



Journal photo by Ryan Aguir

Shepherd's Keon Robinson, center, returns a kick before getting tackled by Fairmont State University's Garrett Davis, left, during the first quarter Saturday at Ram Stadium in Shepherdstown.

## Rams prevail in clash of unbeatens

### SU's Dobratz boots game-winning field goal in conference opener

By RICK KOZLOWSKI  
JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR

**SHEPHERDSTOWN** — With the game on the line, Shepherd coach Monte Cater made a call to the bullpen.

Cater summoned his knuckleballer.

Not that Cater expected a knuckleball to come off the foot off Eric Dobratz.

One did, however. Dobratz delivered one of the ugliest-looking 32-yard field goals Shepherd will ever see, and, yet, at the same time, one of the most beautiful boots the Rams (3-0) will view during their 19-16 win over Fairmont (2-1) during Saturday's West Virginia

Conference opener at Ram Stadium.

Dobratz connected on his fluttering kick with 2 minutes, 11 seconds remaining to put Shepherd in the lead in a clash of undefeated teams.

Then Shepherd turned to its defense to preserve the lead, which unit did when Keon Robinson intercepted his second pass of the game.

"I think that was as good as you could put it," Cater said of Dobratz's kick. "It went between the uprights, so it was pretty. It was a unique path it took."

The kick was Dobratz's first successful field goal of the year.

"As long as they don't

#### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**FAIRMONT 16**  
FALCONS 2-1  
**SHEPHERD 19**  
RAMS 3-0

grade for style points," Dobratz joked. "I'm just glad it went in."

So are the Rams, who looked comfortably in charge at 16-6 as the third quarter ended after a very Shepherd-like, eight-minute drive that ended with Tommy Addison's 1-yard hurdle into the end zone.

However, the Fighting Fal-

cons scored a field goal on their next series and tied the game a series later on a 13-yard touchdown pass from freshman Logan Moore to running back Patrick Pinchinat on a wheel route after taking possession on an interception.

Shepherd quarterback Kevin Clancy rolled to his left, trying to elude a blitz when he stumbled. Falling to the turf, he flipped a pass over his shoulder that wound up in the arms of Greg Underwood.

"I was trying to make a play," Clancy said. "It was like a blackout moment, I was trying to throw it out of bounds."

As destructive as the play proved, Shepherd bounced back.

"We pulled together and got the game-winning drive," Clancy said.

Exactly what the senior quarterback needed to get out of the doghouse.

"That's not something you expect from your redshirt senior quarterback," Cater said of the interception. "But after doing that, he takes us right down, and we get a game-winning field goal. That's what you expect out of your redshirt senior quarterback."

"Thank God he put that (interception) behind him."

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# Rams

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Clancy completed three of his four passes during the drive, including a one-handed grab by tight end Dom Jones for 14 yards and a 13-yarder caught in heavy traffic by Scot Riddell.

"He made some great throws, and we made some great catches," Cater said. "That's what we need to do if we're going to win championships."

Clancy finished the afternoon in front of 4,916 fans by completing 13 of 18 passes for 138 yards.

Shepherd added 103 yards rushing in what turned out to be more of an efficient outing, rather than dazzling, by the offense.

The Rams' defense accounted for Shepherd's first points, however.

After Matt Wilmer's 34-yard pass reception from Moore gave Fairmont a 6-0 lead, only because Brian Taylor blocked the extra-point kick, Shepherd scored on a safety.

Howard Jones sacked Moore, one of the few times the QB didn't prove elusive to Shepherd's pass rushers, and Moore lost the ball. It rolled into the end zone, where Fairmont lineman Jack Charles covered it for a two-point play.

"I didn't even know it was a fumble," Jones said. "We came out soft the first few minutes, then came hard. I guess we realized it was a big game."

The Rams went ahead 9-6 two minutes before halftime on Nate Hoyte's 4-yard surge through a pile and Dobratz's extra-point kick.

Addison's run made it 16-6 in the third quar-

ter.

"We weren't too excited about what we were doing offensively," Cater said. "but when we had to do something in a couple of instances, we did."

"We were too sporadic."

At the same time, Shepherd converted a pair of fourth downs during its 54-yard drive that culminated in Addison's touchdown.

Shepherd's defense had those kinds of sporadic moments, too.

Pinchinat caught a 28-yard pass on a wheel route, taking the ball to the Shepherd 16-yard line, but the Rams held, which led to a 25-yard field goal by Frank Keenan that made it a seven-point game seconds into the fourth quarter.

It served as a prelude to the fourth-quarter excitement and drama.

The Falcons made the wheel route count for a touchdown that tied the game.

"We had control in the first half, but then we have a block in the back, a miss PAT, dropped a touchdown pass," Fairmont coach Mike Lopez said. "When you make mistakes... We made too many mistakes."

"When you look at the two points (on a safety) and the muffed PAT, that's a difference."

Pinchinat ran for 64 yards and added another 41 on two pass receptions. Moore completed 11 of 25 passes for 151 yards and also netted 27 yards on the ground as he ran away from Shepherd defenders, who sacked him just once.

## Malone edges Rams

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Jasmine Evans scored a pair of goals to lead Malone University to a 2-1 win over Shepherd University in women's soccer action at Shepherd on Wednesday afternoon.

After a scoreless first half, Shepherd took a 1-0 lead at the 51:27 mark when junior defender Kathleen Bryant scored off a corner kick from midfielder Rachel Dewberry.

Evans tied the game for the Pioneers at the 70:51 mark on a feed from Sarah Heckman. She added the game-winner at the 79:04 mark with an assist from Katie Heckman.

Freshman Elizabeth Wise had six saves in goal for the Rams, while Angie Nutial had six saves for Malone. The Rams had a 13-10 advantage in shots and a 6-5 edge in corner kicks.

Shepherd dropped to 2-3-0, while Malone improved to 3-3-0.

The Rams return to action at 9 a.m. on

Saturday when they travel to Concord.

### GOLF

#### W.Va. Senior Amateur

PARKERSBURG — Martinsburg's Jim Carpenter advanced to the semifinals of the West Virginia Senior Amateur at the Parkersburg Country Club.

Carpenter defeated Bill Orr of Reedy in match play on Wednesday, winning 2 and 1, in the round of 16 and then downed Harold Payne of Hurricane 3 and 2 in the semifinals. Payne was the defending champion of the event.

Carpenter will play Scott Bibbee of Vienna in the today's semifinals.

The other semifinalists are Steve Jackson of Williamstown and Charles Persinger of Scott Depot.

Carpenter finished as the runner-up last year.

— Staff reports



## WSBC event a no-go

By RICK KOZLOWSKI  
JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR

**SHEPHERDSTOWN** —  
The show must go on.  
Just not at Shepherd.

The debut of the World Streetball Championship scheduled for Saturday at the Butcher Center has been canceled because of contractual issues.

Instead, the WSBC will be played Saturday at Cary Academy in Cary, N.C., founder Ben Stephens said.

Stephens, a member of Shepherd's Athletic Hall of Fame, said one of his major sponsors pulled out and he couldn't pay the full fee in advance to Shepherd.

"I'm not mad but a little disappointed," Stephens said. "It could've been a great event for the community and school."

The World Streetball Championship is a round of one-on-one basketball games played on almost a full-length basketball court.

Stephens said he tried to negotiate terms different than those to which he and the school agreed originally and thought the university could still have been making money off the project, rather than leaving the Butcher Center vacant.

An e-mailed statement from James Vigil, the university's director for Auxiliary Enterprises said, "Shepherd University regrets that the World Streetball Championship event will not be held on its campus in Shepherdstown, W.Va., as previously planned. Shepherd University had looked forward to hosting this event, its participants and its fans. Unfortunately, the promoters of the

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World Streetball Championship repeatedly failed to submit the required and appropriate contractual paperwork to the university for the use of the facility.

"The university gave extensions for the contracts to be signed but had to rescind the reservations when the necessary paperwork was not completed with only 10 days remaining until the scheduled event. The university incurs significant expenses with any external use of its facilities and cannot adjust those commitments at the last minute."

Stephens said he was refunding money paid in advance for "a couple of hundred tick-

ets sold."

"Lots of people are disappointed," Stephens said.

He was able to find an alternative location through one of his partners, Share Our Shoes, which hopes to provide shoes and socks to people in need in Haiti and the United States. The goal is a million shoes.

Still, Stephens, the producer of the MTV reality series *Who's Got Game*, starring Magic Johnson, said he was upset he could not debut his event on the Eastern Panhandle.

"I still want to do something for the community," Stephens said. "If I could do something tomorrow, I'd still like to have it at one of the high schools."

He said he will try to showcase his sport in the area next April.

## First half scoring carries Shepherd past Seton Hill

GREENSBURG, Pa. — Shepherd rolled to five first-half touchdowns in its second conference game of the season. The Rams finished off a comfortable 46-17 WVIAC win over Seton Hill with nearly 500 yards of total offense.

After the Rams had moved to an early touchdown on Tommy Addison's 21-yard run, the Griffins came back to score themselves, helped by a pair of penalties against Shepherd. The extra point was blocked, but Shepherd

quarterback Kevin Clancy was intercepted and the Griffins added a 38-yard Steve Padilla field goal to assume a short-lived 9-7 lead.

Shepherd answered emphatically with four more scores before the first half ended.

Jimmy Sutch had a nine-yard run. Clancy found a wide open John Frick on a 17-yard touchdown throw. Nate Hoyte went two yards to boost Shepherd's lead to 29-9. With just over five minutes remaining in the half,

the Rams marched long distance to grab a 36-9 lead. A 64-yard Clancy to Neal Hardie pass set up Addison's 10-yard run that came with only 1:08 remaining in the first half.

It was still early in the third period when Hoyte punched across from the four for his second TD of the afternoon. Hoyte's short

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run came with fully 9:02 left in the third quarter.

Seton Hill managed its last touchdown when the game was still in the third period. D. J. Lenehan threw 15 yards to Tyler McIntosh . . . and moments later Patrone Wood rushed for the two-point conversion.

After an extended drive that began with over six minutes remaining in the fourth period, Shepherd's kicking specialist Eric Dobratz toed a 38-yard field goal with only 34 seconds left to play.

The Griffins and Lenehan

completed a number of second-half passes to finish with 304 passing yards and 407 yards of total offense.

Addison rushed for 146 yards on just 20 carries and Hoyte had 15 rushes for 91 yards.

Shepherd linebacker A. J. Parrish had nine tackles, Ben Minturn eight stops, Keon Robinson seven tackles and Elijah Davis seven stops.

The Rams went to 4-0 overall and are tied with Glenville and West Virginia Wesleyan at 2-0 atop the WVIAC. Seton Hill is 1-4 overall and 0-2 in the conference. Shepherd travels the long distance to Charleston on Saturday to face the Golden Eagles at 1 p.m. Charleston lost to Concord last weekend.