

The joy of victory

Dan Glickman

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***Correction* The Courage Bowl photo that appeared on Page 16 of the Sept. 21 edition of the *Cardinal Courier* was incorrectly credited. The photo was actually taken by Mike Beckwith.**

The St. John Fisher College Cardinals have always done well in the Courage Bowl, no matter the location, no matter the weather, and no matter who was behind center. Every year, the Cardinals would end up on top against the University of Rochester Yellowjackets. That trend continued Saturday night at Sahlen's Stadium in downtown Rochester, as the Cardinals dominated the Yellowjackets, 52-3 in front of a crowd of 5,500 for their seventh straight Courage Bowl title, having never lost one.

The seventh annual game to benefit Camp Good Days and Special Times, and the second time downtown, the Cardinals (2-0) took the lead early, as Ryan Kramer found Ryan Schmidt in the end zone to get the Cardinals up 7-0.

Although the Yellowjackets (1-1) would later take advantage of a Fisher fumble to get a field goal on the board before the quarter was out, they wouldn't score again in the game.

But the Cardinals certainly would. The second quarter saw Kramer hit Schmidt twice more (Schmidt's three touchdown catches in the game tied the school the record), and FuQuan Borum ran one in as well, leading to a halftime score of 28-3.

The referees did the Yellowjackets no favors, at one point miscounting the number of downs that Rochester had. What was supposed to be a third down late in the second quarter was ruled by the officials on the field as a fourth down, leading to a turnover on downs after only three downs.

The carnage continued in the second half, with Chad Monheim hitting a career-high 43 yard field goal, Kevin Ogiba knocking down and then recovering an attempted punt by Rochester for a touchdown, and Kramer throwing a touchdown to Ryan Francis. Even the second string of the Cardinals got in the act, as Ahmed Hassanien hit Rudy Day for a touchdown with 8:31 left to make the game 52-3.

This would be the final score after final attempts by Rochester to score failed.

Post-game, the players focused heavily on two things: the atmosphere around the game, and the turnaround that the team had from their week one 12-7 squeaker over Buffalo State.

Schmidt, who also had three touchdowns in last year's Courage Bowl, talked of how much enjoys the Courage Bowl environment, saying that, "It's always fun to play here, always a good time," elaborating that it is "fun to play for the kids, and in front of all of these fans."

The Cardinal's 52-point explosion, however, was not because of the environment, but instead all in the preparation, according to the players.

"The first week wasn't as good as we expected it to be," said Schmidt, "but we worked hard this week, got ourselves believing and we did a lot better tonight than we did last week."

Kramer, who is in his first season as a quarterback after spending the previous two as a running-back and wide receiver, agreed.

"Last week, we were a little rushed, but this week we had some time to prepare and work some kinks out from previous weeks," he said.

The Cardinals will face Hobart on Sept. 24 for a homecoming showdown against Hobart at 1 p.m.