

NEW JERSEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

1995 FINAL NJAC FOOTBALL STANDINGS

	NJAC						OVERALL						
	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	STREAK
x - ROWAN	5	0	0	1.000	179	29	10	3	1	.750	398	152	LOST 1
Trenton State	4	1	0	.800	111	106	8	3	0	.727	250	213	WON 6
Kean	3	2	0	.600	67	75	3	4	2	.444	103	143	LOST 1
Montclair State	2	3	0	.400	93	116	3	6	0	.333	150	193	LOST 1
Jersey City State	1	4	0	.200	41	91	1	9	0	.100	91	191	LOST 2
William Paterson	0	5	0	.000	49	123	0	10	0	.000	89	266	LOST 10

x - Conference Champion

NJAC IN POST-SEASON COMPETITION

NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIP

East Region

Nov. 18 Rowan College 46, BUFFALO STATE 7
Nov. 25 ROWAN COLLEGE 38, Union College (N.Y.) 7

Semifinals

Dec. 2 Rowan College 28, WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON COLL. 15

Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl (Salem, Va.)

Dec. 9 Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse 36, Rowan College 7

ECAC DIVISION III SOUTHEAST CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov. 18 Trenton State College 10, WESLEY COLLEGE (DE) 7
HOME TEAM IN CAPS

NJAC CLOSES OUT FOOTBALL SEASON

Rowan falls in NCAA Division III Championship game

For the second time in the last three years, Conference champion **ROWAN COLLEGE** closed out the football season for the NJAC with an appearance in the title game for the NCAA Division III Football Championship. But the Profs, who captured their 10th New Jersey Athletic Conference football championship this season with a perfect 5-0 mark, once again wound up on the short end in their bid for a national title, falling to the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, 36-7, at the 23rd annual Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, which was held on Saturday, December, 9 in Salem, Va.

Rowan, which lost to Mount Union College (Ohio), 34-24, in its only other Stagg Bowl showing in 1993, was once again looking to become the first team from the Garden State to win an NCAA football national championship. The Profs, originally seeded third in the East Region, had turned in strong defensive performances in each of their first three post-season victories, including a 28-15 road victory over previously unbeaten Washington & Jefferson College (10-1) in the semifinal round, to advance to the championship contest.

The Rowan defense helped give the Profs an early 7-0 advantage against Wisconsin-La Crosse, who had captured the NCAA Division III title in its only Bowl appearance in 1992 and was making its fifth showing in tournament play and fourth in the last five years. Rowan sophomore defensive back **TERRICK GRACE** (Morganville, N.J.), who had an interception to save a possible touchdown in the first quarter, later forced a fumble which was recovered by senior defensive end **JASON GIAMBUZZI** (Erial, N.J.) on the Eagles' seven-yard line. Following a six-yard run by sophomore running back **EUGENE FOSTER** (Pompton Lakes, N.J.), sophomore fullback **AARON BOSCO** (Pt. Pleasant, N.J.) plowed in from the one-yard line for what proved to be the team's only score in front of a crowd of 4,905 on a bitter-cold afternoon with 30 mph wind gusts at Salem Stadium.

Wisconsin-La Crosse, which capped an undefeated season at 14-0, came back behind the play of senior All-America quarterback Craig Kusick, who completed 19 of 31 passes for 281 yards and four touchdowns. Kusick, following a slow start, helped turn the game's momentum after knotting the game at 7-7 with a four-yard pass to end a 72-yard drive with nine minutes remaining in the first half. A controversial call on the ensuing kickoff quickly resulted in a safety against Rowan and then, with just 16 seconds left before intermission, Kusick tossed a 85-yard touchdown bomb to send the Eagles into the locker room with a 16-7 advantage and control of the game.

The tide continued to turn for Wisconsin-La Crosse in the second half as Rowan, which was limited to just 153 yards on offense, could only muster four yards in the third quarter. Sophomore quarterback **GREG LISTER** (Brigantine, N.J.), the NJAC Offensive Player of the Year, completed just seven of 27 passes for 60 yards and threw three interceptions as the Profs turned the ball over six times in the game.

Meanwhile, Kusick and the Eagles would go on to rack up 451 yards against the Rowan defense, which had limited playoff opposition to an average of 127.3 yards per game.

Rowan, which has also appeared in the NCAA's in 1991, 1992 and 1993, has now made four appearances in the NCAA Division III Football Championship in the last five years. The success of Rowan, which finishes the year with a record of 10-3-1, along with **TRENTON STATE COLLEGE** (8-3), which won its last six games of the year, including a 10-7 road victory over Wesley (Del.) College in the ECAC Southeast Championship, marks the fourth time in the last six years that the NJAC has had two or more teams in post-season action. This is the third consecutive year that an NJAC team has captured an ECAC championship game and fourth overall. It is also the third time in Conference history that two NJAC teams have made a post-season championship game appearance in the same year. In 1993, Rowan reached the NCAA Division III final with Montclair State capturing the ECAC Southwest championship while Ramapo College and William Paterson College both played in separate ECAC championship title contests in 1991.

The NJAC, which has had a representative in the NCAA Division III Football Championship in six of the last seven years, now has a 14-10 (.583) record in championship play, including an 8-4 (.667) mark by Rowan. This is the second time that an NJAC team has reached the championship game of the NCAA Division III Football Championship. The only previous NCAA Bowl that an NJAC team has played in was the Knute Rockne Bowl for the East Region Championship in 1970, a 7-6 victory by Montclair State over Hampden-Sydney which was before the NCAA expanded to its current 16-team playoff format in 1985.