2011 FOOTBALL NEWS AND NOTES

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NEC FOOTBALL FACTS & FIGURES

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Saturday, Sept. 3 ..... WAGNER 38, SAINT FRANCIS (PA) 28
Lehigh 49, MONMOUTH 24
Dayton 19, ROBERT MORRIS 13
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT 35, Southern Connecticut 21
Bucknell 27, DUQUESNE 26
Colgate 37, ALBANY 34 (OT)
Marist 20, SACRED HEART 7
Maine 28, BRYANT 13

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 10 ..... American International at Bryant
Duquesne at Dayton
Saint Francis (PA) at North Dakota State
Wagner at Richmond
Robert Morris at Liberty
Central Connecticut State at James Madison

NEC FOOTBALL PRESEASON POLL

1. Central Connecticut (5)
2. Duquesne (2)
3. Robert Morris (1)
4. Albany
5. Bryant (1)
6. Monmouth
7. Wagner
8. Sacred Heart
9. Saint Francis (PA)

First-place votes in parentheses

NEC Offensive Player of the Week

NEC Defensive Player of the Week

NEC Special Teams Player of the Week

NEC Rookie of the Week

NEC FOOTBALL STANDINGS

WEEK 1 RELEASE • SEP. 6, 2011

	SCHOOL	NEC	PCT.	OVR.	PCT.	STR.	HOME	AWAY	NEU.
1.	Wagner	1-0	1.000	1-0	1.000	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
2.	Central Conn. St.	0-0	.000	1-0	1.000	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
	Albany	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	0-0
	Bryant	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	0-0
	Duquesne	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	0-0
	Monmouth	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	L1	0-1	0-0	0-0
	Robert Morris	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	L1	0-1	0-0	0-0
	Sacred Heart	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	L1	0-1	0-0	0-0
	Saint Francis (PA)	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	L1	0-0	0-1	0-0

NEC Offensive Player of the Week

Dominique Williams, WAGNER
Jr., RB, 5-9, 200 lbs., Bridgeton, NJ/Milford Academy

Williams was anything but rusty in his first game action in almost two years. After missing all of last season due to injury, Williams ran rampant in the Seahawks' season opening win over NEC rival Saint Francis (PA). He accounted for 193 yards from scrimmage highlighted by a 26-carry, 180-yard rushing performance. The 5-foot-9, 200-pound tailback ran for two touchdowns, of five and 28 yards, in his first outing since being named one of Wagner's four team captains for the season. Williams had four carries of at least 19 yards, three of which came on the same second-quarter scoring drive that he capped with a five-yard touchdown burst to give the Seahawks a 17-7 lead heading into the break. In addition to averaging 6.9 ypc, he caught one pass for 13 yards.

NEC Defensive Player of the Week

Carl-Olivier Prime, WAGNER
Jr, LB, 6-1, 245 lbs., Quebec, Canada/Kent School

Prime put forth a prime effort in Wagner's 38-28 season-opening Northeast Conference victory on Staten Island. The junior linebacker, who was starting for the 17th time as a collegian, logged seven tackles (four solo, three assist) and made his first career interception. With the Seahawks clinging to a 17-14 lead and Saint Francis facing a 1st-and -10 from its own 31, Prime stepped up and produced a game-changing play. The linebacker picked off John Kelly's pass and took it 37 yards for a touchdown. Prime nearly forced a turnover in the first quarter of a scoreless game when he jarred the ball loose from Kelly on a 3rd-and-4 play before it took a fortuitous bounce back into the signal caller's hands.

NEC Special Teams Player of the Week

Herb Glass, UALBANY
Sr., PK, 5-11, 180 lbs., Miller Place, NY/Miller Place

Glass looked everything like the battle-tested veteran he is during the Great Danes' season-opening overtime affair at Colgate. The 5-foot-11 senior nailed a pair of field goals in excess of 40 yards and became the highest scoring placekicker in UAlbany history, all in the same night. Glass, who was also a perfect 4-for-4 on PATs, recorded 10 points to up his career total to 174 and move past Bryan Bagstad for the lead amongst UA kickers. The Miller Place, NY product opened the game's scoring by booting a 48-yarder that ranks as the third-longest in program history. Then, with the game tied at 31 in overtime, Glass delivered a clutch 41-yard kick that put the Danes in position for a road win until Colgate tailback Nate Eachus spoiled those plans.

NEC Rookie of the Week

Tyrell Holmes, CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
Fr., FS, 6-1, 160 lbs., Bristol, CT/Bristol Eastern

True freshman Tyrell Holmes received his first career start in Central Connecticut's opener against Southern Connecticut. The former two-time All-State selection at Connecticut's Bristol Eastern High School made quite a splash in his collegiate debut, recording seven tackles (2 solo, 5 assist) and intercepting a pass during the Blue Devils' 35-21 victory. Holmes made six of his seven tackles in the second half to help Central hold off a pesky Owls' offense. He denied Southern in a red zone opportunity late in the third quarter when he picked off Kevin's Lynch's at the three-yard line on a 2-and-9 play. He added a fourth-quarter pass break-up to his line, too. Holmes played well against the run, making a trio of stops in which he limited the ball carrier to two yards or fewer.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

BYE, BYE, BYE

After opening their seasons last week, three Northeast Conference members will enjoy an early bye week. Albany, Monmouth, and Sacred Heart are all idle this week. Albany and Monmouth both opened against Patriot League members and will next be in action against CAA foes. The Great Danes open their home schedule against Maine on Sept. 17, while the Hawks visit Villanova on the same day. The next time Sacred Heart plays, it will be in front of a NEC-TV audience. The Pioneers will open their NEC schedule against Bryant on Sept. 16 under the lights on Campus Field and Northeast Conference Television will be there to broadcast the action. The HD broadcast will begin at 7:00 pm and can be seen live on MSG+ and Cox (CT/RI).

BIG PLAY AJ

Saint Francis (PA) had a new offensive weapon on display in its season opener at Wagner, and a pretty dangerous one at that. Junior receiver **AJ Alexander (Altoona, PA/Altoona)** accounted for a pair of long in his first-ever appearance for the Red Flash after transferring from ACC member Florida State. The big-play receiver finished with three catches for 99 yards and returned a pair of kickoffs for a total of 58 yards. His first touch of the game came on a second-quarter kickoff that he returned 40 yards. He made his first reception, which went for 20 yards, on a 2nd-and-8 play in the third quarter, but his biggest play was yet to come. With the Flash trailing 31-14 early in the fourth quarter, Alexander put his team back in the game by hauling in a 69-yard scoring strike from quarterback John Kelly. Alexander pulled the pass in along the right sideline then cut back to the middle of the field and raced to pay dirt. The 5-foot-11 speedy receiver, who was a highly-touted high school product out of nearby Altoona, saw action in three games for Florida State in 2010 and made two catches.

KELLY CONTINUES STATEN ISLAND SUCCESS

Saint Francis (PA) has come up just short in its last two visits to Wagner despite a pair of prime performances by its starting quarterback. Junior signal caller **John Kelly (Frederick, MD/Tuscarora)** burst onto the scene as a freshman in what was a three-overtime shootout on Staten Island back in 2009. Kelly threw for 301 yards and four touchdowns in the 56-48 loss and was nearly as good in his second career visit to Wagner. The third-year starter went 20-for-38 passing for 273 yards and two touchdowns in the Flash's 38-28 season-opening setback against the Seahawks, but the real offensive star for Saint Francis was running back **Kyle Harbridge (Easton, PA/Easton)**. The hard-running, and shifty, Harbridge opened his junior season by carrying 28 times for 154 yards and two scores. He also caught three passes for 13 yards. Saint Francis (PA) rolled up 474 yards of total offensive at Wagner, out-gaining the Seahawks by 96 yards in defeat.

OUTCOME DOESN'T DO COLONIALS' DEFENSE JUSTICE

Robert Morris lost eight of 11 defensive starters from its 2010 NEC title run, but the unit looked far from depleted in the season opener against Dayton. The Colonials found themselves on the short end of a 19-13 final, but it wasn't due to lack of a defensive effort. The three returning starters – **OLB Brad Banas (Houston, PA/Chartiers-Houston), DE Stephen Mitchell (Pittsburgh, PA/Pittsburgh Central Catholic), DE Nolan Nearhoof (Gibsonia, PA/Mars Area)** – and a cast of new characters held the high-flying Flyers' offense to 10 first downs and a measly 21 yards rushing. Dayton managed 233 yards of total offense against RMU, but hung on for a victory despite being outgained. Banas, Mitchell, and Nearhoof had four tackles apiece. Sophomore defensive back **DJ Myers (Aliquippa, PA/Pittsburgh Central Catholic)**, who appeared in nine games as a freshman, made a team-high nine tackles in his first career start. Mitchell, who is also the reigning NEC champion in the hammer throw, logged a sack and forced a fumble, too.

TYRELL'S TALE OF TWO TOUCHDOWNS

The plays were both over 30 yards in length, but that is where the similarities end between the two touchdowns scored by Central Connecticut junior receiver **Matthew Tyrell (Bristol, CT/Bristol Eastern)**. The third-year Blue Devil produced his first big play with the first half winding down. He pulled in a 31-yard touchdown reception to give the Blue Devils' a 28-0 lead heading into the break. Tyrell struck again late in the second half when he scooped up Southern Connecticut's onside kick attempt and raced 35 yards into the end zone for a game-sealing touchdown. Tyrell finished with three catches for 42 yards.

CCSU PRESEASON FAVORITE AGAIN

Central Connecticut has finished either atop or tied atop the Northeast Conference (NEC) football standings each of the past two seasons and the league's head coaches expect that trend to continue in 2011.

The Blue Devils garnered five first-place votes to headline the NEC preseason coaches' poll for a second straight summer.

After capturing the 2009 NEC crown outright, Central Connecticut tied Robert Morris for the 2010 title but the latter took the league's automatic bid to the NCAA FCS playoffs by virtue of a 42-24 Week 10 victory.

Robert Morris, which ended a 10-year NEC title drought and became the NEC's first-ever NCAA FCS playoff participant last season, received one first-place vote, but finished third in the preseason poll behind Steel City rival **Duquesne**. Coming off their winningest season as a NEC member, the Dukes garnered two first-place nods to finish as the poll's runner-up. **Albany**, a four-time league champion and preseason favorite from 2006 through 2009, finished fourth in the annual predicted order-of-finish. **Bryant**, which enters its third year of NEC play, claimed fifth place. Outer Bridge rivals **Monmouth** and **Wagner** finished sixth and seventh, respectively, in the poll. **Sacred Heart** (eighth) and **Saint Francis (PA)** (ninth) rounds out the coaches' preseason selections.

The NEC released the poll results and also unveiled a 25-member Preseason All-Conference during its annual preseason media teleconference. All nine head coaches were available on the call to answer questions from newspaper writers and broadcasters throughout the conference's geographic footprint, which stretches from the mid-Atlantic up to Rhode Island and out to Pittsburgh. A select number of fans questions were also asked. Entering its 16th season on the gridiron, the Northeast Conference will grant its champion automatic access to the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision playoffs for the second consecutive year.

The conference will determine its champion again follow an eight-game format and the league will once again produce a five-game television package that will give each NEC team at least one exposure (game dates/listings are TBA).

Central Connecticut partially lived up to its preseason billing last year as the Blue Devils settled for a co-championship after winning an outright title in 2009 when Albany was tabbed the preseason "team to beat."

If the Blue Devils were again to live up to the poll's expectations, it would be the fifth time in the past eight years that Central has at least earned a share of the conference crown.

AROUND THE LEAGUE (CON'T)

DOM DOESN'T MISS A BEAT

Wagner running back **Dominique Williams (Bridgeton, NJ/Milford)** was anything but rusty in his first game action in almost two years. After missing all of last season due to injury, Williams ran rampant in the Seahawks' season opening win over NEC rival Saint Francis (PA). In his first game since being named a team captain, Williams totaled 193 yards from scrimmage. He rushed 26 times for 180 yards and two touchdowns. As a true freshman in 2009, Williams carried the ball 113 times for 642 yards and nine touchdowns in eight games.



2010 NEC FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS — ROBERT MORRIS COLONIALS

ALBANY GREAT DANES

OVERALL RECORD: 0-1, NEC RECORD 0-0

LAST WEEK: L, 37-34 (OT) at Colgate (Sept. 3)
THIS WEEK: Idle

• UAlbany dropped a 37-34 overtime decision at Colgate on Sept. 3. Colgate tailback Nate Eachus scoring on a one-yard run in the first extra period after PK **Herb Glass (Miller Place, NY/ Miller Place)** gave his team the lead with a 41-yard field goal. The Raiders were receiving votes in both national polls. UAlbany's season opener was decided by three points or less for the fifth time in the last six years

• The Great Danes scored their most points in an opener since 1999, as starting QB **Dan Di Lella (Neshanic Station, NY/ Somerville)** accounted for career-highs in passing yards (239) and total offense (261).

• TB **Dillon Romain (Vernon, NJ/Don Bosco Prep)** took a screen pass from reserve QB **Buddy Leathley (Manlius, NY/ Fayetteville-Manlius)** and went 75 yards for a touchdown in the second period, tying the ninth-longest pass play in program annals.

• The Great Danes, who played in their fifth overtime contest, have had eight games decided by three points or less since the start of the 2009 campaign.

• **Di Lella** and **Leathley** helped UAlbany set the program's FCS record for single-game passing yards with 334, breaking a mark of 319 at Robert Morris on Nov. 11, 2000.

• UAlbany piled up 427 total yards, the most in an opener in the program's FCS history.

• **Herb Glass** became the school's all-time scoring placekicker, shattering Bryan Bagstad's previous standard. Glass, who has 174 career points, is fifth on the overall scoring chart. He booted a 48-yard field goal in the opening period at Colagte, tying the third-longest kick in UAlbany history. The senior also tied Jason Fralicker (2006-07) for first in career field goals with 28.

• ILB **Jon Morgan (Copiague, NY/Copiague)** made 11 tackles, including seven unassisted, for his second-highest total.

• UAlbany is now 4-9 in FCS openers since upgrading in 1999. The Great Danes, who were beginning their 39th varsity season, have started on the road in 11 of 13 FCS seasons.

• Di Lella's 50-yard touchdown pass to WR **Kevin Chillis (Buffalo, NY/McKinley)** capped a 28-point second quarter and gave their team a 31-21 halftime lead … Chillis finished with career-highs in receptions (3) and receiving yards (59).

Paul Layton (Burnt Hills, NY/Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake) averaged 50.8 yards in four punt attempts. Layton has 15 fifty-plus yard punts at the collegiate level

EDDIE'S MONEY IN OPENER

Senior defensive end Eddie Delaney looked everything like the preseason all-NEC pick he is during the Danes' opener at Colgate. Delaney registered a career-high 10 tackles and recorded a sack in the game. Delaney has spent his whole life defying the odds. The Holtsville, NY product plays without a left hand and wears an insulin pump to control diabetes.

BRYANT BULLDOGS

OVERALL RECORD: 0-1, NEC RECORD 0-0,

LAST WEEK: L, 28-13 at Maine (Sept. 3)
THIS WEEK: Sept. 10 vs. American Int'l, 1:00 pm - Smithfield, RI (Bulldog Stadium)

• Bryant opened its fourth year of Division I Football Championship Subdivision play with a 28-13 loss on the road at the University of Maine in Orono, ME.

• Preseason all-NEC running back **Jordan Brown (Glastonbury, CT/Glastonbury)** rushed 28 times for 128 yards and two touchdowns in the season opener at Maine. Brown had a long run of 34 yards in the game and also hauled in two passes for 43 yards including a 37-yard reception to pace the Bulldog offense.

• Sophomore quarterback **Mike Westerhaus (Farmingville, NY/Sachem East)** , making his collegiate debut, completed 15 of 32 pass attempts for 194 yards.

• Senior tight end **Matt Tracey (Littleton, CO/Heritage)** caught six passes for 70 yards while sophomore wide receiver **Jordan Harris (Lincoln University, PA/Avon Grove)** hauled in six receptions for a team-high 75 yards.

• **Frank Tebou (Mattapoisett, MA/Old Rochester)** and **Mike Abany (Mansfield, MA/Mansfield)** each had 10 tackles while sophomore **Max Machado (Berkeley Heights, NJ/Governor Livingston)**, the 2010 NEC Defensive Rookie of the Year, finished with nine tackles.

TAKE ME HOME TONIGHT

The Bulldogs will return to Bulldog Stadium next week to open the home schedule against old Northeast-10 Conference rival American International College. The Bulldogs were 6-1 at home in 2010 and have won six straight home openers at Bulldog Stadium, including a last year's win over Fordham.

• Bryant ran the same number of plays at Maine (67) and outgained the Black Bears in total offense, 322 yards to 290.

• Bryant is now 0-3 against CAA opponents, falling at UMass in 2008 and at home to Hofstra in 2009.

• With his 128 yards rushing against Maine, **Brown** moves into fifth all-time on Bryant's all-time career rushing list with 1,575 yards. His two touchdowns in the game moves the junior into a two-way tie for fourth all-time in school history with current assistant coach Jerell Smith with 17 career rushing touchdowns.

• The Bulldogs will return to Bulldog Stadium next week to open the home schedule against old Northeast-10 Conference rival American International College. The Bulldogs were 6-1 at home in 2010 and have won six straight home openers at Bulldog Stadium, including a last year's win over Fordham.

Preseason all-NEC rusher Jordan Brown (below)



CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE BLUE DEVILS

OVERALL RECORD: 1-0, NEC RECORD 0-0

LAST WEEK: W, 35-21 vs. Southern Connecticut (Sept. 3)
THIS WEEK: Sept. 10 at James Madison, 6:00 pm - Harrisonburg, VA (Bridgeforth Stadium)

• The Blue Devils defeated Southern Connecticut to win their 15th straight home game, matching Grambling for the nation's longest home streak at the FCS level.

• Head Coach **Jeff McInerney** improved to 6-0 in home openers in his career. McInerney is now 24-2 at home in five plus seasons.

• Senior captain **Gene Johnson (Yonkers, NY/Iona)** scored his first career touchdown on a 23-yard fumble recovery in the second quarter.

• Sophomore **Jake White (Milford, CT/Foran)** threw his first career touchdown. He had only one pass attempt in his career before Saturday.

#94 - NEVER FORGOTTEN

The Blue Devils wore a black 94 sticker on the back of their helmets. They were playing their first game since the death of defensive lineman **Rich Royster** on January 22, 2011. Central will dedicate this season to Royster's remembrance.

• Junior receiver **Matthew Tyrell (Bristol, CT/Bristol Eastern)**, who appeared in all 11 games last year, scored his first career touchdown in the second quarter. He scored his second in the fourth.

• The athletics department announced the new official name for the CCSU mascot. Kizer the Blue Devil was introduced at halftime.



CCSU QB Gunnar Jespersen

DUQUESNE DUKES

OVERALL RECORD: 0-1, NEC RECORD 0-0,

LAST WEEK: L, 27-26 at Bucknell (Sept. 3)
THIS WEEK: Sept. 10 at Dayton, 1:00 pm - Dayton, OH (Welcome Stadium)

• Duquesne was denied a third consecutive win over Bucknell. DU is 0-7 at Lewisburg in the series which dates back to 1933.

Head coach **Jerry Schmitt** is now 3-4 in season-opening games with two of the wins over Bucknell

• Senior **Isaac Spragg (Westfield, VA/Valley Forge)**, who entered the game with eight catches in 22 career games, finished with nine catches for 100 yards. His 22-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter was a career long

• Junior running back **Larry McCoy (Wytheville, VA/George Wythe)**, a preseason all-NEC pick, carried 30 times for 112 yards and one touchdown at Bucknell.



Preseason all-NEC RB Larry McCoy

WELCOME BACK CONNOR

Graduate student **Connor Dixon (South Park, PA/South Park)** was granted a sixth year of eligibility one day prior to Duquesne's season opener. After not practicing with the team since last November, Dixon stepped in and caught a 14-yard touchdown pass from on his first play from scrimmage early in the second quarter. The 6-5, 206-pounder Dixon was not permitted to practice with the team while awaiting a decision on his eligibility. He finished with two receptions for 21 yards to extend his personal streak to 16 consecutive games with a catch. He has caught a pass in every game since moving from QB to WR eight games into the 2009 season.

MONMOUTH HAWKS

OVERALL RECORD: 0-1, NEC RECORD 0-0

LAST WEEK: L, 49-24 vs. Lehigh (Sept. 3)
THIS WEEK: Idle

• Junior cornerback **Elijah Phillips (Willingboro, NJ/Holy Cross)** returned to the field against Lehigh after missing the entire 2010 season due to injury and wasted no time before making an impact. He delivered a couple of hard hits to go along with an interception. Phillips finished with five total tackles and also recorded three pass break-ups. Phillips' INT led to a Monmouth field goal, before his 46-yard punt return in the fourth quarter led to a MU touchdown.

• Monmouth is now 4-15 all-time in openers, with Saturday's game against Lehigh just the fifth time that MU has opened the season at home (2-3 record).

• With Saturday's loss to Lehigh, the Hawks have now lost four straight non-conference matchups, the last MU victory over a non-NEC opponent came on Sept. 26. 2009.

• Lehigh was the first of three opponents on the MU schedule who made it to the 2010 FCS playoffs. The Hawks will play all three of those opponents in the first four games. The Hawks face Villanova coming coming off the bye week on Sept. 17 before welcoming Robert Morris to West Long Branch two weeks later. Lehigh, which came to Kessler Field with a No. 13 ranking, is the highest-ranked team ever to play at Monmouth.

• The Hawks opened the season with a 14-play, 72 yard drive which ended with a 2-yard **Pete Nagy (East Hanover, NJ/Hanover Park)** touchdown. The Hawks converted four third downs on the drive and junior QB **Kyle Frazier (Damascus, MD/Damascus)** was 4-of-6 passing on the drive.

• Tight End **Tyler George (Berkeley Heights, NJ/Gov. Livingston)** picked up where he left off last year when he led the Hawks in receptions. Against Lehigh, he made a team-high eight receptions for 72 yards.

• Three different players scored the MU TDs against the Mountain Hawks, with Nagy and true freshman **Julian Hayes (Middletown, CT/Hun School)** scoring their first touchdowns for the Blue & White. Redshirt senior **Balial Sloan El (Pennsauken, NJ/Roman Catholic)** had the other Hawk score.

COACH CAL'S TAKE

"As a team, we didn't play the way we needed to play to be in a game or win a game like there was today. It was across the board. There were breakdowns in the secondary that allowed big pass plays which got them out to a 21-7 lead and it was an uphill battle from there. We had difficulty putting anything together consistently on either side of the ball and when you play a good team, that's not enough to be successful."

Monmouth head coach
Kevin Callahan

ROBERT MORRIS COLONIALS

OVERALL RECORD: 0-1, NEC RECORD 0-0

LAST WEEK: L, 19-13 vs. Dayton (Sept. 3)
THIS WEEK: Sept. 10 at Liberty, 7:00 pm - Lynchburg, VA (Williams Stadium)

• RMU dipped to 9-9 overall (.500) in season openers, including 6-2 (.750) in season lid-lifters at home, with a 19-13 setback to Dayton at Joe Walton Stadium. The loss snapped an eight-game winning streak at Joe Walton Stadium and was also RMU's ninth consecutive defeat to Dayton, which leads the all-time series, 12-2

• Junior quarterback **Jeff Sinclair (Natrona Heights, PA/Highlands)** finished 13-for-29 passing for 156 yards in his 2011 debut, throwing an interception while being sacked eight times. In 2010, Sinclair was sacked a total of 14 times all season.

• Senior tight end **Shadrae King (McKeesport, PA/McKeesport) paced** the Robert Morris receiving corps with five receptions for 35 yards, extending his streak of consecutive games with at least one catch to 20 dating back to the 2009 campaign. King now owns 99 career receptions, which ranks third all-time at RMU.

• The freshman running back duo of **Duane Mitchell (Monroe Falls, OH/Stow)** and **Justin Brooks (St. Charles, MD/McDonough)** combined to rush for 119 yards on 23 carries (5.17 yards per rush), including 71 yards on 14 attempts by Mitchell. Mitchell and Brooks are the first pair of true freshmen in school history to start the season as the top two options at halfback.

•A total of 22 of RMU's 56 tackles came from Colonials that were making their first career start against Dayton, as sophomore safety **D.J. Myers (Pittsburgh, PA/Pittsburgh Central Catholic)** paced Robert Morris with nine tackles, while junior linebacker **Kyle Cooper (Hurricane, WV/Hurricane)** finished with seven

• The Robert Morris defense did a good job of stifling the Dayton running game, allowing just 21 yards on 26 attempts. Junior defensive lineman **Steve Mitchell (Pittsburgh, PA/Pittsburgh Central Catholic)** recorded RMU's only sack against the Flyers, which forced a fumble that was recovered by junior defensive lineman **Nolan Nearhoof (Gibsonia, PA/Mars Area)**.

DEFENSE, DEFENSE

Despite the loss, Robert Morris' defense turned in what would usually be a winning effort. The Colonials, who started eight new faces on the defensive side of teh ball, allowed only 10 first downs. Their Run "D"was especially effective, limiting Dayton to 26 yards on 21 carries.

SACRED HEART PIONEERS

OVERALL RECORD: 0-1, NEC RECORD 0-0

LAST WEEK: L, 20-7 vs. Marist (Sept. 3)
THIS WEEK: Idle

• **Tim Little (Egg Harbor Twp., NJ/Egg Harbor Twp)** scored his first collegiate touchdown with a five yard run in the first quarter to give SHU a 7-0 lead.

• SHU blanked the Red Foxes over the first thirty minutes of the season, looking to pitch its first shutout of an opponent since defeating Robert Morris 34-0 in October of 2003.

• Freshman **J.D. Roussel (Pawtucket, RI/St. Raphael Academy)** had his first career interception in the second quarter, one play after the Marist defense had picked off the Pioneers

• The Red Foxes tied the game at 7-7 on the first dive of the second half with three plays and using just 1:21

• The Pioneers only picked up two first in the second half but the defense kept the game tied after three quarters

• **Play of the Game:** SHU was poised to force Marist into a second straight three-and-out as the Red Foxes faced 3rd and 10 on their side of the 50. But Marist QB Chuckie Looney scrambled up the middle for 12 yards and a first down. Later that drive the Red Foxes got another of Looney's three TD passes to take the lead for good.

• SHU did not help its freshman QB's, netting just 32 rushing yards on 28 attempts

SOUNDING OFF

"The quarterbacks are a little bit of a problem, but we didn't help them. We had our opportunities, certainly early, too."

Sacred Heart head coach

Paul Gorham

"It always tough when you are on the field a lot, but, as a defense, it's our job to stop them and get the ball back to the offense."

Preseason all-NEC LB

Chris Mandas



SAINT FRANCIS (PA) RED FLASH

OVERALL RECORD: 0-1, NEC RECORD 0-1

LAST WEEK: L, 38-28 at WAGNER (Sept. 3)
THIS WEEK: Sept. 10 at North Dakota State, 7:00 pm - Fargo, ND (Fargodome)

• SFPA started a freshman at free safety against Wagner as Valencia, Pa. native Austin Miele got the start and ranked third on the team in tackles during the game.

• Punter **Andrew Penska (Johnstown, PA/Bishop McCort)** launched three kicks for 157 yards and a 52.3 yard per punt average. The kicks also had excellent direction and height as Wagner managed only five punt return yards.

• Junior **Kyle Harbridge (Easton, PA/Easton)** posted his third game with more than 200 all-purpose yards in the last two seasons. The junior led the SFPA offense with 159 yards on the ground and two touchdowns. His day against Wagner was highlighted by a 41-yard run that set up the first of two two-yard TD runs for the Easton, PA native.

• **T.J. Armstead (Harrisburg, PA/Chaump)** equaled his interception total from a year ago with his first-quarter pick.
The game against Wagner was the earliest conference game in school history.

• Junior **A.J. Alexander (Altoona, PA/Altoona Area)** posted 99 yards on three catches in his first game for the Flash.

• **Anthony Bowman (Damascus, PA/Our Lady of Good Counsel)** led the team in tackles in with nine.

• The Red Flash fumbled four times against Wagner but lost just one

• SFPA outgained Wagner 474-378

• The 28 points were the most points scored by the Red Flash against a conference foe since Sept. 17, 2010 (Saint Francis 41, Sacred Heart 0).

VILLARRIAL'S THOUGHTS

"The guys competed hard and played tough. They did a good job of not letting things get to them. It is a tough loss but we will use it to get better. We just want to keep improving every day and that will pay off in the end."

SFPA head coach

Chris Villarrial



WAGNER SEAHAWKS

OVERALL RECORD: 1-0, NEC RECORD 1-0

LAST WEEK: W, 38-28 vs. SAINT FRANCIS (PA) (Sept. 3)
THIS WEEK: Sept. 10 at Richmond, 6:00 pm - Richmond, VA (Robins Stadium)

• With his 173 yards through the air vs. Saint Francis (PA), junior quarterback **Nick Doscher (Staten Island, NY/Moore Catholic)** entered the Wagner all-time Top 10 in career passing yards. He's logged 3,570 career yards. With his eight completions in the season opener, Doscher moved into seventh on the Seahawk all-time completion list with 259.

• Doscher's 67-yard fourth quarter touchdown pass to junior wide receiver **Wandy Santilien (Miami, FL/ASA Institute)** was the longest pass play by the Seahawks since September 18, 2010 vs. Cornell when Doscher hooked up with **Justin Matthews (Hillside, NJ/ Hillside)** on an 88-yard touchdown.

• Junior linebacker **Mike Lombardo (Jupiter, FL/ Jupiter Christian)**, a transfer from Arkansas St. playing his first game as a Seahawk wound up with nine tackles.

• The Seahawks applied consistent pressure into the Red Flash backfield with linebacker **Julian Stanford (Bloomfield, CT/ Bloomfield)** leading the way with three tackles behind the line of scrimmage for minus 15 yards

• Wagner now holds a commanding 18-3 lead in the all-time series between the schools which began in 1992.

• With the win, Wagner is now 41-38-2 all-time in season openers. The victory snapped a three-game losing streak for the Seahawks in lid-lifters.

• Fourteen Seahawk newcomers saw the first action of their careers.

• With the victory, head coach **Walt Hameline**, who is in his 31st year at the helm of the Seahawks, began his ascent towards the 300-win club as the win over Saint Francis (PA) was the 201st of his illustrious career

• Wagner's next opponent, Richmond, which knocked off ACC member Duke 23-21 in its opener, entered the week ranked No. 16 nationally in the Sports Network Poll and No. 18 in the AFCA Poll.

SOUNDING OFF

"Things happen and you got to play through that. It was a win for us which is always the bottom line. There were some breakdowns, but as I've always said those first two games are where you make your corrections and you keep going in the right direction."

Wagner head coach **Walt Hamline**

HE'S BACK!

Wagner RB Dominique Williams missed all of the 2010 season due to injury, but made a triumphant return to the gridiron in the season opener against Saint Francis (PA). Williams ran rampant, amassing 180 yards and two touchdowns on the ground in the 38-28 win.

"It felt great to be back. I had chills in the beginning of the game!"

Junior RB
Dominique Williams