

sports

944

The number of rushing yards Washington Redskins running back Clinton Portis has, good for tops in the NFL.



PHOTO BY TEDDY MEYER | ASST. PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Senior Huge Fike fights for the ball during their win versus UNC Wilmington.

Number One Stunners

Patriots Clip Top-Seeded Seahawks 1-0

BRENDAN MURPHY
Broadside Correspondent

The Patriots defeated top-seeded UNC Wilmington Seahawks, snapping the Seahawks' five-game win streak in a 1-0 victory at George Mason Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 1.

The must-win victory comes on Senior Night in which six Patriots, including the game-winning goal scorer Kwame Adjeman-Pamboe, were recognized for their long-standing commitment to the university.

Adjeman-Pamboe scored his second game-winning goal of the season off a rebound from the right side in the 52nd minute following a hard shot by freshman midfielder Eber Martinez.

"It feels great. It is too bad my mom wasn't here but it is nice. We had the shot and took out the number one team," said Adjeman-Pamboe of his game-winning goal.

Adjeman-Pamboe leads the team with 12 points, including three goals and two assists in his last three games.

"They finally put me up top. For most of the season I was in the midfield. Now, I feel I make good penetrating runs and I work hard for the team so that has allowed me to have success," Adjeman-Pamboe said.

The Patriots improve their record to 9-6-2 and 5-4-1 in the CAA after their third consecutive win as the Seahawks drop to 10-8-0. The

win also marks the first time since the CAA opener where Mason is above .500 in conference play.

"We are getting hot at the right time now. Before we weren't over just a few games, but we are getting back together and coming together as a team," Adjeman-Pamboe said.

The Patriots fall into a three-way tie for third place in the CAA with the College of William & Mary and Northeastern University. William & Mary and Northeastern battled each other to a 1-1 tie on Saturday night. The victory leads Mason closer to the CAA six-team tournament kicking off on Nov. 11.

"It's great the season goes on one more day. During the game I heard some of the scores, teams dropped points so we are in a good position to make the CAA tournament," Adjeman-Pamboe said.

Both defenses played well from the start as the teams combined for a total of nine shots in a scoreless first half. Each team had two shots on goal in the first 45 minutes of action. At the end of 90 minutes the Patriots out shot the Seahawks 12-to-9 and junior goalkeeper Sean Kelley recorded four saves.

Kelley lowered his average goals allowed from 1.00 to 0.90 and raised the save percentage to an even .800. Avoiding another sophomore struggle, Kelley is returning to his 2006 form when he posted 11

shutouts.

UNC Wilmington came into the game with a high-scoring offense. The team was tied for first with 26 goals and ranked second with 4.18 points per game. Junior forward Devan Carroll entered the game with CAA-leading 20 points, nine goals, and three game-winners. Mason's defense was able to shut down the Seahawks' star player all night as Carroll failed to get a shot on goal.

"Priceless, it might be cliché but it has really been a great experience," said senior defender John Borrajo, referring to his experience playing at Mason.

Borrajo, the captain and team most valuable player, has been outstanding on defense. Mason's defense helped record a league-high seven shutouts after the solid victory over the Seahawks. Throughout the season, opponents had difficulty in the first half with the Patriots' defense allowing only three goals in the first 45 minutes. The Seahawks were the latest victims on Saturday night.

"We have done well this season. We have six seniors on the team and we still have a chance at the CAA tournament," Borrajo said.

Mason travels to Norfolk, Va. on November 7 to face second place Old Dominion University, but soaked up the victory on this special occasion.

The Phall Classic

Phillies Overcome Rain To Defeat Rays

BRIAN CHAN
Asst. Sports Editor

The 50-hour delay in Game Five of the World Series was just as long as Jamie Moyer's fastball crossing home plate. It was a longer wait for the Philadelphia Phillies, who won their last title in 1980, as closer Brad Lidge struck out Tampa Bay Rays pinch-hitter Eric Hinske to conclude a thrilling 4-3 victory.

Third baseman Pedro Feliz, signed as a free agent in the offseason, broke the tie in the bottom of the seventh inning with a single to center field.

"The most exciting thing about the Phillies winning is how genuinely thrilled the team was and how contagious that feeling was," said sophomore Anthony Cusumano.

Ace pitcher Cole Hamels won the World Series MVP award despite not returning to the mound after the delay. The 25-year old southpaw, 4-0 in postseason with a 1.80 ERA, suffocated opposing batters, allowing only a .187 BA.

Lidge blew eight saves out of 27 opportunities in 2007, and eventually lost his job as the team closer. Looking to revamp his career, Lidge posted a 1.95 ERA and 41 saves in the regular season. Combining the regular season with postseason, Lidge

never blew a save in 48 total chances. His 48th save closed the final chapter of the 2008 season.

The 4-3 win marked only the Phillies' second title in franchise history. Hall of Fame third baseman Mike Schmidt was named the 1980 World Series MVP. The most recent fallout was in the 1993 World Series when closer Mitch Williams gave up the walk-off home run to Joe Carter as the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Phillies in Game six. Last season, the Phillies suffered their 10,000th loss, the most for any American sports team.

"It's about time Philadelphia caught a break. My grandfather was a huge Phillies fan and he would have loved to see this," Cusumano said.

The days of the Rolens, Abreus, and Thomes are over, but the Utleys and Howards make up one of the fiercest tandems in all of Major League Baseball. Second baseman Chase Utley made a run-saving play in the seventh inning when he fielded a ground ball and gunned down shortstop Jason Bartlett at home plate to end the threat. First baseman Ryan Howard struggled earlier in the postseason, but ignited with three home runs against the Rays, including two blasts in Game four. Howard and

shortstop Jimmy Rollins earned National League MVP honors in the last two seasons, but they now have an even bigger prize—a World Series title.

The tale of two seasons also applied to the Tampa Bay Rays, who went from last place to a World Series runner-up. Right fielder Rocco Baldelli, a former highly-regarded prospect, tied the game at 3-3 with a solo home run off relief pitcher Ryan Madson in the seventh inning. The Rays, this year's Colorado Rockies, overcame a decade of adversity with what is still a young, talented team. The team's latest youth include third baseman Evan Longoria and pitcher David Price. Longoria mightily struggled in the series with a .050 BA. On the other hand, Price was phenomenal with a postseason ERA of 1.59. The Rays will look to defend their American League crown in 2009.

The AL dominated the NL in the last 11 All-Star games, not including the tie in 2002. Coincidentally, the last time the NL won an All-Star game was in Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium. Previous to this season's World Series, the AL team won seven of the last 10 titles. The tide has shifted and the 28-year drought ends as the Phillies finally get to celebrate on Broad Street once again.

SPORTS IN A MINUTE

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

With eight of the top 10 finishers represented by the College of William & Mary, George Mason University finished third in the CAA Championships at the Bull Run Regional Park over the weekend. Sophomore Scott Tekesky led the team with a 14th place finish, a time of 25:17, and freshman Everett Hackett finished two positions back. Most of Mason's runners finished in the middle of the pack with nine runners taking slots 25 through 50. Junior Rob Krause placed fifth at last year's CAA Championships, but ranked 55th out of 75 runners in this year's meet. He was the last Mason runner to cross the finish line. The team inched Delaware University for third place by just 10 seconds.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The women's team sent seven runners to the CAA Championships, finishing in 10th place, last among all competing schools at the event. Sophomore Samantha Fickel, Mason's top runner, ranked 69th with a time of 24:20. Freshmen Karlyn Lockie and Monique McKenzie finished in 77th and 85th place with their respective times of 24:39 and 24:59. Freshmen Kallyn Lockie and Elizabeth Smith, sophomore Katherine Griffith, and junior Katherine Harris placed from 91 through 100. Their times ranged from 25:42 and 27:21. Mason struggled to get a runner in the top 50. The Patriots finished with an overall time of 2:06:02. Both the men and women's teams will compete in the Cavalier Open in Earlysville, Va. on Friday, Nov. 7.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's team won their second conference game, both coming on the road, to wrap up the 2008 season at 5-13-1, 2-8-1 in the CAA, as junior forward Theresa DeLucca scored the game-winner with 38 seconds left in a thrilling 2-1 win over Towson University. Senior defender Jessica Paris and freshman forward Zania Barnum contributed to the game-winning score. Paris notched her 11th career assist, seventh this season. Towson struck first on a goal from Erica Marshall, her third of the season, in the 32nd minute. Mason junior forward Annie Leberz responded with her third goal of the season in the 65th minute to tie the game at one. Mason concludes their 2008 season with a conference win in the CAA opener and the other coming in the season finale.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Earlier this season, Northeastern University handed the volleyball team a 3-0 sweep at the Patriot Center. With four matches left of the 2008 season, the Patriots suffered their fifth consecutive loss after being swept by the Huskies again 3-0 (18-25, 21-25, 20-25). Mason dropped to 6-17, 2-8 while Northeastern improved their record to 13-9, 8-1. Junior outside hitter Rebecca Walter led the Patriots with 10 kills, her 18th double-digit kills this season. In the final set, the Patriots were unable to take advantage of a 16-16 tie. As a result, the Huskies started a 4-0 run and the Patriots were not able to recover from that.

MEN'S SWIMMING

On day one of the Pod Meet, the men's team competed in six events and brought home two first-place finishes. Mason won their first gold medal when Ryan David completed the 200-yard individual medley in 1:55.72. In the 1650-yard freestyle, Preston Wolter was the top finisher out of 12 swimmers with a time of 16:05.60. Wolter dominated the event with the runner-up finishing 15 seconds later. Max Tyburski helped Mason claim its first gold on the second day in the 200-yard freestyle, and Wolter helped himself to two more first-place finishes. Wolter won the 500-yard freestyle in 4:43.20 and 200-yard butterfly in 1:55.33. Bryan Bahr also represented Mason as the winner of the three-meter diving event. The team defeated Towson University 202-151 to conclude the two-day Pod Meet at the Jim McKay Natatorium.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Representing the women's team, Ashley Danner broke the school record in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:03.07, beating the previous time by .08 seconds. Danner also won the 50-yard freestyle on the first day. Danner never stopped progressing in the two-day event. She would go on to break another school record in the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:14.46. Three women divers placed in the top five in the one-meter diving event, one taking the gold. Lisa Faulkner and Kristen Meier finished 1-2 with scores of 260.60 and 251.85, respectively. The two would swap positions in the three-meter diving event on the second day. The team wrapped up the first day with a 400-yard medley relay win. Danner, along with Nicole Harmon, Caitlin Impink, and Mary Beth Cheslock, won the 200-yard medley relay on the second day.

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