BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL
GAME NOTES

For Immediate Release (9-22-03) Contact: Tom McGuire, (570) 389-4413

BLOOMSBURG Huskies (1-2)
at  
SLIPPERY ROCK The Rock (1-2)

Game Four—Sept. 27 — 6 p.m.—N. Kerr Thompson Stadium—Slippery Rock (PA)

The Head Coaches

Danny Hale is in his 11th season leading the Huskies' football program in 2003. Hale had a previous five-year coaching tenure at West Chester. Hale has a record of 82-33-1 (.711) at Bloomsburg, and is sixth among active coaches on the all-time NCAA Division II winning percentage list with a career record of 122-46-1 (.725). Hale was named the 2003 PSAC East Coach of the Year for the eighth time in his career along with picking up the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Division II District I Coach of the Year for the seventh time. Following the 2000 season when Hale led the Huskies to the NCAA Division II title game, he was named the AFCA Division II National Coach of the Year. That year Hale led Bloomsburg to a 12-3 record. Hale was also named the AFCA District 1 Coach of the Year and the PSAC Eastern Division Coach of the Year for 2000.

He also earned Coach of the Year honors from the PSAC East from 1994 to 1997, while in 1994 and 1995, he was honored by the AFCA District 1 as Coach of the Year. In 1999, Hale broke A.K. Aldinger's 94-year old record for most career wins by a Bloomsburg football head coach. Hale picked up his 100th career head coaching win against Kutztown towards the end of the 2000 season.

In 1997, Hale also coached Irv Sigler, the winner of the 1997 Harlon Hill Award as the nation's best Division II football player. As a result, he was named the 1997 PSAC East Coach of the Year for the fourth consecutive season.

Dr. George Mihalik is in his 16th season serving as head coach of Slippery Rock. Mihalik's career record of 108-56-4 (.655) ranks him second on Slippery Rock's all-time active PSAC head coaches in career wins. He has led The Rock to twelve consecutive winning seasons.

Mihalik's most successful campaign came in 1998 when he led The Rock to the national semifinal and finished with a 12-2 mark. He was named PSAC Western Division Coach of the Year from 1997-99 and was inducted into the Slippery Rock Rock Hall of Fame in 1997.

Slippery Rock Last Week

Slippery Rock traveled to West Virginia to take on Fairmont State. The Rock played very impressive and came away with a 35-14 victory over the Falcons.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Rock exploded for 21 points in the second quarter. Back-up quarterback Chad Devore was inserted in the second quarter and proceeded to throw three second quarter touchdowns in a span of less than seven minutes.

Devore opened up the scoring by hitting Valdez Hails with a 36 yard pass. After the change of possession, Devore wasted no time by going 72 yards in 3 plays. Devore topped off the drive by hitting Luke Wetzel with a 65 yard touchdown strike. Devore threw one more touchdown in the second quarter. This time, DeVore hit Steve Fullerton with a five yard scoring strike. Kicker John Katsaouni added all three second quarter extra points to give The Rock a 21-0 lead at halftime.

The Rock added to their lead in the third quarter when Vic Strader plunged in from one yard. Katsaouni added the extra point and The Rock led 28-0. The Rock's final score came when John Kniess ran 49 yards down the sideline.

Katsaouni's kick gave Slippery Rock a 35-0 advantage.

Fairmont State made a late push, scoring two touchdowns late in the game, but it was not enough. The Rock came away with their first win of the season, 35-14.

Bloomensburg Last Week

The Huskies lost a tough non-conference game to Lock Haven, 17-15. Bloomsburg led early but could not preserve the lead.

After a scoreless first period, the Huskies took the lead on a 22-yard field goal from Garrett Bloom with 6:39 to play in the second period. The score capped a nine-play, 46-yard drive. Bloom's field goal was the only score from either team in the first half. The Huskies took a 3-0 lead with them going into the third quarter.

On the first play from scrimmage of the second half, Mike Ceroli sprinted 77 yards down the sideline. On his big play, he was named PSAC Eastern Division Coach of the Year for 2000.

This week in the PSAC

Bloomensburg at Slippery Rock, 1 p.m.
West Chester at Shippensburg, 1 p.m.
East Stroudsburg at Edinboro, 1 p.m.
Kutztown at Clarion, 6 p.m.
Cheyney at California, 7 p.m.
Millersville at IUP, 7 p.m.
Mansfield at Lock Haven, 7 p.m.

Quick Facts

Opposing SID: Bob McComas
SID Phone: 724-738-2777
Bloomsburg Radio Coverage: WHLM (AM 930)
Play by Play: Jim Doyle
Color Commentary: Andy Ulicny
Pre-Game Show: 12:30 p.m.
Website: Bloomsburg—www.bloom.edu/sports

Office of Sports Information • 400 E. Second St. • Waller Administration Building • Bloomsburg, PA 17815 • (570) 389-4413 • (570) 389-4724—FAX

2003 Schedule/Results

BLOOMSBURG

Aug. 30 NEW HAVEN ......................... W, 30-17
Sept. 13 SHIPPENSBURG ....................... L, 21-0
Sept. 20 at Lock Haven ......................... L, 17-15
Sept. 27 at Slippery Rock ......................... 6 p.m.
Oct. 4 at East Stroudsburg ..................... 1:05 p.m.
Oct. 11 MILLERSVILLE .......................... 1 p.m.
Oct. 18 KUTZTOWN ............................. 1:30 p.m.
Oct. 25 at Cheyney .............................. 1 p.m.
Nov. 2 at West Chester ......................... 7 p.m.
Nov. 8 MANSFIELD ............................. 1 p.m.
Nov. 15 IUP ..................................... 1 p.m.

SLIPPERY ROCK

Sept. 6 at Youngstown State .............. L, 45-12
Sept. 13 GANNON ............................. L, 20-18
Sept. 20 at Fairmont State ................. W, 35-14
Sept. 27 at Bloomsburg ....................... 6 p.m.
Oct. 4 at California (PA) .................. 7 p.m.
Oct. 11 at Shippensburg ...................... 2 p.m.
Oct. 18 at Millersville ......................... 1:30 p.m.
Oct. 25 at Edinboro ............................ 1 p.m.
Nov. 1 at Lock Haven ......................... 1 p.m.
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Nov. 15 at Clarion ............................. 1 p.m.

PSAC East Standings

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2003 Stats Leaders

**RUSHING**

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**BY THE NUMBERS**

19.6

The average margin of victory the past three seasons the Huskies have met The Rock.

32

Number of tackles the Bloomsburg linebacker Shawn Butler has on the year, good for first in the PSAC.

77

Number of yards rushed for by Mike Ceroli on one carry in the second half. Ceroli’s run of 77 yards was the longest run from scrimmage since 1997 Harlon Hill winner Irv Sigler broke an 82 yard run against Millersville in 1997.

1983

Year that Slippery Rock last defeated Bloomsburg.

and Bloomsburg had to settle for another Bloom field goal. Bloom connected from 39 yards, a career high.

Lock Haven got on the scoreboard late in the third quarter on a one yard touchdown plunge from Chelstan Anderson. Dan Hagerman added the extra point and Lock Haven threatened at 9-7.

After quarterback Jack Lydic was intercepted late in the third quarter, Lock Haven scored on the first play of the fourth quarter. Quarterback Troy Wise connected with Rafael Smith on a 30 yard scoring strike. Dan Hagerman later added a field goal to give Lock Haven a 17-9 lead with 1:55 to play. On their third play of the drive, Lydic connected with Nick Kurtz on a 62 yard scoring strike to make the score 17-15. The Huskies tried for the two point conversion but Lydic’s pass was knocked down and the Huskies lost 17-15.

Mike Ceroli led the Huskies’ offense with eight carries for 129 yards, while Paul Linn had 11 tackles and one interception to lead the defense.

Last Meeting

Bloomburg running back Mike Ceroli rushed for a career high 169 yards to lead Bloomsburg to an impressive 38-14 victory over Slippery Rock.

The Huskies got on the board first when Bloomsburg quarterback Andrew Herrmann hit Rocco Forgione with an eight yard touchdown strike. The Huskies took the early 7-0 lead and never looked back. After Jamison McLaughlin ran in for another score, Herrmann connected with Tierrell Johnson for another touchdown. Bloomsburg took a 21-0 lead at half.

After The Rock scored to cut the Husky lead to 21-7, Tim Oliver bolted a 21-yard field goal to widen Bloomsburg’s advantage. BeJey Thomas then put the game out of reach. The Bloomburg defense forced Slippery Rock to punt to Thomas. He responded by going 67 yards down the sideline and giving the Huskies a 31-7 lead. Mike Ceroli added a 59-yard touchdown run late to seal the deal for the Huskies.

Ceroli’s 169-yard performance helped key a Bloomsburg rushing attack that combined for 249 yards on the ground. Andrew Herrmann threw for 214 yards and one touchdown. Rocco Forgione had 144 yards receiving on nine catches and one touchdown.

On the defensive side of the ball, Shawn Butler had seven tackles and a half sack to lead Bloomburg. Bret Fryer and Dave Armstrong added six tackles each. Armstrong, Eric Steffen, Mike Gross, and Aaron Zeamer added sacks for the Huskies. Chris Kelly had the lone Bloomburg interception.

Hale on the Huskies

“We need to resolve our passing game problem because it is failing us now. We need our passing game to succeed against The Rock,” said Hale. “We may be lacking confidence and this game will be a key to our turn around.”

Hale on The Rock

“The Rock has a tenacious defense,” Hale said. “Their offense is loaded with veterans and will put a lot of heat on our defense. They run the ball very well and will try to pound the ball on the ground. They will be looking to pick up a win against us on their new turf.”

The Series

The Huskies lead the all-time series against Slippery Rock, 6-3. Coach Hale is a perfect 3-0 against Slippery Rock in his career. The last time a Slippery Rock team has beaten Bloomsburg was the opening game 1983.

Husky Lights

A group of Huskies reached career highs last week against Lock Haven. Defensive lineman Todd White had eight total tackles, while linebacker Paul Linn recorded 11 total tackles. Kicker Garrett Bloom kicked a 39 yard field goal. Mike Ceroli’s 77 yard run was the longest rush from scrimmage since 1997 Harlon Hill winner Irv Sigler broke an 82 yard run against Millersville on October 18, 1997.

Bloomburg Skid

This is the first time since 2000 that Bloomsburg has lost consecutive games. The last time Bloomsburg lost two in a row was 2000 when the Huskies dropped consecutive decisions to Carson-Newman and Shippensburg. The Huskies reached the NCAA playoffs that season with a 12-3 record. Coach Hale has had only one three game losing streak in his career. Hale’s Huskies lost three straight games in 1993, his first season as head coach. That year, the Huskies lost three consecutive games to American International, Millersville, and Clarion.

Showdown

The match-up features one of the PSAC’s struggling offenses against the conference’s worst defense. The Bloomburg offense ranks second last in the PSAC, scoring 15.0 points per game. The Slippery Rock defense averages 26.3 points allowed per game. The match-up also features Slippery Rock’s pass defense, which has given up 246.3 yards per game against the Bloomburg passing offense which has combined for 275 yards total in its last two contests.

Field Goal Fury

Bloomburg is tops in the PSAC in field goal percentage, thanks to Garrett Bloom. Bloom has connected on four of five field goals and leads the conference with a .800 field goal accuracy. Bloom is second in the conference with four field goals made.