

Hampton Completes undefeated regular season

HBCSports Press Association

HAMPTON, Va., Nov. 19, 2005 – The match-up between undefeated and second-ranked Hampton and winless Savannah State went pretty much as expected, with the Pirates cruising to a 44-6 victory Saturday afternoon at Armstrong Stadium. With the win Hampton completes its first undefeated regular season since 1993.

Coming into the game Hampton running back Ardeell Daniels needed 110 yards to join his backfield mate Alonzo Coleman at the 1,000 yard club for the second consecutive season. Daniels wasted little time in getting what he needed, as he rushed for 133 yards in the first quarter. In reaching the mark, Daniels and Coleman became just the third pair of backs in Division I-AA to run for 1,000 yards each in consecutive seasons. The duo also accomplished the task in 2004.

While Daniels reached his mark other Pirates continued to rack up the numbers. Coleman ran for 104 yards and two touchdowns on just seven carries, surpassing Montrell Coley for the Pirates' all-time record in rushing touchdowns with 50. He needs just one more touchdown to match Coley's school record of 53 career touchdowns.

With Daniels and Coleman controlling the ground, the Pirates went to the air in the second quarter and Princeton Shepherd found Onrea Jones for a 69-yard scoring strike, the first of Jones' career, extending the Pirates lead to 27-0. Red-shirt freshman Jerry Cummings got into the mix as well, registering his first career score with a 19-yard run off tackle that extended the Pirates to 34-0 lead midway through the quarter.

A muffed punt by Michael West led to the Tigers' first score as they took possession at the Hampton 20-yard line. Six plays later, Garrett Williams found Clyde Tullis in the end zone for a 5-yard touchdown. The extra point attempt was blocked, however, and the teams headed to the break with the Pirates holding a hefty 34-6 advantage.

Hampton's Van Morgan, who ended the day with a career-high 133 yards, opened the third quarter with a 79-yard carry that set up Antwan Smith's 19-yard touchdown pass to tight end Ernie Lomax. The touchdown was also a career first for Lomax.

Hampton ended the day with 548 total yards, 415 coming on the ground. The Pirates set a record with three backs rushing for more than 100 yards. Defensively, the Pirates held the Tigers to just 80 yards rushing; however, Savannah State quarterback Garrett Williams did manage 250 passing yards on the day.



HAMPTON, Va., - Hampton running back Alonzo Coleman scores one of his two touchdowns of the afternoon. Coleman, who rushed for 104 yards on seven carries, along with backfield teammate Ardeell Daniels, rushed for over 1,000 yards in a season for the second-straight year. Photo by Mark Sutton of All-Pro Photo for HBCSports Press Association.

Note: Hampton will host in-state opponent Atlantic-10 co-champion Richmond in the first round of the NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs on Saturday November 26. The Pirates received the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference's automatic bid after winning the title for the second-straight year and is the #3 seed of four teams that were seeded. They are the only undefeated team in the field.

"This is an honor and a testament to the hard work the kids have put in the last couple of years," said head coach Joe Taylor who has a 120-41-1 record in 14 seasons at Hampton. "When we moved up to I-AA we wanted to establish ourselves as one of the top programs. I think I can safely say we are there."

This is the fourth year under Taylor that the Pirates have made the I-AA playoffs and are 0-3.