



Panther Press



Middlebury College Football Newsletter

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CHAMPIONS !!!

November 12, 2007

Middlebury (7-1) won the NESCAC Football Championship on Saturday with a 21-19 victory over Tufts in the season finale for both teams. The Panthers improve on last season's 6-2 campaign and won their first NESCAC title since 2000.

Middlebury finishes its season tops in the NESCAC and ranked number two in the final New England football poll.

The visiting Panthers took an early lead and never trailed in the contest. Tufts fumbled the opening kickoff as Middlebury had to go just 33 yards on six plays to take a 7-0 lead. Quarterback Donnie McKillop (Poway, Calif.) hit tight end Charlie Holm (Longmeadow, Mass.) on a two-yard touchdown pass. Tufts answered with a touchdown, but a blocked extra point kept the Panthers ahead 7-6.

Middlebury took a 14-6 lead with 6:18 left in the first half on an 11-play, 67-yard drive. McKillop connected with Eric Rostad (York, Maine) for 12 yards and Andrew Matson (Coventry, R.I.) for 16 before David Randolph (Madison, Conn.) picked up an 18-yard gain on the ground. Randolph would cap the drive with a one-yard rush to increase the lead.

Leading 14-6 at the break, Middlebury opened the second half with a 12-play, 64-yard drive that ate 5:47 off the clock. McKillop and Holm once again hooked up, this time from 11 yards out to make it 21-6 game. Tufts answered on its next possession with a touchdown, but Bill Greven (Winston Salem, N.C.) blocked the extra point, leaving Tufts down two scores, 21-12.

With just over 3:30 left in the game, Tufts began a drive at its own six. The Jumbos managed to score and add on a good extra point, setting the score at 21-19 with 55 seconds remaining. Tufts attempted an on-side kick, but first year linebacker Paul Carroll (New Providence, N.J.) stepped up and collected the bouncing ball with several Jumbos attacking from all sides. The Panthers ran out the clock to earn the NESCAC crown.

Game Notes:

-Erik Woodring was honored as the Defensive Player of the Week by the NESCAC (his third selection this season). He led the Middlebury defense with 18 tackles, one fumble recovery and one forced fumble on the afternoon. His 106 tackles this season are just two shy of the school record, while he ends his career with 307 tackles, breaking Andy Steele's record of 305 from '97-'00.

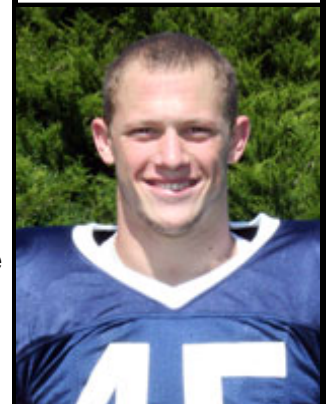
-McKillop was honored as the Rookie of the Week by the NESCAC (his third selection this season). He went 17 of 29 for 150 yards with two touchdowns on the afternoon, while rushing 10 times for 48 yards.



Charlie Holm
6 catches, 2 TD's



Donnie McKillop
NESCAC
Rookie of the Week



Erik Woodring
NESCAC's Top Tackler
Def. Player of the Week

Please send your film and transcript to the Middlebury College Football Office.

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