Shepherd defeats Mercyhurst, 49-14; faces Delta State on road

NATIONAL SEMIFINALS FOR SHEPHERD

Tommy Addison scored twice as SU defeated Mercyhurst.

Dates: December 1, 2010
Publication: The Spirit of Jefferson

Shepherd Coach Monte Cater has a container of snow dumped on him.

2010 was the first time national semifinals were held in the NCAA Division II.

And now there are only four teams remaining in the NCAA Division II playoffs.

Just four teams in the nation are still in the running for the national championship.

Shepherd University is one of those four teams left standing.

The Rams scored the game’s last five touchdowns in subtracting a first-half tie to the Saint Peter’s University game in Super Region I (mid-atlantic) and game at Mercyhurst on Saturday.

Leaving the halftime tie far behind, the Rams put an exclamation point on their postseason accomplishments with a resounding 49-14 win over Mercyhurst, the 2010 king of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

It was Shepherd’s 12th win of the season — a school record.

The only team in the league to have won a division title, there were seven losses.

Any team from the WVIAC to win an NCAA regional championship... or reach the national semifinals... or to win the postseason.

The impressive win in the stingy weather just east of Lake Erie was Shepherd’s third success of the postseason. The Rams had given the Rams a berth in the Super Region I finals against the second-seeded Lakers.

Now 12-1 overall, Shepherd leads the Lakers with five second-half touchdowns while blanking the pass-oriented Mercyhurst offense.

Mercyhurst finished at 10-1-1 after winning its first-ever conference championship with a victory over Slippery Rock in the playoffs.

The third consecutive national playoff game, Shepherd scored at least 40 points. And like its other playoff wins over Shaw and Kutztown, the Shepherd defense had crucial interceptions of a quarterback whose throwing was the key ingredient in his team’s offense.

In fact, the Rams intercepted Travis Reuckie four times to act as more than a counterweight to the two touchdowns Shepherd had.

The only team left standing in the Division II national playoffs was Delta State (Mississippi).

Mercyhurst-Duluth (the 2008 national champions) and Northwest Missouri State (the 2009 national champions). On Saturday, at 2 p.m. EST, Shepherd will play Delta State in Cleveland, Mississippi, Minnesota-Duluth and Northwest Missouri State will play at 6 p.m. EST.

Both semifinals will be televised by CBS College Sports. Last Saturday’s Shepherd win came on snow-covered Tufts Field before a sparse gathering of only 1,935.

The game was a 33-33 tie at the half.

But with 6:06 left in the third quarter, Hoyte broke free from the Mercyhurst 15 for his second touchdown. Shepherd moved to 21-14, after converting on a 30-yard pass at the Lakers’ 10.

Just seconds into the fourth quarter, Hoyte went 15 yards to complete a 10-play, 52-yard drive.

Shepherd led 21-14 and the Rams were down 6-0.

Hoyte added his fourth score (he had 109 rushing yards on 17 carries) with a three-yard burst through the third-quarter Lakers’ defense.

At 42-14, Shepherd was still advancing its hard-won lead. Hoyte 4.25 was left to the celebratory touch.

Just 15 seconds later, Shepherd defensive end Will Wheeler picked off a Reuckie pass and moved 27 yards to the fifth straight Shepherd score.

The Rams had outscored the Lakers, 28-0, in the fourth quarter. Just before the end came,

Gamma Sigma Theta.

Tommy Addison gained over 150 yards in Shepherd’s 49-14 win.

Adison’s long run had given the Rams the last three touchdowns.

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Shepherd attempts history

Rams look to become first WVC team to win region

BY BEN GIBSON
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — As Shepherd heads to face Mercyhurst, the Rams are trying to keep focused and take care of the task at hand, and that’s beating the No. 2-seeded Lakers on Saturday.

The Rams have the chance to be the first West Virginia Conference football team to win Super Region 1, and in the process be one step closer to a possible national title.

“We stay focused by looking at one game at a time, never looking to the end goal; instead looking at smaller steps,” senior defensive end Will Wheeler said. “There are three steps to get to the end goal. First step was to win the West Virginia Conference championship, the second step is to win the region, and you know what the third step is.”

The loss against Glenville State served as a wake-up call to a team that was maybe guilty of looking ahead to the playoffs.

The Shepherd players know that the level of competition is much higher now and that overlooking a team means the end of their season.

“That may have been the best thing that happened to us,” senior offensive lineman Steven Baisey said of the loss. “We weren’t focused that week, and we were already thinking about the playoffs.”

Baisey wasn’t the only player to admit the Rams might have gotten ahead of themselves.

“(The) coaches try to keep our heads level by preparing for each team like it’s the biggest game of the year no matter what. We can’t take any team lightly anymore.”

See RAMS D3

Rams FROM PAGE D1

There are only eight left in Division II,” junior wide receiver Neal Hardie said.

The loss to Glenville also cost the Rams an opportunity to play at home for the majority of the postseason, but players like senior outside linebacker Ben Minturn are only blaming themselves and don’t feel they are being slighted by being a lower seed in the playoffs. Shepherd had been the top seed in the region before their loss.

“If we took care of business against Glenville we would have been ranked higher. That’s on us,” Minturn said.

The loss of home-field advantage also sends the Rams to a cold, snowy and windy Erie, Pa., for Saturday’s game, but Shepherd doesn’t expect that to have much of an effect on them.

“I can imagine it’s going to be cold, but that doesn’t bother me,” Minturn said.

“I’m happy to have the chance to continue to be playing while most teams are sitting home, regardless of the weather.”

Whatever the weather, the Rams will try to remain focused on the task at hand, and know a victory in the Super Region 1 final would be a first for not only Shepherd, but the WVC.

“I feel excited that we have this opportunity to show that the WVIAC is a strong conference,” junior running back Tommy Addison said.

“We need to earn our respect in the region, and the WVIAC hasn’t really earned that respect yet.”

Wheeler echoed Addison’s comments and sentiments that the conference doesn’t get the respect it deserves on the national level.

“The WVIAC does not get the respect it deserves throughout the region,” Wheeler said. “I feel that after this year everyone will see that the WVIAC deserves to have more teams in the playoffs. Honestly, Concord and West Liberty could beat any of these teams that we have beaten.”

A Super Region 1 championship would help cement the WVC’s reputation on a grander scale.

“We are ready to take the Super Region 1 championship. I want to be the first Shepherd and WVC team ever to win the region,” Wheeler said.

The Rams, who have lost in two previous regional championships, are looking to make their way to the national championship game, but remain very focused on the Lakers.

“We take it one game at a time. In my mind, no game is more important than the one in front of us,” Minturn said.

“Especially this week, having a chance to do what no team in the WVC has ever done before.”
Steele named to all-region team

Deante Steele (Potomac) was a 2010 Daktronics, Inc., second-team Division II All-Super Region 1 selection.

A return specialist at Shepherd University, Steele has a 20.9 kickoff return and a 9.9 punt return average. He earned WVIAC Special Teams Player of the Week honors after his NCAA II record 11th career kick return touchdown sparked a Shepherd win over West Liberty.
BASEBALL

Waynesboro's Bumbaugh signs with Shepherd


Bumbaugh, a 6-foot-4, 200-pound catcher, batted .329 with a .389 on-base percentage and a .482 slugging percentage last season for Waynesboro. He gunned down four of the six players who attempted steals in 20 games.

BRIEF

Shepherd softball winter clinics

The Shepherd University softball team will host a pair of softball clinics in January. The clinics will take place on Jan. 16 and 23. Each clinic will feature both a pitching and hitting session.

The pitching session will run from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for ages 8-14 and from 10:30 a.m. to noon for ages 15 and over. The hitting session will run from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for ages 15 and over and from 10:30 a.m. to noon for ages 8-14. Each session costs $30 with a $50 cost for both sessions.

Register online at www.sherrardbook.com.
Shepherd signs three

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University head baseball coach Wayne Riser announced today that three student-athletes have signed letters-of-intent to play baseball for the Rams in 2012.

Coey Bumbaugh (Waynesboro, Pa./Waynesboro Area), Jamie Driver (Broad Run, Va./Kettle Run) and Brian Martin (Westminster, Md./Winters Mill) will join the Rams.

Bumbaugh, a 6-foot-4, 200-pound catcher, lettered three years in baseball at Waynesboro Area High School where he plays for Shepherd Hall of Famer Greg Chandler. He was named to the 2009 Patriot-News all-Underclassmen team and gained Mid Penn Colonial Division first-team All-Star and American Legion all-East Team honors in 2010. Bumbaugh batted .329 with a .589 on-base percentage and a .482 slugging percentage last season. He gunned down four of the six players who attempted steals in 20 games. Bumbaugh was a member of the 2009 Mid Penn Aces Fall Showcase Baseball team and 2010 Mid Atlantic Red Sox Fall Showcase Baseball team.

Driver, a 6-2, 175-pound pitcher, lettered in baseball at Kettle Run High School. Driver posted a 6-2 record on the mound with one save. He registered a 2.21 earned run average in 50 2/3 innings.

Martin, a 6-6, 185-pound shortstop/pitcher, lettered four years in baseball and three years in basketball at Winters Mill High School. He earned second-team all-conference and all-county honors in 2009. Martin, an Honorable Mention all-conference and all-county choice in 2008, was named to the 2008 NABF World Series all-tournament team and participated in the ECTB Elite all-state Las Vegas Desert Classic.
Lakers up next for Rams

Mercyhurst stands in the way of Shepherd's first region title

By RICK KOLEWSKI
JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR

ERIE, Pa. — Back in his days as a player at Bucknell, Mary Schadtke thought playing football in the snow would be the greatest thing ever.

That was until he actually played in such a game. Not so much five, he concluded.

Now a coach, Schadtke is hopeful his Mercyhurst troops don’t have to play in a snowstorm as the Lakers host Shepherd for the Super Region I championship at noon today at Tiffin Field.

"With the lake, anything is possible," Schadtke said.

With his Lakers, he’s found that anything is possible, too. They’re hosting the Rams for the region’s first regional championship in both the national semifinals against either Albright State of Delaware State at stake. It is Mercyhurst’s first playoff experience.

A like-effect snow advisory for the Northwest Pennsylvania area, including Erie, was in effect at 4 a.m. today.

"We can’t do any more or any less," Schadtke said. "We got to a point that we had to win every game or our season would’ve been over. In some strange way, those were all playoff games. We never thought that up till after the fact, but we’ve been able to play consistently and play well during each of these weeks."

This is the real thing.

And Shepherd coach Monte Currie is not snowed in much about what comes blowing off Lake Erie.

What concerns him is how Mercyhurst’s players in their 3-3-3-Defensive flow around the field.

"They can fly around," Currie said, "and we really don’t see the stick in a regular defense, other than Fairmont’s.

"Shepherd has an outstanding running back, similar to Shepherd," Schadtke said. "We had to work real hard, and there was no room for error. We needed to be solid tacklers, disciplined in our gap responsibilities."

"We’ll be facing a challenge with Shepherd,"

The Rams hope to present more of a challenge, utilizing the passing game that has been a mainstay of the season.

The Rams average 217 yards in their passing attack and 219 yards in their running game.

The Lakers allow 99.3 yards defensively against the run and 151 yards in defense.

``"We have to be able to run the ball," Currie said. "That part will not change. Our balance when we’re in the spread offense comes in the right time, our two back in the box and the other Great Lakes and create plenty of problems in both cases."

"Their speed," Currie said. "They’re not very big, but they’re not on the 300-pounders we’ve seen in some other tackles. But they can run, almost like they’re in some tackles with their hand on the ground."

"Everything is geared on mobility and ability. They’ve done a good job with that," Schadtke said.

Mercyhurst shut down Harbuck Hill finalist Franklin Quinlan at Bloomsburg, running up 141 yards and stopping the Hawks in the final drive, inside and out.

Quint ran for 132 yards, but the defense of Bloomsburg, which was missing some of its primary pass catchers, produced just eight yards rushing yards and 11 total.

It was the second straight game Mercyhurst preserved Bloomsburg, though there was a week in-between their Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference championship game and the playoff opener.

In the PSAC title game, the Lakers were 56-37.

"We could play 22 games together, and I’m not sure there’d be another game like that," Schadtke said.

Mercyhurst made sure that in the follow-up with Bloomsburg.

"This is a one-shot deal for both teams now.

To be successful today, Mercyhurst knows it must stock Sheep’s running game, especially in its running game and offense with the Rams.

"Every time I turn on our video, that running back has a TD run," Schadtke said. "That running back, Tommie Addison, is probably the best game we’re going to play."

Adams picked the last showdown on Kutztown with a 7-yard scoring run to give the Rams a 14-0 lead in Sheep’s crazy 41-14 win to advance to the PSAC title.

The Rams fourth appearance in the regional final in less than three years. The Rams are still looking for that second region title.

Adams has rushed for 1,195 yards and 17 touchdowns.

"Bloomsburg has an outstanding running back, similar to Shepherd," Schadtke said. "He had to work real hard, and there was no room for error. We needed to be solid tacklers, disciplined in our gap responsibilities."

"We’ll be facing a challenge with Shepherd,"

In previous region finals, Schadtke has lost to Slippery Rock, Bloomsburg and California.

The Rams look to make Mercyhurst their first region final victim.
MEN'S BASKETBALL
Bluefield St. 66, Shepherd 62

BLUEFIELD, W.Va. — Hickman Simmons scored a game-high 23 points to lead Bluefield State over Shepherd University.

Jonathan Motschka, a Chambersburg, Pa. graduate, and Chad Moore led the Rams with 13 points each.
Rams reach D-II final four, will play at Delta State

ERIE, Pa. — Shepherd University used a balanced attack to pile up 483 yards of total offense as the Rams blasted Mercyhurst 49-14 in the NCAA Division II Super Region One championship contest on Saturday afternoon.

The Rams gained 245 yards on the ground and 238 through the air to pick up their WVIAC-record 12th victory and become the league’s first squad to reach the NCAA Division II football national semifinals.

The Rams (12-1) will play at Delta State (Miss.) next Saturday at 2 p.m., Shepherd announced Sunday. The game will be televised on the CBS College Sports network.

Delta State (10-3) beat Albany State (Ga.) 28-7 on Saturday.

Nate Hoyte rumbled for four touchdowns and 109 yards on 17 carries and Tommy Addison added a pair of scores and 135 yards on 15 rushes as the Rams controlled the game on the ground.

Kevin Clancy completed 17 of 27 passes for 245 yards. Robert Byrd was his favorite target with six catches for 103 yards. Neal Hardie also had six catches for 88 yards.

The Rams blew open a 14-14 halftime tie with five consecutive touchdowns in the second half. Hoyte gave Shepherd a 21-14 lead midway through the third quarter with a 15-yard touchdown rush.

Four touchdowns in a five-minute span of the fourth quarter put the game on ice. Hoyte started things with a 15-yard scampers, followed by Addison’s 69-yard sprint.

Hoyte’s fourth touchdown of the afternoon, a 3-yard effort, pushed the Shepherd advantage to 42-14. The Rams defense got into the act as Will Wheeler took an interception 27 yards for the afternoon’s final score.

Mercyhurst quarterback Travis Rearick completed 22 of 47 passes for 191 yards, but was picked off four times. Terrance Coon caught eight passes for 107 yards for the Lakers (10-3), who were limited to 34 rushing yards on 17 carries.
Local Roundup: Clancy, Shepherd win Super One regional title

Published: Sunday, December 5, 2010 4:26 pm; Updated: 4:28 pm, Sun Dec 5, 2010.

Staff Report:

ERIE, Pa. - Junior running back Nate Hoyte rushed 17 times for 109 yards and four touchdowns and junior running back Tommy Addison added 15 carries for 135 yards and a pair of scores to lead #18 Shepherd University to a 49-14 win over #11 Mercyhurst in NCAA II Super Region One final football action at Tullio Field on Saturday.

Shepherd took a 7-0 lead on a one-yard touchdown run by Addison with 11:57 left in the first quarter to cap a six-play, 53-yard drive. Junior kicker Eric Dobratz added the extra point.

Mercyhurst took advantage of a Ram turnover and answered back on a 38-yard touchdown pass from Travis Rearick to Terreece Coon with 11:30 left in the second quarter to tie the game at 7-all.

Shepherd regained the lead when Nate Hoyte scampered 14 yards for a score with 9:26 left in the second quarter to give the Rams a 14-7 advantage.

Clancy completed 17-of-27 passes for a 245 yards.
Shepherd University

"Have Mercy, Baby!"

Shepherd dominates Lakers for first Super Region 1 championship

By: Roberta Karo

Shepherd put a new spin on the proverbial basketball celebration demonstration.

That’s because the Rams put a new spin on their playoff history on a cold and blustery Saturday afternoon at Tullio Stadium on the campus of Mercyhurst College.

Shepherd bolted from a 14-14 halftime tie and rolled to a 49-14 victory over the host Lakers to win the Rams’ first Super Region 1 championship.

Shepherd players frolicked a water cooler with snow they scraped from the sidelines and dumped on backfielder Mark Caster, who coached in Wisconsin prior to coming to Shepherd in 1987 and who placed a couple of gallons in the snow with about a minute remaining.

It was the best “snowball fight” ever for the visiting coach.

“It’s the best one we’ve ever had,” Caster said about the novel scheme concocted by Shep-

The Rams captured their first region championship in four title game appearances and will head next weekend to the Final Four to game. The NCAA selection committee was meeting late

Rams dominate Lakers

Shepherd scores 35 second-half points to pull away from Mercyhurst

By: Rick Kozlofsky

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See RAMS C5
They were good in all areas.

They gave us a good Super BowlCONFERENCE championship butt-stashing. So dominant were the Rams that Shepherd piled up 483 yards of total offense and kept Mercyhurst from even managing a first down in the second half until the three-minute mark of the third quarter.

The Rams overcame a pair of first-half turnovers, a muffled punt by Steele that set up a Mercyhurst touchdown pass to Terrance Coon and another interception, that Bryant Kinble ran 46 yards into the end zone for the second to tie the game.

Those scores countered touchdown runs of 1 and 14 yards by Tommy Addison, his first of two and Nae Hoyte, his first of four, as the pair both topped 100 yards rushing for the second time in three postseason games — both blowouts.

It was the one turnover that wasn't that turned the game, however. With Shepherd leading 21-14 after Hoyte's 15-yard scoring scamper in the third quarter, quarterback Kevin Cancy appeared to fumble as he was crunched while attempting to pass with the Rams driving. Mercyhurst recovered the ball.

However, the referees ruled that Cancy's arm was coming forward, making it an incomplete forward pass, keeping possession of the ball with the Rams.

"We kind of needed that call," Schaezle said. "It would've been a call we wouldn't have challenged.

"They made the call: you get to live with it. Now you get to come up with a stop."

The Lakers didn't.

Hoyte went on to score on a 15-yard run, the first of four touchdowns during Shepherd's final-quarter blitzard. Naturally, both teams saw the play differently.

"I grabbed the ball," Mercyhurst linebacker Fred Hule said. "It was a fumble."

"He looked like he had a lead, but he had the ball," Hoyte said.

Without instant replay, the call stood. And the Rams sure did.

As the Rams sure did go forward, recovering from the near-turnover to surge for Hoyte's touchdowns that gave the Rams a two-TD lead. Eventually, too, the Rams, the nation's best in turnover margin, won that battle 42-27.

"That one of those things, especially on defense, where we've been on the plus side," Cater said.

Addison pushed the lead to 33-14 as he sprung through the line, stumbled slightly, steadied himself and used his breakaway speed for a 60-yard touchdown run. The Rams scored on their next series after a 65-yard punt return by Steele, the NCAA's career leader for return touchdowns, for a score that was nullified by a penalty.

Hoyte kicked it in for a 3-yard score, capping his 109-yard rushing afternoon.

Addison ran for 135 yards as the Rams doubled their 106-yard pleasure again after opening the postseason with similar results in a 40-6 win over Shaw.

"I look where the line and fullback are blocking and go wherever it's open," Hoyte said.

Will Wheeler picked off a second half screen pass and cruised into the end zone from 27 yards away to complete Shepherd's scoring against 1 team in the fourth quarter that appeared it had been knocked into a snowbank.

"When we get momentum, we roll," Steeet said.

The Rams backed 238 yards and passed for 245 behind Clancy, who went 17 for 27 with that one interception that turned out to be not so costly.

Robert Byrd had six receptions for 103 yards and Naul Hardie six for 88 as part of Shepherd's offensive balance.

"If you can run the football and have some success, you can wear some people out," Cater said.

The Shepherd coach said his stuff made a number of adjustments at intermission, though some were as simple as trimming the offensive playbook to what worked in the first half.

The Rams' defense cut down Mercyhurst's playbook in a manner of speaking, too. The Lakers were extremely limited in what they could accomplish.

"Especially in the second half, we get a lot of three-and-outs," Cater said. "Then you run the ball, that helps with things.

Mercyhurst managed just 34 yards of rushing offense.

While Travis Reaick passed for 191 yards on a 22-of-47 effort with four interceptions. Fifty-six of the yards came on Mercyhurst's final series, pretty much consolation collections.

He was almost picked off several other times.

"They did a great job of reading my eyes," Reaick said. "We saw that on film."

What Schaezle saw was enough for him to think that, yes, Shepherd, often criticized because of its conference affiliation despite having played in its third region final in five years, can stand up to the best in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

"They would do fine in our league without a doubt," Schaezle said.

The Rams did defeat the top two seeds, both from the PSAC, to win their title after their season's lone loss, coming on the final week of the regular season, dropped them from first to fourth in the six-team Super Region 1 playoff field.

"I don't think they missed my plays today," Schaezle said. "They played a great game.

Enough to so that Shepherd enjoyed a snowball.

KAMBLING: Both kickers, Shepherd's Eric Dobuzh and Mercyhurst's Steven Wakefield, missed field goal attempts. ... Ben Minster led the Rams defense with 10 tackles and Taylor had seven stops. ... Besides Wheeler, Cory Washington, Elijah Davis and Keren Robinson had interceptions for the Rams.

Robinson's was his ninth, while Washington picked off a pass one yard deep in his end zone and took the ball back to midfield on Mercyhurst's final offensive play of the game. A crowd of 1,193 featured a grandstand full of Shepherd fans who had made the distant trip, which kind of surprised local media members. "We get a lot of fans every game," Robinson said. "We love to see the support. We wish the band could've been here, but they played for us before we left."

— Rick Kozlowski can be reached at 304-252-3131, ext. 116, or rkozlowski@journal-news.net
Coach's Corner: 'Rub grass on it!'
Originally published December 05, 2010

By Hal Grau

"Rub grass on it!"

As a fresh-out-of-college, young, aggressive high school football and track coach in the early 1970s, that was my treatment for just about any and all of my injured athletes’ ailments, aches, and pains.

My approach to athletic injury was shaped early on by my high school experience (see last week’s column) and was tempered by my short freshman football season at Baylor.

Sure, as a physical education major at Shepherd College, I had passed the required “Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries” course and had a bunch of credits, like anatomy and physiology and kinesiology. All had given me an understanding of the human body and how it worked. Because of the various injuries that I had suffered playing football, first at Baylor University and then for the SC Rams, I was also quite familiar with many of the injuries that I would have to deal with as a high school coach.

The Way It Was

I am truly thankful that I was able to play three years of high school football without having to miss any practice or game because of injury. Once, in my junior year, I had a pulled groin muscle that I was able to play through, mostly because I was afraid of losing my starting job to another back.

Our assistant coach, in a moment of what was for him great humor, capitalized on my naiveté and suggested that I put a good glob of Atomic Balm (think Ben Gay on steroids) on my groin and sit in the whirlpool tub for 30 minutes. I lasted 30 seconds before I realized that my nether parts were on fire. So I learned that sometimes the treatment is worse than the cure.

That was just the way it was done back then.

When I arrived at Baylor University in August 1943, I planned to make the freshman team as a walk-on, to prove I was every bit as good as I thought I was, with a scholarship, and be a big star in the old Southwest Conference (Texas, TCU, SMU, Arkansas, Rice, Texas A&M, and Texas Tech). One slight problem: There were 47 scholarship freshmen on the team and 12 non-scholarship players. At the team meeting before our first practice, the freshman coach informed us that the most playing time non-scholarship players could expect would be to serve on the onside kick team. But we were welcome to be on the scout team for both the freshman and varsity squads. No problem. I would get a chance to show my stuff.

Several days later, in a scrimmage against the varsity, I sprained my ankle. As the trainers ran out to assist me, the freshman coach yelled, "Don’t touch that boy. He’s non-scholarship!" So the scrimmage was moved to an adjacent practice field and I was left lying there on my own. I then had to hobble back to the locker room, call a cab, and get treatment at the Waco hospital (the campus infirmary hadn’t opened yet).

That was the way it was done at Baylor back then.

Later, having transferred to Shepherd, I experienced shin splints so bad that my leg was paralyzed for six months. The opening game of the following season, I broke my finger on a kick return. The team doctor rigged up a special aluminum splint and I was able to complete the rest of the season as a receiver. The next year, it was my first separated shoulder and the team doctor gave me a shot of cortisone before game-time that allowed me to play. The work that I had done in the weight room for several years had minimized the extent of the separation because I had developed strong neck and shoulder muscles.

That was the way it was done at Shepherd back then.

After rehabbing before my senior season, I separated the same shoulder for the second time during summer practice and the team doctor suggested that my playing days were likely done. I learned a tough lesson. The body isn’t indestructible.

So, Coach, what did those events have to do with developing your own coaching philosophy?

Lessons Learned

I learned some very important lessons. Always treat each and every player the same, whether a star, or the
last man on the team. Have someone on your staff who is assigned to evaluate an injury to determine its severity and whether it can be handled by the trainer or whether it needs professional attention. And avoid mismatches in size and ability during practice, whenever possible. Try to match strength against strength.

I had learned the hard way that there is a difference between pain and injury. Pain can come from sore muscles, minor bruises, strains, and sometimes minor sprains. You can generally play through pain. Hence, as a young coach, the response that I used to give to athletes for some minor scrapes and bruises was, "Rub grass on it."

Did they really do that, Coach?

No, thank goodness. But they did learn to deal with a little pain and then get things fixed by the trainer or an assistant coach.

With more coaching experience, I learned that each person has a different threshold for tolerating pain. Someone is not soft simply because he or she was born with a lower threshold for pain. You want players to be tough. You also want them to be smart. An injured player can do more harm to himself or to the team's performance if the player doesn't pay attention to the injury.

Injuries, however, need time to heal. Especially concussions, broken bones, and ligament damage. Yes, improvement in diagnosis (MRI/CAT scans) and modern techniques, such as arthroscopic surgery, have made athletic injuries more treatable, but there are still improvements to be made in making sports safer.

I know, from my years of coaching, that vast strides have been made in preparing coaches to deal with heat-related injuries, heart failure, head and neck injuries, and emergency medical care. Athletic trainers are more commonplace, helping coaches in handling injured athletes on the scene.

Is it true, Coach, that fear of serious injury to your athletes is what motivated you to retire?

No, not entirely. But it was a factor that weighed heavily on my mind.

Next week: Is there a doctor in the house?
SU runs down regional title

Shepherd's Addison, Hoyte both tally more than 100 yards in win

By RICK KOZLOWSKI
HERALD SPORTS REPORTER

LIBBY, Pa. — Tommy Addison always thinks he’s going to break a long run for a touchdown.

The running back for Shepherd often does.

He did so Saturday in Shepherd’s 69-14 thrashing of homestanding Mercersburg in the NCAA Super Region 1 championship game.

However, while the speedy Addison was running off a 66-yard touchdown bolt to give the Rams a 23-14 lead at the half, it was State Hoyte who broke the hearts of the Lakers in their first playoff appearance in school history.

Hoyte ran for four touchdowns in his way to his second 100-yard rushing effort of the postseason.

Addison also ran for 100-plus yards against the Lakers, giving Shepherd two such backs twice in the Rams’ three playoff games. The pair each went over 100 yards in the postseason opener as Shepherd owned 330 vs. 49.

The Rams ran down Mercersburg at Shepherd won its first regional championship and advanced to the national semifinals against Delta State. They will face the Saints at 2 p.m., Saturday in Cleveland, Miss.

Hoyte has been kind of like the Robin to Addison’s Batman. Addison brings the glitz, Hoyte the grit. Addison’s hobby, Hoyte more introspective.

Neither junior is any less important to a Shepherd offense that has scored off at least 40 points — its season average — in its three playoff games.

He’s sometimes overlooked, however.

“He had about 540 yards,” Mercersburg coach Marty Schell said. “Probably the only reason he didn’t have more yards is because of what the other one does. He’s tough to have two, 1,000-yard backs.”

Hoyte’s 105-yard effort against the Lakers pushed his rushing total to 779 actually. His four touchdowns give him 16 for the season, just three behind Addison’s 19. Addison, among the top rushers in the nation, is up to 1,635 yards.

“I don’t know if I’m overshadowed,” Hoyte said. “I just take it as it comes really. If I have an opportunity, I have an opportunity.”

One thing the Rams know, though, is that when their running game is clicking, they can succeed with play action and bootleg action in the passing game that is pretty much on equal footing with Shepherd’s traditional running game.

Shepherd probably has never been as balanced as this season under Carter.

The rushing game entered Saturday’s contest averaging 214 yards per game and the passing game 217. Against the Lakers, Shepherd had 738 total rushing yards and 745 passing.

“When we’re running the ball, everything goes good,” Addison said. “When we’re running the ball, everything goes good,” Addison said.

“Shepherd is known his breakaway speed, but he knows his running mate can do it, too.”

“He can break one,” Addison said.

The one thing Shepherd did it prove it can succeed against the 3-3-5 stack defense.

Fairmont muffed the Rams with that style of defense when they played earlier in the season during a 19-16 Shepherd win.

Combined, Hoyte and Addison finished with 86 rushing yard. The Rams had 241 yards of total offense in their closest win of the season.

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Title

“We didn’t make that many adjustments,” Shepherd offensive lineman Steve Balsey said.

“We stick to what we’re good at.”

It’s running it down a team’s throat with the alternating backfield combination of Addison and Hoyte. Hoyte, with a little bit of Jimmy Stuck, Shepherd can’t argue with the results as the Rams play in their first national semifinals during a historic season that has them with team and West Virginia Conference records for wins at 12.

The Rams will be running at No. 13 on the octa in Mississippi.

RAMBLINGS: Shepherd received a warm reception when it returned to campus Saturday night. The team was escorted with sirens and lights from emergency vehicles after departing the interstate as they went through Maryland and into Shepherdstown. The school band its members dressed in tuxedos from a campus concert and subsequent performance at Cross Creek Country Club, played on the return as well. Shepherd linebacker Brian Taylor continued to wear jersey No. 1. There’s some disagreement over what happened to his old No. 58. The senior’s 38 is team’s injury number. Shepherd coach Monte Carter jokingly thinks Taylor tore the jersey so he could get No. 1. Asked whether Carter might be losing his mustache now, Shepherd’s second championship this season — like he did after the Rams won the WVC championship — kind of scoffed. It was in jest. Hoyt, rough, said.

“We think we’re going to shave him bald.”

— Rick Kozlowksi can be reached at 304-263-3281, ext. 116, or rkozlowski@journal-news.net
Rams on the road for semis
Shepherd to fly to Mississippi for Saturday contest

BY RICK KOZLOWSKI
JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Shepherd’s football team is flying high after winning its first Super Region 1 championship Saturday in chilly Erie, Pa.

The Rams get to fly as a result of their 49-14 win over Mercyhurst.

The NCAA is sending Shepherd on the road for the Division II semifinals to face Super Region 2 champion Delta State, despite a hope the Rams could play host to one semifinal.

Instead, the Cleveland, Miss. university was chosen to play host to Saturday’s 2 p.m. game.

There was disappointment around the Shepherd athletic offices when they learned the news.

On the other hand, the Rams are delighted to be in a position in which only three other teams in the nation find themselves.

“We’re excited that we’re still playing coming off of a tremendous, historic win for our program,” said Shepherd coach Ronnie Carter, who was already in the midst of preparing for the playoffs with his coaching staff Sunday morning.

“I’m proud of the players and coaches. Obviously we’d like to play at home, but we don’t make those decisions.”

Shepherd had made a bid to host the game.

“I really thought we would’ve been a great host,” Shepherd director of athletics B.J. Purney said.

Given the crowds that have followed Shepherd at home this season, there’s little question Ram Stadium would’ve been filled for a national semifinal game.

Delta State’s Hersee McCool Stadium has a larger capacity than Ram Stadium. McCool holds 8,600 seats, while Ram Stadium has room for 5,000, though crowds regularly exceed that total.

Shepherd’s largest crowd of 6,235 fans came during a regular season game against West Virginia Wesleyan. Delta State had a pair of home games that attracted more than 7,000 fans.

Road

“It’s hard to know when it’s in the committee’s hands and ‘TV’s hands,”’ Purney said.

CBS College Sports channel will broadcast both semifinal games, starting with Shepherd’s game against Delta State and concluding with Northwest Missouri’s visit to Minnesota-Duluth.

“I don’t think the weather was an issue, because they’re playing a night game at Duluth,” Purney said.

Lightning might have been an issue for Ram Stadium, which has no permanent lights. However, Shepherd’s bid included plans for portable lighting.

“I don’t know how much of an effect that was,” Purney said.

Purney said Delta State hosted a television game earlier in the season, which might have been a plus for it because of the production company’s familiarity with the complex.

Riding the road through the playoffs is nothing new this season for the Rams, who defeated Kutztown and Mercyhurst on the road in consecutive weeks after opening the postseason with a home win over Shaw.

The 12-1 Rams were a No. 4 seed in its region, Delta State (10-3) a No. 2.

“It looks like we do pretty well in visiting white zone,” Purney said. “I’m excited for this chance to see what we do on this next stage.”

The national championship will be played the next week at Florence, Ala.

Delta State, which won a national championship in 2000, defeated previously undefeated Albany State 28-7 to win its region. Shepherd had never won a region championship after these previous tries.

“We’re excited to fly to a football game,” Carter said. “It’s something you don’t do all the time.”

The Rams are already flying.

-Rick Kozlowski can be reached at 304-263-3381, ext. 116, or rkozlow@journal-news.net
Shepherd men end skid

Rams grab some much needed momentum nearing winter break

By Ben Gibson

SHEPHERDSTOWN - The Shepherd Rams ended a four-game losing skid with a 79-67 victory over the Shippensburg Red Raiders Tuesday night at the Butcher Center.

The Rams bounced back with a 12-point victory over the 1-5 Red Raiders and gave the Rams a needed win as they only play two more games the rest of the calendar year.

“We responded after a tough week, and what I was most happy with was the way they executed offensively in the second half,” Shepherd coach Justin Namolik said. “They’ve been resilient after last week and came back and practiced with a lot of intensity and focus.”

The win caused a rough losing streak for the Rams, and gave them some momentum as they approach the finish of December.

“Everyone was tired of losing, and all the things we worked on in practice translated over into the game,” sophomore forward Chad Moore said.

An 18-3 run midway through the second half helped secure the win for the Rams, who shot just over 50 percent from the floor.

“Our defense was there all night, and our defense created points for our offense,” Namolik said.

“The Rams defense forced 15 turnovers while limiting Shippensburg to 21 field goals in the game,” Shepherd outscored the Red Raiders on the offensive end, allowing only nine offensive boards all game.

“It was good. Our defense stepped up our intensity for the whole game, and we executed offense,” senior guard Johnathan Motloksa said.

With only two games left in the season, Namolik hopes to keep his players focused as the season takes a break for finals and Christmas break.

“We only have two games in a month. We have a lot of practices, and we look at it in another training camp,” Namolik said.

“We need to maintain focus and keep our focus to win each day and be prepared for when we are back here facing Ohio State,”

The extra practice will give the Rams time to improve without having to worry about being ready for as many games. Shepherd knows it will need to improve as it hits the heart of their conference schedule.

“Our goal is to peak at the end of the season, and we are going to take those upcoming weeks to focus and improve,” Motloksa said.

Ram women score 119 in win

By Ben Gibson

SHEPHERDSTOWN - If there was one thing to learn from the Shepherd women’s matchup with Washington Adventist University on Tuesday, it’s that the Rams had no problem taking care of business during their 119-36 victory at the Butcher Center.

The Rams didn’t let the game get away as they took a 70-6 lead in the first half. They shot 65.3 percent from the floor while going on a 45-2 run to start the game against the winless Shock.

“The execution we worked on, that’s what you have to take away from a game like this,” Shepherd coach Melanie Ford said. “In a game situation, executing on offense, executing on defense, executing on defense, executing on defense, executing on defense.”

The Rams were 9 of 19 from behind the arc as they steadily marched toward their eventual victory. They forced 29 turnovers along the way.

Ford was able to use her entire bench as Shepherd led by as many as 83 points at the end of the game. “You get a chance to see some of the younger kids come in and see how they play,” Ford said.

“They came in and didn’t try to be all-stars, they came in and tried to be players,”

Junior guard Katie Byggs came off the bench and led all scorers with 18 points, going 6 of 9 from the field and 4 of 4 from the free throw line. Sophomore guard Emily Daniel was second in scoring and led the starters with 12 points, along with a team-high 10 rebounds.

While there were plenty of individual performances to highlight, Ford was happy to see her team’s overall effort.

“I wasn’t one-on-one game. It was a team game, and I was happy to see them play that way,”

Ford said.

While Shepherd will play tomorrow, it’s not without competition. It proved it could handle its business and pick up a win.

The Rams wrap up the season with a final game at Shippensburg on Dec. 18. When they host Penn State at 2 p.m.
Steelers work out ex-Ram

Ricky Schmitt may replace injured Pittsburgh punter

BY NATE MACZUKAN

PITTSBURGH — Former Shepherd standout kicker-punter Ricky Schmitt is currently working out for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported Monday that Schmitt, who kicked for the Steelers for one regular season game in 2004, has been brought in to work out after punter Daniel Sepulveda tore an anterior cruciate ligament in his knee during the Steelers' 13-10 win against the Ravens Sunday night. Sepulveda is out for the season.

Schmitt holds virtually all of Shepherd's kicking records, including:

- All-time leader in career kick scoring (259 points)
- All-time leader in career field goals (53)
- Most extra points in a career (151)
- Most kick scoring points in a season (60, 2001)
- Most consecutive extra points in a career (60)
- Most consecutive extra points in a season (43)
- 2006 Single-season extra point percentage (100 percent 43-43)
- Career extra point percentage (926 - 151-163)

His record for most extra points in a season (50-64, 2005) just fell this season.

Collegiately in 2006, Schmitt punted 41 times for a 44 average, with a long of 77. He had 22 points inside the 20. Considered a master of directional kicking, with a five second hangtime, only 17 of his punts were returned. He had eighteen kickoffs for touchbacks. He would have been among the leaders of all divisions in punting statistics that season, however, the Rams' offense only allowed him to punt 41 times (not enough to qualify for the leaders).

Schmitt's professional career began when he was signed by the Arizona Cardinals as an undrafted free agent in 2007. He has also been a member of the Steelers, Oakland Raiders, San Francisco 49ers and Tennessee Titans.

Most recently, Schmitt was signed by the Titans on March 15. He had two punts for 55 yards gross average and 55.5 net average. Both led the NFL in preseason play. He also had three kickoffs, two going for touchbacks. Schmitt was released on August 31.
Rams study up for Statesmen

BY BEN GIBSON
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd Rams are engaging something that the football team hasn’t done in a while... Football in December.

“It has been a crazy scene around Shepherdstown the past couple days with winning the regional championship,” senior quarterback Kevin Canny said. “Being escorted into town by police cars and fire trucks, greeted by the band and cheerleaders and receiving a million calls from family and friends.”

After their victory against the Mercersburg Lakers, the Rams locker room is filled with the smell of victory, but the Rams aren’t going to hang a banner at Ram Stadium just yet.

“It is important to focus on the current game and not focus on the next game, because there is not a next game. This week is the only week that is guaranteed,” senior defensive end Will Wheeler said. “Four teams can talk about the national championship, but we must stay focused and do our jobs to be one of the teams that actually receive the chance to play for a national championship.”

The locker room is unified in its focus on Delta State, and isn’t going to get caught looking ahead.

“Nobody is looking ahead past Delta State. They have to be a great team in order to make it this far,” senior tight end Domitique Jones said. “We are focusing on them and nothing else. This is the only game that is guaranteed for us, so we either win or go home.”

Despite the gravity of the upcoming game against the Statesmen, the Rams aren’t afraid to enjoy the moment before they take on what is the biggest game of their college careers.

“The feeling around the locker room is great,” senior offensive lineman Steve Bailey said. “I mean we just made history and we have the opportunity to keep making history. We could not ask for anything better right now.”

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The Rams will do something they haven’t done all year, however.

“Flying to a game is going to be exciting. It’s something we have never done before, and I’m sure no one will miss the long bus rides like we had this past week,” Bailey said.

As Shepherd prepares to head south to face off against the Statesmen, they have to keep focused at the task at hand and what that means not only for them but for Shepherd University as a whole.

“This is bigger than all of our players and coaches. This will benefit Shepherd University the most. Shepherd University will be put on the map,” Wheeler said.
Steelers calling on all punters

BEAVER COUNTY TIMES, PA. | MIKE BIERES | Tue, Dec 7, 1:27 PM

Dec. 07—PITTSBURGH — Three weeks ago, the Steelers signed a new kicker. Today, they will have a new punter.

With Daniel Sepulveda awaiting surgery to repair a torn ligament in his knee, the Steelers will work out two punters today and sign one of them.

One of them is Ricky Schmitt, who visited the Steelers in 2008 when Sepulveda was on injured reserve after suffering a knee injury in training camp.

The other candidate is Jeremy Kapinos, a former Penn State punter.

Sepulveda, who’s been punting well this season, was injured in the second quarter Sunday night in the 13-10 win in Baltimore. He was hurt running down the field with the rest of the Steelers’ punt coverage team.

A fourth-round pick in the 2007 NFL Draft, Sepulveda ranks seventh in the league with an average of 45.5 yards per punt.

In the second half against the Ravens, kicker Shaun Suisham punted three times for a 38.3 yard average. Suisham was signed Nov. 16 after the Steelers cut Jeff Reed.

Schmitt, who attended NCAA Division II Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, W.Va., has been on the rosters of six NFL teams over the past four years. He did make two-of-three field goal attempts when he played one game for the 49ers in 2009. But he has never punted in a regular-season NFL game.

Schmitt had a try-out with the Steelers in October of 2008 when they were looking for a replacement for Mitch Berger, who struggled as he tried to replace Sepulveda. But instead of signing Schmitt, the Steelers signed former Browns punter Paul Emster.

Over the past four years while spending time on the rosters of three teams, Kapinos has attempted 92 punts. He punted 88 times in 2009 when he punted for the Packers. He has a lifetime average of 42.9 yards per punt.

The Steelers must also find a new holder as Sepulveda has held for extra points and field goals. Holding duties will likely go to wide receiver Antwaan Randle El, who’s listed on the depth chart as the Steelers’ back-up holder.
Hoyte’s TDs hurt Mercyhurst

By Eric Jones

SHEPHERDSTOWN – All season long, Shepherd’s football team has been running over its opponents en route to a 12-1 record, a West Virginia Conference title and an appearance in the Division II semifinals.

It was no different for the Rams in the quarterfinals last weekend, as Shepherd posted 238 rushing yards in a win over Mercyhurst.

Shepherd ran past the Lakers and straight to the program’s first Super Region I in Eric, Pa.

Leading the running game all year has been the dynamic duo of Nate Hoyte and Tommy Addison, who each rushed for 100-plus yards against Mercyhurst — the second time in the postseason.

Addison was the Rams’ leader in yards, racking up 135 to go along with two scores, but it was Hoyte who spent most of his day in the end zone as he scored four different times in the Rams’ rout of the Lakers.

For his performance, Hoyte has been named Gold’s Gym/The Journal Athlete of the Week (Nov. 25-Dec. 4).

Hoyte did most of his damage in the second half, scoring three of his four touchdowns in the final two quarters as Shepherd outscored the Lakers 13-0.

His first score was a 13-yard run on a fake punt after Mercyhurst tied the game at 7-all after a Ram turnover. Shepherd responded quickly, with Hoyte punching it in from 14 yards to put the Rams ahead with 9 minutes, 23 seconds left in the first half.

The lead didn’t hold up long as

Se HOTE}

From Page D1

Hoyte

as the Rams went into halftime tied at 14-all.

Hoyte started Shepherd’s second-half scoring blitz by scoring on a 15-yard run with 6:06 left in the third quarter, giving the Rams the lead for good.

He continued his scoring in the fourth quarter at the 1:14 and 6:25 marks, and with an Addison score in between, Shepherd extended its lead to 42-14.

The Rams finished with a 6.3 yard-per-cush average, while Hoyte finished with a 6.7 average.

Shepherd will definitely need another strong rushing performance when they face Delta State in a semifinal matchup, and the Rams are hoping they can keep running toward a national title.
SHEPHERD LANDS AMONG NATION'S ELITE EIGHT

Dates: December 8, 2010
Publication: The Spirit of Jefferson

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

KUTZTOWN, Pa. — Impressions scoring 60 of yards and 92 yards gave Shepard the look of a team with a dominant offense. But it still took three lightning-fast plays to keep the comeback Rams in the Division II national playoffs.

A 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Ken Robinson, and then only seconds later a 52-yard interception return by Maurice Perry that pushed the Rams back into the lead and finally, Tonyous Adams' 75-yard game-clinching sprint through the grasping Kutztown defense brought Shepard to the playoff's edge with one 34-yard run over the holding Golden Bears.

The victory, its second in the 2010 national playoffs, brought it to the quarterfinals against another Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference team, the Mercyhurst Lakers. Located in the snowy county of Erie, Pennsylvania, the Lakers made history themselves by beating Bloomsburg for the second time this season, 28-14, to set their snow-cleared field this past Saturday.

Meanwhile, Shepard was tying the school record for wins in a season with its newly minted 11-1 mark. Kutztown, which had the No. 1 seed in the Super Region 1 section of the national playoffs, finished at 10-2 overall.

The Golden Bears had never won more than seven games in any of their 90 seasons before this year.

Saturday's wind-swept afternoon involved a 40 degree east-west wind from Lebanon's Leigh Valley, but the teams seemed to disregard the weather in the fourth quarter.

Shepard scored four touchdowns in the final quarter. And Kutztown scored three times, the last with just 12.5 seconds remaining after the Rams had run off three straight touchdowns to forge a 41-27 lead with only 1:39 to play. The Rams then pulled the 90-yard mark in total offense. Kutztown's interior linemen and linebackers could never show Shepard's offensive line any blocking trick of Geoff Frye, Steve Jackson, Carl McGusty, Steve Barlow, Jesse Sprag and the rest of the Golden Bears defense.

And Shepard's restarted fourth-down punt return gave Kutztown quarterback Kevin Morton no reason to hurry any punts. If Shepard didn't lose the ball, Howard Jones forced Morton to move, the quarterback had more than ample time to complete 3 of 5 throws.

Even when Perry had his crucial interception-touchdown Morton was not rushed.

When Shepard won the coin toss and received to receive the ball, it was a pressure-packed punt around the win-or-lose game. The running wind that buổi to the fans was coming from the end zone.

After Shepard's experience of a dormant start because of a 10-yard penalty against it on the opening kickoff, the Rams were at their best.

But soon 19 players later — with no score penalties - Shepard had driven 94 yards for the game's first points. There had been six Kevin Clancy pass attempts.

Shepard's fourth-quarter touchdown run of Howard Jones put Shepard at 2-1 on the scoreboard clock. A short Dobretz kickoff left the Golden Bears at 3-2.

With virtually no rush and no blocking linebackers to fear, Morton had time to attempt 13 passes in the last 1:50. Shepard forced him to turn over all but 12.5 seconds, then clinched the victory with a 20-yard punt.

Dominant Seton Hill women cruise past Lady Rams

GREENSBURG, Pa. — Seton Hill made 15 of its 30 three-point attempts in route to winning its third women's basketball game of the 2011-12 season.

The Griffins also scored 57 points in the second half to grab the win. The Rams dropped to 2-0 overall.

Seton Hill was 2-1 overall and 2-1 in the WJCN while the Lady Rams dropped to 2-0 overall and 0-1 in conference games.

The Griffins already had 44-43 lead by halftime. Seton Hill outscored Shepherd, 17-43, in the second half to steadily increase its advantage.

Reserve Paige Alvina paced the Griffins in scoring with her 15 points. She made 4 of 4 from the floor.

Jill Emberg tossed 15 points and Joyce Whittington went 5 for 6 from another 34 points.

Jocie Hurker outrebounded with her 12 points and the fifth Seton Hill player in double figures was Avie Marie Ovsky with her 10 points.

Shepherd placed four players in double figures, led by the 16 points of senior Carlin Saunders. Reserve guard Jen Pies had 14 points and senior point guard Jerrica Hewett scored 12. Shepherd's fourth player in double figures was new recruit Katie Riggs with 10.

Seton Hill scored the game's first five points and already had a 16-4 lead for the 14:33 mark of the half.

In the second half, Seton Hill quickly broke contact with the Lady Rams and had a commanding 74-47 lead with fully 94 remaining.

Shepherd shot 41 percent from the floor and 67 percent from the foul line, making 26 of 30 free throw attempts.

Seton Hill shot 48 percent from the floor and 78 percent from the foul line.

The rebounding was fairly even with the Griffins getting 44 and the Lady Rams 39. Seton Hill had four players with at least six rebounds each. Shepherd was paced by Hewett and Riggs with seven each and Jersynn Brown with six.

Shepherd's 20 turnovers were more than Seton Hill's 11.

Seton Hill scored 34 points off turnovers.

So dominant was Seton Hill that the score was never tied and the lead never changed hands.

NATIONAL quarterfinals next for 11-1 Rams

RAMS FROM PAGE 1B

pistons for a combined 62 yards as Shepherd's passing game had 629 yards. The two teams scored 32 touchdowns in the contest.

It was a 10-2 victory for the Rams and their coach, Kevin Clancy, recovered on the game's first fumble.

No more points came in the first half.

To open the second half, a short Dobretz kickoff wasn't taken advantage of by the Golden Bears.

The teams would trade four punts on each other's end zone until the Rams took a 34-27 lead.

When Shepherd's interference penalty against the Rams had Kutztown at the door at 16, Morton took the ball and scored 44 seconds later.

A potential 40-yard touchdown pass was nullified by a penalty.

Dominique Jones took a two-point conversion pass. And it was 27-27.

Another short Dobretz kickoff was brought back to the Kutztown 28.

Shepherd's Perry was standing in front of a Morton pass at the 12. He was virtually alone. And found an open Laura for a go-ahead 14-13 score with just over four minutes left in the third period.

And Kelly hit the next kickoff bounce between them and the Rams and the Raiders to recover another loose ball just to maintain possession.

A potential 20-yard touchdown pass was nullified by a penalty.

Addison was in the game. He kept running. And Clancy had an important 22-yard completion to Nickolas: Norrel and the Rams moved. And moved some more.

Addison had nine carries on the drive, but the running clock, traction by seven points.

A small drive reached the Shepherd 15, but Morton's short completion on fourth downs failed to penetrate the Rams at the 24.

On his next run, Addison cleared the front of the Kutztown defense, and added a short screen to the linebackers, right himself, and then sped through the secondary to complete a 72-yard touchdown run that boosted the Rams to 41-27.

Only 1:50 left on the scoreboard clock.

A short Dobretz kickoff left the Golden Bears at 3-2.

With virtually no rush and no blocking linebackers to fear, Morton had time to attempt 13 passes in the last 1:50. Shepard forced him to turn over all but 12.5 seconds, then clinched the victory with a 20-yard punt.

Shepherd's Bobby Hughes recovered the onside kick.

In addition to his vital kickoff return score, Robinson had 11 tackles to top the Shepherd list of defenders. She took four touchdowns in the quarter to quiet the Golden Bears.

And the Rams were the national quarterfinalists . . . where they will meet Tournament host Mercyhurst in Erie on Saturday at 12:00.

The Elite Eight. The second round in school history the Rams have advanced this far.

It took 41 points, it took Addison, it took Shepherd's signature defensive line. The lines were upright.

And across the nation the only eight teams are left standing.
This year's Rams are semi tough

This is a month of firsts for the Shepherd University football team. On Saturday, the Rams won their first region championship. Their reward -- their first airplane flight to a road game and their first appearance on national television.

On Saturday, Shepherd (12-1) will play Delta State (10-3) in Cleveland, Miss., in the Division II semifinals. The Rams look to continue their literal rush to glory. In the postseason, Shepherd has outrushed opponents 763 yards to 178, scoring at least 40 points in each of its three victories.

The ground game has been fueled by D.C.-area products. While junior Tommy Addison (Quince Orchard) has rushed 53 times for 452 yards (8.5 yards a carry) in the playoffs, Nate Hoyte (McDonough) has been the go-to guy in the red zone, carrying 45 times for 270 yards and seven touchdowns.

"Tommy's our home run threat," offensive coordinator Ernie McCook said.

Starters paving the way up front include tackle Geoff Fry (Frederick) and guards Steve Balsey (Damascus) and Josh Spring (Loudoun Valley).

"When we have confidence in a play it builds," McCook said.

The Rams' ground attack has a cumulative effect, like the lake-effect snow that fell Saturday in Erie, Pa., in Shepherd's 49-14 victory at Mercyhurst. After outscoring the Lakers 35-0 in the second half, the Rams piled snow in a cooler and dumped it on coach Monte Cater.

Afterward, the Rams experienced another first: a police escort back to Shepherdstown.
Parrish shines for Shepherd

Former Amherst standout A.J. Parrish, the Seminole District and Region III defensive player of the year in 2008, is a starting linebacker as a redshirt freshman at Shepherd University, ranking third on the team in tackles.

The Rams won the NCAA Division II Super Region I championship and will travel to Region II champion Delta State, Saturday at 2 p.m., in the national semifinal game, to be televised by CBS College Sports.

Parrish, who’s 5-foot-9, 224 pounds, has recorded 70 tackles with five tackles for loss, two sacks, one pass breakup, one pass defensed and one forced fumble.

He led the Lancers to the Group AA, Division 4, state final against Broad Run as a senior with 137 tackles and nine sacks.
Clancy gives steady leadership
Shepherd's quarterback provides what Rams require

BY RICK KOZIOWSKI

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Kevin Clancy clearly appears every now and then to a message board devoted to Division II football.

"I want to see what other teams are saying," the Shepherd senior quarterback said. "It gives me a little motivation."

Maybe a little motivation.

Taking a look last week, Clancy viewed messages from someone suggesting it was as an "old girlfriend" who you ripped off.

"I’m not sure what that was or what someone had against me," Clancy said. "You have people who want to trash other people, and you can’t look too much into it."

He had the last laugh though, as he helped lead the region — a world as the Rams downed Mercer 49-14 to win their first regional championship and move into the national semifinals Saturday at Delta State.

All Clancy did was complete 17 of 27 passes for 245 yards as Shepherd piled up 433 yards of offense.

"It’s been a dream season," Clancy said. "I couldn’t ask for anything better."

"We’re trying to keep it going one game at a time.""WANT TO WATCH?"

Shepherd-Delta State wrestling matches are planned at various locations on the eastern Panhandle and Tri-State area.

The Shepherd Alumni Association is sponsoring matches at The Three Onions and the Rumsey Tavern at the Quaker Hotel and Conference Center in Shepherdstown.

Other locations include the Shepherd University Wellness Center, Dairy Days in Hinton and Winchester; and Buffalo Wild Wings at Martinsburg, Hagerstown and Winchester.

Martinsburg fans attending the Class AAA state championship wrestling game can watch at TJ’s Sports Garden, Exit 2A off interstate 70 in Martinsburg.

Game time is 2 p.m. on CBS College Sports channel.

"That’s with the second-year starter quarterback, dependable athlete taking us to our third consecutive trip for a team making its first appearance in the final four."

"That is a big thing in Shepherd," coach Monte Custer said, "because consistency is what you need in that position. He’s been able to do that. He’s been remarkably durable; he hangs in there and gets the ball to where it needs to go."

Still, Clancy is somewhat of a forgotten man at Shepherd’s scheme of things, even if he plays the most important position on the field.

It has kind of come with the territory. First off, he plays in a league that possesses West Liberty’s Zach American, the 2009 Harbert Bill Trophy runner-up and Division II’s all-time passing, rushing leader. Plus, there are others at different stops in the West Virginia Conference where the quarterbacks ranked among the nation’s best in various statistical categories.

Beyond being overshadowed in his own league, Clancy gets lost in ways on his own team.

There is such a strong running game that averages 216 yards per game — in Shepherd tradition. Then there’s the defense that keeps coming up with pick-sixes like play after play to turn a game.

Even with Rams’ specialists until now, having their star in Donte Stowers, the NCAA’s leading returner touchdowns, ready to change things on a kickoff or punt.

"I don’t feel I ever overtook," Clancy said.
Rams’ title journey continues

Shepherd faces Delta State in today’s D-II national semifinal

By RICK KOLKOWSKI
JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The states of Mississippi and West Virginia are forever being derided for being at the bottom of the football rankings lists of this and that, and there happens to be ranking the states.

Either West Virginia or Mississippi is 49th or 50th of all the states, or Mississippi is 49th or 50th. The two states are seemingly interchangeable.

That’s the part of playing in the playoffs. The players don’t think it’ll be a huge distraction. (Today) will hopefully be a quick, and we can just concentrate on football."

In fact, quarterback Mitch Davis is standing to graduate today with a degree in chemistry. The 4.0 student is a junior eligibility-wise. Corroborative are clues for the morning.

"He’s not going to walk," Roberts said. Shepherd hopes Davis is not running around trying to find somewhere to go in the State’s spread offense. Davis has thrown for 3,661 yards this season with 28 touchdowns and 15 interceptions.

"He’s pretty good," said Cates, whose team has faced several prolific passing attacks this season. "He’s athletic. We have to get pressure on him, but that can backfire as well."

L.J. Castle (55 catches), Maurice Moore (49) and Chance Dennis (43) represent Davis’ main rushing targets. Running backs Trevon Deed and Brandon Lucas have respective rushing totals of 997 and 753 yards.

"We’ve got a lot of talent offensive-wise," Roberts said. "They’re explosive. We got two good running backs, and a good receiving corps as we’ve had a long time ago."

The Statesmen rank eight nationally in total offense with 449 yards per game, while Shepherd is fifth in scoring offense at 40.9 points per game. The Rams have scored at least 40 points in all three postseason games, including 49 a week ago when both teams scored 28 points in the nation in rushing, and Nate Hoyt ran for 169 yards for the second time in the playoffs.

"I think we played pretty well," Cates said. "We controlled the ball, the game and the ball, and in terms of balance, that was pretty good plan."

"That second half might be as good a half as we’ve had."

The Rams blanked Morehead State 34-0 in the second half of last week’s game. The Statesmen, who are unofficially known as the Fighting Okra, were 7-7 over previously undefeated Alabama State.

Delta State averaged a regular-season loss to North Alabama in the posession of Rob Wodow, coached by Terry Bowden, provides the "sixth degree of separation" as a common opponent goes. North Alabama lost to Glendive in the early season, and Glendive defeated Shepherd’s only loss.

Unlike the regional playoffs, where there’s a degree of familiarity with opponents, this stage of the game presents a mystery. "I don’t know you prepare for different, but you prepare for the types of things they do," Cates said. "You use the strengths you have and try to offset the strengths they have."

Both coaches think turnovers could be an important factor. The Rams, ranked second nationally in turnover margin, have lived off opponents’ mistakes.

Roberts knows the importance of protecting the football and knows the penchant of Shepherd for gaining extra possession. "We don’t plan on committing turnovers," Roberts said, then chuckled. "We’re not going to turn the ball over, and we’re going to play well."

RAMBLINGS: Delta State’s roster contains 59 players who are either transfers from junior colleges or high-level programs, including the bowl championship subdivision. That’s more than the number of players allowed to dress for a playoff game.

Shepherd is the lowest remaining seed of the final four. The Rams fell from No. 1 to No. 2 after their loss to wrap up the regular season. Delta State was No. 1 in its region, while Minnesota-Duluth was No. 1 in its region but lost to Northwest Missouri State, which was No. 1.

"We haven’t turned the ball over a lot, and conditions the last two weeks have been such that you could," Cates said. "We’ve had a good quarterback last week that we helped have a bad game."

"We can’t help them; they don’t need help. The things we’ve done, staying on the plus side of turnovers, that’s been huge."

Shepherd head coach Ron Roberts said, "We’ve practiced at night and worked at noon. I don’t think it was real difficult, but we did have to back down on practice time and meeting time because we have track.

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Rams’ record-breaking season ends

Shepherd falls to Delta State in the Division II football national semifinals

CLEVELAND, Miss. (AP) — After a 39-minute weather delay turned the football field into a muddy mess, Delta State quarterback Micah Davis sprinted into the field and bellyflopped into the standing water, grass and mud flying as he slid about 10 yards.

His teammates howled with laughter. Mission accomplished.

“I wanted to do something to get them pumped up again,” Davis said.

Tursing a tight game into a convincing victory, Davis threw for 193 yards and three touchdowns as Delta State beat Shepherd 29-17 in a rain-soaked NCAA Division II semifinal game on Saturday.

Delta State (11-3) has won five straight games and advances to its second title game in school history. The Statesmen won the 2000 national championship.

Weather was a huge factor in the game, which included the wind and a waterlogged field. Davis threw three interceptions along with his three touchdowns, including two long throws into the wind that stalled in mid-air.

But the Statesmen overcame those miscues, with Davis sitting L.J. Castle for a 6-yard touchdown pass with 2:46 remaining to seal the victory.

The senior quarterback, who graduated earlier on Saturday with a degree in chemistry, completed 14 of 22 passes.

“He’s a competitor and a great player,” Delta State coach Ron Roberts said. “We wouldn’t have been here today without him. Obviously, I really liked the way he handled himself in the fourth quarter.”

Trevor Deed rushed for 104 yards on 29 carries. Castle caught five passes for 64 yards and two touchdowns.

Shepherd (12-2) was making its first appearance in the Division II semifinals. Kevin Clancy threw for 212 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions.

The Rams opened the game with an impressive 15-play, 77-yard drive that ended on Naic Hoyte’s 4-yard touchdown run. But Delta State stormed back with an 11-play, 66-yard drive of its own ended with a 12-yard touchdown run by Bill Franks to tie the score at 7.

The teams traded touchdowns again in the second quarter before Matt Snyder kicked a 33-yard field goal as time expired in the first half to give Delta State a 17-14 halftime lead.

See Rams C6

Rams

“We played a great first half,” Clancy said. “We really thought we had a chance in the second half, but made some mistakes when we couldn’t cost us.”

With 8:45 remaining in the third quarter and Delta State still leading 17-14, the game was delayed by lightning and heavy rain after a band of thunderstorms swept through the area. When play resumed, the natural grass field was completely waterlogged and standing water was everywhere.

But that didn’t stop the Statesmen’s offense. Davis found Carlitos Ollie for a 65-yard touchdown pass late in the third quarter to push Delta State’s lead to 23-14 after the extra point was blocked.

Shepherd responded with a 31-yard field goal by Eric Dobrez to pull within 23-17, but then Delta State’s defense tightened. Garrett Williams had two crucial fourth-quarter interceptions, as the Statesmen held the Rams to just 281 total yards.

Delta State will play Minnesota-Duluth on Dec. 18 for the D-II national championship. Minnesota defeated Northwest Missouri 17-13 in the other semifinal game Saturday.
Ram fans gather for semifinals

By Ben Gibson
For the Journal

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Though the mood is the Three Onions Lounge was subdued after an interception late in the game, the scene earlier was filled with screaming fans hoping to see the Shepherd Rams earn a berth in the NCAA Division II national football championship game.

"We had a good crowd, a lot of football fans out here. It was great with all fans, alumni and just everyone out here," Three Onions bartender Elijah Gosnell said. "I watched them this year, I'm glad they got this far. I feel they just got unlucky today."

Three Onions wasn't the only viewing party in the area as alumni and local businesses set up to watch the Rams face off against the Delta State Statesmen.

Groups gathered in several locations in Shepherdstown, as well as other locations in the area, including the Buffalo Wild Wings in Martinsburg.

Fans cheered as the Rams took the lead early, and the room exploded when senior fullback Bobby Humphreys broke through a tackle and lost his helmet, then continued to pound his way to a first down.

"We usually attend the Shepherd games on Saturdays and tailgate, and this is a big-time game," Rick Brown of Inwood said. "It was a good chance to come down and see my daughter and her fiancé and spend some time with them."

Brown said though he graduated from Fairmont State, he was happy to see one of the local teams do well.

"It was different to see them on TV. I'm used to being there at the game together with everybody, but it's a good atmosphere here," Brown said.

While the mood at the parties deflated with the Statesmen's final touchdown, the fans had enjoyed the chance to gather and celebrate the biggest game in Ram history.

Though Shepherd wasn't able to beat Delta State, plenty of local fans got a rare chance to see the Rams on national television with their family and friends.
Rogers attends baseball camp

Keyser, W. Va. — KEYSER—Keyser High sophomore baseball player Aaron Rogers attended the College Coaches Skill Camp at Shepherd University on December 5.

Rogers attended both pitching and hitting sessions at the camp. The pitching session included advanced instruction and problem-solving on all aspects of pitching including mechanics, pitch variation, delivery tempo, and adjustments to improve command, accomplished by working via lecture and drills throughout the course of the session.

During the skill sessions, pitchers were divided into small groups, with all bullpen work being done one-on-one with the various coaches. During the hitting session, players focused on sound fundamental techniques of hitting via lecture, tee work, dry swing breakdown, side toss, and live hitting in the cage. Each hitter worked individually in the cages with the members of the coaching staff.

Hitters received many swings and conditioning techniques to build strength and technique.

Coaches from Purdue, the University of Maryland, Creighton, Shepherd, George Washington, Cleveland State, St. Peter’s, Susquehanna, West Virginia, Shenandoah, and Shippensburg were among those in attendance.

Rogers, who mainly plays left field and first base as well as pitching, has played baseball for nine years in Keyser and counts a no-hitter in Moorefield during the 2008 All-Star season, his first, as his proudest moment.

"It was great," Rogers said of the camp. "I'm looking forward to the upcoming 2011 season."
Shepherd men make their free throws; defeat Shippensburg

Shepherd returned from an unsuccessful WIAC two-game road trip where it lost to both Davis & Elkins and Bluefield to defeat non-conference rival Shippensburg, 79-67, last week in its Butcher Center home games. Both teams had similar 3-5 records after the Rams snapped their losing streak.

Shepherd had only one two-point lead at halftime, but then out-scored the Red Raiders by 11 points in the second half. The Rams made 16-of-30 (55 percent) of their second-half field-goal attempts.

Sophomore forward Chad Moore paced the Shepherd scorers with 23 points on 9-of-13 from the floor and 9-of-9 from the foul line.

Dave Karlson had 12 points (4-of-5 from the floor), Malik Danda added another 12 points (4-of-8 shooting), and first-time starter Marcus Pilgrim tossed in 11 points on 5-of-9 from the field.

Reserve Dace Lauber led Shippensburg in scoring with 18 points while Craig Van Scyoc scored 17 points and Lamar Jackson notched another 15 points.

Shepherd made 10 of its 21 free throws. Shippensburg converted 20 of its 25 in the first half. After shooting 11-of-25 (44 percent) from the floor in the first half, Shepherd had only a 32-31 lead. Shippensburg went 11-for-25 (44 percent) in the first half.

The Rams moved away to a 47-37 lead with 15:18 remaining as Danda converted a three-pointer. Karlson made a jumper. Moore connected on two free throws. Pilgrim added a successful three-pointer, and Aoun Spencer counted a layup. Shippensburg rallied to within 50-48 with 10:14 remaining.

But Shepherd settled off nine consecutive points to take a 56-48 lead with 8:38 left. It was Shepherd with a 68-54 lead with 5:41 showing on the second-half clock.

The lead would go below 11 points the rest of the way. Karlson had nine of Shepherd’s 13 rebounds. Lauber had nine of Shippensburg’s 24 rebounds. Shepherd committed only 18 turnovers as compared with Shippensburg’s 19 and the Rams doubled the Red Raiders in steals with 10 when the PSAC team had just five.

Shepherd’s 90.6 percent shooting from the foul line was its best effort of the nightgame season.

The next home game for the Rams is on Saturday, December 18 when WIAC rival Pitt-Johnstown comes to the Butcher Center.

Shepherd women take lopsided win

Wireless Washington Adversity proved no match for the Shepherd women last week when the Lady Rams went away, 119-36, at the Butcher Center.

Shepherd was 5-3 overall after the non-conference victory. Washington Adversity was 6-6 after dropping the 83-point, non-competitive loss.

The whole of the Shepherd roster received at least seven minutes playing time with reserve Hassiah Jafome’s 23 minutes being the most.

Shepherd’s 70-16 lead at the half had been fueled by its 67 percent field goal percentage and its 91.7 percent shooting from the foul line.

Even though they all played equally, the Lady Rams’ starters all scored in double figures. Emily Daniel had 15 points, Jenee Prine 14 points, Shelby Fayat 13 more, and Jerica Hewett and Carla Saunders both added 12 points.

Howard played only 12 minutes, Daniel 18 minutes, Fayat 20 minutes, Saunders 21 minutes, and Prine 22 minutes. Katie Biggs actually led Shepherd in scoring with 14 points in 17 minutes of playing time.

Daniel’s 10 rebounds were the most of any Shepherd player as the Lady Rams out-rebounded the visitors, 59-23.

Shepherd’s 25 assists on its 45 field goals was its highest figure of the nightgame season.

The Lady Rams made 30 of their 24 free throws and were 6-of-16 from long range on three-point tries.

All 13 of the Shepherd players scored at least three points and 12 of them had at least one rebound.

Washington Adversity committed 30 turnovers helping fuel a Shepherd lead that once mushroomed to 55-2 with fully 8:24 remaining in the first half.

It was 90-18 with 17:14 to play. The century mark was reached with the count at 100-26.

The Shepherd women will be at home again on Saturday, December 18, at 7 p.m. when they face conference opponent Pitt-Johnstown.

Rams’ Robinson, Falcons’ McDonald are all-region football selections

The 2010 NCAA Division II All-Super Region I football team was announced by the Sport Information Directors of America in the four conferences comprising the region this week. Shepherd defensive back Kevin Robinson was on the team.

Robinson had right interceptions in Shepherd’s 9-1 record regular season.

The only other WIAC player on the Super Region I first team was quarterback Zach Amedeo (West Liberty), tight end Ryan Travis (West Liberty), and offensive lineman Nick Madia (West Liberty).

The AllSuper Region I second team players from the WIAC were Fairmont’s free safety Dennis McDonald, Shepherd linebacker Brian Taylor, West Liberty linebacker Clay Riedel, Shepherd kick returner Deonte Steele, and West Virginia Wesleyan defensive lineman Jonas Celia.

McDonald played at Jefferson High before graduating in 2009. He had previously been named to the 2010 AH-WVIAC First-team defense after recording 69 tackles, intercepting three passes, and having nine "punt blockages."
It was Shepherd’s best-ever football season

COMMENTARY

One of the last four teams in the country still playing. Another in a long list of WVIAC championships. A first-ever Super Region I title. The first time in school history any team won over as many as 11 games. A resounding 12-0 overall record that had national playoff wins against Shaw, Kutztown, and Mercyhurst. An overflow crowd that wedged itself into Ram Stadium in the regular season finale against Glenville. By any system of evaluation, the 2010 Shepherd football season was the best in school history. There had been three other regular seasons that had been completed in unbeaten excellence. But none of those teams accomplished so much on the national stage as this well-rounded team that had a variety of "play-makers" on both defense and offense. After the past two seasons with records of 6-4 and 5-5 that were without conference titles or national playoff invitations, the pressure was on the WVIAC coaches to have the Rams placed # See SHEPHERD page 4B

Shepherd had record-setting season

FISHER PAGE 1B

second behind last year’s league champ West Liberty.

A season-opening, right-point victory at Shepensburg was followed by a stunning of St. Joseph’s of Indiana in a late-game, three-point win over Fairmont to open the conference season. Two road wins — against Senior Hill and well-regarded Charleston — gave the Rams a 5-0 record.

Reigning Concord was next. And was beaten in a running offensive duel. West Virginia Wesleyan was at Rain Jordan with a 6-0 record, but could not solve Shepherd’s defense. Shepherd was 7-0.

The next game at far distant West Liberty, the home-field Hilltoppers moved to a 35-13 lead in the third quarter. After a barrage of touchdowns that came from special teams, the defense, and pass-catch touchdowns, Shepherd was ahead, 45-36. And finished off a 35-36 win over the Rain-Shocked Hilltoppers.

With West Virginia State was beaten as the Rams clinched the WVIAC championship — again.

The Super Region I festivities had Shepherd topping the four-conference field of rivals.

That top spot became the fourth spot when a last minute Glenville touchdown pass put a blot on the regular season record.

Fourth-seeded Shepherd methodically built its game-long advantage over Shaw, finally finishing off a 40-6 win over its Super Region I first-round opponent.

No more home games were on the national playoff schedule.

Kutztown, the region’s top seed, hosted the Rams on November 27 in a wind-blown afternoon of driving temperatures.

The Rams scored early, but then tacked on 28 points in the fourth quarter to get a 51-34 win over the Golden Bears.

Another Saturday with raw temperatures greeted Shepherd in Erie for the Super Region I championship.

After the teams were tied at 14-14 at the half, Shepherd scored five straight touchdowns to move away to a 49-14 win over the snow-country Lakers.

A 12-1 record placed the 2010 team above all the Shepherd teams that had come before.

The two national semifinal games were going to be televised at 1 and 6 p.m. EST time.

Shepherd has no lights, so even a game whose would close at about 9 p.m. had the danger of being finished in fast-fading or already-gone daylight.

Some talk surfaced that Shepherd would ever play if the decision-makers at NCDA headquarters would award the Rams a national semifinal game at home.

Delta State, which has lights at its 6,800-seat stadium, was given the nod to host the semifinal game.

Shepherd was able to charter a plane flight to Mississippi for its record-setting team.

Delta State had a national championship in its football past. It also had two other national semifinals appearances.

Shepherd had the early lead, but splashed through the second half after a lightning delay was followed by a pelting thunderstorm that drowned some of the field and brought mud to any player tackled between the benches.

The Rams fell a little short. And only Delta State and Minnesota Duluth were left.

A Shepherd defense line of Geoff Fry, Steven Jackson, Carl Mckstry, Josh Spring, and Steve Bailey was an all-star force throughout the 14-game season.

Runners Tommy Addison and Nate Hoyte, and backfield mates Bobby Humphries and Kevin Clacey all had more than just brief glimpse of heroism.

Receivers Robert Byrne, Dominic Jones, Neal Hardie, Nickolas Norrell, Scott Ridell, and Larry Lowe provided assistance to balance the Shepherd offense.

No Shepherd team had ever done as much with its season-long past offense as this one.

The downs lineman with the defense were Howard Jones, Will Wheeler, Xavier Tyler, and Mike Franklin. The linebackers had to be ever-pass alert because no team really did much on the ground against the Rams.

Brian Taylor, A.J. Parrish, Ben Minter, Leons Kibongo, and Maurice Perry faced a long list of teams that relied on passing to move and then try to score.

Shepherd’s quick-footed defensive secondary was the most effective the school had ever seen.

Kean Robinson, Corey Washington, Eliza Davis, Deanne Steele, and Chris Patton manned that secondary.

There was more moke depth this season.

Bryan Leonard, Robert Hayter, Dominique Dixon, Trey McNeill, Justin Ford, and Jon Hauser had important roles.

Eric Debaire had a number of high-arching punts before being injured. His one important field goal came very late in the 19-16 win over Fairmont.

As listed in the last game program, the junior starters on this 12-2 team were Josh Spring, Robert Byrne, Neal Hardie, Eliza Davis, Tommy Addison, Steven Jackson, Nate Hoyte, Chris Patton, Nickolas Norrell, and Eric Debaire.

The sophomores starters were Kean Robinson, Corey Washington, A.J. Parrish, Howard Jones, and Carl Mckstry.

And the freshmen starters were Xavier Tyler and Mike Franklin.

Finding a quarterback, two offensive linemen, several linebackers, a defensive end, and depth all around are the first-to-be-solved problems.

But first, Shepherd can take a pleasurable look back at its longest season … and see the historical markers it spaced from beginning to end.
One second, one lightning delay, two late-game interceptions bring down Shepherd in Division II semifinals vs. Statesmen

CLEVELAND, Mis. — More than an NCAA Division II football inaugural game between Delta State and Shepherd was played on Saturday at half-filled Pickens-McCord Stadium. The most unusual happening was a 50-minute lightning delay that brought the ball to play in the third quarter. There was a successful Delta State field goal that gave the home team a lead that was tied with one second left in the first half and followed a fumble penalty against Delta State.

The only long pass of the first half was a 31-yard pass from Mosque to Castle for a 14-12 Statesmen lead when the conversion kick missed a 29-yard place-kick attempt.

Delta State's only points of the second quarter was a 27-yard field goal after the Statesmen moved to 24-14 in 11 plays with Mitchell scoring from the 12. This was followed by a 29-yard field goal by Mosque that tied the score at 14-14. The Statesmen increased their lead to 17-16 when the conversion kick missed.

Shepherd scored on a 29-yard run by Mosque, who scored after a fumble recovery by Mosque on a punt in the third quarter. The Statesmen scored on a 21-yard field goal by Mosque that tied the score at 21-21.

In the fourth quarter, Delta State moved in 70 yards in 12 plays with Castle scoring a 10-yard touchdown on a 12-play drive. The Statesmen increased their lead to 28-21 when the conversion kick missed.

The Rams scored on a 27-yard field goal by Mosque that tied the score at 21-21. The Statesmen scored on a 29-yard field goal by Mosque that tied the score at 21-21. The Statesmen increased their lead to 28-21 when the conversion kick missed.

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Rams’ Robinson earns All-American honors

WICHITA FALLS, Texas - Sophomore defensive back Kean Robinson of the Shepherd University football team has been selected to the 2010 Daktronics NCAA Division II All-America team.

Robinson was a second-team selection.

Robinson helped lead the Rams to a 12-2 overall mark, a West Virginia Conference title, a Super Region 1 regional champions and the first WVC team reach the NCAA Division II football national semifinals.

Robinson recorded 10 interceptions on the year, including two that were returned for touchdowns. His 10 interceptions are the most in NCAA II this year, while his average ranks him fourth nationally.

He also had 16 kickoff returns for a 21.0 and nine punt returns for a 9.7 average. Robinson was sixth on the team tackles with 65 with a team-best 59 solo tackles. He added 11 pass breakups.

Robinson led a Shepherd defense that leads NCAA Division II in turnovers gained and interceptions (28).

H.S. GIRLS BASKETBALL
Hedgesville 49, Mercersburg 17
MERCERSBURG, Pa. — Tyana Monette had a double-double as Hedgesville won its first game of the season after two losses to open the campaign.

Monette had 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Carly Elliott added 10 points for the Eagles.

McKenzie Brink’s four points paced the Blue Storm (1-2).

Hampshire 74, Petersburg 48
PETERSBURG — Three players scored in double figures for Hampshire, which picked up its first win after a pair of losses to start the season.

Lindsey Miller had 17 points, Holly Riggs 16 and Hannah Carl 14.

I.S. SWIMMING
Jefferson sweeps
FRONT ROYAL, Va. — Jefferson boys and girls moved their dual meet records to 4-0 each as they won over host Randolph Macon.

The Jefferson boys won 99-67 and the girls 139-14.

For the Jefferson boys, Phil Allen won the 200-yard freestyle in 2 minutes, 13.9 seconds and the 500 free in 6:26.25. Keegan Simmons took the 40 free and the 100 free in 52.23. Henry Culchanname won the 100 breaststroke in 1:10.4.

For the Cougar girls, Jessica Dodson claimed the 40 free and 100 free in 1:07.40, Ashleigh Orr won the 200 free in 2:41.34 and 100 backstroke in 1:15.10, Luisa Holland took the 500 free in 6:08.91 and the 100 breast in 1:19.72, Shannon Wuerch won the 100 butterfly in 1:23.0 and Kayley Hoffman claimed the 160-yard individual medley.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Eighth grade
Harpers Ferry 34, North 12
HARPERS FERRY — Carly Jansure had a game-high of 18 points for Harpers Ferry, while Ally Hoffman added four points.