



#NECFB

GAME WEEK REPORT - NEWS & NOTES

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#NECFB FACTS & FIGURES

WEEK 4 RESULTS

Saturday, September 21
 SACRED HEART 78, Chowan 28
 SAINT FRANCIS 38, Lincoln 7
 Youngstown State 59, DUQUESNE 17
 Delaware 49, WAGNER 9
 CENTRAL CONNECTICUT 20, Albany 17

Open Date: ROBERT MORRIS, BRYANT

WEEK 5 SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 28

BRYANT at WAGNER on ESPN3 1:00 pm
 Fordham at SAINT FRANCIS 12:00 pm
 CENTRAL CONNECTICUT at Rhode Island 1:00 pm
 ROBERT MORRIS at Virginia Military 1:30 pm
 SACRED HEART at Bucknell 6:00 pm

Open Date: DUQUESNE



#NECFB PRESEASON COACHES' POLL

1. WAGNER (4)
2. DUQUESNE (3)
3. BRYANT
4. ROBERT MORRIS
5. SAINT FRANCIS
6. CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
7. SACRED HEART

First-place votes in parentheses ().

NEC FOOTBALL STANDINGS

WEEK 4 • MON. SEPT. 23, 2013

SCHOOL	NEC	PCT.	OVR.	PCT.	STR.	HOME	AWAY	NEU.
Sacred Heart	0-0	0.000	4-0	1.000	W4	2-0	2-0	0-0
Bryant	0-0	0.000	2-1	0.667	L1	2-0	0-1	0-0
Duquesne	0-0	0.000	1-2	0.333	L2	1-0	0-2	0-0
Robert Morris	0-0	0.000	1-2	0.333	L1	1-1	0-1	0-0
Saint Francis U	0-0	0.000	1-2	0.333	W1	1-0	0-2	0-0
Central Connecticut	0-0	0.000	1-3	0.250	W1	0-1	1-2	0-0
Wagner	0-0	0.000	1-3	0.250	L3	1-1	0-2	0-0

NEC Offensive Player of the Week

ROB HOLLOWOM, CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

Jr., RB, 5-8, 170 lbs., Philadelphia, PA/Kent State

Hollomon carried Central Connecticut into the win column against CAA member UAlbany on Saturday night at Bob Ford Field. The preseason All-American all-purpose runner totaled 205 yards from scrimmage in the Blue Devils' 20-17 last-minute victory over the Great Danes. Hollomon was a workhorse on the game-winning drive, accounting for 41 of the 57 yards gained to set up Steve Calitri's tie-breaking kick. The junior ball carrier ran 30 times for 145 yards and one touchdown to go along with five receptions for 60 yards. Hollomon's longest play of the day came with the Blue Devils facing a 17-10 deficit in the first minute of the fourth quarter. On 1st-and-10 from the CCSU 41, he broke free for a 59-yard scoring scamper. Hollomon's 516 rushing yards lead the Northeast Conference through Week 4.



NEC Offensive Player of the Week

KYLE HARBRIDGE, SAINT FRANCIS

Sr., RB, 5-10, 195 lbs., Easton, PA/Easton

Playing in front of a home crowd at DeGol Field for the first time since 2011, Harbridge ran wild as Saint Francis dominated Division II member Lincoln. The veteran ball carrier rushed 22 times for 230 yards and four touchdowns. Harbridge set the tone early, totaling 157 yards in the first quarter. He accounted for all 79 yards on the Red Flash's first touchdown drive, carrying the ball for gains of 64 and 8 yards before a 7-yard scoring scamper. Harbridge's four rushing touchdowns tied the single-game program record he first achieved against Morehead State in 2011.



NEC Defensive Player of the Week

CHUCK WATSON, CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

Sr., LB, 5-11, 213 lbs., Middletown, CT/Dean College

Watson was at the heart of Central Connecticut's stifling defensive effort in Week 4. The senior linebacker made a career-high 15 tackles, including 3.0 TFL, as the Blue Devils broke into the win column. One week after surrendering 419 yards on the ground to Holy Cross, Watson and Co. limited the Great Danes to only 2.8 yards per carry during Saturday's 20-17 road win. With the game tied at 17-17 in the fourth quarter, Watson delivered a key hit that helped derail a Great Danes' drive. He slammed ball carrier Omar Osbourne for a 3-yard loss on first down and Albany punted three plays later. Watson logged his first quarterback sack of the season with CCSU holding a 3-0 lead in the opening period, dropping UA quarterback Will Fiacchi for an 8-yard loss on a 3rd-and-11 play.



NEC Special Teams Player of the Week

STEVEN CALITRI, CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

Jr., PK, 5-10, 200 lbs., Gilman, CT/Norwich Free Academy

Calitri's leg lifted Central Connecticut to its first win of the season, and its first road win since the 2011 campaign. The junior placekicker, who spent his sophomore season as the team's kickoff specialist, converted the two longest field goal attempts of his collegiate career on Saturday night at UAlbany. With the score tied at 17-17, Calitri coolly connected on a 40-yard game-winning field goal with 00:17 remaining on the clock. Calitri, who was a perfect 4-for-4 on kicks including 2 PATs, was also responsible for the game's first points. He gave CCSU a 3-0 lead 6:29 into the contest when he drilled a 31-yarder.



NEC Rookie of the Week

DILLON BUECHEL, DUQUESNE

R-Fr., QB, 6-3, 176 lbs., McKees Rocks, PA/Montour

Buechel produced the NEC's highest passing output thus far this season during Duquesne's Week 4 setback at MVFC member Youngstown State. The rookie finished 21-of-38 passing for 362 yards and one touchdown. The total was three yards short of the Dukes' single-game freshman record (365 - Scott Knapp vs. RMU in 2005). Buechel's longest pass of the game was a 63-yard scoring strike to Gianni Carter that pulled Duquesne within 24-14 5:46 into the second half. Buechel has thrown for 966 yards and five touchdowns (with one interception) in his first three collegiate games.



CONFERENCE SLATE KICKS OFF ON STATEN ISLAND IN WEEK 5

They all count, but when Wagner hosts Bryant in Week 5, the games will begin to count a little more.

Staten Island, home of the defending league champions, will provide the backdrop for the first Northeast Conference game on the 2013 season slate.

The Seahawks and Bulldogs will contest the lone league game on the Week 5 docket, and will do so before a national audience on ESPN3 beginning at 1:00 pm on September 28. The game kicks off the NEC's five-game ESPN3 on-air package, which will feature every conference member at least once.

The start of conference play provides Wagner, Bryant and all seven NEC members the opportunity for a fresh start. Regardless of what transpires during out-of-conference competition, the NEC will award its automatic bid to the FCS playoffs to the team that performs best during league play.

Currently mired in a three-game losing streak, Wagner, which was tabbed as the NEC's "team to beat" by the preseason coaches'poll, may welcome the opportunity to begin working on a clean slate. The Seahawks likely wouldn't mind a repeat of 2012 when they opened with three consecutive losses followed by nine straight victories.

Bryant, which was tabbed third in the preseason predicted order-of-finish, should enter Saturday's Northeast Conference opener a bit fresher than Wagner. The Bulldogs were idle during Week 4, while Wagner suffered a 49-9 setback at CAA member Delaware.

Viewers following the game on ESPN3 or via the Watch ESPN app will see two of the nation's top

offensive playmakers.

Bryant senior Jordan Harris, a Walter Payton Award hopeful, is the active leading receiver in all of Division I FCS with 3,082 yards. The 6-foot-2 Harris, who is coming off a 9-catch, 182-yard performance at Maine in Week 3, needs only three more grabs to pass current Dallas Cowboy Miles Austin (150 receptions) for ninth place on the NEC's all-time receptions list. Harris is only 383 yards away from owning the league's all-time receiving yardage mark.

Wagner senior Dominique Williams, who earned Preseason All-America honors from College Sports Journal, logged his 23rd career 100-yard rushing day in the loss at Delaware. The all-NEC running back (3,739) ranks fifth amongst Division I FCS active leaders in career rush yards.

Following the Week 5 matchup at Wagner, the NEC's on-air package will continue in Week 6 at Central Connecticut where the Blue Devils will host Saint Francis on October 5 at 1:00 pm.

NEC's ESPN3 On-Air Package September 28

Bryant at Wagner, 1:00 pm

October 5

Saint Francis at Central Connecticut, 1:00 pm

November 2

Bryant at Robert Morris, 12:00 pm

November 9

Duquesne at Sacred Heart, 12:00 pm

November 16

Wagner at Saint Francis, 12:00 pm

Quotable

► Walt Hameline, Head Coach (Wagner)

"We're just not a very good football team right now. We're not doing anything real well. We have a lot of work to do or its going to be a real long football season."

- following his team's third consecutive loss, a 49-9 setback at Delaware

► Jeff McInerney, Head Coach (CCSU)

"If we can stop the run, we can win the game."

- on Central Connecticut's chances to win its Week 4 matchup at UAlbany. CCSU limited Albany to 2.8 yards per carry and posted a 20-17 victory.

Week 4 Tweet Sheet

► @NLeiningen2

So is this @G_Hill28 pick 6 I keep hearing about going to be on sportscenter or what????

► @NECFootball

Thru #Week4, @SHUBigRed ranks 4th in @NCAA_FCS in scoring offense (46.5 ppg) and 5th in rushing offense (306.5 ypg) #MondayMorningEyeOpener

► @ray96saunders

Wanna give a BIG SHOUT to @JmFireUp_ and the @CCSUBlueDevils Football Squad for beatin rival Albany.Proud of my Alma Mater. #bluedevilnation

► @JMFireUp_

Albany had 2.8 yards a carry on 48 attempts.Big improvement from HC.#BleedBlue

► @MarkSingelais

CCSU has really hurt UAlbany defense with passes to Hollomon out of backfield. Just converted another 3rd down with a 9-yard catch to UA 42.

► @JeffSymonds

Congrats to @SFU_Football @CoachPlug @CoachEricLong @CoachGlezman on picking up a home opening win yesterday. #ProtectTheGol



• CCSU RB Rob Hollomon (above) ran wild in the Blue Devils' 20-17 Week 4 win at CAA member UAlbany. He totaled 205 yards from scrimmage, including 145 yards rushing on 30 carries.

#NECFB IN-REVIEW: NUTMEG STATE RIVALS SUPPLY WEEK 4 HIGHLIGHTS

Walton Set to Meet Another Milestone

In his final season as head coach, Joe Walton, who is set to retire at the conclusion of 2013, will coach his 200th game for Robert Morris when the Colonials visit Virginia Military Institute in Week 5. Over his first 19-plus seasons as the only head coach RMU has ever known, Walton has amassed a 110-88-1 record. The Colonials have progressed from a fledgling non-scholarship program into an accomplished winner under Walton's watch. RMU has won six Northeast Conference crowns over the past 18 years, and was the first-ever program to represent the NEC in the Division I FCS playoffs when it faced North Dakota State in 2010. Walton, a four-time NEC Coach of the Year, has mentored 124 all-NEC selections during his time in Moon Township. Prior to his arrival at Robert Morris in 1993, Walton spent a number of years in the NFL as a player and coach. He served as the head coach of the New York Jets from 1983-89, leading the team to two playoff appearances during that span.

Lopez the Leg

The top of the list is within reach for Wagner fifth-year senior David Lopez. The preseason all-NEC placekicker connected on a 41-yard field goal 5:06 into the Seahawks' setback at Delaware to move into a tie for second place on the conference's all-time list for field goals made. The 41-yarder was the 38th successful field goal try of Lopez's collegiate career, moving him past former UAlbany kicker Herb Glass and into a tie with SHU alumnus Tim Redican. Lopez is chasing a fellow Seahawk for first place all-time. Piotr Czech, who played from 2004-07, made 44 field goals for Wagner, including an all-time NEC long of 56 yards.

Undefeated Sacred Heart Beats Alone

The first few minutes of Saturday's game suggested otherwise, but Sacred Heart remained undefeated through Week 4. The Pioneers, who are the lone NEC team yet to suffer a loss this season, found themselves

trailing Division II Chowan by a 14-0 score 4:36 into the game, but soon erupted for a program-record 78 points. The result was the second runaway victory for Sacred Heart in as many weeks. The Pioneers out-scored their Week 3 and Week 4 opponents by a combined 123-38 margin. Prior to rolling past D-II member Chowan and Lincoln at home, Sacred Heart won back-to-back road games over FCS opponents. The Pioneers opened 2013 with a win over Marist and followed with a last-second victory at Patriot League member Lafayette.

Quick Outs

- **CCSU's Rob Hollomon, the reigning NEC Offensive Player of the Week, ranks fifth amongst national FCS leaders with 516 rushing yards this season.** He is one of 11 men to have already scored at least six rushing touchdowns.

- **Saint Francis sophomore DaQuan Minter made an interception for the second week in a row.** The SFU cornerback picked off a pass and logged an additional PBU in the Flash's Week 4 romp over Lincoln. Minter won the NEC Defensive Player of the Week award on Sept. 16 for his Week 3 performance at James Madison where he intercepted two passes and broke up another.

- **Robert Morris will return to action in Week 5 following a Week 4 bye.** The Colonials, who will visit Big South member VMI on September 28, are 15-6-1 all-time when playing after a bye week, including 15-5-1 in the regular season.

- **Saint Francis is a perfect 4-for-4 in home openers during Chris Villarrial's tenure as head coach.** The red Flash trounced Lincoln, 38-7, to open their 2013 home slate on September 21.

- **Saint Francis will face a nationally-ranked FCS opponent for the third time in four weeks.** The Red Flash's Week 5 matchup pits Chris Villarrial's team up against No. 16 Fordham of the Patriot League. Saint Francis opened the season at Georgia Southern, which is transitioning to the FBS level, and followed by visiting CAA member James Madison in Week 3.

WEEK 4 RECAPS

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT 20, UAlbany 17

Central Connecticut broke into the win column by bouncing an old conference rival on the road. Steve Calitri connected on a game-winning 40-yard field goal with 00:17 remaining in regulation to lift the Blue Devils to a 20-17 victory over UAlbany, a former NEC team playing its first season as a CAA member. Rob Hollomon accounted for 41 yards of offense on the game-winning drive, capping another first-class performance from the preseason All-American. The workhorse totaled 205 yards from scrimmage in the victory, including 145 rushing yards on 30 carries. Fifty-seven seconds after UAlbany took a 17-10 lead on a one-yard TD plunge from Omar Osbourne, Hollomon answered with a 59-yard touchdown run. CCSU linebacker Chuck Watson made 15 tackles, including 3.0 TFL, to lead the defense.

Sacred Heart 78, Chowan 28

Sacred Heart remained the lone remaining undefeated NEC team, doing so in record fashion on Homecoming Weekend at Campus Field. The Pioneers piled up a single-game program record 78 points in rolling past Division II CIAA member Chowan. The visiting Hawks shocked the Homecoming crowd early by scoring the game's first two touchdowns, but the 14-0 lead would be short-lived as the Pioneers erupted for 36 consecutive points. SHU rookie quarterback RJ Noel threw for 182 yards and three touchdowns to win his fourth straight collegiate start. His favorite target was Greg Moore who hauled in four catches for 111 yards and a score. Sacred Heart's defense forced five Chowan turnovers, including a 45-yard interception return for a touchdown by Gordon Hill with 00:48 remaining in the opening half.

Saint Francis 38, Lincoln 7

Kyle Harbridge rushed for 230 yards and four touchdowns as Saint Francis outclassed Lincoln in its home opener at DeGol Field. The Red Flash fell in an early 7-0 deficit after fumbling the ball away, but responded by putting up 38 unanswered points in the runaway victory. Saint Francis stout defense limited Lincoln to 91 yards of total offense. The Flash, on the other hand, gained 337 yards on the day. Reigning NEC Defensive Player of the Week DaQuan Minter, who made two interceptions at JME< picked off a pass and broke up another.

Delaware 49, Wagner 9

Wagner was overwhelmed under the lights at Delaware, suffering a setback that extended its losing streak to three in a row. The host Blue Hens struck first on a 19-yard touchdown pass by Trent Hurley 1:18 into the game. Wagner responded with an 11-play drive that was capped by a 41-yard field goal from David Lopez, but Delaware proceeded to score the next 42 points in the game. Hurley hooked up with Michael Johnson on touchdown passes of 77, 21 and 31 yards as the Blue Hens seized control of the contest. Wagner running back Dominique Williams ran for 80 first-half yards on the way to his 23rd career 100-yard rushing day. The preseason all-NEC selection finished with 25 carries for 120 yards.

Youngstown State 59, Duquesne 17

Youngstown State scored three straight touchdowns over a 5:09 span to pull away from Duquesne midway through the second half on Saturday at Stambaugh Stadium. YSU quarterback Kurt Hess went 15-of-25 passing for 292 yards and two touchdowns, including a 55-yard scoring strike 00:59 into the fourth quarter. The Dukes, who lost three fumbles, managed only 39 yards rushing. Rookie quarterback Dillon Buechel passed for 362 yards including a 63-yard touchdown pass to Gianni Carter that pulled the Dukes within 24-14 with 9:12 remaining in the third quarter.