

Daily Gazette article

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Conquest crushed by Pioneers, 69-27

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Pioneers scored on every offensive possession en route to a convincing 69-27 victory over the Albany Conquest in an arenafootball2 game Friday night at Wachovia Arena.

The Pioneers (7-1), who entered the game in first place in the American Conference's Eastern Division, won their seventh straight game, while the 3-4 Albany Conquest dropped their third consecutive decision.

Albany quarterback Dan Cole hit Antwun Williams for an eight-yard TD pass to help the Conquest draw within 14-7 after one period, but the Pioneers took control with a 28-point second quarter. The Conquest turned the ball over on downs twice, and wideout Chris Bocage fumbled the ball at the one-yard line as he was trying to stretch into the end zone.

Bocage made up for the mistake just before the intermission by returning a kickoff 56 yards for a score, cutting the Conquest's deficit to 42-14.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton quarterback Ryan Vena, who played for the Conquest for three seasons, finished the half with six touchdown passes, three of them to wideout Larry Kendrick.

The Conquest offense continued to sputter in the second half, turning the ball over on downs on their first possession. Later in the third quarter, Barry Drakeford intercepted Cole on fourth down.

Cole hooked up with Williams for two more TD passes in the second half, but Vena finished off the Conquest with four more touchdown strikes in the second half.

Vena had a brilliant day for the Pioneers with 300 yards passing on 26 completions in 32 attempts and 10 TD strikes. Kendrick and Prince Prempeh each caught three TD strikes for Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. Prempeh was the Schutt Offensive Player of the Game, while Kendrick was the U.S. Army Ironman of the Game. J.J. Outlaw caught a game-high nine passes for 81 yards and one touchdown.

Cole, who entered the game as the league's top passer, completed only 19 of 40 passes for 161 yards and three TDs.

Williams was Albany's top receiver with six catches for 58 yards and three scores.

Albany returns home to face the Manchester Wolves May 23 at

7 p.m. at the Times Union Center.

Albany 7 7 7 6 – 27

W-B/S 14 28 20 7 – 69

WBS – Musinski 6 pass from Vena (Davis kick).

A – Williams 8 pass from Cole (Fralicker kick).

WBS – Acquaye 13 pass from Vena (Davis kick).

WBS – Kendrick 18 pass from Vena (Davis kick).

WBS – Prempeh 34 pass from Vena (Davis kick).

WBS – Kendrick 11 pass from Vena (Davis kick).

A – Bocage 56 kickoff return (Fralicker kick). I

WBS – Kendrick 17 pass from Vena (Davis kick).

WBS – Prempeh 20 pass from Vena (kick failed).

A – Williams 2 pass from Cole (Fralicker kick).

WBS – Musinski 9 pass from Vena (Davis kick).

WBS – Outlaw 11 pass from Vena (Davis kick).

WBS – WBS – Prempeh 5 pass from Vena (Davis kick).

A – Williams 20 pass from Cole (Fralicker kick).