Shepherd into WVIAC volleyball semifinals

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COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Shepherd University, the No. 5 seed entering the West Virginia Conference tournament, defeated 12th-seeded West Liberty 25-23, 25-13, 25-20 in the first round and fourth-seeded West Virginia Wesleyan 25-21, 23-25, 25-20, 25-16 on Thursday.

Meg Kenny led the way with 13 kills and a .476 attack percentage for Shepherd (19-15) against West Liberty. Melani Lewis had 10 kills, Lauren Jeschelnik had 36 assists, Taylor Belella had 13 digs and Lauren Gardner and Kasey Mercier each added 11 digs.

Against Wesleyan, Mercier had 14 kills, Kenny had 12 kills and Gardner added 11 kills. Jeschelnik had 41 assists and eight digs, while Sara Michael and Belella had 11 digs each.

Shepherd will take on top-seed Wheeling Jesuit today at 2 p.m. in the semifinals.

Three Rams honored

Three Shepherd University players were named to the 2011 All-West Virginia Conference team.

Sophomore middle hitter Meg Kenny gained first-team honors, sophomore hitter Melani Lewis earned second-team accolades and junior outside hitter Lauren Gardner was an honorable mention selection.

Kenny leads the Rams in kills (249), kills per game (2.39) and attack percentage (.310).

Lewis paces Shepherd in blocks (89) and blocks per set (0.89). She has added 204 kills.

Gardner leads the team in digs (306) and digs per set (2.68). She has added 225 kills.
Shepherd 83, Kutztown 65

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Emily Beaver had 24 points and 10 rebounds and Shelby Fayak had 16 points and 10 rebounds to lead Shepherdstown in its season-opening win over Kutztown in the Conference Challenge.

Rachel Johnson scored 15 points and Jenn Prine had seven points and five assists for the Rams (1-0).

Ashley Wood scored a game-high 33 points for Kutztown (0-1).

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Wheeling Jesuit 3, Shepherd 0

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Shepherd’s season came to a close as the Rams fell to Wheeling Jesuit 25-20, 25-21, 25-15 in the semifinals of the WVIAC Tournament.

Kasey Mercier had eight kills and 10 digs, Melani Lewis had eight kills, Lauren Jeschelnik had 25 assists and 13 digs, and Sara Michael had 11 digs for the Rams (19-16).

Casey Gates had 16 kills and Jenna Pew had 10 kills for Wheeling Jesuit (32-3).
MEN'S SOCCER

Five Rams earn WVIAC honors

PRINCETON, W.Va. — Five Shepherd University players earned All-WVIAC honors.

Junior forward Shane Lowery and senior goalkeeper Edgar Lopez Zuniga were second-team selections, while senior defender Chad Vargo, sophomore defender Griffin Frazier and sophomore midfielder Kevin Doyle gained honorable-mention honors.

Lowery led the Rams in scoring with eight goals and two assists for 18 points. He had a pair of game-winning goals and was named WVIAC Player of the Week in September after scoring a pair of goals in a win over Concord and netting the game-winning goal in a victory over Washington Adventist. Lopez Zuniga recorded 77 saves and had a 1.60 goals against average and posted four shutouts on the year.

Vargo keyed a defense that posted four shutouts and allowed only one goal in four other games. Frazier recorded one goal on the year and Doyle, the team’s second-leading scorer, had six goals and an assist for 13 points and a pair of game-winning goals on the season.

Shepherd finished 6-10-1 overall and 3-6-0 in conference play.
Rams need win, help for postseason

November 12, 2011
By Rick Kozlowski - Journal Sports Editor (rkozlowski@journal-news.net)

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Head-scratching, hand-wringing, fist-pounding.

Shepherd coach Monte Cater and his staff went through the gamut this week this week upon learning that their status had gone unchanged in the Division II Super Region I rankings.

The defending region champions remained 10th for a second straight week despite the fact three teams ahead of the Rams all lost games last week - including one in Bloomsburg that dropped a game by 38 points for its second loss in a row.

Shepherd's two losses are by a total of 15 points, including a one-point overtime loss to a team that up until last week was undefeated.

"Can they get in?" asked Fairmont coach Mike Lopez of Shepherd, which visits Duvall-Rosier Field at noon today in a West Virginia Conference finale.

Shepherd needs assistance, no question. Probably a lot.

And then some luck, too, if the Rams do defeat the Fighting Falcons to finish their regular season at 9-2.

"They're a national playoff team, no question about that," Lopez said.

Shepherd probably won't get a chance to prove it, however. Nor might any WVC team as West Virginia Wesleyan dropped to seventh in the ratings after losing just its first game last week and must play at co-conference leader Concord today.

Shepherd's two losses were in consecutive weeks to Concord and Wesleyan. Since then, Shepherd has won four straight.

"I don't know what's involved," Cater said of the rankings. "I'm not sure who the raters from our league are.

"I don't think they're making much of a case for our conference."

Cater served as a member of the ranking committee for several years.

"I know how that works," Cater said. "It ain't working the same way.

"The Pennsylvania Conference, they always get four in it, it seems like, and the other three conferences are splitting two spots. It's baloney.

"You don't look at the score when someone gets beat by 50 and stays in? We lost a close game last season and go from first to fourth. It's like (the PSAC) is the only conference that matters."

PSAC schools hold down three of the top six positions this week, including No. 6 Bloomsburg. Two other positions are held by Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference teams Winston-Salem State and Elizabeth City State, which play each other today in the league.
championship game and second and third. Elizabeth City has two losses. Top-ranked New Haven hails from the Northeast 10. California (8-2) and Kutztown (9-1) are fourth and fifth. Kutztown travels to No. 8 and twice-beaten Slippery Rock to play for the PSAC championship.

"All we can do is to try to get a win," Cater said. "The bottom line is we dig the hole, too. We can't be blaming anybody else when we let two get away. You have to look at yourself first."

The Rams can't overlook the 7-3 Falcons, however.

"We feel we're six, seven, 10 plays away from having a special year and being in the same position as Shepherd," Lopez said. "It's a progression of where we want to be as a program.

"We're getting closer to where we want to be; perhaps it's next year or the year after, because we got a lot of great young talent who will be around for a while."

Fairmont's three losses are by a total of 26 points, including a triple-overtime thriller against Gienville, a team Shepherd defeated last week.

Notably, both teams won single games against PSAC schools to open their campaigns.

As common opponents between Bloomsburg and Shepherd go, they have won. The Rams defeated Shippensburg by 26 points, and the Huskies won by 20.

The Rams barely escaped Fairmont a season ago, needing a wobbly field goal by Eric Dobratz to win 19-16. Shepherd, who have returned seven interceptions this season for touchdowns, sealed the win with a pickoff.

"That game is a tough game every year," Cater said. "They got a nice ballclub. It's going to be a tough, tough challenge.

"We're going to have our hands full and must really play well, again, on the road. That's why last week was so important to go out and get a road win."

Both of Shepherd's losses came on the road.

Fairmont is coming off a surprisingly difficult 35-31 win last week at West Virginia State.

The Falcons were without running back Daniel Monroe, who is six yards short of 1,000 for the season, leading wide receiver Tim Orange and Matt Wilmer, one of the top return men in the country.

Damon Waters stepped in for Monroe and rushed for 134 yards and three touchdowns, while Jefferson graduate Ryland Newman had a strong outing in the return game, as did Auburn Taylor, who won the league's special teams honors for the week. Newman's fellow Jefferson graduate Dewey McDonald had a strong game defensively.

Lopez declared Monroe and Wilmer day-to-day this week.

"Day-to-day means they'll probably play," Cater said.

Injuries that limited Tommy Addison will likely prevent him from reaching 1,000 yards rushing this season. He needs 168 today.

That doesn't mean Shepherd's running game hasn't been productive, however. The team is averaging 5.3 yards per carry, while both Addison and Kenny Williams (788) are above six and third running back, Michael Haynes (289) is at 5.9.

"I think the biggest thing that concerns you is probably Addison and Williams, and Bobby Cooper is making smart decisions and managing things they way they want him to manage it," Lopez said. "Look at the receivers - my goodness - they're collectively the best-looking receivers in the conference."

Cooper has completed 66 percent of his passes for 2,001 yards, and one of Shepherd's receivers, Larry Lowe, even has an interception, that coming as he picked off a pass by Gienville's punter last week and
returned it 45 yards for a score.

Beside the interception returns for scores, Shepherd is leading the nation in rushing defense.

"Their defense is amazing," Lopez said. "We like to run, and they don't let teams run."

At the same time, Shepherd will be trying to figure out Fairmont's odd-stack defense.

"They play a unique defense," Cater said.

Shepherd knows what's at stake.

Anything less than a victory and the Rams don't have to worry about watching Sunday's selection show to see if they're one of the six playoff qualifiers from this region.

"(The players) know some things will have to go well for us," Cater said. "We will have to get some help. We are where we are because of what we did or didn't do. We had a good week of practice, and the kids are excited.

"We took another step (last week) to put ourselves in a position to keep playing. We got a big challenge, regardless of what anybody else does."
Second-half surge keys Shepherd win

By Duane Cochran
Times West Virginian (http://timeswv.com)

FAIRMONT — VIDEO: Fairmont State vs. Shepherd football (http://youtu.be/8gWDnm9fx9g)

Seldom in a 17-point game does one drive have such a profound impact on the contest’s outcome.

However, such was the case here Saturday afternoon for Fairmont State University’s football team which dropped its regular-season finale to visiting Shepherd University, 38-21, on Senior Day at Duvall-Rosier Field.

With the loss, FSU finishes the season 7-4 overall and 4-4 and in sixth place in the nine-team West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The seven wins is the most by the Falcons since the 2000 team ended the year 7-3.

The Rams, on the other hand, kept their slim NCAA Division II playoff hopes alive with their fifth straight victory Saturday. Shepherd ended the regular season 9-2 overall and 6-2 and tied for second in the league.

Concord University (7-3, 7-1), which upended West Virginia Wesleyan Saturday, 48-40, to claim the WVIAC title, may jump past Shepherd in the regional rankings and earn the conference’s only playoff berth by virtue of the earned access rule if the Mountain Lions can climb as high as eighth this week in the regional rankings. Concord defeated Shepherd earlier this season, 28-14.

Fairmont State and Shepherd have waged some epic battles throughout the years and through the better part of three quarters Saturday’s contest was shaping up to be another war to the end.

That is, however, until “The Drive” began for the Rams with 5:21 remaining in the third quarter. Leading 17-14, Shepherd mounted a 10-play, 70-yard touchdown drive which was filled with flags and controversial plays.

The first of those controversial plays occurred on the second play from scrimmage when FSU free safety Dewey McDonald, who finished with a career-high 15 tackles in the loss, appeared to cleanly swipe the football from Shepherd running back Tommy Addison at the Rams’ 39-yard line. Addison, who became the first opposing ball carrier to rush for 100 or more yards against Fairmont’s defense this season finishing with 114 yards on 22 carries, though, was ruled to be down prompting a chorus of boos from the Fairmont fans.

“I’m always out there trying to ball-hawk to get our offense back out on the field because the more they’re on the field the better chance they have of clicking,” said McDonald. “I knew we were down and time was running out. I saw him break one tackle and the ball was loose. I came over top of his shoulder and stripped it out of there. I thought he was clearly standing up, but I guess he wasn’t. After that I just had to clear my mind. We faced some adversity there, but we still had to fight through it no matter what.”
Immediately after the play, Fairmont’s coaching staff was flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct and the Rams got a first down at the FSU 45. On the very next play, a three-yard run by the Rams’ Kenny Williams, Fairmont was penalized for a personal foul and Shepherd got another first down at the Falcons’ 27. Five plays later a Bobby Cooper pass was picked off by Fairmont State cornerback Raynell Hall two yards deep in the end zone and he returned it 62 yards to the Shepherd 40. That play too was nullified when Fairmont was flagged for defensive holding giving the Rams new life and a fresh set of downs at the FSU 9.

“I knew I needed to make a critical play for us at that time,” said Hall, a senior who finished with eight tackles and one interception earlier in the contest. “I saw the tight end wide open and the quarterback throw the ball and I just had to go get it. I knew I had to make a play because at that point our backs were against the wall.

“They’re a good team with a great offense. They run power. They run lead and they produce. Defensively we tried to hang in there, but if we made a mistake they’d capitalize on it.”

Three plays later, Williams punched it in from two yards out with 23 seconds left in the quarter giving the Rams a 10-point lead and for all intents and purposes the game as the Falcons could never recover from the ill-effects of that drive. Shepherd tacked on two more touchdowns to cap a 28-0 spurt after it trailed 14-10 at the half and posted its eighth straight win over FSU on Duvall-Rosier Field.

“Those plays were heart breakers for us,” said McDonald. “Our motto on defense is solid rock, bend but don’t break. That’s what we tried to do.

“Officials are a part of the game and whatever they call we’ve got to go with and try to make the next play. Ray made a great play on that ball and returned it, but it didn’t hold up. We went back out there and tried to stop them but they had all of the momentum after that call.”

Shepherd jumped ahead 10-0 thanks to a 22-yard Eric Dobratz field goal late in the first quarter and a one-yard Williams TD run early in the second. Fairmont, though, quickly got itself back in the game and took the lead at 14-10 in a span of just 2:44 when quarterback Logan Moore connected with Chris St. Hilaire on a nine-yard slant pass for a touchdown and Ryland Newman returned a punt 72 yards for a score. It was the ninth-longest punt return in FSU history and the second punt return of the season for a score by Newman, who had a 76-yarder against Seton Hill.

“You’ve got to be a play-maker out there,” said Newman, a junior who has returned three interceptions and two punts for TDs during his career. “You’ve got to have the mindset at all times that you can take one back. Raynell (Hall) got a great block for me on that one. He kept waving me on and I ran right off his butt as soon as he made the block.”

Fairmont had some great opportunities to tack on more points on its final drive just before the half but tight end Sean Marion dropped a ball in his hands inside the Rams’ five-yard line, Mark Sampson caught a pass in the back of the end zone but was ruled out of bounds and kicker Frank Keenan was wide on a 37-yard field goal attempt.

Midway through the third quarter, Shepherd took advantage of a short field starting a drive at Fairmont’s 36-yard line and finishing it in just two plays when Cooper connected with Neal Hardie on a 22-yard scoring strike to give the Rams the lead for good in the game at 17-14.

Shepherd’s defense, which entered the contest fourth in the nation in NCAA Division II in total defense (258.7) and first in the country against the run (66.0), stymied FSU’s offense for much of the game. The
Falcons were held to just 214 total yards, including a mere 43 yards on the ground in the loss.

“Hats off to Shepherd,” said FSU sophomore center Nick Schrader. “They played a great game. I had no idea they were leading the nation against the run. We had a little trouble with them up front.”

Moore, FSU’s quarterback, completed 16-of-30 passes for 171 yards and one touchdown. He was picked off once by Elijah Davis, who returned it 80 yards for a touchdown early in the fourth quarter. It was Davis’ fourth interception return for a TD this season and the Rams’ eighth interception return for a score as a team this fall.

St. Hilaire led all receivers in the game with seven catches for 89 yards and one touchdown.

Moore led Fairmont on the ground with 30 yards on 18 attempts, but he was sacked a career-high eight times by the Rams. FSU redshirt freshman running back Daniel Monroe, who has been battling a foot injury the past two weeks, attempted to play Saturday but was held to just five yards on eight carries and finished the season with 999 rushing yards.

The balanced Rams finished with 321 total yards, including 161 on the ground and 160 through the air. Cooper ended up 12-of-23 passing for 160 yards and two scores.

Shepherd advanced to the NCAA Division II semifinals last season where the Rams fell to the current No. 1 team in the nation Delta State, 29-17.
Sylla nets career-high 16 points and grabbed eight rebounds as VSU falls

The Lady Rams of Shepherd University held the Lady Trojans to a low of 26 percent shooting from the field in a 74-47 win for the Lady Rams on Sunday.

VSU’s, Mariame Sylla scored a career-high 16 points and grabbed 8 rebounds.

Sylla led her team knocking down 8 of 14 from the free-throw line as she scored a career-high 16 points. She had 4 offensive and 4 defensive rebounds as she also led her team on the boards. Freshman, Dashae Jones pitched in with 7 points and had 2 steals.

Junior, Brittany Newby-Ellis had a team-high 4 assists and junior, Lamesha Deal added 6 points and 3 defensive rebounds.

Shepherd held VSU to under 50 points. One Lady Trojans scored in double figures. The Lady Rams defense held the Lady Trojans to 14 of 55 shooting for the game.

The Lady Rams also won the battle of the boards, out-rebounding VSU 54-32. Shepherd’s Katie Biggs scored 16 points to lead her to victory.

Virginia State’s women’s basketball team will travel to Mount Olive, NC and face Mount Olive College on Nov. 16th at 6:00 pm.
Shepherd misses playoff cut

November 14, 2011
By Rick Kozlowski - Journal Sports Editor, journal-news.net

SHEPHERDSTOWN - One of the greatest moments in Shepherd football history came when players dumped a water cooler full of snow on coach Monte Cater.

The celebratory gesture signified the Rams' first Super Region I championship when they defeated Mercyhurst on a cold day last December in Erie, Pa.

Turns out the next glimpse of snow the Rams saw came on a day that virtually left them out in the cold for this year’s Super Region I playoffs.

Despite winning its final five games after a two-game slide to finish the regular season at 9-2, Shepherd wasn’t chosen Sunday for the six-team postseason field in Super Region 1.

Two teams with three losses made the field - including 7-3 Concord, which defeated the Rams 28-14 on the first of two days that Shepherd viewed unusual October snow.

The other three-loss team in the field is Elizabeth City State.

"It is (disappointing)," Shepherd coach Monte Cater said. "In my time, I don’t remember a team getting in with three losses. There were two.

"I'm glad we got one in from our conference. I was not sure with the way things would play out that we'd even get our conference champ in."

Concord, which entered this week's play outside of the top 10 in the region, gained an earned-access award into the tournament by virtue of defeating West Virginia Wesleyan on Saturday and claiming an outright West Virginia Conference championship.

After losing to Concord, the Rams dropped a 45-44 overtime decision to West Virginia Wesleyan when the Rams took away the game-tying point-after kick off the board because of a penalty and went for a two-point conversion. It failed.

"(Wesleyan) was more of a killer," Cater said. "Win either one, we’re a conference co-champ.

"Concord played really well, and we were struggling with some people out. We had our chance against Wesleyan. If we got that one, it wouldn’t have mattered with Concord. We would’ve been 10-1 and would've gone.

"That’s the way it goes. We dug a hole and put ourselves in this position. It’s funny to have a couple of three-loss teams in it and we didn’t make it in 2004 with three losses."

Shepherd was ranked 10th in each of the last two weeks, and the Rams won each time. They saw three teams in front of them lose the first week, but they didn’t move anywhere, and then watched another
four ahead of them in the ratings drop games on Saturday.

"We felt a little better," Cater said of seeing the results. "We did everything we had to do. ... We did what we could after that point (the Wesleyan loss). Obviously, it was not enough."

Undefeated Winston-Salem State, which defeated Elizabeth City for the second time this season in Saturday's Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship game, earned the top seed, and 10-1 New Haven, which had been ranked first, finished second.

Third went to 10-1 Kutztown, while Elizabeth City dropped only one spot to fourth. California (9-2) and Concord are the fifth and sixth seeds, respectively.

"I cannot even come close to that one," Cater said of Elizabeth City. "They say they only lost to playoff teams. But do they belong in the playoffs if they can't beat playoff teams?"

Beside its two losses to Winston-Salem, Elizabeth City also dropped a one-touchdown decision to Delta State - the team Shepherd lost to in last year's national semifinals. Delta State is top-seeded in its super region.

Shepherd and Elizabeth City played a common opponent in Bowie State, and both won. Elizabeth City won 23-12 over the Bulldogs, and the Rams won 38-17 in the snow.

Two-loss Bloomsburg, which rose to No. 2 in the national Top 25 poll, was also left out of the field.

Cater said the final rankings won't be released until later this week.

"That'll be interesting, too," Cater said. "We'll see."

Shepherd ascended to a program-high No. 3 nationally before its two defeats.

"We knew it was not going to be easy, and some things were going to happen, and they did, but not enough did," Cater said. "We ended up on nice string, and I'm happy for our seniors and our program because we played really well when we found out, 'Hey, we can't let this happen anymore."

"The seniors will have a pretty good taste in their mouth. We'll live with it."
Shepherd women move to 2-0

November 14, 2011
Shepherdstown Chronicle

Senior guard Katie Biggs (Sykesville, MD/Glenelg) scored 16 points and senior guard Jenn Prine (Fairless Hills, PA/Pennsbury) added 13 points, seven rebounds, and six assists to lead Shepherd University to an 74-47 win over Virginia State in final day action of the Conference Challenge at the Butcher Center on Sunday.

Biggs hit on 6-of-12 shots from the floor with a 4-of-7 effort from beyond the arc. She also added five rebounds.

Senior forward Shelby Fayak (Willowick, OH/Eastlake North) added six points and seven boards, while freshman guard Rachel Johnson (Frederick, MD/Frederick) and freshman center Gabby Flinchum (North Potomac, MD/Wootton) each contributed eight points.

Mariame Sylla tied Biggs for game-high scoring honors with 16 points and a game-high eight rebounds to lead Virginia State.

Shepherd shot 41.4 percent (24-58) from the floor while Virginia State hit at a 25.5 percent (14-55) rate.

Shepherd controlled the boards with a 54-32 advantage.

Shepherd improves to 2-0, while Virginia State drops to 1-1. The Rams return to action on Wednesday when they host Alderson-Broaddus at 6 p.m.
Five Rams make first team

West Virginia Conference announces honors

November 16, 2011
By Rick Kozowski - Journal Sports Editor, journal-news.net

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Despite possessing the top-scoring offense and No. 2 unit in terms of yardage in the West Virginia Conference, Shepherd managed to grab just one spot on the league’s all-conference first-team announced Tuesday afternoon.

That honor went to senior lineman Steve Jackson.

Three Rams earned first-team honors on defense, including record-setting Elijah Davis from a unit that led the WVC in scoring and total defense, as well as ranking No. 1 in the nation against the run and in total defense.

Shepherd also received a special teams honor by kicker Eric Dobratz.

Davis, who tied an NCAA record by returning his fourth interception in one season for a touchdown, is one of two Rams from the secondary to be honored by the league. The cornerback had a league-best six pickoffs in all.

Corey Washington, who had three interceptions and one returned for a touchdown as part of an NCAA-record eight for the Rams, was tabbed at safety, and sack specialist Howard Jones was named on the defensive line. Jones is fifth nationally in sacks and third in tackles for loss.

Dobratz, who became the WVC’s all-time leading scorer, also claimed first-team honors as the Rams finished the season at 9-2.

Quarterback Adam Neugebauer of West Virginia Wesleyan was named as the WVC's offensive player of the year; linebacker Joe Greenway of conference champion Concord was chosen as the defensive player of the year; and Concord first-year coach Garin Justice won the coaching award. Top freshmen awards went to Daniel Monroe of Fairmont on offense, and Hunter McWhorter of Glenville on defense.

Concord will be making its first NCAA Super Region 1 playoff appearance, as the Mountain Lions visit Kutztown on Saturday.

Shepherd did pick up six second-team positions on offense and two on defense.

Making the second team on offense for the Rams were running backs Tommy Addison and Kenny Williams, tight end John Frick, wide receiver Nikkolai Norrell, center Josh Spring and lineman Carl McIntyre. On defense, second-team honors went to linebacker A.J. Parrish and defensive tackle Robert Hayes.

A pair of Jefferson graduates were named to the second team. Fairmont teammates Dewey McDonald and Ryaland Newman, both juniors, earned second-team honors.

Gaining honorable mention from Shepherd were linebackers Dominique Dixon and Dominic Tolson, nose guard Mike Franklin and kick returner D.J. Scott. Special honorable mention went to
quarterback Bobby Cooper and linebacker Chris Patton.

Two other athletes with Eastern Panhandle ties were honorable mentions. Berkeley Springs graduate Cody Reed of Fairmont earned honors at running back and Martinsburg graduate Matt Porter of Glenville won the same acclaim at nose guard.

Keyser's Matt Wiener of Fairmont was named as the first-team return specialist.

-Rick Kozlowski can be reached at 304-263-3381, ext. 116, or rkozlowski@journal-news.net
Shepherd closes out 9-2 season with win

FAIRMONT — Shepherd limited Fairmont to only 214 yards of total offense and registered eight sacks as the Rams finished off the regular season with a 38-21 road win at Duvall-Rosier Stadium on Saturday.

In defeating Fairmont for the ninth time in the past 10 seasons, Shepherd completed a 9-2 season that included a 6-2 record in WVIAC games. The Fighting Falcons finished at 7-4 overall and were 4-4 in the WVIAC.

Eric Dobratz, who set a WVIAC career record for points scored by a kicker with 280, gave the Rams a 3-0 first-quarter lead with a 22-yard field goal. It was a lead that the Rams had surrendered by halftime when Fairmont return-specialist Ryland Newman brought a punt back 72 yards for a score that allowed the Fighting Falcons to carry a 14-10 lead into halftime.

Newman’s return had erased all of Shepherd’s 10-0 lead that had been established after Kenny Williams had a one-yard scoring run that opened the second quarter scoring.

Added to Newman’s electrifying return was a nine-yard TD pass from Logan Moore to Chris St. Hilaire that brought Fairmont its first points.

After stopping Fairmont on the first possession of the second half, the Rams went back in front, 17-14, when Bobby Cooper found receiver Neal Hardie with a 22-yard pass that quickly capped a two-play, 36-yard drive.

Near the end of the third period, Shepherd went in front, 24-14, when Williams scored on a two-yard run that closed a methodical 70-yard move that took 10 plays.

Early in the fourth period, the Rams’ Elijah Davis made his fourth interception-return touchdown of the 2011 season when he picked off a Moore pass and legged it 80 yards to Shepherd’s fourth score.

The Rams finished the year with eight interception-return touchdowns.

Shepherd had gone ahead, 31-14 . . . and had already outscored Fairmont 21-0 in the second half.

Just three minutes later, the Rams tacked on a fourth touchdown of the half when Hardie caught a two-yard pass from Cooper. Shepherd was sailing along with a 38-14 lead . . . and there were just 10 minutes remaining in the game.

Davis had a 29-yard punt return to the Fairmont seven to set that scoring move in motion.

Fairmont added its last points on a Moore four-yard run with 7:50 to play.

The win was Shepherd’s fifth straight to close the season.

Wins over Charleston, West Liberty, West Virginia State, Glenville, and Fairmont came in succession after mid-season conference losses to WVIAC titleist Concord and West Virginia Wesleyan that cost the Rams another conference championship and return visit to the NCAA Division II playoffs.

Howard Jones had three of Shepherd’s eight sacks and finished in double figures for the season in that category. Mike Franklin recorded nine tackles and had a pair of sacks from his defensive tackle spot. Robert Hayes had two sacks while Kevin Wiley and Jon Heavner both had sacks.

Fairmont safety Dewey McDonald had a game-high 15 tackles and had a pass breakup. Newman was credited with five stops and had two pass breakups.

Shepherd senior running back Tommy Addison had 22 carries for 114 yards (5.2 average).

Fairmont’s St. Hilaire had seven catches for 86 yards. Nikkolai Norrell and Hardie both had four receptions for the Rams.

It had been a second-half splurge of four consecutive touchdowns that had propelled Shepherd. And while the Rams were scoring, their defense was harassing Moore and holding Fairmont scoreless.
Daniel lands WVIAC honor

November 18, 2011
Shepherdstown Chronicle

PRINCETON - Senior guard Emily Daniel (Beaver, W.Va./Shady Spring) of the Shepherd University women’s basketball team has been named the WVIAC Player of the Week, as announced by the league office.

Daniel helped the Rams to a 2-0 mark to open the season. She netted a career-high 24 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in the season-opening win to go along with four assists and three steals.

In limited action over Virginia State, Daniel scored six and had five rebounds. She also had two steals and an assist in the 27-point victory.
Davis named player of week

November 18, 2011
Shepherdstown Chronicle

PRINCETON - Senior cornerback Elijah Davis (Silver Spring, Md./Wheaton) of the Shepherd University football team was named WVIAC Co-Defensive Player of the Week. He shared the honors with Aaron Dunlap of Charleston.

Davis picked off a pass for the Rams for a touchdown in a 38-21 victory at Fairmont State. He recorded his fourth interception return of the year for a score to tie an NCAA Division II record. It also marked the eighth time the Rams have scored on returns this season, establishing a new NCAA Division II team record.
Rams ranked 21st in poll

November 18, 2011
Shepherdstown Chronicle

WACO, Texas - The Shepherd University football team is ranked 21st in the latest AFCA Division II Coaches' Top 25 Poll for Nov. 14. The Rams recorded a 38-21 win over Fairmont State last Saturday to finish the season at 9-2.
Rams defeat FSU

November 18, 2011
Shepherdstown Chronicle

FAIRMONT - Junior quarterback Bobby Cooper (Davidsonville, Md./South River) completed 12-of-23 passes for 160 yards and a pair of scores while senior running back Tommy Addison (Germantown, Md./Quince Orchard) rushed for a game-high 114 yards on 22 carries to lead Shepherd University to a 38-21 win over Fairmont State in WVIAC football action at Duvall-Rosier Stadium on Saturday.

Shepherd took a 3-0 lead with 22 seconds left in the first quarter when senior kicker Eric Dobratz (Woodbridge, Va./Potomac) connected on a 22-yard field goal.

The Rams increased their lead to 10-0 when sophomore running back Kenny Williams (Elgin, Ill./Eastern Illinois) scored on a one-yard plunge with 12:28 left in the second quarter.

Fairmont State cut the lead to 10-7 minutes later when Logan Moore connected with Chris St. Hillaire on a nine-yard scoring strike.

Ryland Newman returned a punt 72 yards for a score with 7:51 left in the second quarter to give the Falcons a 14-10 lead at the break.

Shepherd took a 17-14 lead with 9:18 left in the third quarter when junior quarterback Bobby Cooper (Davidsonville, Md./South River) teamed with senior wide receiver Neal Hardie (Alexandria, Va./West Potomac) on a 22-yard score.

The Rams increased their lead to 24-14 when Kenny Williams scored on a two-yard run with 23 seconds left in the third quarter.

Senior cornerback Elijah Davis (Silver Spring, Md./Wheaton) picked off a pass and raced 80 yards for a score with 13:30 remaining in the fourth quarter to give the Rams a 31-14 advantage.

Cooper tossed a two-yard scoring pass to Hardie with 10:44 left in the fourth quarter to up the lead to 38-14.

Moore scored on a four-yard run with 7:50 remaining in the fourth quarter for the Falcons to complete the scoring.

Moore connected on 16-of-30 passes for 171 yards for the Falcons.

Williams added 14 carries for 54 yards for the Rams. Moore rushed 18 times for 30 yards to lead the Falcons.

Senior wide receiver Nikkolai Norrell (Richmond, Va./Hermitage) had four catches for 48 yards and Hardie added four grabs for 40 yards. St. Hillaire had seven catches for 86 yards for Fairmont.

Shepherd totaled 321 yards of total offense while Fairmont State had 214 with just 43 coming on the ground.

Sophomore defensive lineman Mike Franklin (Elkridge, Md./Long Reach) recorded nine tackles and sophomore defensive end Howard Jones (Woodbridge, Va./Freedom) totaled four tackles-for-loss with three sacks to pace the Shepherd defense. Dewey McDonald had 12 tackles to lead the Pioneers.