Huskies Open Season with 7-0 Record

Bloomsburg has had a great start to their 2008 season, going undefeated in their first seven games for the first time since 2005. The Huskies began the year ranked number 25 in the 2008 American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Division II Preseason Coaches’ Poll. Seven weeks later, they have claimed the number six spot, and possibly a seat in the playoffs.

Major contributors to the success of the team have been captains John Ochs and Kyle Ream, along with veterans Dan Latorre, Stefan Adams, Greg Myers and Joe Koenig. Freshman Kenny Domzalski, Derrick Price and Oscar Rivera have had an outstanding first season so far, all three making major plays for Bloomsburg during each game.

The Huskies have earned several honors since the start of the season. Kenny Domzalski was named PSAC East Defensive Player of the Week for week one, while Jon Ochs and Greg Myers were named PSAC East Defensive Player of the Week for weeks three and four. Moreover, the team itself has been moving up in numerous polls. In addition to the American Football Coaches Association, the Huskies have been ranked number seven in the D2Football.com Top 25 Media Poll. Also, as of September 24th, Bloomsburg was ranked third in the Division II for rushing offense with an average of 330.0 yards per game in the NCAA statistics report.

American Football Coaches Association Poll Rank Week 7
1. Grand Valley St. (Mich.)
2. North Alabama
3. Abilene Christian (Texas)
4. West Texas A&M
5. Northwest Missouri St
6. Bloomsburg (Pa.)
7. Delta St. (Miss.)
8. California (Pa.)
9. Minnesota-Duluth
10. Valdosta St. (Ga)
11. Central Washington
12. Tuskegee (Ala.)
T13. Chadron St. (Neb.)
T13. Pittsburg St. (Kan.)
15. Wingate (N.C.)
16. Edinboro (Pa.)
17. Tarleton St. (Texas)
18. Carson-Newman (Tenn.))
19. Seton Hill (Pa.)
20. Albany St. (Ga.)
21. Central Missouri
22. Nebraska-Omaha
23. Indiana (Pa)
25. West Virginia St.

Hale Hails Husky Defense

“The biggest difference in the team since last season is the defense. Last season we lacked at putting pressure on the opposing offense, especially in quarterback sacks. We finished last year with only 10 sacks, but this year we’re way ahead of schedule, already with 9.”

-Coach Danny Hale, Week 4
Fierce Freshman Making Headlines for 2008

Bloomsburg has unleashed a triple threat this season driven by redshirt freshmen Kenny Domzalski, Oscar Rivera, and Derrick Price. Seven weeks into the 2008 season, the newcomers have proven themselves as significant forces for the Huskies, both offensively and defensively.

Domzalski earned the PSAC East Offensive Player of the Week honor after rushing 172 yards on just 16 carries, 23 of those yards ending in the game winning touchdown in game one against Ashland. With Price rushing 132 yards the same game, both runningback’s combined 304 yards at Ashland was the first time a pair of Bloomsburg running backs have topped over 300 yards since last season against Millersville. On defense, Rivera’s standout performance led him to be the only freshman since 2001 to make eight tackles in a game.

Domzalski has added to his stats with three more touchdowns against Mercyhurst, Kutztown and Millersville and a total of 660 rushing yards. He is now ranked fifth in yards per game in the PSAC.

Price set a career high of 186 rushing yards during the game against Mercyhurst, and now leads the team in yards rushing with 859 yards. After seven weeks, he is not only leading his team, but also the PSAC in yards rushing.

Rivera was responsible for the game-winning play against California(Pa) during the third quarter with a 52-yard interception return run for a touchdown, propelling the Huskies to a 24-17 win. He now has 22 solo tackles and one sack.

Huskies Mourn the Loss of Football Alum

Former Bloomsburg tight end Mike Blake died on Tuesday, September 23rd, 2008. As a Bloomsburg University graduate, Mike was elected to the NCAA Football Division II All American Team as a tight end. Blake leaves behind his wife Nancy and three children; Kyle, Amanda and McKenna. For more information, please visit http://www.legacy.com/northjersey/DeathNotices.asp?Page=Lifestory&PersonId=11

Get to Know...Tom McFarland

Name: Thomas McFarland
Position: Defensive Linebacker
Year: Sophomore
Height/Weight: 6'/215 lbs
Hometown: Pottsville, Pa

Who is your favorite Athlete? Walter Payton
What is the one food you could live off of? Pudding
Who is the funniest person on the team? Greg Myers
What is the best thing about playing football for Bloomsburg? The women
Do you have a secret talent? “I’m a hustla”
Who does the best impression of Coach Hale? Mike Varanavage
If you could date a celebrity, who would it be? Kim Kardashian
What is your best pick-up line? “I hope you like animals, because I’m a beast”
When you were a kid, you wanted to be a [ Super Hero ] when you grew up.
What is your most memorable experience? Playing in the State Championship
If you could have a super-power, what would it be? Super speed
What would your perfect meal consist of? Meatloaf, chicken, and lasagna
What career would you most like to have after graduating? Crime fighting

Bloomsburg University is committed to affirmative action by way of providing equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, religion, gender, age, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or veteran status.
Captains Corner- Jon Ochs looks back

Bloomsburg captain and defensive end Jon Ochs understands the dedication and patience it takes to achieve success. It is this understanding that has lead him to become the leader he is today for his team and peers.

No doubt dedication is a principle in every facet of Ochs’ life. While helping the Huskies achieve an undefeated regular season in 2006, and being voted team captain by his peers, Ochs completed a double major in business management and economics, graduating this past May. Not a stranger to a demanding schedule, Ochs enters his 2008 season as captain, and as a grad student beginning to work on his MBA.

Now a standout athlete and student, it didn’t all come easy. Ochs came to Bloomsburg from Wind Gap, Pennsylvania, playing football at Nazareth Area High School under the direction of coach Dave “Whitey” Williams. According to Ochs, the success of the program was not much to be admired. “We were terrible. My senior year we won three games and we were blown out in almost all of our seven losses.”

Though a record like that may be discouraging, it only sparked a drive in the 5’11” defensive end to find a team where he could make a difference, even if it meant trading in a big dream for one a little less glamorous. Ochs reveals, “I always wanted to play for Penn State and Joe Paterno. Playing at Penn State in front of 100,000 people was my dream ever since I was a little kid. As a senior they told me I could walk on and turning that down was one of the hardest decisions I have ever made.”

Still searching for a program that would let him stand out and grow as an athlete, Ochs was constantly dealing with oppositions against his height. At the recommendation of his high school coach, Ochs found Bloomsburg a good fit. “I came here because this was one of the few schools that said I wasn’t too short. The biggest reason, though, was the success of the program. I wanted to be a part of a program that could win, and felt I could contribute to that here.”

Ochs’ experiences throughout the football program here at Bloomsburg just goes to show how a little hard work and pride for your team can propel a red-shirted freshman to captain status over a four year period.

Coming into the Huskies, Ochs was off to a bit of a rocky start. “I was a little intimidated at the overall height of my teammates when I came into camp. To this day I am still the shortest player at my position I have seen at this level of football. Also, Jahri Evans was pretty intimidating, but I guess that is okay since he is now a starting offensive lineman for the New Orleans Saints.”

As if being one of the new guys wasn’t hard enough, Ochs’ first season was about to end sooner than he had anticipated. In his first weeks of practice he tore ligaments in his shoulder during an intra-squad scrimmage. Requiring surgery to repair the damage, he was left to watch the game from the sidelines for the rest of his first season.

Now in 2008, Ochs’ strong work ethic seems to be the pulse that is coursing through the entire team. He emphasizes that each individual player’s hard work is what will allow the Huskies to be successful this season. “I think the team is playing together more this year- that is playing more as a team. These first three wins haven’t been just a handful of guys. Two or three dozen players have stepped up and made big plays when they had to.”

This fall will be the last that Jon Ochs’ plays as a Bloomsburg University football player. Though he doesn’t harbor any ideas of carrying on his football career any longer, he admits it will be a bitter-sweet ending. Ochs plans on using the knowledge he has gained in both being an athlete and a student in pursuing a career in the business side of sports, rather than the physical side.

For now, Ochs’ focus is on making the team as a whole the best they can be. “I do have personal goals I have set for myself, but I would give all of them up to make it back to the national semifinals and have a shot at a national title. If we could do that I would be pretty satisfied.”