

The Northeast Football Conference

ASA - Lackawanna - Monroe

Sept. 12, 2017 – The Northeast Football Conference has had a successful start to the 2017 season, opening with a 5-0 record.

Results: No. 8 Lackawanna started its season with a 47-15 win at Hudson Valley while Monroe and ASA both improved to 2-0. The Mustangs used 34 second-half points to pick up a 36-7 win at Nassau. ASA had three quarterbacks throw touchdown passes in its 70-0 win over the Wagner JV.

This week: Lackawanna plays the New Jersey Warriors Saturday while ASA plays No. 18 Georgia Military in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and Monroe is at Wagner JV Sunday.

Rankings: Lackawanna was No. 9 and Monroe No. 20 in today's NJCAA poll of the season. The poll appearances mean a NEFC team has been ranked in the last 179 NJCAA polls. The streak dates to Oct. 21, 2003. A NEFC team has been ranked 349 times since the start of the 2002 season.

The Falcons' preseason ranking of No. 5 matches the highest by a NEFC member. Nassau was No. 5 in 2015. Overall, Lackawanna's highest ranking was No. 4, Sept. 20 and Sept. 27, 2016.

Monroe's appearance in the NJCAA poll is its first of the season. The Mustangs were ranked in the top 20 five times last season.

Other rankings: Lackawanna and ASA are both in the top 14 of JCgridiron.com's Dirty 30 rankings. ASA is No. 10 while Lackawanna is No. 14. In the JCFootball.com Top 25, Lackawanna is No. 25.

Players of the Week: The Northeast Football Conference has selected Monroe quarterback Sean Kelly and linebacker Tyrik Glenn as the conference's players of the week.

Kelly, a 6-foot-2, 205-pound sophomore from Colchester, Connecticut, is selected for the second-straight week. Kelly threw for three touchdowns and ran for two more in Monroe's 36-7 nonconference win over Nassau. Kelly finished the day 14-of-24 passing for 298 yards and nine rushing yards on three carries.

Glenn, a 6-2, 210-pound redshirt freshman from Williamstown, New Jersey, recorded five tackles for loss as the Mustangs improved to 2-0. He made nine total tackles (8 solo/1 assist), a quarterback sack and a fumble recovery.

Recaps: Quarterback Sean Kelly led Monroe to 34 second-half points as Monroe College defeated Nassau 36-7 Sept. 8. Kelly completed 14-of-24 passes for 298 yards and three touchdowns, and rushed three times for nine yards and two more scores as the Mustangs improve to 2-0. Kelly opened the second half by connecting with Shea Holbrook for a 72-yard touchdown. After a turnover, Kelly scored on a 2-yard run to make it 16-0. A special teams error set up Kelly's 4-yard scoring run for a 23-0 lead with seven minutes remaining in the third quarter. Kelly later threw scoring passes of 30 yards to Tyler Hodge and 42 yards to Nyjaliek Williams. Holbrook made four catches for 146 yards and a touchdown. On defense, Clayton Glasco recorded nine tackles and 1.5 tackles for loss. Dominique Rogers grabbed his second interception in as many games.

Lackawanna scored 34 second-half points as the No. 8 Falcons opened their 2017 season with a 47-15 road win over Hudson Valley Sept. 9. Jo-El Shaw ran for 173 yards and three touchdowns to lead Lackawanna. Quarterback Mike Dare, in his first start, threw two touchdown passes. He finished the day 14-of-28 for 221 yards. Navon Prince caught eight passes for 108 yards and two scores. Jaquan Brisker had a 98-yard interception return for a touchdown while linebacker London Cloud made 10 total tackles (seven solo).

ASA scored early and often in its 70-0 win over the Wagner JV Sept. 10. Freshman quarterback Stone Labanowitz went 5-of-12 for 95 yards, including a touchdown to Edward Morgan early in the second quarter to give the Avengers a quick 21-0 lead. Freshman quarterback Alphonso Howard stepped for Labanowitz and completed 9 of 12 passes for 184 yards and three touchdowns. He also ran for a team-high 77 yards. Freshman linebacker Demetrius Powell's 10 tackles and two pass breakups led the Avengers.

Duda notes: Lackawanna head coach Mark Duda ranks second among active coaches with 160 wins. The win total ranks 15th all-time.

Duda's 67.7 percent winning percentage ranks eighth among active coaches and 32nd all-time.

Duda was named the American Football Network's JUCO Coach of the Year in 2016.

Top players: The Northeast Football Conference had five individuals listed in 247sports.com's Aug. 27 report of the nation's top 50 junior college recruits. They are:

- No. 6, Badara Traore, 6-8, 315, OT, ASA;
- No. 15, TJ Bradley, 6-8, 290, OT, Lackawanna;
- No. 19, Thomas Lopez, 6-5, 280, OT, ASA;
- No. 36, Chase Brown, 6-5, 315, OT, Lackawanna; and
- No. 50, Malik Besseck 6-5, 280, OT, ASA.

Tart-Spencer, Bradley, Brown, Lopez, Traore and Monroe linebacker Fokam Parfait were listed among ESPN's top 2017 junior college recruits.

Misc.: The NEFC has had a member appear in 19 bowl games since 1997, including three teams in 2012 ... The NEFC has had 14 individuals, including two in 2015, chosen as NJCAA Player of the Week since the start of the 2011 season. The conference had four players chosen in 2012 and three in both the 2013 and 2014 campaigns.

Next week: Lackawanna hosts Nassau Sept. 23 while Monroe is at Thaddeus Stevens and ASA is scheduled to play Gattaca.