

NEW JERSEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

1993 FINAL FOOTBALL STANDINGS

	NJAC						OVERALL						
	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	STREAK
Rowan	5	0	0	1.000	174	70	11	2	0	.846	487	205	LOST 1
William Paterson	3	2	0	.600	89	108	8	4	0	.667	223	210	LOST 1
Montclair State	3	2	0	.600	95	89	7	3	0	.700	199	141	WON 1
Trenton State	2	3	0	.400	90	67	3	6	1	.350	176	153	WON 1
Kean	2	3	0	.400	69	97	5	4	0	.556	153	159	LOST 1
Jersey City State	0	5	0	.000	40	126	1	7	1	.167	126	232	LOST 5

ROWAN FALLS SHORT IN BID FOR NATIONAL TITLE

Pros finish season at 11-2 following defeat in NCAA Division III Football Championship game

ROWAN COLLEGE, in hopes of becoming the first team from New Jersey team to win an NCAA football national championship, wound up on the short end in a 34-24 loss to Ohio's Mount Union College at the 21st annual Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl to determine the NCAA Division III Football Championship on Saturday, December 11.

Rowan, which captured its third consecutive New Jersey Athletic Conference football championship with a perfect 5-0 mark this season, became the first NJAC school to advance to the title game following a 23-16 road victory over Washington & Jefferson in the semifinal round last week. The Pros, who were eliminated in the semifinals last year, took one step closer towards the national crown this year in closing out a banner campaign for the New Jersey Athletic Conference.

A crowd of 7,304 at Salem Stadium in Salem, Va. was not disappointed by the performances of both teams in the championship contest. The game, played in snow flurries in the first half and gusting winds throughout and a zero-degree wind-chill factor, saw the team with the wind score the most points in all four quarters.

Mount Union, which capped an undefeated season at 14-0, was led by senior quarterback Jim Ballard. Ballard, who set four individual tournament records for passing amongst eight team records set by the school, completed 28 of 45 pass attempts for 387 yards in the game. Awarded the inaugural Gagliardi Trophy as the Division III Player of the Year last week, Ballard threw for three touchdowns and ran for another score Ballard, all in the second half, in guiding the Purple Raiders to their first-ever title.

Rowan, which trailed 21-9 early in the third quarter, rallied behind its senior quarterback **ED HESSON** (Burlington, N.J.) with 15 straight points in the third quarter to take a 24-21 lead going into the fourth quarter, the first time this season that Mount Union trailed heading into the final period.

The NJAC's Offensive Player of the Year for a second straight season, Hesson started the comeback with a four-yard touchdown run. Hesson later completed a shuffle pass to senior running back **CALVIN EASLEY** (Williamstown, N.J.) that went for eight yards and a touchdown and then capped the rally with a conversion pass to junior tight end **JOE DIPIETRO** (Tuckerton, N.J.) to give the Prof's the lead with :12 left in the third quarter. For the game, Hesson, who connected with nine different Rowan receivers, completed 20 of 32 passes for 177 yards as Rowan's offense gained 307 total yards.

But Ballard, with the wind behind him, drove his team on a 73-yard, eight-play drive to take the lead back early in the fourth quarter and then scored on a two-yard run with 5:04 left to end an 80-yard, 12-play drive to clinch the game.

Rowan's third straight appearance in the NCAA Division III Football Championship Tournament and the second straight as the top seed in the East Region completes an outstanding season for first-year head coach **K.C. KEELER** as the Pros finished with an 11-2 record.

The success of both Rowan and William Paterson College, which reached the NCAA East Region final, contributed to an outstanding season for the NJAC, which saw two Conference schools make the NCAA Division III Championship in the same year. Along with Montclair State's 17-9 win over Dickinson College (Pa.) in this year's ECAC Southwest championship, this was only the second time in Conference history that three Conference teams participated in post-season action in one year and that two NJAC teams made a post-season championship game appearance in the same year as well.

The NJAC, which had a 19-10-2 (.645) against non-conference opponents this season, is now 11-9 overall in the NCAA Division III Football Championship. The NJAC's only other NCAA Bowl appearance was a 7-6 victory by Montclair State over Hampden-Sydney in the 1970 Knute Rocke Bowl for the East Region championship, which was before the NCAA expanded to its current 16-team playoff system in 1985.

NJAC IN POST-SEASON COMPETITION

NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIP East Region

Nov. 20 **ROWAN COLLEGE** 29, Buffalo State 6
William Paterson College 17, UNION COLLEGE (N.Y.) 7
Nov. 27 Rowan College 37, WILLIAM PATERSON COLLEGE 0

Semifinals

Dec. 4 Rowan College 23, WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON COLLEGE 16

Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, Salem, Va.

Dec. 11 Mount Union College 34, Rowan College 24

ECAC SOUTHWEST CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov. 20 Montclair State College 17, DICKINSON COLLEGE (PA) 9

HOME TEAM IN CAPS