** California 18-33-318-5td-1x (all by Portis). West Liberty 29-46-365-2td-3x (Amedro 29-45-365-2td-3x, Kiedaisch 0-1-0-0-0).

**RECEIVING:** California 18-318, Moore 5-158, Jackson 5-67, Williamson 4-47, Cherry 3-38, Brown 1-8. West Liberty 29-365, Walker 3-113, Travis 14-85, Calhoun 4-74, Hills 5-63, Lee 1-19, Walls 1-8, Burress 1-3.

**First downs:** California 25, West Liberty 22

**Fumbles:** California 0-0, West Liberty 0-0

**Penalties:** California 3-38, West Liberty 7-76

**Time of Possession:** California 32:29, West Liberty 27:25