

Bears Win Sixth Straight

Written by Staff Reports

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The Lenoir-Rhyne Football Team (7-2, 5-1) moved into a first-place tie in the South Atlantic Conference standings with a 44-21 victory over Newberry (5-5, 3-3) Saturday afternoon at Setzler Field. L-R, the top-ranked running team in NCAA

Division II, rushed for 395 yards in the contest and finished with 472 yards of total offense en route to its sixth straight victory.

Lenoir-Rhyne is now tied with Mars Hill (6-3, 5-1) atop the South Atlantic Conference standings entering the final week of the regular season. The Lions were off today. Trailing 14-10 early in the second quarter, Lenoir-Rhyne reeled off 31 consecutive points to take command of the contest. L-R sophomore halfback Jarrod Spears (Bunnlevel, N.C.) gave the Bears the lead for good with a one-yard touchdown run at the 9:57 mark of the second quarter for a 17-14 advantage.

Senior quarterback Reuben Haynes (Commerce, Ga.) added a two-yard touchdown run with five seconds remaining in the third quarter and finished with a game-high 118 yards on the ground to lead the Bears.

Haynes also connected with senior wide receiver Artis Gilmore (Asheville, N.C.) for a 50-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter and finished with 77 yards through the air as L-R put together its first six-game winning streak since the 1994 season.

Newberry's quarterback, W.T. Murden (West Columbia, S.C.), threw for 186 yards and a score and added 51 yards on the ground despite the loss. Newberry did finish with 415 yards of total offense but missed a field goal and turned the ball over four times in the setback.

Sophomore linebacker Tanner Botts (Lawrenceville, Ga.), the reigning conference defensive player of the week, led the way again with 10 tackles, two forced fumbles and two quarterback sacks for the Bears.

Lenoir-Rhyne also retains the Bishops Trophy in the annual battle between the two Lutheran Schools of North and South Carolina with its victory over Newberry.

L-R returns home to face long-time rival Catawba in the regular season finale next Saturday at 2:00 p.m., at Moretz Stadium as part of Senior Day. Newberry plays at Brevard while Mars Hill visits Carson-Newman next Saturday afternoon. Both of those contests are scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Reuben Haynes, L-R Athletics