Shepherd needs wounded back when Glenville comes in next week

BEN MADISON Sports Editor

Unforteats but no unseeded, Shepherd has an open date this week . . . a week where it might even show a little smile from the accomplishment of winning its first ever game.

It could be the week where the injured among the Rams find the means to return on November 13 to complete the regular season against yeomanly moments Glenville.

While the Rams were wading through their first seven games in unseeded syle their injuries were few.

But in their usual battle royal against West Liberty, a significant number of starters were injured to some degree.

West Liberty was beaten by a nosing Shepherd comeback that once had the Rams down by 22 points in the third quarter.

In the wake of the spirited second-half reversal of fortunes, Shepherd had moved along to 6-0-1 and 6-0 in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. But some of those important individual facets were moving slowly or hobbling along with an injured man.

The healthy Rams had been 7-0. The more-injured Rams were 3-3.

There was no open date following the 55-38 win at West Liberty.

But the Rams had a long and boring trip to Institute to play conference for West Virginia State.

West Virginia State was winless. More than just the Yellow Jackets were wanting.

Now that the Rams have avoided disaster in Institute, there is an open date. No game this weekend. No more regular season road trips. While the regular season finale is against pesky Glenville, at least the last one is at Ram Stadium . . . and there will have been 13 days without a game.

The NVIAC championship has been secured. A high perch on the Super Region ladder has been occupied. There could be a postseason place in the national Division II playoffs reserved for the undefeated Rams.

And with a win against Glenville, there could be a playoff game realized at Ram Stadium.

But playoff games — as well as any game against Glenville — calls for healthy bodies, ones that are able and only concerned with their game assignments and not the physical troubles they were just dealt.

At 9-6, Shepherd has actually had to call on a crew of different individual players (resources) to stay away from any defeat.

An eight-point, season-opening win at Shippensburg was followed by two weeks by a three-point survival at Fairmont.

Overall, West Virginia Wesleyan, and West Liberty actually piled up more yardage than did the Shepherd offense. But all those mostly first-scoring games showed Shepherd’s resiliency and wide range of scoring methods.

Even though the Rams’ defense was avoided at times by all three of those conference opponents, there were still vital punt interceptions and fumble recoveries that helped carry those afternoons.

And now Shepherd can take five minutes to survey what has been accomplished.

The winning has come from Historic arriving weekly from different sources. Running back Tommy Adkins has passed the thousand-yard mark. Fullback Bobby Humphries has been incrementally more than in his other three seasons in a starter.

The wide receivers — Robert Eydek, Noah Nurse, Scott Bidditt, Neal Hurdie, and Larry Love — have each led their inarchangable group in number of receptions and yardage in different weeks. Tight end and Dominique Jones has produced touchdowns, sometimes two a week.

The offensive line has not been a faceless crew. If the Rams can defeat Glenville-six of them will be select into the all-conference team. There could be as many All-American notices made.

Carl McNeil, Geoff Fly, Steve Jackson, Josh Spring, and Steve Biasy have all started the first eight games. Fly and Biasy are the only two seniors, but McNeil, Jackson, and Spring are multi-year starters.

Senior quarterback Kevin Clancy has far more touchowns passes than interceptions.

The outside defensive linemen have been Will Wheeler and Howard Jones. The two inside linebackers are both freshmen — Xavier Tyler and Mike Franklin.

Shepherd’s linebackers have always been given a mountains of responsibilities. And Brian Taylor, A. J. Parrish, Ben Blinter, and Dominique Jones have usually acquitted themselves well. Several of the Shepherd linebackers are also in line for all-conference honors of some kind.

Wait Keon Robinson intercepting six passes in the first eight games, he paced a secondary that has also shown different play-making from week to week. Corey Washington and Elijah Davis have shared interceptions and fumble recoveries. Chris Fritson has started the first eight games.

Eric Dobratz has been Shepherd’s place kicker and punter. He has shown his agility in returning bouncing snaps and getting off his punts. Dobratz broke a 16-14 tie against Fairmont with a late-game field goal.

The Rams’ special teams had allowed 12 yards per punt return to the opposition, but nothing has been returned for a touchdown.

This has been one of the least penalized Shepherd teams in years. Even the substitutes teams in 2005 and 2006 incurred more penalties.

Bowquets and compliments can be tossed in all directions.

And now Shepherd wants as many healthy players as can be fielded by the starting senior Taylor, Fly, Biasy, Nurse, Bidditt, McNeil, Jones, Clancy and specialist Deonte Smith for their final regular season home game.


Thirteen days between games. With a 9-6 record and a secure conference championship Unforteats but no unseeded.
Mustache, no mustache

Shepherd coach Monte Cater loses trademark after a bet with his team

By RICK KUZNIARSKI
JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd has a few close shaves on the football field during the Rams' undefeated football season. None like the team locker room on Tuesday, however.

Coach Monte Cater's signature mustache was gone, courtesy of Shepherd's seniors who took a vote to remove it for a deal the team's seniors made.

"I lost in a wicket-keeping competition. I bet if we won the title that we wouldn't shave his mustache," said running back Jimmy Smith, one of the wicket keepers and Cater's closest friend.

"I wrapped up the West Virginia Conference championship Monday night in Shepherdstown. The Rams moved the No. 1 team out of the rankings to No. 10," Smith said.

"We all had a good laugh. I think he's racing to have his mustache back in a month," Smith said.

"I think it's a good move," said Cater.

"They kept winning, and they kept reminding me," Cater said. "My wife and daughter were ready to do it." Cater's team won its 12th conference championship during its 24-game unbeaten season.

"But it's an understanding," Smith said.

"I'm not my favorite day," Cater said. "But the season for it was pretty special." Cater's team won its 12th conference championship during its 24-game unbeaten season.

"I don't look that bad," quarterback Kevin Clancy said. "I thought it would look weird, but it looks great." Cater's team won its 12th conference championship during its 24-game unbeaten season.

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Coach loses trademark after bet with team

By Rick Kozlowski
Special to The Chronicle

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd has had a few close shave on the football field during the Rams’ undefeated football season.

None like in the team locker room on Tuesday, however.

Coach Monte Cater’s signature mustache went away, courtesy of Shepherd’s seniors who took a razor to it for a deal the team’s seniors made.

“Last year, in winter conditioning, I bet if we won the title that we would shave his mustache,” said running back Jimmy Sutch, his long locks and facial hair.

Shepherd wrapped up the West Virginia Conference championship on Saturday during a 56-19 win over West Virginia State to move its record to 9-0 and earn the No. 1 spot in the first Super Region 1 rankings of the season that came out this week.

“We all had a good laugh, but I think he was excited to shave his mustache after 30-some years,” Sutch said.

Thirty-eight years to be exact “that upper lip has not seen sunshine,” Cater said.

“They kept winning, and they kept reminding me,” Cater said. “My wife and daughter were ready to disown me.”

When his wife, Bonnie, took a look, “she just shook her head,” the coach said.

“For be it for Cater to whelp on a bet, however. He tried to keep a stiff upper lip — even that’s visible now — through the ordeal that included an assortment of cell phone and conventional camera going off.”

“It was not my favorite day,” Cater said. “But the season for it was pretty special.”

Cater’s team won its 12th conference championship during his 24 mustached seasons leading the Rams.

“It doesn’t look that bad,” quarterback Kevin Clancy said. “I thought it would look weird, but it looks good.”

“It’s nice,” Sutch said. “That sentiment was echoed by players hitting the practice field on Wednesday as they glanced at their coach and smiled and kicked him.”

“We might run a whole bunch today,” Cater hollered out at his retort to the good-natured ribbing.

The Rams were in somewhat of a relaxed mood given their 9-0 record, league championship, their regional ranking and bye week, one critical to help the Rams overcome some injuries they have.

Shepherd finishes the regular season against Glenville on Nov. 13 at home.

A win in that game should keep Shepherd atop the regional rankings. Holding the Nos. 1 or 2 spot means a bye and a homefield game for the playoffs on Nov. 27. The third through six seeds participate in a first-round game on Nov. 21.

“We won’t be the No. 1 seed if we don’t beat Glenville,” Cater said in his typical tone, mustache or no mustache.

“There’s never a better way to send the seniors out than by winning a conference championship.”

Some of Shepherd’s seniors, true and red-shirts, have experienced conference titles and participated in the postseason during the 2006 and 07 seasons.

Clancy said the team is focused on winning its final game to earn a bye for the playoffs and to be able to play at home.

“To be No. 1, we got to focus on Glenville,” Clancy said. “Having a homefield advantage will really help having a first-round bye will help.”

The Rams have lost their last three meetings to Glenville.

“We’re not looking past Glenville,” Sutch said.

The Rams are looking at a bare-laced Cater, though.

It might take getting used to.

“I’ve heard I should do a ‘Got Milk?’ commercial,” Cater said.
Undefeated Shepherd puts ranking on line against Glenville

Des Madison, Sport Editor

Shepherd has been here before.

Last game. Unbeaten record.

WVIAC champs. Kautenthal in its Region. Needing a win to keep its first-place status and receive home games in the NCAA national playoffs.

In both 2005 and 2006, the Rams came to the final game with undefeated teams. And in both those instances, Shepherd won in last game...secured the top Regional ranking...and hosted playoff games.

Here in 2010, the overall record is 9-4. The conference record is 7-0. And the blue-and-white-clad menace moving into Ram Stadium for the 12-game start on Saturday is Glenville, the conference team that owns three consecutive wins over the high-flying Rams.

Glenville plays 11 games. It is now 2.6 after its last loss last week against Charleston.

A summary about the Glenville schedule is that the Alan Fiddler-coached Pioneers don’t scour the country for teams like St. Paul’s, Livingston, Urbana, or Walsh.

Glenville has usually played Division I-AA teams like Liberty or Central Arkansas. This season, the non-conference games have been against North Alabama (twice), Western Illinois (half field) and several Division II programs.

Shepherd has been healthy for eight weeks. It has had debilitating injuries to line backers Brian Taylor and Des Manuel as well as defensive end Howard Jackson and wide receiver Scott Reddell. It’s come back and is fighting hard.

Some of those starting defensive players were available two weeks ago against Western Virginia State in the Rams' home game. Those of the Rams defeated the 4th consecutive years.

The Rams have non-conference wins over Shepparton and St. Joseph’s. They have strong together their seven WVIAC-victories against Fairmont, Seton Hill, Charleston, Concord, West Virginia Wesleyan, West Liberty, and West Virginia State.

When the new WVIAC rankings were revealed on November 1, Shepherd was atop the list.

Tommy Addison has already rushed for over 1,600 yards for a final game left. Quarterback Kevin Clancy has more than 400 yards passing and has thrown 27 touchdowns.

There have been individual receivers like Jason Miller who has surpassed anybody on this undefeated team but the combined productivity of Robert Byrd, Nikolas Norrell, Dominic Jones, Steve Brown, Larry Lowe, John Frick and Reddell has outmatched the group of receivers that produced them.

Even fullback Bobby Humphries and the three tailbacks...Addison, Nate Hoyte, and Jeremy Sutch...have contributed greatly.

Every week, the Rams have won the weekly award, which is a major plus.

The Shepherds special teams have been blocking extra points and field goals for more that a month now.

Deane Steele has a crucial part-return touchdown against West Liberty.

Punish place kicker Eric Dobratz has been deadly doing his job. And an unremoted punter place kicker is a welcome member of any team.

There will be more coming. Shepherd's special teams are leading the way.

The series offensive defenders are Clancy, Norrell, Miller, Sotter, Suek and Bryan LaBonina are also seniors.

If one comes with favorable temperatures and a relaxed wind, the crowd will exceed the normal 5,960-seat capacity.

WVIAC champions.
Not much experience, not much size this year at Shepherd

Robert Matthews

Being a member of the WVUAC means your team must have a core of two or three-year starters, a little something inside to keep the Wildcats and Yellow Jackets from completely controlling the tempo, and a team composed of varying heights with defense.

Rivaling wins in the WVUAC takes more than a month of in-house scrimmages and a group of players mostly unfamiliar with each other.

The WVUAC has never been a training ground for prospective college basketball players. In any given year, Pick-A-Bunch could find a suitable combination of players and join the three-year championship contenders.

Force-feeding players through the trials and rigors of a long WVUAC schedule is not the ideal way to find out whether they can play or not.

This Friday is only November 12, a day before the Shepherd football team caps its win-loss record in the regular season with a conference game versus Charleston.

On Friday at 7 p.m., the Shepherd men’s team opens its season with a home game against Slippery Rock of the scholarship-heavy Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

What will the Rams have to show the players from The Rock?

There is sophomore forward Chad Moore, a legitimate scorer and rebounder even in conference games against the better teams. Moore is 6-foot-5 and dominating with natural skills.

Another 6-foot-5 forward is senior Dave Barash. Barash is a second-year player at Shepherd, and his foul troubles held him back some last season. It wasn’t a wildly inconsistent season, but it wasn’t one that made much difference in Shepherd’s 9-19 overall record.

One of only two seniors, guard Jonathan Moichka was on the bench for too many games for him to stamp his mark on many wins or losses. Moichka is nowhere near a perimeter shooter whose 2009 problems have to be ignored.

Suffolk and Arkansas are sophomore guards who have some shooting ability. Neither Moichka, Barash, or Moore will be in the lineup this year.

Chad Moore

Student-athletes and fans can enjoy a game on the road at the Rams’ basketball games.

Ram women begin on Saturday with group of returning players

When the Shepherd women’s basketball team finished last season with its 15-11 record, it waved goodbye to only one senior, Carrie Winter. Winter was Shepherd’s leading scorer.

So when the Lady Rams begin this 2010-11 season they will have

Sophomore center Emily Daniel was one of Ford’s most productive players off the bench last season. Daniel scored 3.3 points and had 3.3 rebounds in a losing effort last year as a freshman.

Ford employed sophomore Alex Tamez as a backup guard.

Tamez was used to supply defensive pressure when Shepherd’s starting unit was at its best. She did average 4.2 points a game.

Little-used sophomores Mackenzie Logan and Allissa Kennedy are both 4-footers who return.

This year’s freshmen are 5-foot-10 Jyssi Brown from Reading, Pennsylvania, 6-foot-6 center Morgan Johnson from Elkton, and redshirt Spain Sounsia.

Junior guard builds on last season’s 8.7-point average and becomes a perimeter threat. Jonsor has been a short-term starter at times and scores 3.3 points a game for her team.

Shepherd could be an all-conference player.

For the first time in at least a decade Shepherd will have a few scattered non-conference games at home.

In the past, the Lady Rams had open seasons with four or five straight games on neutral courts or on the road.

With Buckaroo Center games scheduled against Shepherd and Washington Adventist, as well as 11 NACC games, the Lady Rams will be at home ten times, the same number of times it plays either neutral courts or on the road.

Last time last season, Shepherd was in first place in the conference regular season race. But it dropped two straight games and settled into fifth place in the highly competitive 16-school league.

An early beginning to the 2010-11 season comes this Saturday, November 13, when the Lady Rams are just a part of the weekend bonanza of sporting events on the Shepherd campus.

There is a men’s basketball doubleheader at the Buckaroo Center on Friday, November 12.

And then on Saturday, the Shepherd (mat) team plays Greenville at 12 noon in a home game. Following the football game, the Lady Rams will face Shepherd at 3 p.m. in the Buckaroo Center.

Then at 5 p.m., in the same Buckaroo Center there will be a men’s game between Alderson Broaddus and Slippery Rock to be followed by a 7 p.m. game that his Shepherd men’s team facing Edinboro of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

Coach Ford is in her second year as Shepherd’s head coach. She had an “interim” tag in front of “coach” in 2009-10.

Ford has a number of interchangeable players, not just All-American who has had eight players that have contributed in past seasons.

Shepherd women take on West Liberty in a non-conference game this Friday.
Shepherd returns to hardwood

Ram men look to learn from last season's trials, turn youth into experience

By RICK KOZLOWSKI
INTERNSHIP EDITOR

SHEEPERSTOWN — The Rams went 2-11 on the road as part of a 9-19 season. The travel aspect hasn’t changed much. "I think it really is the travel," Namolik said. "It’s hard to win games when you’re just getting to your destination." The Rams will start to find out if they are truly starting Friday when they host the Clarion Hotel Conference Challenge at the Bochert Center. Shepherd plays Slippery Rock on Friday night and Edinboro on Saturday in an event that also features WNC partner Alderson Broaddus. Namolik feels better about his team's prospects. "If we look at our schedule, we can make some noise in the conference," he said. "We’ll find out in a hurry how we stack up." See MEN 03

Great Expectations

Returning players have Ram women anticipating another standout season

By BEN GIBBS
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEEPERSTOWN — After a run to the West Virginia Conference tournament semifinals last season, coach Callie Ford and the Shepherd women's basketball team have set the bar high for the 2010-2011 edition of the Rams.

One of the goals for this season is to win the conference title, and don't expect them to back down from that challenge either.

"We do have a lot of expectations on ourselves, but we can’t just be giving that away," Ford said. "We have to earn it because we know we have it in us." Ford said.

Last season, the Rams posted a 17-12 record on their way to the conference semifinals before losing to Fairmont State. While Shepherd doesn't want to suffer a last season's accomplishments, Ford wanted to acknowledge that it was an exciting ride last season.

"It was one of the most exciting things I've been through," Ford said. "I won the WVC title (Charleston)," Ford said.

Shepherd has been picked sixth in the WVC pre-season coaches poll, and the Rams are looking to change some of those coaches' minds.

"We want to go out and prove to those teams that you should have picked us first," Ford said. "You just can't just be giving that away." Ford said.

The Rams will be starting this season with a new look and a new starting lineup. The team lost three starters to graduation.

Shepherd's Carrie Saunders is the Rams' returning leading scorer with a 12.3 average from last season.

STATISTICAL LEADERS

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See WOMEN 03

[Image of a basketball game and a coach speaking to players]
Women

This year's team has a corps of players that played the majority of minutes last season, starting with senior Jenna Hewett at guard.

Hewett led the team in assists with 50 last season and in defensive rebounds with four per game.

Hewett led the team in minutes played as she played with the physical style that often had Shepherd fans wondering how she stayed healthy as she was forced to take shots from opponents in every game and get back up.

Senior Guard Carries Saunders return as the Rams' leading scorer with a 12.3 average. Saunders finished behind Wilmer last season.

Saunders and Hewett will be leading the team this season. Not only vocally, but also statistically.

The duo of seniors are the two highest scoring of the returning players, with Saunders leading at 35.6 points to Hewett's 30.0.

"They are good scorers. What their standard is for our conference and our team," Ford said. "But at the same time, they haven't let themselves stagnate."

Beyond those two, junior guard Katie Higgins led the team with 46.3 in game average at 9.2 points a game and was in the top five for minutes played as an outside shooting threat for Shepherd.

"They are both seniors that have been with us since their freshman year. They have been very consistent in their play," Ford said.

Junior guard Sherry Foy returns as one of the most experienced options for the Rams in the post.

"Sherry is our true returning post player. Her strength has improved, and she will be able to compete with the big girls," Ford said.

Also returning is sophomore guard Emily Qualls, leading 5.7 assists per game.

Men

The Rams will face WVC tournament winner West Virginia State on Nov. 25 as they jump right into league play after the weekend's season-opener.

"The key will be how the sophomore class steps up to reach the potential that we have in them," Nortolk said.

Certainly Shepherd will be counting on veterans Dave Keffner, a 6-foot-4 forward, and Jonathan Motchka, a 6-0 shooting guard.

Keffner averaged 11.1 points per game last season and Motchka, a 6-4 power forward, played in 11 games as he battled assorted medical issues throughout the season.

Other returning players include junior guard Matthew Farr and sophomores Lukan Biator and Allison Kienzly.

The Rams have a trio of freshmen and hope to utilize forward Jolene Brown and center Morgan Johnson to exploit the Rams' presence in the paint. The first freshman添 a redshirt season due to injury.

"Jolene is one of the Rams strongest players, with the experience of the players returning. With the height expectations, the Rams are ready for anything that comes their way.

"Don't think a slow start would bring us down," Saunders said. "We know what we can do. Where we are older now we would push through, it will only make us work harder."

With so many returning players and high expectations, the Rams will be carrying a heavy load as they look to make a deeper run into the conference tournament and beyond.

"The girls have consistently thrown that in our all-star phone; that's winning the conference title," Ford said. "Every time we spoke, they said we want to."
Rams can wrap up perfect season

By RICK KOZLOWSKI
JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Even with a West Virginia Conference championship two weeks in hand, in some sense, Shepherd's season has only just begun.

The Rams have much more for which to play when they entertain Glenville in their regular-season finale at noon Saturday at Ram Stadium.

Ninth-ranked and undefeated Shepherd needs a win over the Pioneers to hold on tightly to their No. 1 seed in the NCAA Division II Super Region 1.

The Rams stand to maintain at the top spot, which includes a first-round bye and home games throughout regional, with a victory over a team that has defeated Shepherd for three straight seasons.

“We have emphasized that with the players, and have been doing that for some time, that we have a chance to be a part of history,” Shepherd coach Monte Cater said. “There's not many times you have a chance to have an undefeated season, and this game has some bearing with the playoff picture.

“T'was a lot to play for...”

A loss wouldn't push Shepherd out of the playoffs, nor would it prevent Shepherd from hosting a first-round playoff game, Cater figures.

Shepherd would prefer to have another bye week as the Rams, getting healthier by the day, come off a bye week to entertain Glenville, a loser of five of their last six games. There's so much more at stake for Shepherd than just getting in. A little extra time for the injured can't hurt either.

“I think we're going to get a number of people back,” Cater said.

The Rams can become only the third team in school history to finish with an undefeated regular season and can lock down the top seed, which Shepherd had in 2006 during its last undefeated regular-season.

“It's supposed to be a nice day,” Cater said. “I know our kids are going to be excited. You play every year for the seniors and hope to send them out on a good note. We got a start on that. Now it's time to go out and make it a little more special.”

Glenville comes to town without the same starting quarterback as it started the season. The Rams lead the nation in turnover margin, rank second in the nation in turnovers gained, are fifth in turnovers gained and cornerlback Keone Robinson shares the nation lead in interceptions.

“I think Shepherd is a very good football team, like they always are,” Fiddler said. “They are well-coached and fundamentally sound this year. What separates them is that they have better athletes than the last few years. They have some difference-makers.

“They always have tailbacks. They have good receivers who can make plays. Their tight ends are good. They've made big jumps athletically with their safeties and cornerbacks; they're probably the best group I've seen. They have guys who can bust the pass, too.”

Running back Tommy Addison ranks 17th in the country in rushing for the Rams, whose scoring average of 42 points per game puts them fifth in the country.

The bye week Shepherd had a week ago enabled several ailing athletes to return to the lineup.

“A win and the Rams earn another bye, thereby giving some other injured players time to heal.

“If we're fortunate to win, that's not a bad thing,” Cater said.

If the Rams are fortunate to close the regular season on a good note, there would be lots of things not too bad for Shepherd as it starts its second season.

-- Rick Kozlowski can be reached at 304-265-5381, ext. 116, or rkozlowski@journal-news.net
Shepherd earns No. 4 playoff seed

Rams will host the Shaw Bears in the first round of the Division II playoffs

BY BEN GIBSON
FOR THE JOURNAL

"I thought we'd slip into the three seed, but we just have to get ready to pay in front of a good crowd at home on Saturday," Shepherd quarterback Kevin Cunley said.

The Rams are 6-2 on the season and are the top team in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association standings.

Despite the drop to the fourth seed, the Rams are staying positive as they head into the playoffs and prepare for the Bears.

"We're excited to be in, and that disappointment from yesterday we get to get off real quick," Cainer said. "We're looking forward to the game."

"We're looking forward to the game," wide receiver Neal Hardie said. "We're still playing, we're excited to have a home playoff game."

The Rams hope that another week at home will allow them to approach the game like any other game and not focus on the finality of a playoff game. But the Rams know that they have to do better than they did against Gulfville State.

"No one thinks we played at the level we're capable of. We know we have to go out there and play better," Cainer said.

The Rams will kickoff against the Bears at noon. If they win, they will head on the road to face the No. 1-seeded Gulfville Bears.

Members of the Shepherd University football team wait to find out their opponents for the first round of the Division II playoffs. It was announced that the Rams will host the Shaw Bears on Saturday at noon.
Shepherd has 19 named All-WVIAC

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

PRINCETON, W.Va. — Nineteen members of the conference champion Shepherd University football team were named to the 2010 All-WVIAC team on Tuesday.

Offensive lineman Steve Baisey, running back Tommy Addison, linebacker Brian Taylor, cornerback Keon Robinson and kick returner Deante Steele were all first-team selections.

Baisey, a first-year starter for the Rams, has keyed the offensive line play for the Rams and helped pave the way for Addison, who rushed for 100 yards or more in six games, has run for 1,178 yards and 15 touchdowns this season.

Taylor tops the Ram defense with 64 total tackles.

Robinson led the conference with eight interceptions. Steele, a first team selection for the third straight year, has a 20.9 kickoff return average and a 9.9 punt return mark. He has a NCAA record 11 career kick returns for touchdown.

Second team selections were offensive lineman Josh Spring, tight end Dominique Jones, fullback Bobby Humphries, sdefense end Howard Jones, nose guard Mike Franklin, outside linebacker Ben Minturn, safety Corey Washington and kicker Eric Dobratz.

Quarterback Kevin Clancy, wide receiver Robert Byrd, wide receiver Nikkolai Norrell, running back Nate Hoyte, defensive end Will Wheeler and cornerback Elijah Davis were awarded honorable mention.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Leigh signs with Shepherd

Williamsport senior defensive specialist Trisha Leigh signed a letter-of-intent on Friday to play for Shepherd University beginning next fall.

Leigh averaged a Washington County-best 6.73 digs per game this season. As a junior, she was a Herald-Mail All-County Second Team honoree after averaging 1.60 kills, 4.77 digs and 0.56 aces as an outside hitter. As a sophomore, she averaged 3.03 digs as a defensive specialist.
Warriors' Wilkins signs with Rams

By Jeremy Stafford - jstafford@nvdaily.com

STEPHENS CITY -- When Lauren Wilkins put pen to paper and swirled her name along the bottom of the pale white surface, then placed the pen down to light applause, it all seemed so ... simple. So natural.

Signing her letter-of-intent to play volleyball at Division II Shepherd University on Wednesday in the Sherando High School library, Wilkins knew, after months of deliberation, was quite plainly the right decision.

Listen to Wilkins go on about her choice: "The campus is beautiful ... [Rams coach Sarah Smith] is like your mom, but not mom -- she's the one you go to for guidance ... I met the girls and it sold me."

Hard to believe her decision wasn't simpler.

But there was an assortment of factors that went into her deliberation: The Naval Academy wanted Wilkins to run track in Annapolis, Md., and Virginia Military Institute wanted her to do the same in Lexington.

Lock Haven tried to allure Wilkins with the prospect of starting at outside hitter.

Eventually, it all came down to comfort -- Wilkins felt at ease at Shepherd.

When Wilkins went to Shepherdstown for her official visit, she met each Rams volleyball player, and the team brought her out for lunch, and by the end of her stay her mind was made up.

"I was really impressed," Wilkins said of her visit to Shepherd. "I thought that I'm happy here, I'll actually have fun, and if something happens I can come home."
"It just works out, and everything felt perfect."
Essentially, the stress and complications that seemed so prevalent at other schools evanesced entirely at Shepherd. But now that the mental drudgery is finished, Wilkins moves on to the physical toil. No longer playing club volleyball with the Northern Virginia Volleyball Association, the Sherando senior will spend this winter with the Potomac Elite, which, incidentally, will be coached by Smith.
So begins Wilkins' transition from Warrior to Ram, from Sherando red to Shepherd blue -- a transition she's both apprehensive and animated about. Which is understandable: Wilkins leaves behind quite a legacy at Sherando.
Wilkins started four seasons at Sherando, one under former coach James Minney, and three under current coach Chuck Ashby. She belted 57 kills her sophomore year and 161 kills her junior year.
Behind her 237 kills this past season, Sherando went 8-0 in the Northwestern District and danced to a district tournament title -- and Wilkins was subsequently named District Player of the Year.
"I really enjoyed playing with her," Sherando junior Morgan Sirbaugh said. "She always pushed me to be my best, pushed me to be as good as she was.
"She was a good leader and a good inspiration."
Wilkins will pack up those kills, along with her capacity to inspire, and bring them to a Shepherd team that finished 10-4 in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Conference and 13-18 overall last season. Wilkins said there's a chance she could start at Shepherd, though with Smith bringing in a hefty class of freshmen next fall, competition at outside hitter will be high. Harder to fill will be the void Ashby is left with.
Wilkins boasts not only a rippling shot and a biting serve, but also that aforementioned ability to inspire -- to make a team feel it can climb out of any hole and soar to any win.
"There's definitely an energy with her," Ashby said. "She was my uncontrolled sparkplug for three years, and she won't be replaced.
"We'll fill it in, but she won't be replaced."
Rams’ Steele returns to all-WVC

By Rick Kozlofski

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Another season, another return to the all-West Virginia Conference for Shepherd’s Trent Stallie.

The senior made it three straight years as the WVC announced its all-league squad Tuesday afternoon. Stallie, an NCAA record-holder for touchdown returns, is one of five players from league champion Shepherd named to the first team. Stallie, whose play is the secondary this season was limited by injury, was named to the team as only a return specialist this season after making it the last two years as both a returner and defensive back.

He holds the Division II record for touchdown runs in a season and career.

Joining Stallie on the first team are running back Tommy Addison, who led the league in rushing, and defensive end Dominique Jones, fullback Bobby Humphries, and cornerbacks Kevon Coughenour and Trey Donald. Stallie also had five players named to the first unit. Among them is two-time honorable, asynchronous Dewey McDonald, a graduate of Jefferson...

West Liberty led the way with eight selections on first team, including offensive and defensive players of the year, quarterback Zach Arnoldo and linebacker Clay Byerly, respectively. Seventy/sixth-place Fairmont State also had five players named to the first unit. Among them is two-time honorable, asynchronous Dewey McDonald, a graduate of Jefferson.

Addison rushed for 1,118 yards and scored 15 touchdowns. Stallie also averaged 20.9 yards per kickoff return and 9.9 on punts.

“We had a lot of people mentioned and that’s good,” Shepherd coach Monte Catte said. “Maybe you have a few more people deserving of a higher nod than they got, but we’re happy for the number of people who were able to make an all-conference team on some level.”

See RAMS C3

Rams FROM PAGE C1

West Liberty’s first-team offense include running back Reaun DeLee, wide receiver Kristofer Jernsand, and All-America Antronie McCubbin. The remote team is born out of the nation. Beeler was the Hillsiders’ lone defensive pick.

Other first-team offensive performers include Glensville’s Eric Jackson, West Virginia Wesleyan’s Shanan Davis, West Virginia State’s wide receiver John King, Pennsylvania State’s wide receiver Thomas Maya, and Wheeling Jesuit running back Brian Kennedy. If the defense, other honorees include All-American Black, All-America T. J. Gipson, Mike Price and Darrell Hand of West Virginia Wesleyan. In Beaver County’s first coverage pick was the nation’s.concern. Fairmont punter Ben Landis and kicker Frank Keenan were named to the first-team special team unit.

West Virginia Wesleyan coach Denny Crenshaw, in his second year at the helm, was named coach of the year, while quarterback Logan Moore of Fairmont and safety ALEX Wood were named offensive and defensive freshman of the year, respectively.

Beside McDonald, other local athletes honored by the WVC were Fairmont cornerback Rayland Newnam, a Jef...

Rick Kozlofski can be reached at 304-293-3381, or rkofofski@journal-news.net
Wilkins Commits to Shepherd

Sherando volleyball's head coach Chuck Ashby has a nickname for his star hitter Lauren Wilkins, "the uncontrollable spark plug" and at times during her high school career, it did appear that Wilkins could ignite a rally all by herself.

Posted: 8:51 PM Nov 17, 2010
Reporter: James Tully

This afternoon Wilkins declared she will play volleyball at Shepherd University.

She was captain on a Warriors team that captured the Northwestern District Title in 2010.

Comradery is important to her and that's a big reason why she chose Shepherd.
Shepherd sweeps hoops doubleheader

MEN'S BASKETBALL

PHILIPPI, W.Va. — Chad Moore had 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead Shepherd University to a 58-52 win over Alderson-Broaddus in WVIAC action Wednesday night.

The Rams (2-1, 1-0) earned their first win over the Battlers since a 77-69 victory on Jan. 18, 2005.

Brantley Osborne added 11 points, while Jonathan Motichka tossed in 10.

Nate Barnes led the Battlers (2-1, 0-1) with a game-high 15 points. Carl Buck added 11 points.

Trailing 22-17 at the half, Shepherd rallied to take the lead for good on at 40-38 on a three-pointer by Motichka with 7:44 remaining.

The Rams hit 10 of 13 free throws down the stretch to seal the win.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Shepherd 65, A-B 45

PHILIPPI, W.Va. — Carrie Saunders scored 14 points and junior guard Katie Biggs added 10 to lead Shepherd to a win over Alderson-Broaddus in WVIAC action.

Shelby Fayak added eight points and grabbed a team-high nine rebounds for the Rams (1-1, 1-0). Emily Daniel had six points, eight rebounds, and six steals, Jenn Prine and Alex Tamez each had nine points.

Ashley Price scored 12 points and Amanda People added nine points and 12 rebounds for the Lady Battlers (0-1, 0-1).
Shepherd teams sweep A-B

PHILIPPI — Sophomore forward Chad Moore scored 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead Shepherd to a 58-52 win over Alderson-Broaddus in West Virginia Conference men’s basketball play on Wednesday night.

The Rams earned their first win over the Battlers since posting a 77-69 victory on Jan. 18, 2005.

Redshirt-freshman guard Brantley Osborne added 11 points, while senior guard Jonathan Motichka tossed in 10.

Nate Barnes led the Battlers with a game-high 15 points. Carl Buck added 11 points.

Both teams shot around 40 percent as Shepherd hit on 19 of 48 shots (39.6 percent) and Alderson-Broaddus connected on 19 of 47 (40.4 percent).

Shepherd had a 36-30 rebounding advantage. The Rams were 18 of 24 from the foul line, while A-B struggled with an 11-of-21 effort.

Trailing 22-17 at the half, Shepherd rallied to take the lead for good at 40-38 on a 3-pointer by Motichka with 7:44 remaining.

The Rams hit 10 of 13 free throws down the stretch to seal the win.

Shepherd improved to 2-1 overall, 1-0 in conference play, while Alderson-Broaddus fell to 2-1, 0-1.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Shepherd 65, A-B 45
PHILIPPI — Senior guard Carrie Saunders scored 14 points and junior guard Katie Biggs added 10 to lead Shepherd University to a win over Alderson-Broaddus in West Virginia Conference women’s basketball play.

Junior forward Shelby Fayak added eight points and grabbed a team-high nine rebounds.

Sophomore guard Emily Daniel tallied six points, eight rebounds and six steals. Junior guard Jenn Prine and sophomore guard Alex Tamez each contributed nine points.

Ashley Price scored 12 points and Amanda People added nine points and 12 rebounds to lead the Lady Battlers.

The Rams controlled the boards with a 52-40 advantage. They forced 36 A-B turnovers and committed 21.

Shepherd led 22-18 at the half. The Rams opened the second half on a 24-5 run to pull away for the convincing win.

Shepherd improved to 1-1, 1-0 in WVC action, while Alderson-Broaddus fell to 0-1, 0-1. The Rams return to action on Friday when they travel to the Merrimack Tournament to face Indianapolis in a 5:30 p.m. contest.

GENERAL

EPMFC
MARTINSBURG — The Eastern Panhandle Mountaineer Fan Club will host West Virginia game watches for the next four days at the VIP Sports Bar and Grill, 36 Veronica Drive, Martinsburg.

The events begin for basketball at 11:30 a.m. today as the Mountaineers face Davidson, continue Friday at either 12:30 or 3 p.m. and continue Saturday at a time to be announced.

At noon Saturday, there will be a party to watch the WVU-Louisville football game.

The club also has bus transportation for the Backyard Brawl on Nov. 26 at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.

The bus will leave from Pill & Pill Law Office at 7 a.m. and costs $60 per person.

Deadline is 10 a.m. Monday.

— Staff reports
Rams sign six players for volleyball

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd volleyball coach Sarah Smith announced Thursday that six student-athletes have signed letters-of-intent to play volleyball for the Rams next year.

Taylor Belella (Smithsburg, Md.), Valerie Bowser (Williamshy, South, Ohio), Tristan Leigh Williamsport, Md.), Kathleen Murphy (Bel Air, Md.), Kayla Mothert (Potomac Falls, Va.), and Lauren Wilkins (Sherando, Va.) will join the Rams next season.

Belella, a setter, is a two-time all-county selection for Smithsburg. She has recorded 1,559 assists, 176 aces, and 425 digs over her four-year career. She also participates in basketball and track.

Belella was a member of the 2009 state champion team at Williamsport and her team is playing for another state title today.

“I first saw Taylor when she was 16 playing club ball in our gym,” Smith said. “Since that moment, I have been watching her and waiting to recruit her. Those hands are solid — she will be the perfect setter to come in and push our soon-to-be senior Lauren Jeselchnik. She also has the brains and composure to run a team, even as a freshman. Her command of the position is something coaches love in their setter.”

Belella is a three-year letterwinner in volleyball and a four-year letterwinner in track at Williamsport. She notched the school record for most kills in a match with 19. She was named team MVP and garnered first-team all-conference and all-district accolades this year. Belella also gained honorable mention all-OAC honors.

“Val comes to us from the very competitive Ohio high school and club program,” Smith said. “Her versatility on the court is her biggest asset, having played middle, right side and outside. Val’s explosive serve leads her to playing on the outside for us by running a quicker offense to keep the opponents guessing.”

Murphy was a two-year letterwinner in volleyball at Bel Air. A team captain, Murphy helped her team win the Bel Air Invitational Tournament this season. Her father, Scott Murphy, was an All-American football player at Towson.

“Kayla is such a fierce competitor,” Smith said. “She makes it her mission to become great at a skill and always wants to do her best. She comes off a great senior season and I feel her biggest asset is that she wants to keep learning. Kayla is a tall, quick middle who will add depth in a very key position in our offense.”

Wilkins earned a total of nine letters in volleyball and track at Sherando. She was named 2010 Northern Virginia Daily Volleyball Player of the Year. She set a school record for aces with 99 in 2009. An accomplished track athlete, Wilkins was the 2009 Region II triple jump champion. Smith said, “her ball control and strength are her biggest assets. We are excited to see how she competes in our gym and increases our ability to keep rallies going defensively.”

Mothert was a three-year letterwinner in volleyball at Potomac Falls. A team captain, Mothert led the team to a county championship and was named 2010 Northern Virginia Daily Volleyball Player of the Year. She set a school record for aces with 99 in 2009. An accomplished track athlete, Wilkins was the 2009 Region II triple jump champion.

“Lauren is a player I have been watching for three years,” Smith said. “She is now the second player

I have coached to graduate from Sherando (Beth Schmitz, Shepherd ’06). Her energy on the court and tenacity to get every ball is infectious. In addition, she gives us depth on the outside where she will be a driving force.”

“I am very excited about this freshmen class,” Smith added. “Our goal was to increase our squad size in the range of 14-15 players. We have added depth in every position on the court allowing us to compete at every practice at the highest level possible. Our ball control was the biggest growth by this class with two defensive specialists and two players who play all six rotations in Val and Lauren.”

“I am also very excited that the majority of these players are local. The talent in the tri-state area is top notch and this is proof of it.”

“We finished fifth in the (West Virginia Conference) with a 11-5 record including the WVC tournament” with only losing one player to graduation. This team is built to compete for its first ever WVIAC championship.”

Staff reports
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Indianapolis 82, Shepherd 71

NORTH ANDOVER, Mass. — Samantha Meissel scored a game-high 30 points to lead Indianapolis over Shepherd University in first day action of the 2010 Courtyard by Marriott Classic on Friday night.

Senior guard Jerica Hewett, a Boonsboro graduate, led the Rams with 18 points behind a 7-of-12 shooting effort with a 3-of-4 performance from three-point range.

Junior forward Shelby Fayak added 15 points. Hewett and Fayak each grabbed seven rebounds.

The Rams controlled the boards with a 42-31 advantage. Shepherd committed 30 turnovers and forced 22.

Shepherd falls to 1-2, while Indianapolis improves to 1-0. The Rams return to action today in the consolation game at 1.
Sh: Shepherd, Shaw open playoffs

BY RICK KOSZOWSKI
JOURNAL NORTH REGION

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Shepherd knew it had a little bit of wiggle room as the Rams struggled in their first half of the season last week against Glenville.

They had already clinched the West Virginia Conference championship and knew they would be making the playoffs during a game in which they rallied to gain a lead late, only to see it vanish in the final 25 seconds.

In losing 28-24, Shepherd lost the top seed in Super Region 1 and is forced to play in the first round, which, considering how the Rams struggled last week off a bye week, might not be such a bad thing. Besides, fourth-seeded and 11th-ranked Shepherd is home for the opening round of the tournament as the Rams entertain Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association champion Shaw.

Twenty-fifth ranked Shepherd qualified with a narrow 14-7 win over Virginia State in the league’s championship game, the Rams’ eighth straight victory.

“We’ve played four playoff games the last four games of the season.” Shaw coach Derrill Asberry said of his team’s precarious position in the region rankings. “Any one of those teams we played could’ve been in the championship game or the playoffs.

“It shows what type of ballclub we have. We look forward to challenges, coming and giving our best effort.

The winner advances to a game next week at top-seeded Kutztown in the regional semifinals.

“We’re reminded them.” Shepherd coach Monee Cates said. “I think our spirit is good and we got the disappointment out of the way: ‘You’re in the national playoffs at home; there’s no reason to be bring your heads.’

Nake Hoyte of Shepherd dives into the end zone with a touchdown in last week’s game against Glenville. The Rams host Shaw Saturday in the first round of the NCAA Division II playoffs.

Shepherd is making its sixth appearance in the NCAA playoffs, while Shaw, which ranks fifth overall in 2003 and has recorded in the state, is making its second. The Rams were previously paired in the South region, losing to Delta State in the second round of the NCAA postseason.

Shepherd is 3-5 in the NCAA postseason overall, with 4-0 overall. Shepherd is 3-1 all-time against teams from the CIAA having won at home and lost on the road.

“I think our guys are bouncing back.” Cates said. “We had a lot of spirit at practice. We realize we didn’t play our best. But we have to keep in mind we’re playing a team that has more success than Glenville had.

“We’re at home. It’s exciting to represent the conference. We know we get to play better than last week.”

The Bears once stood at 1-2 before winning their last eight games. Included in that stretch of games were five straight on the road.

“We tend to play a little better on the road.” Asberry said.

Anytime Williams rushed for a 1-yard score to put Shaw on the board against Virginia State, and, after Virginia State returned a blocked field goal for a touchdown, the Bears won the game on Quishbon Odom’s 2-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter.

Shaw limited Virginia State to 136 yards of total offense, Williams ran for 92 yards and two touchdowns, and Asberry said, “We’re old-school; we have five running backs.”

Cates calls the Bears “aggressive.”

“They got great speed,” he said. “They can spread you out and put a couple of good running backs, they’re not going to try to eat you up.”

Shepherd lines to run the football too, and is led by Tommy Addison, one of five freshmen all-league picks for the Rams. He’s run for 1,178 yards to lead the Rams.

“The way things look,” Cates said. “It may be at full strength for the first time in some time. If we can go and be healthy, that’ll help us, too.”

What has impressed Asberry about Shepherd is its ability to manage turnovers. The Rams are among the nation’s best.

“Their turnovers margin is plus-17,” he said. “They’re doing some great things on defense.” Asberry said. “Their defensive line is real active.”

The Rams are allowing 273 yards per game through the air, but, with the exception of the game against Glenville, have overcome the number of key down time with interruptions. Keen Robinson leads the nation.

Shepherd is allowing just 91 yards rushing.

That contrasts with Shaw, which is allowing 121.5 yards on the ground and 175.9 through the air.

Shepherd manages 203.8 yards per game on the ground, 229.5 through the air and scores at a rate of 40.2 points per game. Shaw rushes for 171.5 yards per game, possess for 267.5 and scores at a rate of 37.3 points per game.

Both of them yield almost 217 points per game.

While everybody knows of Shepherd, the most-regarded in the WVC postseason players and the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference and its four entries into the playoff.

Shaw is the unknown squad.

Asberry felt like his team, winners of three conference championships in four seasons, should’ve qualified for the postseason in 2009.

“We don’t come in with a chip on our shoulder,” he said. “We come in to show that we have a right to be in it like everybody else. We’re 9-2; nobody gave us a team.”

If Shaw is being overlooked, so be it.

“I always think Shaw is being overlooked. ‘A lot of them little bit, a lot,’” Asberry said.

The Bears are bringing their marching band to the game and have several other fans lined up for their fans.

Cater wants to see the Shepherd team be realize play throughout the regular season, not the one that times was a bit off in its execution and wound up dropping three spots in the regional rankings as a result of the loss by the Rams.

“We have to play our best game,” Cater said.

-Rick Koszowski can be reached at 304-263-3381, ext. 116, or rkozowski@juniorsnews.net
Rams rout Shaw in playoff opener

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Tommy Addison ran for 145 yards and a touchdown and Nate Hoyte added 106 yards and a score to lead Shepherd University to a 40-6 win over Shaw University in the first round of the NCAA Division II Super Regional 1 at Ram Stadium on Saturday.

Kevin Clancy threw a pair of touchdown passes to Dominique Jones for the Rams (10-1), who will travel to top seed Kutztown next weekend.

Shepherd took a 3-0 lead two minutes into the second quarter on a 29-yard field goal by Eric Dobratz.

Clancy connected with Jones on a 7-yard touchdown strike with 5:23 left in the second quarter to give the Rams a 10-0 lead at halftime.

Hoyte rambled 6 yards for a score with 9:31 left in the third quarter for a 17-0 lead. The Rams added a safety when Shaw quarterback Quinshon Odom was flagged for intentional grounding in the end zone and Addison raced 43 yards for a touchdown on the first play of the fourth quarter as Shepherd took a 26-0 lead.

Shaw broke up the shutout with 8:40 left in the game when Odom teamed with Julius Gregory on a 23-yard scoring pass.

Clancy and Jones hooked up again on a 9-yard scoring pass with 5:51 left and Michael Haynes went 9 yards for a touchdown with 1:06 remaining to complete the scoring.

Shepherd amassed 447 yards of total offense, while holding Shaw to only 233. Clancy completed 15 of 31 passes for 165 yards, while Odom connected on 13 of 29 passes for 150 yards.
Rams pummel Bears

By RICK KOLZOWSKI
JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Consider it a lesson learned for Shepherd.

Although the Rams went into Saturday's NCAA Division II playoff game against visiting and unbeaten Shaw in a less-than-ideal situation coming off their only loss of the season, Shepherd found its footing again Saturday at Ram Stadium.

The fifth-ranked Rams delivered a balanced attack offensively, pressured Shaw on defense and overcome injuries to key special teams players to run away from the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Bears in a 46-6 win in front of a meager puntion crowd of 4,212.

The West Virginia Conference champion Rams, Seed Region 1's fourth seed, advances to the second round of the playoffs next Saturday at top-seeded Frostburg. "The pain against Frostburg..." said Dominique Jones, who caught two touchdowns passes against Shaw.

"It insulted us, We came out today with intensity." In some sense, Shepherd saw the loss to Frostburg as a win in the mind. The defeat put into their heads. "We knew we had to be more into the game at the start," said running back Tommy Addison, who along with Pat Boyle, topped 100 yards rushing and scored a touchdown apiece in ground

Shepherd runs wild in win

By RICK KOLZOWSKI
JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Few might've expected Mike Hayes to run for a touchdown for Shepherd in a playoff game.

Mike. Who?

Few might've expected the senior running back to be ever playing for Shepherd in a playoff game.

Few might've expected him to ever be playing on a unit other than special teams for Shepherd in a playoff game.

That Hayes did run and did never reflect how well Shepherd's ground game operated during the Rams' 46-6 win in the first round of the NCAA Division II playoffs on Saturday at Ram Stadium.

"Rams rush for 282 yards"
Shepherd (FROM PAGE C1)

40-6 win over Shaw on Saturday at Ram Stadium.

Hoyte finished the game with 15 points and nine
rebounds, adding a 2-of-9 shooting from the field.
Shepherd led all scorers with a game-high 14 points.

The Rams had 27 turnovers and missed
15 shots.

Hoyte improved to 2-2, while Slippery Rock fell to 6-3.

40-6 win over Shaw on Saturday at Ram Stadium. Hoyte finished the game with 15 points and nine rebounds, adding a 2-of-9 shooting from the field. Shepherd led all scorers with a game-high 14 points. The Rams had 27 turnovers and missed 15 shots. Hoyte improved to 2-2, while Slippery Rock fell to 6-3.

Rams FROM PAGE C1

the Bears' defense, but their eight-game winning streak is now over, which is no bad thing as the Rams are now in a three-way tie for first place in the conference. Hoyte ran for 16 yards, then
made a catch for 15 more. Addison broke off a 12-yard run before the Bears dropped back.

29 yards on the play. Hoyte had been key in the Rams' success, but now he is out with an injury.

Stew. After Shaw took the kickoff, the Rams needed only three plays to get the ball. Hoyte finished the drive with a 49-yard scamper, setting up a 27-yard field goal by Stew. Hoyte's 27-yard field goal came after a 10-yard pass to Stew and a 23-yard field goal by Stew.

Shepherd scored 19 points on 8-of-11 shooting from the field, including 1-of-2 from the charity stripe. Hoyte and Shepherd combined for 36 points and 17 rebounds.

Hoyte's TD run of six yards came early in the second quarter, setting up Hoyte's
40-6 win over Shaw.

Rams

Shepherd (FROM PAGE C1)

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Seton Hill 101, Shepherd 75

GREENSBURG, Pa. — Carrie Saunders scored 16 points for Shepherd University in a WVIAC loss to Seton Hill (3-1, 2-1).

Jenn Prine had 14 points, Jerica Hewett had 12 points and seven rebounds and Katie Biggs had 10 points and seven rebounds for the Rams (2-3, 1-1).
Second half surge sends Shepherd to next playoff round

After a first half where both defenses of Shepherd and Shaw held the upper hand for the most part, it was the Rams that found the ways to give running back Tommy Addison enough room to effectively maneuver throughout the second half.

Shepherd had a ten-point lead at the half as Nate Hoye had a 48-yard run that led to the only touchdown before halftime.

But in the last two quarters it was a different scene as Addison split through the Shaw defense for runs of 48 and 43 yards and the Rams scored another 30 points to defeat the Bears from North Carolina, 40-6.

In winning the first-round game of the NCAA Division II Super Region I playoffs, the Rams extended their overall record to 10-1 and qualified to move along the national playoff trail this weekend.

On Saturday, Shepherd will be in the Region I semifinals against top-seeded Kutztown, also 10-1 after receiving a first-round bye last week.

Against Shaw, the champions of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, the Rams could manage only one first down in their first three possessions.

But the Bears had only three first downs in their first three possessions.

Near the close of the first quarter, the Rams began a 12-play, 68-yard drive that brought them to the Shaw 12. Eric Dumas sailed a sidewinder 28-yard field goal through the uprights and Shepherd had the game’s first points early in the second quarter.

The Bears were on the brink of erasing the hard-earned three-point Shepherd lead when they reached the Rams’ 11.

Fullback Raymond Williams was jarred and lost a crucial fumble to Greg Davis and the ball was out of bounds.

Just two plays after Davis’ fumble recovery, Hoye got off a 48-yard run that culminated in the Shaw 26.

Later, on a fourth-and-two from the sheet, Shepherd coach Monte Carter echeloned another field goal and was rewarded with a touchdown pass from Kevin Clark to tight end Dominique Jones.

Dominique Jones catches one of his two touchdown receptions as Shepherd defeated Shaw, 40-6.
The Rams had a double-figure lead at 10-0 and kept it when a Shaw pass into the Shepherd end zone was dropped.

Even with Hayne's one breakaway run, Shepherd had been held to 59 rushing yards at the half. And the Shaw offense had never penetrated against the defense it saw from the Rams, setting only 69 yards along the ground.

The last fumble and the dropped pass combined with the work of the Shepherd defense had kept Shaw scoreless.

When the Rams wouldn't allow the Bears even a single first down on Shaw's initial second-half possession, the Shepherd defense maintained the same control it had earlier flexed on the game.

And its offensive line would move the Shaw interior in the degree that Addison could literally run away from the Bears on runs of 48 and 43 yards — the second score that had Shepherd winging away with a 26-0 lead.

Hayne's six-yard, scoring run had left the Rams on top, 17-0.

The next points came when Oden reached Odum in his end zone to pass but was pulled for intentional grounding. The red zone penalty resulted in a safety ... and a 19-2 lead.

Addison was gone ... through and around the Shaw defense when he actually fooled a corner back with a fake that he passed him by without being touched. It was 26-0.

Shaw's only points came at the end of an 80-yard drive that was capped by a 25-yard pass from Odum to Julian Gregory.

Shaw couldn't find much soilage that score because Shepherd went through its defense again.

Clancy threw nine yards to Decrupin Jones for a 53-6 Sher-

Dil's lead.

Near the game's end, the Rams were content to run out the clock.

But when they ran straight at the midsection of the Bear defense with Mike Haynes, the Rams moved 30 yards in seven

probes between the tackles to a 40-6 lead.

Shaw had its nine-game win streak shattered.

Shaw left behind an electrified football—weather after-

noon.
Kutztown preps for playoff test

By Jimmy Johnson
Reading Eagle correspondent

Kutztown University football players are familiar with going home for Thanksgiving during the program's 95-season history.

But they have never returned to campus to play a NCAA playoff game.

Until now.

As snow fell in Kutztown on Thanksgiving, fifth-year coach Raymond Monica and his staff were still preparing for their opponent in Saturday's NCAA Division II second-round game: Shepherd University.

The players had an early morning practice before being dismissed so they could go home to spend time with their families and enjoy a hearty Thanksgiving meal.

All of them have a lot to be thankful for this season.

At 10-1, the Golden Bears have set numerous records during their best season in program history. They won the top seed in Super Region One, got a first-round bye and earned the right to host fourth-seeded Shepherd (10-1) Saturday at noon at University Field.

"This was the main goal from the start," said Monica, who was an assistant coach at the University of North Alabama when the Lions won three NCAA Division II national championships from 1993-95. "We've always wanted to get to the playoffs."

Now the goal has shifted toward winning a playoff game. Shepherd, located in Shepherdstown, W. Va., will provide a challenge, but it's the kind that the Bears are fully prepared to face.

Like Kutztown, Shepherd has an explosive offense, averaging 40.2 points per game. The Rams have scored 40 or more six times this season, including a 40-6 win over Shaw in the first round of the playoffs last week.

The difference is that the Rams have a more balanced attack, averaging 210.9 rushing yards and 223.6 passing yards.

"They're doing a good job mixing up the running and the pass," Monica said.

At the forefront of it all is running back Tommy Addison, a junior who has rushed for 1,323 yards and 16 touchdowns. Running back Nate Hoyt has 557 yards and 10 touchdowns, and senior quarterback Kevin Clinkscale has passed for 2,349 yards and 21 touchdowns.

Clearly, Shepherd knows how to put up points, but so can Kutztown. The Bears have been involved in several shootouts and they know how to survive them. They've jumped out to early leads and they've rallied from behind.

"When you're looking at the season, it seems like someone always makes a play," Monica said. "Somebody always has stepped in and made a play for us. Some guys have made more than others, but the key is that somebody makes a play."

Sophomore quarterback Kevin Morton has been a key cog in the "big play" department. The PSAC East Offensive Player of the Year set the school's single-season passing record with 3,281 yards. He also has 34 touchdown passes and at least one in his last 16 games.
He’s had that opportunity thanks to a decision Monica made in the middle of last season. No one could have seen this coming when Monica benched a senior starter for a true freshman.

“You look at how many games he played last season to this season and you can see how he has grown,” Monica said. “He has the intangibles, the character and that leadership needed to lead this team.”

He also has become smarter as a passer. Outside of the four interceptions thrown in the loss to Bloomsburg, Morton has cut down on the mistakes since the season’s start. He will need to do the same thing against a feisty defense that has forced 35 turnovers, including 20 interceptions.

That stat has not changed the Bears’ approach to this game.

“We’re going to continue doing everything the same way,” Monica said. “We are not preparing any differently than we have all season.”

There’s no reason to change. That preparation has led to 10 wins, a home playoff game and an early return to campus before the Thanksgiving break is officially over.

For the players, the half-day away from football spent with their families could be exactly what they need to prepare for Saturday.

“Because a lot of our players are local, just about everyone is going home, and I want them to go home,” said Monica, a family man himself with a wife and three kids. “It will be nice for them to get away for the day.”
D-II clubs from Pa. ousted in playoffs

The Associated Press

KUTZTOWN — Kutztown University's most-successful football season concluded Saturday with a 41-34 setback to Shepherd University of West Virginia in a NCAA Division II second-round playoff contest Saturday afternoon at University Field.

Sophomore quarterback Kevin Morton fired four touchdown passes to establish a single-season mark in that category. Morton finished with 352 passing yards, the sixth time this year he finished with 300 or more yards. Morton finished the year with 38 touchdown passes, one more than Andy Breault threw in 1991.

Josh Smith hauled in two touchdown catches, and Jay McKnight returned an interception 50 yards for a touchdown to give Kutztown a 27-19 advantage with 6:49 left in the contest. Unfortunately for Kutztown, the Rams scored two touchdowns in a 15-second span (on a kickoff return and an interception returned for a score) to take the lead for good and advance to a national quarterfinal meeting at Mercyhurst College in Erie next Saturday.

The Golden Bears concluded their season with school records in wins (10), PSAC Eastern Division wins (six), and points scored (466).
Shepherd tops Kutztown

Rams advance to Super Region 1 final against Mercyhurst

By Matt Young
FORUM JOURNAL

KUTZTOWN, Pa. — It’s fair to say the Shepherd football team isn’t known for fairy tales.

Through two weeks of the NCAA Division II playoffs, the Rams have taken on two teams that would probably be called “Cinderellas” after having put together unlikely successful seasons to advance to the postseason.

In the first round, the Rams did not fall around and simply score a touchdown, but Kutztown, a program that had never won more than seven games in a season and was making its first playoff appearance in its 95-year history, the fourth-seed, but more tradition-rich Rams for Cinderella efforts, hope for a happy ending, but alas the glass slipper shattered yet again as Shepherd won, 11-7, back-and-forth affair 41-34 before 4,281 fans at University Field.

Shepherd (11-1), which has now won multiple playoff games in the same year for the first time, advances to the Super Region I championship Saturday at No. 2 Mercyhurst in Erie, Pa., with a spot in the national semifinals on the line.

Despite taking on playoff newbies, it was no less a challenge for Rams coach Monte Catr.

“They’re very successful Cinderellas,” said Catr, who has the Rams in the playoffs for the eighth time in his 24 seasons.

But unlike Shaw, which suffered a 34-point defeat against Shepherd, the Cinderella pulled it out in a last second touchdown in the fourth quarter.

The most dramatic of them came after being down 10-7 with 6:49 remaining at a slippery McKnight 56-yard interception return for a TD.

“I was a stupid mistake,” Rams quarterback Kevin Clancy, who finished 16 of 29 for 175 yards, said of the interception. “Most teams would have started pointing fingers, but we came together.”

Despite the apparent dominating play, Shepherd rallied in the fourth quarter. Kevin Robinson took the ensuing kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown. Clancy hit tight end Dom Jones for a 2-point conversion to tie it at 17 with 8:11 to go.

“We made a read on him, blocked it well,” Catr said. “Somebody needed to make a tackle with (All-American returner Deante) Steele out.”

Kutztown (8-5-2) then took the field attempting to put together a game-winning drive behind record-setting quarterback Kevin Morton, who completed 13 of 19 passes for 352 yards and four TDs.

But the Golden Bears’ pass-happy offense finally faltered as reserve cornerback Maurice Perry broke on an out pattern and stepped in front of Morton’s pass to intercept it and get 32 yards for a touchdown.

“It was a bunch shot (for the receivers) and I just broke on the ball. I didn’t think he was going to throw it,” said Perry, who finished 6 for 10 for 197 yards.

“Perry went deep early and it was my turn to stop it,” Perry said.

Kutztown still had a chance to tie and drove to Shepherd’s 15 with just more than three minutes remaining, but Ben Minurn made a tackle on Kendall Coonan, stopping him short on fourth-and-40.

Tommy Adisson, who led Shepherd with 172 yards on 22 carries, broke free on the ensuing drive for a 72-yard TD pass that all but sealed the game. Catr’s Troy Foster caught a meaningless TD with eight seconds remaining for the final margin.

Despite yielding 413 yards, most of which came through the air, Catr was pleased with his defense.

“We wanted to keep everything in front, get people moving to the ball,” he said. “We have see so many passing teams this year, so today wasn’t really a surprise.”

Indeed, despite moving the ball with relative ease, Kutztown had to earn it in mostly small chunks.

“They do a good job of tackling,” Bears coach Raymond Menisco said. “You think about how many passes were caught and how there wasn’t many yards after contact.”

Of course, Kutztown rarely had an opportunity to showcase its spread passing attack in the first half as the Rams played ballhogs. Shepherd took a 6-0 lead on a 1-yard Nate Hostie touchdown run that capped a 15-play, 94-yard drive that ate up 8 minutes, 37 seconds.

Shepherd’s Howard Jones sacked Morton to force a fumble that Will Wheeler recovered on Kutztown’s first drive.

The Rams later turned another Bears turnover, a fumble recovered by Bryan Letourneau, into a 13-0 lead. Clancy ran a 9-yard quarterback sweep for the score that ended a nine-play, 58-yard march that consumed 4:49. Kutztown was stopped at the 15.7 yard line on Morton’s 10 yard strike with 3:08 left in the second.

Despite dominating the first half in yards and time of possession, the Rams soon found themselves trailing 14-13 as Kutztown capitalized on a Hoya fumble and scored four plays later when Morton lured Erik Frazier in the back of the end zone for a spectacular 16-yard diving TD catch.

The Rams scrambled to what they do best, however, and ran the ball down Kutztown’s throat. A 1-yard Kutztown TD dive that ate up more than eight minutes and culminated in a 1-yard Hoya TD dive to make it 19-14 after the two-point try failed.

“We believe we have to run the football,” said Catr, whose team ended up with 243 rush yards on 43 carries for a 5.4 average per carry. “We had a size mix of running and throwing.”

Monica concluded.

“They do what they do, and they do a good job at it,” he said. “We had a hard time stopping it. We couldn’t get stops when we needed it. They made plays and kept drives going.”

Despite seeking yet another long, time-consuming drive, Kutztown recovered when Morton found Smith again, this time from 14 yards out with 8:91 left, giving Kutztown a 20-19 lead. It ballooned to an eight-point deficit on McKnight’s interception return that had the Kutztown faithful thinking fairy tales do come true.

But then another interception this time by safety Logan Smith in the back of the end zone with 1:56 left, giving Shepherd a 27-19 lead with 1:56 remaining thanks to a 23-yard McKnight 56-yard interception return for a TD.

“I was a stupid mistake,” Rams quarterback Kevin Clancy, who finished 16 of 29 for 173 yards, said of the interception. “Most teams would have started pointing fingers, but we came together.”

Despite the apparent dominating play, Shepherd rallied in the fourth quarter. Kevin Robinson took the ensuing kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown. Clancy hit tight end Dom Jones for a 2-point conversion to tie it at 17 with 8:11 to go.

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Stunning reversal of fortune for Kutztown
KU's eight-point lead erased in 15 seconds as Shepherd prevails

By Joseph Santoliquito
For the Reading Eagle

Jay McKnight won't forget the raucous times he and his Kutztown teammates spent together. He won't forget the practical jokes they played on one another, and the colorful locker room banter they'd throw around.

The Kutztown senior strong safety, by way of Conrad Weiser, looked like he would have more of those times. But a 33-second rollercoaster ride zapped McKnight and his Kutztown teammates, who were near the pinnacle and then just as suddenly came crashing down.

Shepherd University scored twice in 15 seconds in the fourth quarter, after McKnight's 50-yard interception return for a touchdown, to beat Kutztown 41-34 at University Field in the second round of the NCAA Division II playoffs.

The defeat ended a historic season for the Golden Bears, who reached the playoffs for the first time in the 95-year history of the program.

They set school records for wins (10) and points scored (466) and won a record nine games in a row to start the season.

Shepherd advanced to the quarterfinals against Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference champion Mercyhurst Saturday.

For Kutztown, all that was left was contemplating what could have been, if not for a brief fourth-quarter spell that saw 21 points scored.

The Golden Bears took a 20-19 lead when Kevin Morton hit Josh Smith with a 14-yard touchdown with 8 minutes, 1 second left. The Rams tried retaking the lead, when McKnight came blazing through with what - at the time - looked like the play of the game. On a second-and-10 at the Shepherd 40, Rams quarterback Kevin Clancy stopped back and looked toward the sideline, overthrew his receiver and right into the waiting hands of McKnight, who snared the ball one handed and pulled it into his hip.

All that was in front of McKnight was open space, as he sprinted untouched for a 50-yard score and opened a 27-19 Kutztown lead.

"Things were looking good there," said McKnight, who earlier had stripped a ball free that caused a fumble, setting up a Golden Bears score. "We were in a great spot."

And then they weren't.

Shepherd's Keon Robinson returned the ensuing kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown, and Shepherd's Clancy hit Don Jones with a 2-point conversion tying the score at 27-27 with 6:31 left.

It didn't stay tied for long. On Kutztown's next possession, Shepherd defensive back Maurice Perry jumped a wheel route and intercepted Morton for a 32-yard interception return for a 34-27 Shepherd lead with 6:16 left.

"I saw their corner getting cut, and I should have saw him on that, he made a good play," said Morton, whose four touchdown passes established a new Kutztown record for TD passes in a season with 38. "It's kind of tough going out like this, because you don't have another game to redeem yourself."

Shepherd's Tommy Addison put the exclamation point on it with a 73-yard scoring run with 1:50 left. Morton added a cosmetic score in the game's waning seconds with his fourth touchdown, hitting Troy Foster with an 8-yard pass.
"It's not easy going out like this," said Kutztown fifth-year center Jared Haas, who came back to play one more season. "We had a bunch of guys making big plays all year, and it just didn't happen today. But I'll tell you what, I wouldn't change anything. I got to play with 90 of the best friends you'll ever have."

McKnight, obviously distraught, concurred with his teammate.

"Sure, you want to keep on playing, but this is the best experience I've ever had playing football in my life," said McKnight, a smile starting to crease his face. "That's the way I have to look at it. Al Weiser, we never made the playoffs. I was never on a football team that won 10 games in a season before. We made history with this program this season, and it's something I'll take with me the rest of my life."
Kutztown goes down swinging

Shepherd's two late scores overcame the Bears' own rally in the Div. II playoff game.

By Jimmy Johnson

For The Inquirer

KUTZTOWN, Pa. - Kutztown needed just 72 seconds to turn a five-point deficit into an eight-point lead in the fourth quarter of its NCAA Division II football playoff game against Shepherd University (W. Va.).
But Shepherd needed even less time to manage a similar turnaround.

In 15 seconds, Shepherd scored 15 points to defeat Kutztown, 41-34, in the second round of the playoffs Saturday at University Field.

"It was a big swing both ways," said fifth-year Kutztown coach Raymond Monica, a former defensive coordinator at Temple. "It should have been entertaining out there."

In the final 20 minutes, the teams combined for 55 points. Kutztown (10-2) scored late in the third quarter to take a 14-13 lead, but Shepherd (11-1) put together a 16-play, 92-yard scoring drive to go ahead, 19-14, with 10:13 left in the game.

The drive was eerily similar to the Rams' opening drive, which took 19 plays and traveled 94 yards. Both long drives ended with Nate Hoyte rushing touchdowns.

Kutztown's quick 13-point rally began when sophomore quarterback Kevin Morton, an Abington grad, tossed a 14-yard TD pass to Josh Martin putting the Bears ahead, 20-19, with 8:01 left. Then Kutztown cornerback Jay McKnight forced his second turnover, returning an interception 50 yards for a 27-19 Kutztown lead with 6:49 left.

Kutztown could smell the quarterfinals, but Shepherd's Keon Robinson returned the ensuing kickoff 97 yards, and the two-point conversion tied it. Then, on Kutztown's first offensive play, Shepherd's Maurice Perry returned an interception 32 yards for a 34-27 Shepherd lead with 6:16 left.

Kutztown drove to the Shepherd 15-yard line on the ensuing possession, but on fourth and 10, a completion ended up short of the first down.

Shepherd's Tommy Addison sealed the Rams' win with a 72-yard touchdown run with 1:50 left.

Morton threw a TD pass with 12 seconds left, his fourth of the day, to break the single-season school record (38).

"It was fun," Morton said of his 2010 season. "Our offensive staff is unbelievable. They have us ready to go . . . and with the running backs and wideouts I have, it's pretty easy for me to get them the ball."

Shepherd advances to play at Mercyhurst, which defeated No. 20 Bloomsburg, 28-14, Saturday.
Three Shepherd players earn super-regional football honors

Three Shepherd University players were named to the 2010 Daktronics Division II All-Super Region 1 team, selected by the region's sports information directors. Sophomore cornerback Keon Robinson was a first-team choice, while senior linebacker Brian Taylor and senior return specialist Deante Steele were second-team selections.

Robinson led the West Virginia Conference and was among the national leaders in interceptions with eight. He returned two interceptions for scores and tied for the team lead in passes defended with 18. He had 58 tackles, with a team-high 53 solo stops. Robinson also returned 13 kickoffs for a 21.9 average and eight punts for a 10.4 average.

Taylor led the Rams in tackles with 73, including 37 solo. He defended five passes, had three interceptions, two forced fumbles, a fumble recovery and a blocked kick.

Steele averaged 20.9 yards per kickoff return and 9.9 per punt return. He earned WVIAC Special Teams Player of the Week honors after his Division II record 11th career kick return touchdown keyed a Shepherd win over West Liberty.