



POST-GAME NOTES
Kentucky Wildcats vs. East Carolina Pirates
Jan. 2, 2009 • Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium • 5:00 p.m.



INDIVIDUAL NOTES

- **Team Captains:** Pierre Bell (LB), Davon Drew (TE), Patrick Pinkney (QB) and Zack Slate (DE).
- **Consecutive starting streak:** Jay Ross (24), C.J. Wilson (23), Davon Drew (18), Cory Dowless (14), Sean Allen (14), Alex Taylor (9), Nick Johnson (9), Linval Joseph (9) and Terence Campbell (8).
- **Starting streaks snapped:** Van Eskridge (20 games).
- **First career starts:** J.R. Rogers
- **Jeremy Chambliss** picked up his third special teams tackle in the first quarter ... Finished with six tackles (three solo, three assists) and one pass breakup.
- **Brandon Simmons** rushed 10 times for 44 yards with a TD (28 yards) ... Caught three passes for 23 yards with a long of 15 in the first quarter ... Scored from seventh rushing TD of the season on a 28-yard rush up the middle in the second quarter ... It was his 10th TD of the season (7/rush; 3/receiving) ... He now has 15 career TDs at ECU (12/rush; 3/receiving).
- **Davon Drew** recorded his first career 100-yard receiving game (120 yards/game-high) after catching five passes in the game including a career-long 42-yard reception in the first quarter ... He is the third receiver to record a 100-yard receiving performance this season (Dwayne Harris/ UVA and Darryl Freaney/ UTEP and Kentucky).
- **Ben Hartman** was 2-for-2 on FGA (made: 22, 43) ... He extended his single-season record for FGs made to 21 in the third quarter on his 43-yard attempt ... Has made at least one FG in 11 consecutive games in 2008 dating back to the N.C. State contest ... Connected 1-of-2 PATs in the game and has made 83-of-85 career PATs and 24-of-26 on the season ... Missed second PAT of the season and career in the second quarter (block) ... Has six multi-FG games this season.
- **Zack Slate** forced his second fumble of the season in the first quarter, which is the fourth of his career ... Credited with a 17-yard TFL in the first quarter ... Finished with three total stops (solo, two assists).
- **Darryl Freaney** was named ECU Offensive MVP after recording his first career 100-yard reception game ... Finished with 112 yards (career-high) on five receptions (tied career-high) ... It was his second 100-yard game of the season (106 vs. UTEP) ... Had three catches in the first quarter for 20 yards ... Caught 80-yard TD pass in the second quarter which was a career-long and the third longest TD receptions in Liberty Bowl history.
- **Patrick Pinkney** completed 18 of passes for 296 yards (season-high) with one TD ... Completed 6 of first 7 passes in the first quarter 80 yards ... His 80-yard TD pass to Freaney in the second quarter was a career long (previous: 78 vs. UNC on 9/8/07) ... Moved into sole possession of fifth place on the schools all-time passing yardage list with the 80-yard TD strike to Freaney in the second quarter ... Now has 4,035 career passing yards and 344 career completions ... Thrown at least one TD in 11-of-14 games played this season ... Recorded eighth 200-plus passing game of the season and 10th of his career.
- **J.R. Rogers** carried the ball three times for 23 yards ... Tied career-long run of 25 yards on the Pirates first play of the second quarter ... Caught one pass for two yards.
- **Matt Dodge** booted seven punts for 382 yards (second-most in 2008) on the night including a 68-yarder in the second quarter, which was the second-longest punt in Liberty Bowl history.
- **Linval Joseph** had seven tackles (six solo, three assists) on the day including a three TFLs (-15 yards) ... Recorded TFLs on consecutive plays in the second quarter (1 and 3 yards) before registering an 11-yard sack of Mike Hartline to close out the first half ... Credited with two blocked PATs (third and fourth quarter) a new Liberty Bowl Record first.
- **Van Eskridge** recorded eight tackles (five solo, three assists) on the day ... Teamed up with Emanuel Davis on a 1-yard TFL in the third quarter (14.5 for career).
- **Pierre Bell** tied for second on the team with eight stops (five solo, three assists) ... Credited with one QBH.
- **Emanuel Davis** had three tackles in the game ... Teamed up with Van Eskridge on a 1-yard TFL in the third quarter (2.5 career) ... One pass breakup.
- **Michael Bowman** recorded his first career rush (3 yards) in the third quarter on an reverse ... Had two KORs for 30 yards ... Caught two passes for 20 yards ... Finished the game with 53 all-purpose yards.
- **J.J. Milbrook** picked off his second pass of the year (UVA/ 4 yards on Oct. 11) and fifth of his career ... Finished with three tackles, one for a 2-yard TFL in the fourth quarter.
- **Nick Johnson** named ECU Defensive MVP after tying career-high with 13 tackles (six solo, seven assists) to lead both defenses ... Third time this season he has reached double-digit stops (11/Houston and 13/Tulsa – career high).
- **Jay Ross** notched his ninth TFL of the season (15th/career) in the fourth quarter on a 1st-and-10 play (1-yard loss) ... Finished the game with four tackles (two solo, two assists).

TEAM NOTES

- **Attendance:** 56,125 (third largest crowd the Pirates have played in front of in 2008).
- Pirates finish season with an overall 9-5 record, posting its third nine-win season since 1995.
- ECU extended its active streak to 140 games without being shutout when Ben Hartman connected on a 22-yard FG in the first quarter ... The last time the Pirates were blanked came on Oct. 4, 1997 against Syracuse in the Carrier Dome (56-0).
- The Pirates have scored first in 6 of last seven bowl games with the exception coming in 2000 against USF in the Papajohns.com Bowl.
- ECU had five receivers to record a reception of 10 or more yards (Simmons-15; Drew-42, 15, 40, 11; Freaney-80; Bowman-15; Womack-15).
- Patrick Pinkney's 80-yard TD pass to Darryl Freaney in the second quarter is tied for the eighth longest pass play in school history, which had been done three times previous (last: Dwayne Harris to Jamar Bryant/UTEP on Oct. 13, 2007).
- With Linval Joseph's 11-yard sack to close out the second quarter, the Pirates have recorded at least one sack in 27 of the last 2 games (24-game streak snapped at UAB/Nov. 22) – a stretch dating back to the 2006 regular season finale at N.C. State ... In all, ECU has produced quarterback drops in 46 of 51 contests during the Skip Holtz Era.
- ECU held Kentucky to just three first half points, marking the third time this season the Pirates held an opponent to just three points in the first half (WVU/Sept. 6 and Marshall/Nov. 11).
- David Jones' 99-yard KOR for a TD to open the second half was the first KOR for a score (last: Austin Smith/ Boise State in the Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl on Dec. 23, 2007).
- Hartman's blocked PAT in the second quarter was the second of the season (John Graves/ Va. Tech on 8/30/08).
- The Pirates did not score on either of the opening half drives in the game ... On the season scored on 14 of 28 opening half possessions.
- ECU has intercepted at least one pass in 11 of the last 12 games (run of seven straight snapped at Southern Miss./ Nov. 15).
- ECU blocked two PATs in the game ... First blocked PAT since Oct. 13, 2007 vs. UTEP (C.J. Wilson).
- The Pirates had two receivers with 100-yards in the game (last time: Oct. 8, 2005 vs. Rice; Chris Johnson, 129 and Aundrae Allison, 109; span of 46 games).