

## Issue No. 13 - Week of 10/1/2011

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### Week 4 "Game of the Week" recap....

This Missouri Valley matchup turned out to meet expectations with high scoring, comeback tendencies, and high octane offenses with 937 total yards. With minimal penalties (4-21yds) and consistent rushing (278 yds), Indiana State escaped a 4th quarter scare from Youngstown State to secure a 37-35 victory. Penguins' All-Conference Jr. RB, Jamaine Cook rushed for 177 yds and 2 TD's- one coming before halftime and the other starting the 4th quarter. However, it was Shakir Bell who stole the show for the Sycamores with 4 TD's and 256 yds on 21 carries. Look for more out of these two as conference play thickens. Congrats to Indiana State!

## The Underdawg "Game of the Week"

### #3 Appalachian State vs. #8 Wofford

Black & gold versus black & gold. Lately this matchup has determined either the SOCON champion or at least set the pace for conference rankings. App State has won 11 out the last 14 against the Terriers since Wofford entered FCS play in 1995, and lead the series 17-10 head to head. However, Gibbs Stadium is no easy place to win for opponents- the same field where Wofford ended the Mountaineers' 17 game win streak and brought them back to Earth after defeating Michigan in 2007. Two of the top three teams in the SOCON and in the top 10 in FCS football- it doesn't get better than this.

Extra: The average margin of victory between App State and Wofford is 17.3 points (1997-2010).

### FCS LEADERBOARD

**Here are the category leaders for Week 4 of FCS Football** (Source: NCAA.com)

#### Total Offense (total yds/game)

1	Chris Lum	Lehigh	370.50
2	Jonathan Carkhuff	Davidson	351.33
3	Kevin Yost	Idaho St.	347.25

#### Passing (completions/game)

1	Jonathan Carkhuff	Davidson	32.00
2	Kevin Yost	Idaho St.	30.75
3	Bo Levi Mitchell	Eastern Wash.	30.25

#### Total Team Offense (total yds/game)

1	Morehead St.	550.25
2	Ga. Southern	527.33
3	UT Martin	524.00

#### Total Team Defense (opp total yds/game)

1	Texas Southern	144.33
2	North Dakota St.	224.00
3	Lamar	224.67

[See the top 50 FCS teams in these categories](#)



Jonathan Carkhuff, Davidson QB

## **GOOD CALL, BAD DECISION**

What appeared to be a last-play TD pass for the Hampton Pirates on ESPN's Thursday night (delayed) game, the officials overturned the call after a review, thus handing Bethune-Cookman a 35-31 victory. The ruling was an incomplete pass. [View the clip of this overturned TD](#)

I'm no football referee but I happen to have a copy of the [2011 NCAA Rules](#). Real quick, it is clear that the Hampton receiver catches the ball while taking two steps in the end zone, and is tackled to the ground. Upon hitting the ground the ball dislodges from the receiver's hands and hits the ground. Now, according to NCAA rules, here are two rules that pertain to receiving a pass for a touchdown that I could find:

Rule 8 (Scoring), Section 2 (Touchdown), Article 1 (a):

- *A ball carrier advancing from the field of play has possession of a live ball when it penetrates the plane of the opponent's goal line. This plane extends beyond the pylons only for a player who touches the ground in the end zone or a pylon.*

From the clip, the receiver clearly has possession with two steps into the end zone; thus, penetrating the plane of the end zone. At that point, it's a touchdown.

Rule 7 (Snapping & Passing the Ball), Section 3 (Forward Pass), Article 6 (Completed Pass), XII:

- *Receiver A85 stretches out at the Team B two-yard line and grasps a forward pass and is going to the ground on his own as he is attempting to complete the catch. As A85 falls to the ground in the end zone, the ball immediately comes loose and falls to the ground. Ruling: Incomplete pass. Any receiver going to the ground on his own in the process of making a catch must maintain control of the ball when he hits the ground.*

This article includes 15 parts, most of which alludes to an airborne receiver. Part 12 above is the only verbiage that excludes an airborne receiver. It suggests that a receiver must have ball control throughout the full play, which includes hitting the ground. However, this item is irrelevant to the receiver in question because it states that the player goes to the ground "on his own". From the clip, the Hampton receiver clearly is tackled by an opponent; thus, he's not on his own. That fact alone disqualifies this rule.

Although a tough and controversial loss for the Pirates, good win for the Wildcats as they find a way to get the "W". What are your thoughts on the overturned TD call? Should the MEAC induce additional compliance and review of the call? Are there other parts of the rules that truly support the overturned call?

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## **UPSET COUNTER**

6 FCS/FBS upsets this season thus far:

Sacramento State over Oregon State

Richmond over Duke

Indiana State over Western Kentucky

North Dakota State over Minnesota

Sam Houston State over New Mexico

Southern Utah over UNLV

## **QUICK HITS**

**Southern Utah**...The Underdawg called this upset right! While the attention was on Sorensen (QB), it was the defense that stepped up with three scoring TD interceptions. 41-16 romp.

**North Dakota State**....man-handled the Gophers and shushed the crowd while holding a late Minnesota surge. Bison won 37-24.

**Sam Houston State**....allowed New Mexico to comeback in the 4th, but capped a 48-45 win in the

only OT game in FCS play.

**Florida A&M**....Jr. RB, Lavonte Page set a new school record as he rushed for five TD's, helping the Rattlers pull out a 38-33 win over Southern in the Bank of America Atlanta Football Classic at the Georgia Dome.

**Sacramento State**...redeemed themselves by defeating ranked Montana for the first time since entering FCS play in 1993. Hornets were victorious, 42-28.

**Duquesne, Monmouth, and Towson**....quiet teams making big noise. Keep an eye on these squads for high scoring and surprised rankings in the Northeast and CAA conferences.

**Dartmouth**....plays their first ever night game this weekend against Penn at 6pm ET. Hopefully it will have the same energy and excitement as Michigan's first night game in week 2 at the "Big House". Do it big!

**Harvard**....hats off to the only starting QB in the NFL from the FCS right now, Ryan Fitzpatrick of the Buffalo Bills. He has a 64.9% completion rate and 103.49 QB rating. Buffalo is 3-0 and is the first NFL team in history to come back from 18 pts behind in two consecutive games. Crimson Pride is in full effect right about now!

**Trivia Results:** The (4) non-HBCU schools with African-American head coaches in the FCS are Portland State, Columbia, Yale, and SE Missouri State.

**Trivia Question:** Which FCS teams participated in the first game with uniforms and when?

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