

Sports

Hen's defense smashes Wildcats

By JONATHAN FEIGEN

In the 84 years of the Blue Hen-Villanova rivalry rarely has a game been as dominated by the Delaware defense as Saturday's 17-7 victory.

Sure the first clash with the Wildcats produced a Delaware shutout but football was different then. Saturday the Hens had to contend with what used to be a potent wishbone offense.

The Hen defense reduced the wishbone offense to a thing of the past, as Jaimie Bittner recorded six quarterback sacks to lead a defensive effort that manhandled the Wildcats. In all Villanova managed just 112 yards of offense the lowest output against the Hens since they throttled a pathetic Rhode Island offense 35 games ago.

"That's the best defense we've played in—I don't know maybe I'm getting carried away—three years," said coach Tubby Raymond. "I don't remember ever dominating Villanova that well."

By the fourth quarter the Hen defense had the 22,680 people in the sell-out crowd on their feet cheering as loudly for each Bittner sack as any Hugh Dougherty run or Rick Scully pass.

"I don't want to get silly," Raymond continued, "but for the first time people refused to get blocked. I told them don't get knocked down and don't stay down. If we played that way against Lehigh we would have blown them out of the Lehigh Valley."

Lehigh remained the main stumbling block in the Hen's post season hopes as the Engineers beat James Madison 31-14. Lehigh topped the Hens four weeks ago in the final seconds 27-20 and are now coasting into the IAA playoffs and possibly a Lambert Cup on the heels of that victory and a incredibly easy schedule.

But for now Raymond would rather just savor Saturday's defensive effort.

"I was just great defense and they played that way all week," he said. "They were

sky high from last Sunday's lunch to the pre-game meal."

Things did not go as smoothly for the offense that gained 328 yards Saturday. Raymond became so frustrated with the play of his offensive unit on Thursday that he stormed off the practice field.

"That really woke us up," said Scully who has shown greater confidence and poise in the last two Hen outings. Scully completed five of 11 passes on the day for 109 yards. He also ran for 55 yards on 16 carries. "We are finally in gear," he said. "The line has realized their potential and they're just blowing people out."

K.C. Knobloch opened the Hen scoring with two field goals from 25 to 48 yards out. Ed Wood then capped a six-play 42 yard drive with a one yard touchdown dive. George Schmitt's fifth interception set up the drive that Scully opened with a 29 yard completion to tight end Mark Steimer.

A two point conversion to a wide open Wood and a 45 yard field goal by Knobloch closed out the Hen scoring. The other positive sign for the Delaware offense was the second straight 100 yard performance by Dougherty who gained 103 yards. He now has 674 yards on the season.

"We just totally smashed them," said Bittner of Delaware's 400th all-time win.



Review photo by Terry Bialas

ANOTHER SACK... Delaware's Jaimie Bittner drags down Villanova quarterback Pat O'Brien in the Hens 17-7 victory. Bittner recorded six quarterback sacks for the day.

Booters kick Bucknell, lift playoff hopes

By JIM HUGHES

Just two weeks after Coach Loren Kline stated that his booters had no chance for the ECC playoffs, the coach suddenly finds his team in the thick of the western division race.

The Hens 2-0 victory over Bucknell Saturday, raised their conference mark to 2-2-0, while dropping the Bisons to an 0-2-2 record. For Delaware to have a shot at the title, they must defeat Lafayette tomorrow in a home game that starts at 3 p.m. Furthermore, Lehigh, who stands at 1-1-1 in the conference, must lose one of its two remaining games. If both conditions are met the Hens would be tied for first. However, Rider College (a team the Hens beat earlier in the season) is still in the hunt, so that a three-way tie for first is also possible.

"It feels good to win three in one week," Kline said of his

5-6-1 squad. "But now we have a must game with Lafayette."

Mike Walters was the key to the Hens win over Bucknell, as he burned goalie Paul Green for both Delaware goals. The sophomore forward's first score came 10 minutes into the contest, when he took a pass from Charlie Dielmann and beat Green to the right with a left-footed shot.

Walters then closed the game the same way he opened it, scoring on a pass from midfielder Geoff Daras with two minutes remaining.

"I cut in front of the fullback, and Geoff made a perfect cross," recalled Walters. "I just happened to get a head on it." (Having been frustrated in the Hens win over UMBC last week, Walters reportedly predicted that he would definitely score on the Bisons, but the forward grinningly denied the story.)

The Daras-to-Walters pass exemplified Delaware's new offensive approach, which involves dumping passes into the forwards from the wing position.

"We knew we weren't scoring down the middle," said Daras, who picked up his

third assist in two games. "Last game the crosses worked well, so we did the same thing today."

For goalie Dave Whitcraft, the shut-out was his second in a row, and his third of the season. The freshman keeper also collected seven saves.



Review photo by Terry Bialas

INTERCEPTED... George Schmitt eludes this Villanova receiver after snagging his fifth interception of the season. The interception set up the Hens only touchdown.

Hens qualify for regionals

The women's field hockey team, ranked tenth nationally, was one of eight teams chosen to participate in the EIAIW regional tournament to be held at the University of Maryland on Nov. 7 through 9.

The Hens are seeded fourth in the tournament behind Penn State, Temple and Ursinus and will face fifth seeded Pennsylvania in the tournament's opening round at 9 a.m. on Friday.

The stickers, who are 6-3-2 on the season, tied Lock Haven on Friday, 1-1. Delaware's Carol Miller scored off a Karen Stout assist only 1:15 into the game. However, after the first ten minutes of the game the Hens lost momentum.

Lock Haven scored their lone goal at the 15:50 mark of the first half on a corner hand stop shot.