

And Now, The Final Four

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 07 December 2013 22:48

The Lenoir-Rhyne Football Team (12-1) held on to defeat North Alabama (10-3), 42-39, Saturday afternoon at Moretz Stadium in an NCAA Division II National Quarterfinal game.

L-R, winners of 12 straight contests, will face 15th-ranked West Chester (13-1) in the national semifinals next Saturday. The site of the contest will be determined on Sunday.

West Chester downed Shepherd, 28-7, in a quarterfinal game Saturday afternoon in Shepherdstown, W.Va.

Lenoir-Rhyne senior quarterback Josh Justice (Belmont, N.C.) rushed for two touchdowns in the second half and senior defensive back Michael Green (Kingsland, Ga.) returned an interception 55 yards for a score on the second play of the game to lift the Bears to the win.

And Now, The Final Four

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 07 December 2013 22:48

Lenoir-Rhyne, ranked No. 13 in NCAA Division II, also rushed for 377 yards in the contest and held on to win after taking leads of 28-7 and 35-14.

North Alabama's Luke Wingo (Tuscaloosa, Ala.) passed for three touchdowns while Jason Smith (Gurley, Ala.) caught seven passes for 169 yards including touchdown receptions of 71 and 48 yards, respectively, but the Lions' rally came up short.

Smith's 48-yard touchdown reception came on a flea flicker and cut the margin to 35-32 with 9:04 remaining in the contest but L-R responded with a seven-play, 53-yard drive capped off by a 22-yard touchdown run by Justice for a 42-32 advantage with 2:38 left.

North Alabama, ranked No. 16 in the nation, scored with 1:24 on the clock but Lenoir-Rhyne recovered an onside kick and ran the clock out for the win. The Lions also saw their nine-game winning streak snapped.

Justice led the Bears with 89 yards on the ground and junior halfback Jarrod Spears (Bunnlevel, N.C.) added 80 yards rushing and a 40-yard touchdown run while Green finished with nine tackles and two fumble recoveries to lead the defense. L-R also won 12 games in a season for the first time in school history.

And Now, The Final Four

Written by Staff Reports
Saturday, 07 December 2013 22:48

North Alabama's Lamonte Thompson (Florence, Ala.) scored on a 90-yard kickoff return and a six-yard reception while Gabe Poe (Pheba, Miss.) led the defense with a game-high 17 tackles in the losing effort. The two teams played for the first time in school history.

LENIOR-RHYNE 42, NORTH ALABAMA 39

Scoring Summary

Score by Quarters 1 2 3 4 Score

North Alabama 7 7 7 18 - 39

Lenoir-Rhyne 14 14 7 7 - 42

And Now, The Final Four

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 07 December 2013 22:48

1st

14:13 L-R Michael Green 55 yd interception return (Zach Neumann kick)

01:34 L-R Jarrod Spears 40 yd run (Zach Neumann kick), 3 plays, 49 yards, TOP 1:09

01:20 UNA L. Thompson 90 yd kickoff return (Will Craig kick)

2nd

03:23 L-R Michael Patrick 18 yd run (Zach Neumann kick), 10 plays, 72 yards, TOP 4:13

02:57 L-R Chris Robinson 3 yd run (Zach Neumann kick), 2 plays, 13 yards, TOP 0:26

00:33 UNA L. Thompson 6 yd pass from Luke Wingo (Will Craig kick), 9 plays, 61 yards, TOP 2:16

3rd

And Now, The Final Four

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 07 December 2013 22:48

08:03 L-R Josh Justice 2 yd run (Zach Neumann kick), 13 plays, 75 yards, TOP 6:57

01:44 UNA Jason Smith 71 yd pass from Jacob Tucker (Will Craig kick), 1 play, 71 yards, TOP 0:12

4th

11:32 UNA Will Craig 32 yd field goal, 11 plays, 55 yards, TOP 3:30

09:04 UNA Jason Smith 48 yd pass from Luke Wingo (Lee Mayhall pass from Luke Wingo), 1 play, 48 yards, TOP 0:09

02:38 L-R Josh Justice 22 yd run (Zach Neumann kick), 7 plays, 53 yards, TOP 2:33

01:24 UNA Lee Mayhall 5 yd pass from Luke Wingo (Will Craig kick), 7 plays, 71 yards, TOP 1:09

Team Statistics

And Now, The Final Four

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 07 December 2013 22:48

FIRST DOWNS: L-R 21, UNA 17

RUSHING YARDS: L-R 377, UNA 103

PASSING YARDS: L-R 19, UNA 244

TOTAL YARDS: L-R 396, UNA 347

FUMBLES/LOST: L-R 2-1, UNA 3-2

TURNOVERS: L-R 1, UNA 3

PENALTY YARDS: L-R 8-62, UNA 5-55

TIME OF POSSESSION: L-R 38:49, UNA 21:11

THIRD DOWN CONVERSIONS: L-R 7-15, UNA 2-9

FOURTH DOWN CONVERSIONS: L-R 0-1, UNA 0-0

And Now, The Final Four

Written by Staff Reports
Saturday, 07 December 2013 22:48

Individual Statistics

RUSHING:

L-R - JUSTICE 20-89-2TD, SPEARS 14-80-TD, DUNCAN 6-70

UNA - WINGO 8-45, TUCKER 6-40

PASSING:

L-R - JUSTICE 1-20=-19

UNA - WINGO 14-23-I-3TD-155, TUCKER 3-5-TD-89

And Now, The Final Four

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 07 December 2013 22:48

RECEIVING:

L-R - BAKER 1-19

UNA - SMITH 7-169-TD, MAYHALL 3-23-TD

Photo Courtesy: Jarrod Spears, L-R Athletics