

EWU Wins FCS Title

Written by The Sports Network
Saturday, 08 January 2011 09:59

Quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell threw three touchdown passes in the final 17 minutes as Eastern Washington rallied to beat Delaware 20-19 victory for its first FCS National Championship at Pizza Hut Park.

Delaware (12-3) blew a 19-0 lead and had its final drive halted when wide receiver Mark Schenauer caught a nine-yard pass from quarterback Pat Devlin but stumbled to the EWU 30-yard line -- one yard shy of a fourth-down conversion. Among the disappointed fans was U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, a Delaware alum who sat five rows behind the Blue Hens bench.

Eastern Washington's winning drive came with controversy. Trailing 19-13 with just over 3 1/2 minutes left, the Eagles needed to go for a first down on 4th- and-1 from the Delaware 23. Freshman back Mario Brown bulled his way to the 22 and the officials signaled a first down with 3:29 left.

The Delaware sideline challenged the placement of the ball, so the game was stopped for its first video replay. Officials then moved the ball back six inches and re-measured whether the Eagles had a first down. The ball just made it, but Delaware coach K.C. Keeler argued that the first-down chains which had been moved prior to the challenge were improperly placed.

"That's disappointing," Keeler said. "We're in a championship ball game and we have a spot with three minutes left to go in the game that dictates who wins and loses. And usually I don't really complain about things like that, but that one hurt. It really did."