

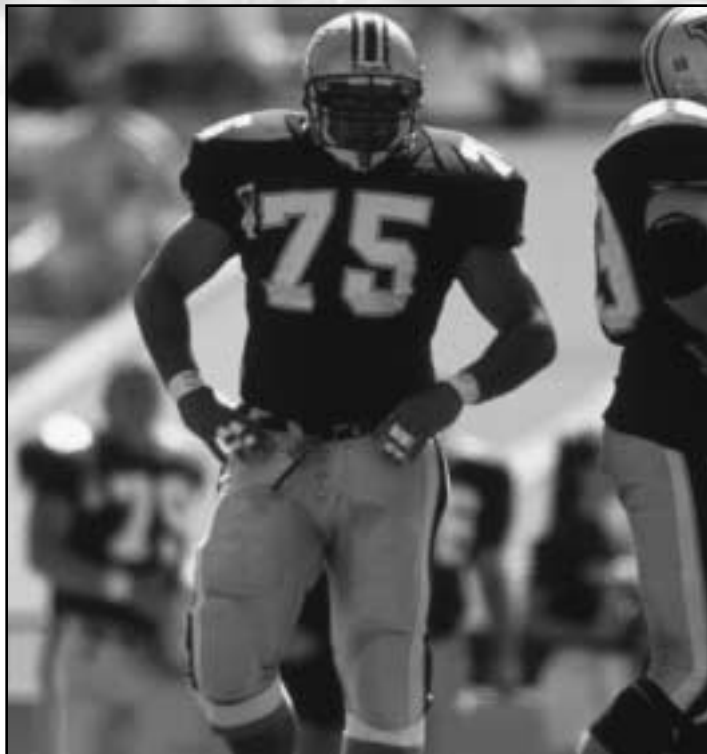
VILLANOVA FOOTBALL

PAGE 82 • YANKEE CONFERENCE HISTORY

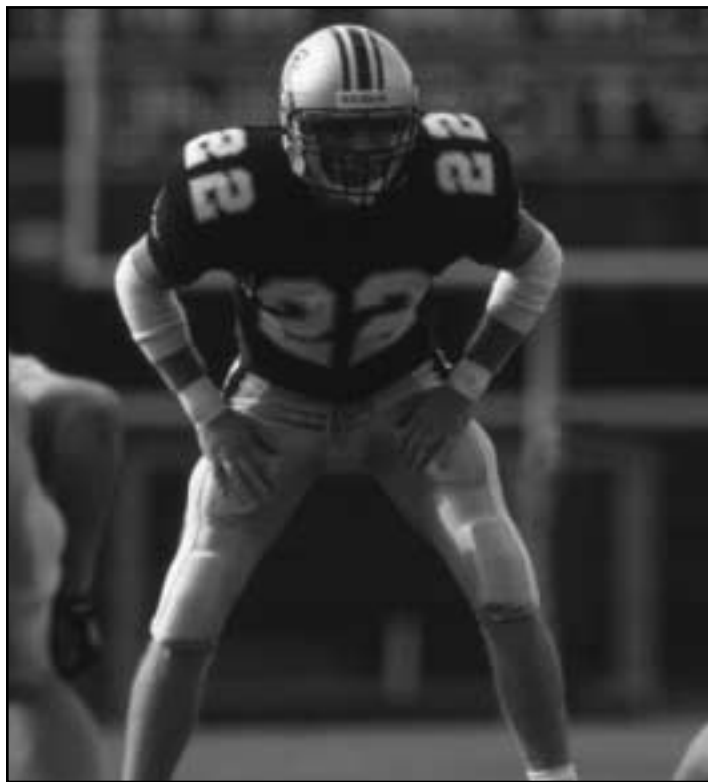
By moving to the Atlantic 10 Conference for the 1997 season, Villanova University's nine-year membership of the Yankee Conference and the conference's 50-year football legacy came to a close. Under the direction of head coach Andy Talley, Villanova compiled a lifetime mark of 38-31 in Yankee Conference contests. During their Yankee Conference history, the Wildcats shared the league championship twice, 1991 and 1989, finished second on three occasions, in 1996, 1992 and 1990, and third once in 1988.

The addition of three college football programs in 1993 (James Madison, Northeastern and William and Mary) made the Yankee Conference the largest NCAA Division I-AA conference, with 12 total members. Each one of the 12 schools competed for the conference title, playing an eight-game league slate. For scheduling purposes only, the league was divided into a New England Division (Boston University, University of Connecticut, University of Maine, University of Massachusetts, University of New Hampshire and the University of Rhode Island), and a Mid-Atlantic Division (University of Delaware, James Madison University, Northeastern University, University of Richmond, VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY and the College of William and Mary). Also, each individual school had to play each team in its own division, as well as three teams from the other division each year for a total of eight league contests.

The Yankee Conference originally developed from the New England College Conference of Intercollegiate Athletics. When Northeastern University offered its resignation from that group, the Land Grant institutions appointed a committee to form a new league. On December 8, 1945, that committee recommended an athletic conference formed by the six New



Jose Ramirez started at guard for the 1992 Wildcat squad that represented the Yankee Conference in the I-AA playoffs.



Matt Smith helped Villanova to a 6-2 Yankee Conference mark in 1992 from his strong safety position where he finished fourth on the team in tackles with 70.

England Land Grant colleges, namely; the University of Connecticut, University of Maine, Massachusetts State College (now the University of Massachusetts), Rhode Island State College (now the University of Rhode Island), the University of New Hampshire and the University of Vermont.

On August 24, 1946, representatives from the schools met. A preamble and code of the Yankee Conference were adopted, and became effective on December 3, 1946. The first league championships were conducted in the 1947-48 season.

In 1978, with the creation by the NCAA of Division I-AA Football, the Yankee Conference disbanded in all sports with the exception of football. Vermont, which had dropped football in 1974, dropped out of the league. As a result, the Yankee Conference, after already adding Boston University in 1973, was six members strong.

In 1984, the University of Delaware and University of Richmond joined the league, and became eligible for the league title in 1986, while the Villanova University Wildcats came on board in 1985. They became eligible for the league title in 1988.

The Yankee Conference was one of the original conferences to receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs in 1978. Since the birth of NCAA Division I-AA, Boston University went to the playoffs five times (1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1994); Rhode Island three times (1981, 1984, 1985); Massachusetts three times (1978, 1988, 1990); Delaware six times (1986, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996); Villanova four times (1989, 1991, 1992, 1996); Maine twice (1987, 1989); New Hampshire twice (1991, 1994); James Madison twice (1994, 1995), William & Mary twice (1993-1996) and Richmond (1987) once.

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PAST YANKEE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS • PAGE 83

1996	William & Mary	1980	Boston University	1960	Connecticut
1995	Rhode Island, Delaware	1979	Massachusetts	1960	Connecticut
1994	James Madison, New Hampshire	1978	Massachusetts	1959	Connecticut
1993	Boston University, William & Mary	1977	Massachusetts	1958	Connecticut, New Hampshire
1992	Delaware	1976	New Hampshire	1957	Connecticut, Rhode Island
1991	VILLANOVA , Delaware	1975	New Hampshire	1956	Connecticut
1989	VILLANOVA , Connecticut, Maine	1974	Maine, Massachusetts	1955	Rhode Island
1988	Delaware, Massachusetts	1973	Connecticut	1954	New Hampshire
1987	Richmond, Maine	1972	Massachusetts	1953	New Hampshire, Rhode Island
1986	Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts	1971	Connecticut, Massachusetts	1952	Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire
1985	Rhode Island	1970	Connecticut	1951	Maine
1984	Rhode Island, Boston Univ.	1969	Massachusetts	1950	New Hampshire
1983	Boston Univ., Connecticut	1968	Connecticut, New Hampshire	1949	Connecticut, Maine
1982	Massachusetts, Boston Univ.	1967	Massachusetts	1948	New Hampshire
1981	Rhode Island, Massachusetts	1966	Massachusetts	1947	New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine
		1965	Maine		
		1964	Massachusetts		
		1963	Massachusetts		
		1962	New Hampshire		
		1961	Massachusetts		
		1960	Connecticut		



Jeff Johnson finished second on the team in rushing during the 1992 season with 679 yards on 137 carries for an average of 5.0 yards per rush.



Villanova captured two Yankee Conference Championships during its nine-year membership in the league.

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PAGE 84 • 50TH ANNIVERSARY TEAM

The Yankee Conference 50th Anniversary All-Time Team was selected by a vote of current and former directors of athletics, head coaches, sports information directors and members of the media.

OFFENSE

QB - Greg Landry (UMass, 65-67)
 RB - Rene Ingoglia (UMass, 92-95)
 RB - Paul Lewis (Boston U., 81-84)
 WR - Bill Brooks (Boston U., 82-85)
 WR - Mark Didio (UConn, 88-91)
 TE - Brian Forster (URI, 83-87)
 OL - Bill Durkin (UMass, 90-93)
 OL - Scott Hough (Maine, 86-89)
 OL - Bruce Kimball (UMass, 75-78)
 OL - Bob Speight (Boston U., 78-87)
 OL - Jeffrey Williams (URI, 73-76)
 PK - John Coursey (JMU, 93-96)
 RS - Barry Bourassa (UNH, 89-92)

DEFENSE

DL - Brian Corcoran (UMass, 91-94)
 DL - Mike Foley (UNH, 92-95)
 DL - Steve Furness (URI, 69-71)
 DL - Ed McAleney (UMass, 72-75)
 LB - Steve Doig (UNH, 78-81)
 LB - **CURTIS ELLER (Villanova, 89-92)**
 LB - Eric Johnson (UR, 89-92)
 LB - Dwayne Sabb (UNH, 88-91)
 DB - Chris Helon (Boston U., 91-94)
 DB - Brian Jordan (UR, 86-88)
 DB - Mark Seals (Boston U., 85-88)
 DB - Kevin Smith (URI, 87-90)
 P - Gene Vadas (Delaware, 88-91)



Curtis Eller was a leader on the Villanova defense throughout his Main Line career and was rewarded for his play by being named to the 50th Anniversary All-Time Yankee Conference Team.