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PSAC Football Preview - Week 9 (October 24, 2007)

The Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference has all 13 teams in action this week.

Bloomsburg makes its second straight appearance on SPORTSfever Television Network in the "APSCUF Game of the Week" as the Huskies travel to East Stroudsburg for a 2 p.m. kickoff.

The match up is the eighth of 10 PSAC contests to be broadcast state-wide on SPORTSfever Television Network and will be available through a network of Pennsylvania commercial television stations with a potential audience of 4.8 million cable, satellite and over-the-air households.

The other Eastern Division matchup features Millersville at Cheyney (1 p.m.) while West Chester hosts St. Joseph's (Ind.) in a non-conference contest at 1 p.m.

In the Western Division, California travels Slippery Rock at 1 p.m. while Clarion hosts IUP (1 p.m.) and Lock Haven travels to Shippensburg (1 p.m.).

The crossover contests pits Edinboro at Kutztown for a 1:05 kickoff.

California reclaimed its No. 1 ranking in the NCAA II Northeast Region rankings after spending a week at No. 3, while West Chester maintained its spot at No. 2. IUP also maintained its position from a week ago while both Slippery Rock and Edinboro fell to seventh and 12th, respectively. The league has had five teams ranked regionally in all three weeks of the poll.

On the national scene, four PSAC teams are ranked in the top 25 of the AFCA poll as Slippery Rock enters the rankings for the first time this season at No. 24 while California, West Chester and IUP each move up two spots from last week. In the D2 football.com rankings, California slides up to No. 8 while West Chester sits at No. 12.

Northeast Region

1. **California (Pennsylvania) (8-0)**
2. **West Chester (7-1)**
3. Bryant (7-0)
4. **Indiana (Pennsylvania) (6-1)**
5. Shepherd (7-1)
6. Charleston (West Virginia) (7-2)
7. **Slippery Rock (7-1)**
8. Southern Connecticut State (5-3)
9. Bentley (5-2)
10. Glenville State (5-3)
11. American International (4-3)
12. **Edinboro (5-3)**

AFCA Poll - 10/23

1. Grand Valley St. (Mich.)
2. North Alabama
3. Chadron St. (Neb.)
4. Nebraska-Omaha
5. West Texas A&M
6. **California (Pa.)**

D2Football.com Poll - 10/23

1. Grand Valley
2. North Alabama
3. Nebraska-Omaha
4. Chadron St.
5. Northwest Missouri
6. West Texas A&M

7. Northwest Missouri St.
8. Tarleton St. (Texas)
9. North Dakota
10. Delta St. (Miss.)
11. Valdosta St. (Ga.)
- 12. West Chester (Pa.)**
13. Carson-Newman (Tenn.)
14. Tuskegee (Ala.)
15. Catawba (N.C.)
Shepherd (W. Va.)
17. Central Washington
18. Mesa St. (Colo.)
19. Pittsburg St. (Kan.)
- 20. Indiana (Pa.)**
21. Abilene Christian (Texas)
22. Tiffin (Ohio)
23. Midwestern St. (Texas)
- 24. Slippery Rock (Pa.)**
25. Newberry (S.C.)

7. North Dakota
- 8. California**
9. Valdosta St.
10. Tarleton St.
11. Delta St.
- 12. West Chester**
13. Carson-Newman
14. Shepherd
15. Central Washington
16. Tuskegee
17. Catawba
18. Pittsburg St.
19. Abilene Christian
20. Newberry
21. Mesa St.
22. Midwestern St.
23. South Dakota
24. Bryant
25. Ashland

Following is a preview of this weekend's action:

Bloomsburg at East Stroudsburg - 2 p.m.

"APSCUF" Game of the Week - SPORTSfever Television Network

Series: East Stroudsburg leads the all-time series, 43-33-2. Bloomsburg will try and make it three in a row over the Warriors after posting a 45-37 decision last year and a 31-24 ledger in 2005.



Bloomsburg

Overall: 4-3

Conference: 2-1 PSAC East

Last Contest: Bloomsburg 42, Millersville 28

Next Week: Cheyney at Bloomsburg, 1 p.m.

Players to Watch:

WR Brahin Bilal - 38-for-761 yds, 6 TDs

RB Jamar Brittingham - Leads league in scoring at 16.9 ppg (118 points, 19 TDs)

Current Trends:

Bloomsburg has scored 40 or more points five times this season. The Huskies have converted on 13-of-15 fourth down conversions. Bloomsburg leads the league in pass efficiency at 163.1.

East Stroudsburg

Overall: 2-5

Conference: 1-2 PSAC East

Last Contest: West Chester 30, E. Stroudsburg 15

Next Week: East Stroudsburg at Kutztown, 1:05 p.m.

Players to Watch:

K Greg Knauss - 12-of-17 FGs, 21-of-22 PAT attempts

RB Joe Partridge - 89-for-554 yds, 7 TDs

Current Trends:

E. Stroudsburg's 15 points against West Chester was its lowest output since a 26-3 defeat in the season opener against California. Kicker Greg Knauss scored all of ESU's points as he went a perfect 5-for-5 in field goal attempts, tying a PSAC single-game record.



California at Slippery Rock - 1 p.m.

Series: Slippery Rock owns a 42-27-3 record against California since the two teams first met in 1905. The Rock has won seven of the last 10 contests, but California has claimed three of the last four.



California

Overall: 8-0

Conference: 4-0 PSAC West

Last Contest: California 26, Edinboro 8

Next Week: California at West Chester, 1 p.m.

Players to Watch:

DL Kirby Griffin - 2nd in DII with 0.5 forced fumbles per game (4)

QB Joe Ruggiero - 102-of-173, 1,187 yds, 13 TDs

Current Trends:

California is one win shy of tying its record for best start in team history and one win shy of tying the team record for most wins in a season. The Vulcans rank in the top 10 nationally in 10 different categories, including total defense, rushing defense, scoring defense and fumbles lost.

Slippery Rock

Overall: 7-1

Conference: 2-1 PSAC West

Last Contest: Slippery Rock 38, Shippensburg 34

Next Week: Nov. 1, Slippery Rock at Lock Haven, 5:30 p.m.

Players to Watch:

RB Corey Manfull - 20-for-80 yds against Ship after missing last two games with an injury

QB Nate Crookshank - 111-for-180, 1,636 yds 15 TDs

Current Trends:

Slippery Rock entered the AFCA II poll for the first time this season (No. 24). SRU ranks ninth nationally in rushing offense (258.9 ypg) behind its trio of talented running backs but will face big challenge in California's quick defense. The Rock's offense has scored 30 or more points in all but one game (SRU 21, Millersville 5 - Sept. 8).



Millersville at Cheyney - 1 p.m.

Series: Millersville holds a 51-4-1 series advantage over Cheyney, including last year's 48-12 decision. The last time Cheyney defeated Millersville came in 1983 with the Wolves edging the Marauders, 21-20.



Millersville

Overall: 2-6

Conference: 1-2 PSAC East

Last Contest: Bloomsburg 42, Millersville 28

Next Week: Bentley at Millersville, 1 p.m.

Players to Watch:

DB Brandon Shelton - Leads team with 3 INTs

DB Dan McClellan - Leads team with 6 PBUs

Current Trends:

A week after being held to just 74 yards passing against Shippensburg, Millersville rebounded to toss for 177 yards against Bloomsburg, its best output to date. The defense has recovered a fumble or recorded an interception in all but two games this season.

Cheyney

Overall: 1-7

Conference: 0-2 PSAC East

Last Contest: Kutztown 40, Cheyney 21

Next Week: Cheyney at Bloomsburg, 1 p.m.

Players to Watch:

RS Eric Frazier - 21-for-487 yds, leads team in scoring

TE Brandon Tymous - Leads team with 6 TFL, 2.5 Sks

Current Trends:

Cheyney put together its longest drive of the season against Kutztown (16 plays). The Wolves has a tough schedule to close out Eastern Division play, traveling to Bloomsburg next week before hosting West Chester in the season finale.



IUP at Clarion

Series: IUP owns a 52-22-3 series record against Clarion. The Crimson Hawks are 8-3 against the Golden Eagles since 1996.



IUP

Overall: 6-1

Conference: 3-1 PSAC West

Last Contest: IUP 44, Lock Haven 13

Next Week: Shippensburg at IUP, 1 p.m.

Players to Watch:

QB Andrew Krewatch - 127-of-221, 1,750 yds, 14 TDs

RS - Akwasi Owusu-Ansah - 17-for-159 yds, TD on punt returns; 9-for-267 yds, TD on kick returns

Current Trends:

IUP's streak of 34 extra points came to a close on the final attempt of the game against Lock Haven. The Crimson Hawks are a perfect 5-of-5 in fourth down conversions.

Clarion**Overall: 0-8****Conference: 0-3 PSAC West****Last Contest: Fairmont St. 21, Clarion 14****Next Week: Clarion at Edinboro, 2 p.m.****Players to Watch:**

RB Eddie Emmanuel - 149-for-626 yds, 2 TDs

QB Tyler Huether - 81-of-172, 1,092 yds, 5 TDs

Current Trends:

Clarion had its best rushing game yet against Fairmont St. as the Golden Eagles rushed for 205 yards. Running back Eddie Emmanuel rushed for his third 100-yard game of the year (15-for-105).

**Edinboro at Kutztown - 1:05 p.m.**

Series: Edinboro owns a 4-2 record against Kutztown and will try to make it four in a row over the Golden Bears. The last time the two squads met was in 2005 with Edinboro winning 33-7 at home. The last Kutztown win came in 2002 by a 14-10 decision at Edinboro.

**Edinboro****Overall: 5-3****Conference: 2-2 PSAC West****Last Contest: California 26, Edinboro 8****Next Week: Clarion at Edinboro, 2 p.m.****Players to Watch:**

KR David Bostic - 12-for-288 yds

LB Greg Sondag - Leads team with 57 TT; 5 Sk, 2 TFL, INT

Current Trends:

After winning five straight games in which the Fighting Scots posted no less than 33 points per game, Edinboro has dropped two consecutive contests and scored a combined 15 points. Prior to their two losses, Edinboro converted 25-of-27 chances in the red zone while going 0-for-5 against IUP and California.

Kutztown**Overall: 4-4****Conference: 1-2 PSAC East****Last Contest: Kutztown 40, Cheyney 21****Next Week: East Stroudsburg at Kutztown, 1:05 p.m.****Players to Watch:**

RB Dontay Wilson - 72-for-338 yds, 3 TDs

DB Brian Bingnear - Leads team with 3 INTs

Current Trends:

Kutztown is in the middle of three consecutive home games and earned its first PSAC East victory last week. The Golden Bears renew its rivalry with crossover opponent Edinboro after year's hiatus. Running back Dontay Wilson recorded Kutztown's first 100-yard rushing game of the year (23-for-152) and made up three starters that did not play who combined for over 300 all purpose yards per game.

**Lock Haven at Shippensburg - 1 p.m.**

Series: Shippensburg leads the all-time series, 43-18-3. The Red Raiders have won 12 of the last 14 contests, including the last four. Ship's only losses during that span came in 2002 by a 26-13 count and in 1994 by a 35-1 decision.



Lock Haven

Overall: 0-8

Conference: 0-3 PSAC West

Last Contest: IUP 44, Lock Haven 13

Next Week: Nov. 1, Slippery Rock at Lock Haven, 5:30 p.m.

Players to Watch:

RB Ibrahim Smith - 96-for-294 yds, 2 TDs

WR DeMar Dowell - 10-for-150, 3 TDs

Current Trends:

Lock Haven's field goal unit is tied for second in the conference at 75 percent (6-of-8). Kicker Marc Domonkos is the team's leading scorer with 24 points.

Shippensburg

Overall: 2-6

Conference: 1-2 PSAC West

Last Contest: Slippery Rock 38, Shippensburg 34

Next Week: Shippensburg at IUP, 1 p.m.

Players to Watch:

RB Aaron Dykes - 105-for-509 yds, 9 TDs

S Jonathan Aldridge - Leads team with 71 TT, 8 PBU

Current Trends:

Shippensburg almost made it three in a row after its wild game with Slippery Rock a week ago. The Red Raiders are still in search of its first home win in the 2007 campaign. Ship's running game has come alive in the past three weeks, rushing for 296, 186 and 205 yards respectively, after being held to less than 100 yards per game in the four weeks prior.



St. Joseph's (Ind.) at West Chester - 1 p.m.

Series: This is the first meeting between the squads.



St. Joseph's

Overall: 3-5

Conference: 2-1 Great Lakes Football Conference

Last Contest: St. Joseph's 49, Kentucky Wesleyan 28

Next Week: Central St. at St. Joseph's, Noon

Players to Watch:

WR Dan Paulsen - 46-for-629 yds, 3 TDs

RB Greg Ford - 135-for-485 yds, 6 TDs

Current Trends:

St. Joseph's established a new season-high last week as the Pumas gathered 541 yards of offense. After opening the season 0-4, St. Joseph's has won three of the past four contests.

West Chester

Overall: 7-1

Conference: 4-0 PSAC East

Last Contest: West Chester 30, East Stroudsburg 15

Next Week: California at West Chester, 1 p.m.

Players to Watch:

QB Bill Zwaan - 119-for-210, 2,048 yds, 20 TDs (2nd - PSAC)

DB Mike Mignogno - Leads league with 5 INT

Current Trends:

The Golden Rams have not allowed a touchdown in 10 quarters, with the last coming in the second quarter when they gave up two to Millersville. The offense posted three passing touchdowns after not tossing any against Kutztown.



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