

DELAWARE FOOTBALL HISTORY



Pick up a copy of The Morning News for two cents on Saturday, October 26, 1889 and one would notice, right near ads for Leu's Corn Meal and Hamburger's Shoe House, a small headline reading: "Foot Ball Today."

At the Front and Union Street grounds that afternoon the Delaware Field Club of Wilmington would take on the boys from Delaware College.

Two days later, tucked into the same acres of tiny print was the result. That first flock of Blue Hens had gotten off to a hellacious start, dropping a 74-0 decision. Yet, the newspaper report was complimentary of Delaware's gridiron premier. "All things considered," it read, "they made a good showing and their team is composed of some very good material."

Now, 120 years and 117 seasons later, Delaware football teams have a tradition of making a "good showing." Most of those successes have occurred during the past 70 years under College Football Hall of Fame coaches Bill Murray, Dave Nelson, and Tubby Raymond, and most recently K.C. Keeler.

Now, after Raymond's retirement from the coaching ranks following the 2001 season, fourth-year head coach K.C. Keeler, himself a product of the tradition as a starting linebacker for the Blue Hens' 1979 national championship team, has kept the proud tradition alive and has already found his place among the all-time UD coaching greats.

It took the energetic Keeler just two seasons to accomplish what was one of the major highlights in the careers of each of his three predecessors - winning a national championship.

The 2003 Blue Hens brought success on the football field to a new level, losing just one game throughout the regular season and turning it up a notch in the playoffs, dominating post-season opponents Southern Illinois, Northern Iowa, Wofford, and Colgate on the way to capturing the sixth national title in school history and the first at the NCAA I-AA level.

A 633-407-44 all-time record, six national championships, 18 Lambert Cups, 31 post-season appearances, eight Yankee Conference and Atlantic 10 Football Conference championships, and a host of All-Americans, professional football players, and scholar-athletes, have been the foundations of a program that prides itself on a winning tradition, one unparalleled in middle-sized college football. The 607 victories rank eighth all-time among all I-AA programs for wins.

But as Delaware's initial and subsequent seasons demonstrated, that winning tradition was a long time building. Delaware's second game was also its first win, a 30-0 whitewash of the Warren Club of Wilmington.

A 0-0 draw with the Conference Club of Dover closed out that first campaign, one of only nine non-losing seasons in Delaware's first 25 years.

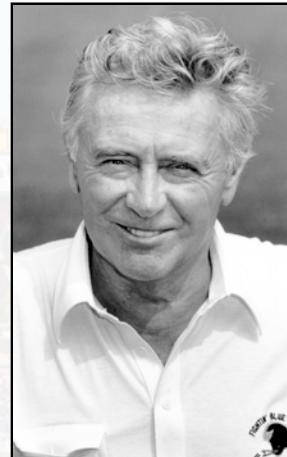
A new home greeted the 1913 squad. Presented by Eben B. and Stanley Frazer in memory of Delaware alumnus Joseph Heckert Frazer, Frazer Field was the varsity facility until 1946. Situated behind Carpenter Sports Building, the area is now used for intramurals. From 1947-1951, Wilmington Ball Park was home until Delaware Stadium opened in 1952.

Delaware's second quarter-century was a bit more successful, the Hens compiling a 87-109-14 slate. And then, in 1940, began the metamorphosis.

From Children's Home, an orphanage in Winston-Salem, NC, came William D. Murray, a Duke graduate who had coached the home team for nine years, losing only eight and logging 36 straight wins. Murray's 1940 Delaware team lost its first three games by a combined 38-0.

But after dropping the third contest of that season to Ursinus 25-0, a Murray team did not lose again until Maryland turned the

COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME TRIO



Few schools in any sport at any level can claim having just four head coaches since World War II. Delaware football has thrived under the leadership of College Hall of Fame members Bill Murray (left), Dave Nelson (center), Tubby Raymond (right). Raymond, who was inducted into the hall last summer, completed his brilliant 36-year career as head coach of the Blue Hens in 2001, completing his tenure with a record of 300-119-3 and three national titles. He became just the ninth coach in college football history to reach 300 wins when the Blue Hens posted a 10-6 victory over Richmond Nov. 10, 2001 at Delaware Stadium. Raymond was also honored twice during the 2002 season, having the playing surface at Delaware Stadium renamed Tubby Raymond Field in the season opener and being inducted into the University of Delaware Athletics Hall of Fame.

track 43-19 in the second game of the 1947 season.

A 7-0-1 mark in 1941, 8-0 in 1942, and 10-0 small college national championship team in 1946 (there were no formal teams during World War II) led to an unbeaten streak that reached a still standing record 26 games.

Murray returned to coach Duke in 1950 after a 49-16-2 Delaware log. He retired as Executive Director of The American Football Coaches Association 1982 and in 1974 was inducted into the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame.

A young man then arrived from the University of Maine attempting to fill Murray's big shoes. And by inventing his own now-famous Wing-T offense, Dave Nelson did just that. In 15 years as head coach, Nelson had only two losing years compiling an 84-42 overall record.

In 1953 and 1954 under the direction of All-American quarterback Don Miller, Delaware was 15-3 and won the 1954 Refrigerator Bowl over Kent State 19-7.

The Hens won their first Lambert Cup and Middle Atlantic Conference title in 1959 and repeated that double in 1962 and 1963. The 8-0 1963 team was named the nation's best small college team by United Press International.

Like Murray, Nelson, who passed away in 1992 after serving as commissioner of the Yankee Conference, was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame, in 1987.

Nelson turned the coaching reins over to Harold "Tubby" Raymond, his assistant for 12 years, in 1966 so he could devote more time to his duties as Athletic Director. Raymond continued the winning tradition established by his predecessors and built Hall of Fame numbers himself.

Raymond compiled a 300-119-3 record in 36 years, a mark that placed him 10th on the all-time college coaching win list along with such famous names as Eddie Robinson, Bear Bryant, and Joe Paterno.

Raymond picked up his 300th career victory, becoming just the ninth coach in college football history to reach the mark and only the fourth to earn all the wins at one school, when his Blue Hens defeated Richmond 10-6 in his final game at Delaware Stadium Nov. 10, 2001.

Raymond gave Delaware's program a national reputation for excellence. Only four of his teams had losing seasons, and only 13 won less than eight games.

His teams were wire service national champions in 1971 and 1972, the latter an undefeated 10-0 unit, four Boardwalk Bowl wins in four tries, 14 Lambert Cups, three Middle Atlantic Conference titles, six Yankee Conference/Atlantic 10 titles, and 16 NCAA playoff appearances.

His 1979 group finished the season as national champions by downing Youngstown State 38-21. A 13-1 record made them the nation's winningest team — on any level.

All those accomplishments also earned Raymond his special place in the College Football of Fame.

Many of Raymond's players attracted the interest of NFL scouts, including 2001 senior spread end Jamin Elliott who was drafted in the sixth round by the Chicago Bears in the April 2002 draft.

Keeler has continued that tradition, leading the Hens to a 56-34 record over his seven seasons at the helm. He too has had the chance to coach some outstanding players, including four All-Americans in 2003 in quarterback Andy Hall, defensive end Shawn Johnson, offensive guard Jason Nerys, and running back Germaine Bennett.

In 2004 Keeler coached All-Americans Sidney Haugabrook, Chris Mooney, and Tom Parks. Haugabrook earned a free agent tryout with the Tennessee Titans, while Mooney earned a tryout with the New York Giants and Mondoe Davis earned a tryout with the New York Jets.

Hall (Philadelphia) and Johnson (Oakland) were both selected in the sixth round of the 2004 NFL Draft while Nerys (New York Jets) and safety Mike Adams (San Francisco) earned free agent tryouts. Adams, now in his seventh season in the NFL, currently is a member of the Cleveland Browns.

Delaware players having the most success in the pro ranks have been Conway Hayman (former Houston Oilers offensive lineman), Dennis Johnson (former linebacker with the Washington Redskins), Ivory Sully (former Los Angeles Rams and Tampa Bay Buccaneer safety), and quarterbacks Jeff Kamlo (former seven-year NFL veteran), Scott Brunner (former four-year part-time starter for the New York Giants), and All-Pro Rich Gannon, a fourth round draft

pick who played 16 seasons with the Minnesota Vikings, Washington Redskins, Kansas City Chiefs, and Oakland Raiders.

Gannon was one of the nation's most recognized athletes, having been named the National Football League's Most Valuable Player following the 2002 season in which he led the Raiders to the AFC title and a berth in the Super Bowl.

Gannon also led Oakland to the 2000 AFC title game was named MVP of the Pro Bowl in Hawaii twice.

Most recently, Joe Flacco was a first round draft pick by the Baltimore Ravens in the 2008 NFL Draft, and has led the Ravens to the playoffs in each of his first two seasons.

Along with the successes on the field, success in the classroom has been a hallmark of University of Delaware football. Close to 90 percent of Delaware's football letterwinners have gotten their degrees.

A special tradition — of degrees and victories, of academics and athletics — that is the story of Blue Hen football.

The following pages provide a time-line view of Delaware football's first 114 seasons. The events and quotes used are excerpts from two books by Elbert Chance, "100 Years of Delaware Football", published in 1989, and "100 Plus: The Story of Delaware Football", which was published in the fall of 2002.

1883 — "Our students have already received challenges to play football and baseball. Let some of our energetic fellows stir the students up to action, organize a football team and a baseball nine. We have the material here, if we can only get it into proper shape. The Review will be happy to record any and every victory our students may gain." — 1883 Review article.

1889 — Delaware College fielded its first team and at Front and Union Street the Delaware Field Club took on the "boys of Delaware College" on October 26th. Reported *The Morning News* two days later: "All things considered, they (the Delaware college boys) made a good showing, and their team is composed of some good material." The score: Delaware Field Club 74, Delaware College 0.

1914 — The 1914 Delaware College team posted the best record in the first 52 years, 7-1-1, losing only to Lafayette.

1929 — The 1929 team capped a decade of futility with an 0-7-1 record that included only 24 points scored during the entire season. Included on the team was a letterman named J. Caleb Boggs, a future Congressman, Governor and U.S. Senator.

1931 — The 1931 team was undoubtedly the best Delaware had fielded to that time. It defeated Susquehanna, Richmond, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania Military College and Haverford, tied St. Joseph's and Rutgers, and lost only to Navy 12-7. It surrendered only 25 points during the season and was named co-champion, with Drexel, of the Class "B" Eastern Championship, the 1930's equivalent of today's Lambert Cup.

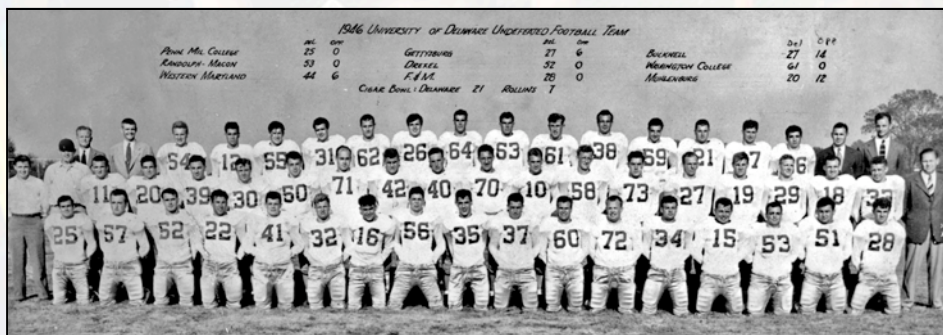
1940 — The Board of Trustees disclosed on June 1 that William D. Murray, former All-Southern halfback at Duke, had been appointed Director of Athletics and head football coach. It was reported that Murray was changing the team's style of play by installing a modified Warner system with a double wing formation operating behind an unbalanced line. The team lost its first three games without scoring a point, but the appearances were deceiving.

1941 — At the end of the 1941 season Delaware received its first invitation to play a post-season game. The Winston-Salem, NC Junior Chamber of Commerce invited the Blue Hens to meet Catawba College in the town's Bowman Gray Memorial Stadium on November 29, 1941 for a guarantee of \$1,500. Proceeds were to go to the Red Shields Club of underprivileged children as sponsored by the Salvation Army. Coach Murray declined, stating in his reply: "I'm afraid that there will be so much opposition here to a post-season game that they will not allow us to make this trip."

1943 — Shortly after the season it was announced by Undersecretary of War Robert Patterson that Army trainees would not be allowed to participate in intercollegiate athletics. Delaware College had only 100 male civilians left, none with varsity experience. The Hens would not field a varsity football team until 1946.

1946 — Football returned to the Delaware campus in a big way. It was not long before the eyes of the nation were on the Hens and their long unbeaten streak. Time referred to Delaware as the "Little Champ" and Newsweek marveled at the exploits of the "Big Blue Hens." Fifty-seven squad members played in 1946 and 21 scored at least one touchdown. The team amassed 358 points in 10 games while holding opponents to 45, and was ranked 16th in the nation in the final Associated Press major college poll.

1946 — The Delaware-Muhlenberg game was billed as the "Battle of the Little Giants", as the game to decide the nation's small college national championship. Paul Hart scored two first half touchdowns and the Hens led 13-0. Muhlenberg's Jack Crider



With a roster filled with war heroes and future doctors, lawyers, and business leaders, the 1946 University of Delaware football team won the school's first "national championship" as the top small college team in the nation under coach Bill Murray. The team was ranked No. 16 in the Associated Press major college poll at the end of the season.

COLLEGIATE COACHING 300-WIN CLUB

Coch (Last School)	Overall Record (Yrs.)
1. #John Gagliardi (St. John's, Minn.)	478-129-11 (62)
2. Eddie Robinson (Grambling)	408-165-15 (55)
3. #Joe Paterno (Penn State)	401-135-3 (45)
4. Bobby Bowden (Florida State)	377-129-4 (44)
5. Amos Alonzo Stagg (Pacific)	329-190-35 (57)
6. Bear Bryant (Alabama)	323-85-17 (38)
7. Pop Warner (Temple)	308-106-32 (44)
8. Roy Kidd (Eastern Kentucky)	314-124-8 (39)
9. #Larry Kehres (Mount Union)	303-23-3 (25)
10. Frosty Westering (Pacific Lutheran)	302-96-7 (39)
11. Tubby Raymond (Delaware)	300-119-3 (36)

- #Active coaches

TUBBY'S MILESTONE VICTORIES

1st Win: 35-13 over Hofstra, 9/24/66
50th: 31-14 over West Chester, 10/21/72
85th (UD Record): 18-16 over Temple, 10/2/76
100th: 26-0 over North Carolina A&T, 10/14/78
150th: 30-13 over Wm. & Mary, 9/17/83
200th: 19-15 over Villanova, 10/13/90
250th: 38-17 over Hofstra, 11/25/95
300th: 10-6 over Richmond, 11/10/02

scored in the third and Harold Bell passed to halfback Ed Sikorski for a fourth quarter score, but Delaware guard Gene Carrell blocked both conversion tries. Delaware's Mariano "Nine" Stalloni bullied in for the clincher for a 20-12 win. Delaware was national champions for the first time.

1951 — When Dave Nelson arrived at Delaware in 1951 he did not find ideal circumstances. Incoming coaches seldom do. What he found were the remnants of a 2-5-1 team, no campus stadium, and untested freshmen and sophomores. To compound his problem, his opening game was against Lehigh, a team Delaware had never beaten. Typically, Nelson's team pulled a 7-0 upset.

1952 — The Blue Hens played their first season on campus at Delaware Stadium, opening with a 13-12 victory over Lafayette. Kenny Reith scored twice for the Blue Hens.

1953 — Signs of Delaware's progress became readily apparent in 1953 when the Hens won their first ever game against UConn and tamed New Hampshire 48-0, which prompted a UNH lineman to mutter about the Delaware Wing-T's misdirection, "You guys don't play football like we do."

1959 — Under Nelson's guidance, the Hens (8-1) won their first Middle Atlantic title and first Lambert Cup, awarded annually to the East's best small college team. The Hens lost only to powerful Bowling Green of the Mid-American Conference.

1963 — What Delaware opponents feared most was the sight of All-American halfback Mike Brown in the open field. Once he saw daylight, the fleet-footed Brown was never caught from behind. With running backs Joe Slobojan, John Wallace, Clint Ware, and Chuck Spangler, and crafty quarterback Chuck Zolak, they formed an unbeatable combination. The 1963 squad (8-0) was Nelson's only undefeated team, winning the UPI small college national title.

DELAWARE FOOTBALL: A WINNING TRADITION

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

1946, 1963, 1971, 1972, 1979, 2003

NATIONAL FOOTBALL RUNNERS-UP

1974, 1978, 1982, 2007, 2010

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS

1973, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1986, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2010

LAMBERT CUP (Eastern Champions)

1959, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1979, 1982, 1991, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2007, 2010

ECAC "TEAM OF THE YEAR"

1974, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1992, 1995, 2000, 2003, 2007, 2010

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

1932 (Eastern Class B), 1959, 1962, 1963, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1986, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1995, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2010

THE BOARDWALK BOWL

1968, 1969, 1970, 1971

THE REFRIGERATOR BOWL - 1954

THE CIGAR BOWL - 1946

1965 — The year 1965 is remembered as the end of Dave Nelson's career as football coach and the elevation of assistant Harold R. "Tubby" Raymond. The change had nothing to do with unsatisfactory performance. It had instead to do with attempts to lure Raymond, a coach whose genius as a tactician had already been recognized by his coaching colleagues. An offer from the Connecticut triggered the change in command. Said Delaware president John A. Perkins, "Harold Raymond has had several opportunities to become head coach at other universities. We have every confidence that he will continue the high standards of performance and good sportsmanship for which Delaware teams are justly known."

1968 — In the final regular season game of the year, the Hens clinched their sixth Middle Atlantic Conference title with a 38-12 win against Bucknell. Chuck Hall broke the game open with a 66-yard scoring run and Tom DiMuzio scored on a 20-yard run. The regular season was but a prelude to one of the great come-from-behind victories in Blue Hen football, the first Boardwalk Bowl, a game which *Wilmington News Journal* Sports Editor Al Cartwright gave aid and comfort to the enemy by describing the game as "the Cakewalk Bowl!" since Delaware's opponent was little known Indiana (PA). Indiana's Bob Tate kicked a 32-yard field goal to put the Indians in front 24-23 with 1:00 left. In a hurry up offense, DiMuzio moved his squad to the nine-yard line, then found sure-handed Ron Withelder for the game-winning tally, and a 31-24 win.

1969-70 — The Blue Hens moved on to two more Boardwalk Bowl victories, completing a 9-2 season with a 31-13 win over North Carolina Central. The win capped a season that saw the Hens, once gain paced by the passing of Tom DiMuzio and

running of Chuck Hall, win the Middle Atlantic Conference title and yet another Lambert Cup title. The Hens repeated the act in 1970, going 9-2 and winning the Lambert Cup trophy with Jim Colbert calling the signals and Hall continuing his dominance on the ground. The Hens closed the season with a 38-23 win over Morgan State in the Boardwalk Bowl.

1971 — Delaware (10-1) won its third national championship, losing only to Temple, 32-27. The Hens ranked first in College Division statistics in total offense (515.6 yards per game), first in rushing (371.2); second in scoring (42.2 ppg); and seventh in rushing defense (57.9 yards allowed pg), Delaware made its final Boardwalk Bowl appearance, crushing highly touted C.W. Post and their star QB Gary Wichard, 72-22.

1972 — It was the culmination of the previous four seasons. The team was undefeated (10-0), and repeated as College Division National Champion in the eyes of both the AP and UPI. At the close of the season, team captain Dennis Johnson issued a statement to the press indicating that, by unanimous vote, the team had decided not to play again in the Boardwalk Bowl. The team felt there was no Eastern opponent worth playing, and NCAA rules prohibited meeting the top teams from other regions. There is little doubt that the Hens' widely publicized decision led to the revised NCAA playoff format in 1973.

1973 — Delaware made its first NCAA Division II playoff appearance, bowing to Grambling 17-8. The Tigers were no match for the Hens, and four members of their team went on to start in the NFL.

1974 — The 12-2 Hens were national college division runner-ups. In regular season play the Hens lost only to Temple, a 21-17 thriller at Veteran's Stadium. Notable wins included a rousing comeback win over the braggarts of the bayou, McNeese State, 29-24; a 49-7 pounding of Villanova, and a post-season 49-11 Wing-T clinic win over UNLV in the NCAA semifinals. Injuries took their toll, however, and the Hens bowed to Central Michigan

54-14 in the title game, a bitter disappointment for one of Delaware's great teams.

1977 — ABC-TV offered Delaware \$250,000 to move the season-ending game with undefeated Division I Colgate to Veterans Stadium for a 4 p.m. nationally televised game. Delaware Athletic Director Dave Nelson said no, a response that infuriated Colgate and shocked ABC. It left 23,019 Delaware fans delirious as the Hens upended the Red Raiders 21-3, ending their hopes of bowl bids and putting a satisfying end on what was a disappointing 6-3-1 season.

1978 — The big wins were over Villanova 23-22, and Colgate 38-29, but it was a 41-0 NCAA semifinal playoff win over Winston-Salem State that was the most satisfying. They had been excessively vocal about what they would do to Delaware. What they did was lose before a regional ABC-TV audience by the most lopsided score in the history of the Division II playoffs, despite the play of future Dallas Cowboy RB Timmy Newsome. But, the next week, the Hens fell in the title game to Eastern Illinois 10-9 in the rain in Longview, Tex.

1979 — What had been denied the Hens in 1978 was won in brilliant fashion in 1979 with Scott Brunner in control. Aside from a loss to Garden State Bowl bound and No. 17 Temple, the Hens were invincible, featuring a potent backfield with HB "Disco" Lou Mariani and Gino Olivieri, and FB Bo Dennis battering the opposition while Brunner passed for 2,401 yards and 24 TDs to the likes of Jay Hooks and Jaime Young, Delaware's rivals experienced some long afternoons.

1979 — It may rank as the most celebrated game in Delaware history. It is simply known as "The Shootout." The Hens, who trailed Youngstown State 31-7 at halftime, roared out of the locker room to score 44 second half points to win 51-45 after the Youngstown public address announcer had said "Let's Hang The Chicken!" Both teams received invitations to the Division II playoffs and four weeks later Delaware (13-1) again



came-from-behind to defeat the Penguins 38-21 for the Division II national title.

1982 — The 1982 team was one of Delaware's finest ever. Although shutout by Temple, Delaware held the Owls to a single touchdown and later scored big victories over Colgate (20-13) and Louisiana Tech (17-0) in the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs before losing by a field goal to old nemesis Eastern Kentucky, 17-14, in the title game.

1983 — On May 19, 1983, then UD President Dr. E.A. Trabant announced that Delaware was joining the Yankee Conference effective in 1986, citing the Blue Hens' long association with many of the member institutions and the compatibility of their athletic philosophies.

1984 — The University of Delaware Board of Trustees announced a change in the policy governing financial aid to athletes from a need-based to an athletic scholarship program in the sports of football, men's and women's basketball, and field hockey. In 1986 the football program's tuition scholarships were increased from 64 to the full NCAA allowance of 70.

1986 — The "Rich Gannon" era of Delaware football (1984-86), came to an end as Delaware won a share of the Yankee Conference in its first season of eligibility. The Hens defeated William & Mary 51-18 in the NCAA playoffs before falling to high powered Arkansas State in the quarterfinals, 55-14. Gannon finished his career with over 20 Blue Hen records including total offense marks for a season (3,332) and a career (7,436).

1988 — On May 19, 1988, Delaware ended a 34-year ban on the participation of freshmen in football, citing the fact that membership in the Yankee Conference decreed that "we should conduct our program in full compliance with the conference's rules of operation. As the other members of the league do allow freshman participation at a varsity level, we feel

it appropriate to do so at Delaware." DT Rob Daddio became the first true freshman to play varsity football since 1954.

1988 — Delaware (7-5) won its second Yankee title, including a 38-20 upset at No. 4 New Hampshire, a come-from-behind last second 38-35 win over William & Mary, and the 13th consecutive win over UMass, coming on a late Don O'Brien field goal and a Mike Renna fumble recovery at the Delaware one with 1:05 left to play. The Hens fell to eventual national champion Furman 21-7 in the I-AA playoff's first round.

1989 — Delaware celebrated its 100th football anniversary in style in a season full of special celebrations. The Hens posted a 7-4 record, including a 35-28 win over No. 4 ranked Maine on Homecoming/Centennial Day, and a thrilling 10-9 last minute win over Navy in the season finale.

1990 — Despite a 6-5 record, 1990 marked a year of milestones for head coach Tubby Raymond. In addition to coaching his 25th season at Delaware, Raymond picked up career win No. 200 in a 19-15 victory at Villanova. Raymond became just the 21st college coach to reach that mark.

1991 — Delaware Stadium welcomed night football as the Hens opened the season Aug. 31 with a 28-0 win over West Chester in the Texaco Star Classic, the first night "home" game for the Hens since Oct. 25, 1952 at the old Wilmington Blue Rock Stadium. The Hens (10-2) put together one of the finest seasons in history, falling 42-35 in a double overtime loss to James Madison in the first round of the I-AA playoffs. The No. 6 Hens shared the Yankee title with Villanova and New Hampshire and won their first Lambert Cup title since 1982.

1992 — The Hens made another exciting run towards the national title but came up just short, falling to eventual champion Marshall 28-7 in the NCAA I-AA semifinals. The Hens (11-3) won their first outright Yankee title (7-1) and were named the ECAC Team of the Year. The Hens moved through the NCAA playoffs, rolling over Samford 56-21 and trouncing No. 1 ranked Northeast Louisiana 41-18 in Monroe, LA. Led by four-year starting quarterback Bill Vergantino, who set 24 school records, the Blue Hens advanced to the I-AA semifinal but were sidetracked when Vergantino was forced to miss the second half due to a virus after a 7-7 halftime deadlock.

1993 — If there were ever a roller coaster season, it was 1993. A high-powered Blue Hen offense combined with a suspect Delaware defense made for some exciting, if not heart-stopping, contests. Last minute wins and losses were the norm. The Hens pulled out a miracle 28-23 win over Northeastern in the regular season finale when the Huskies fumbled the ball away on the UD one-yard line in the closing seconds. Still, the Hens were invited to the I-AA playoffs for the third straight year. The Hens opened with a wild 49-48 win over No. 2 seed Montana, downing the Grizzlies in freezing conditions in Missoula when freshman quarterback Leo Hamlett came off the bench hit Keita Malloy on a 32-yard scoring pass with 55 seconds left. The game featured nine lead changes. The season would end though the following week as the Hens ended their season for the second straight year in Huntington, WV. Delaware lost to host Marshall 34-31 when the Thundering Herd kicked a field goal with three seconds left. The Marshall win overshadowed a valiant effort by UD quarterback Dale Fry who came back from a mid-season injury to rally the Hens from a 31-17 deficit.

BLUE HEN HELMET DESIGN

The University of Delaware helmet design is familiar to fans nationally, and the Blue Hens' pride in wearing it reflects their strong connection to the history of the game of college football.

Commonly known as the "Michigan helmet", the Blue and Gold headgear dates not to Ann Arbor but to Princeton in the early 1930's.

During football games at that time, both schools generally wore the same colored uniforms along with leather helmets.

Princeton was coached by Fritz Crisler who used a helmet with a wing pattern on it that was manufactured by the MacGregor-Goldsmith Co. To enable his quarterback to distinguish downfield receivers, Crisler had the leather dyed in Princeton's black and orange colors.

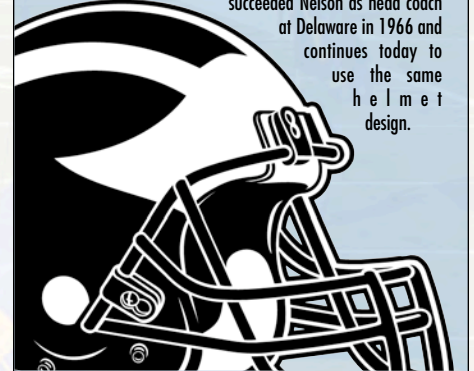
When Crisler moved to Michigan in 1938, he used the same helmet but changed the color scheme to Michigan's Maize and Blue.

Crisler had on his team a young man named Dave Nelson who used the same helmet when he became coach at Hillsdale College in Michigan, changing the color pattern to Blue and White.

Nelson then brought the helmet with him to Harvard (in black and crimson) and later to Maine (in blue and white) in 1949.

Nelson arrived in Newark in 1951 and once again with him came the helmet to which he adapted the Blue Hens' blue and gold colors. By 1964, leather helmets were replaced by fiberglass and plastic helmets.

Fellow Michigan graduate Tubby Raymond succeeded Nelson as head coach at Delaware in 1966 and continues today to use the same helmet design.



1994 — After a 2-3 start the left the Blue Hens out of the national polls for the first time since the 1991 pre-season poll, the Blue Hens made a late run and finished 7-3-1. All-American fullback Daryl Brown became the Yankee Conference's all-time leading rusher and Delaware's first 4,000-yard gainer.

1995 — The Blue Hens' absence from the I-AA playoffs was a brief one as Delaware returned in force and posted an 11-2 record, capped an undefeated 8-0 Yankee Conference mark, won the Lambert Cup and ECAC Team of the Year Awards, and advanced to the I-AA quarterfinals before losing to top-ranked McNeese State in unfriendly territory in Lake Charles, LA. Led by ECAC and Yankee Conference Player of the Year in QB Leo Hamlett and a revived defense, the Hens rolled to a 9-0 mark before falling to I-A Navy. Among the wins was an easy victory over defending national champion Youngstown State. The Hens "avenged" a 41-41 tie with Hofstra in 1994 by downing the Dutchmen 38-17 in the opening round of the I-AA playoffs at Delaware Stadium. It was then back to Bayou Country where the Hens never got it going, giving up six turnovers and allowing two kickoff returns for touchdowns to fall to McNeese 52-18.



All-American quarterback Scott Brunner led the Blue Hens to their first national championship on the field when Delaware captured the 1979 NCAA Division II title game over rival Youngstown State. He was inducted into the NCAA Division II Football Hall of Fame in 2002.

1996 — The Hens qualified for the NCAA I-AA playoffs for the fifth time in six years but ran into a buzzsaw in their tournament opener, falling to No. 1 ranked and eventual undefeated national champion Marshall by a 59-14 score. The Hens barely squeezed into the playoffs, earning an at-large bid and a No. 15 seed. Delaware's offense seemed to never get untracked as the Blue Hens averaged just 146.1 yards rushing per game, the lowest in Raymond's tenure as head coach. It was the Delaware defense that provided much of the excitement. Led by All-Americans Kenny Bailey at safety and Brian Smith at linebacker, the Hens allowed just 360.4 yards per game and intercepted 24 passes, returning them for a I-AA record 506 yards and three touchdowns.

1997 — This was almost the year that the Hens went "all the way." If not for a last second field goal by McNeese State's Shonz LaFrenz in the NCAA I-AA semifinals at Delaware Stadium, Delaware might have been looking at its first ever I-AA title. But it wasn't to be. The Hens, who overcame the early season loss of standout kick returner/spread end Eddie Conti and safety Dale Koscielski to knee injuries, enjoyed a brilliant season, winning 11 straight games following an early season loss to a Villanova team that spent much of the season ranked No. 1 in the nation. Delaware finished the regular season with a 10-1 mark and posted two hard-fought playoff wins at Delaware Stadium over Hofstra (24-14) and Georgia Southern (16-7) to set up a rematch with McNeese State. The Hens came within inches of advancing to the title game for the first time since 1982 as the Cowboys converted a key fourth down at midfield in the final minute to set up LaFrenz's winning 31-yard field goal for a 23-21 victory. The Hens' attack was paced by record-setting SE Courtney Batts and All-Americans Brian Smith (LB) and Dorrell Green (SS).

1998 — Although the Blue Hens (7-4) missed out on the post-season for just the third time in the 1990's, the 1998 season certainly did not lack for excitement. That excitement came from spread end extraordinaire Eddie Conti. The 5-9 speedster rewrote the record books, breaking 43 school, Atlantic 10, and NCAA I-AA receiving and kick return records and led the nation in receiving with 91 catches for 1,712 yards (breaking I-AA record held by current NFL star Jerry Rice) and 10 touchdowns. Conti earned consensus first team All-American honors and joined teammate, center Brian Cook, in the Blue-Gray All-Star Game on Christmas Day. QB Matt Nagy took over the full-time job early in the season when Brian Ginn broke his leg vs. West Chester and enjoyed some great numbers, throwing for a school-record 2,916 yards and earning a passing rating of 157.4, the second best mark in the nation. Among the Hen highlights was a 59-17 win over then No.



Eddie Conti enjoyed one of the finest seasons in school history in 1998. A consensus first team All-American, Conti set 43 school, Atlantic 10, and NCAA I-AA records. His 1,712 receiving yards led all I-AA receivers and broke NFL star Jerry Rice's record set in 1984 at Mississippi Valley State (Photo by Archie Malecki)

5 ranked Connecticut in Storrs, CT. Nagy threw for 556 yards and Conti caught 15 passes for 345 yards.

1999 — In a season filled with a myriad of injuries and near-misses, the Blue Hens posted a 7-4 record and just missed out on an NCAA I-AA playoff berth for the second straight year. Various injuries forced 41 different players into starting roles and only one player (DT Mike Pinckney) started every game on defense. Among the near misses were a 42-35 loss at home to No. 9 ranked Lehigh, a 26-19 loss to defending national champion Massachusetts, and a bitter season-ending 51-45 overtime loss to arch-rival Villanova in a game the Hens had led 45-24 with nine minutes left in regulation. Highlights were thrilling overtime wins over William & Mary (34-27 in the season opener under the lights at Delaware Stadium) and 37-34 at Northeastern. Senior OT Jim Stull, a former walk-on, earned All-American honors. In addition, the Hens set a Delaware Stadium record with an average attendance of 20,371 per game.

2000 — The Blue Hens (12-2) started off a new century in style, thrilling fans with a big-time passing game and a stingy defense on the way to the Atlantic 10 title, the Lambert Cup and ECAC Team of the Year awards, and above all, the national semifinals. The team was certainly one of the finest in Delaware history, filled with a group of talented veterans whose goal was to return to the NCAA tournament after consecutive 7-4 seasons that kept them out of the post-season party. The Hens, whose only regular season loss was a 45-44 overtime heartbreaker to New Hampshire in November, were determined to become the first UD team to advance to the national title game since 1982. And the prospects looked good for Delaware after decisive home victories of 49-14 over Portland State and 47-22 over local rival Lehigh in the first two rounds. Those wins gave Delaware the chance to host defending national champion Georgia Southern, a young but talented team that featured Walter Payton Award winning HB Adrian Peterson. Despite Peterson's 198 yards, the UD defense held the potent Eagle running attack in check for most of the day, but it was missed opportunities that spelled doom for the Hens in

BLUE HENS IN THE FINAL NATIONAL RANKINGS

- 1946 — 16th, Associated Press
- 1959 — 4th, United Press International
- 1962 — 9th, UPI
- 1963 — 1st, UPI; 2nd, AP
- 1969 — 10th, UPI; 10th, AP
- 1970 — 8th, UPI, 11th, AP
- 1971 — 1st UPI; 1st AP
- 1972 — 1st UPI; 1st AP
- 1973 — 3rd AP; 10th, UPI
- 1974 — 3rd, UPI; 4th, AP
- 1976 — 4th AP; 4th NCAA
- 1978 — 3rd, NCAA
- 1979 — 1st, NCAA
- 1980 — 6th, NCAA
- 1981 — 7th, NCAA
- 1982 — 3rd, NCAA
- 1984 — 19th, NCAA
- 1986 — 13th, NCAA
- 1988 — 15th, NCAA
- 1991 — 6th, NCAA
- 1992 — 8th, NCAA
- 1993 — 18th, The Sports Network
- 1995 — 6th, TSN
- 1996 — 10th, TSN
- 1997 — 3rd, TSN; 3rd, USA Today/ESPN
- 1998 — 23rd, TSN; 24th, USA Today/ESPN
- 2000 — 3rd, TSN; 3rd, USA Today/ESPN
- 2003 — 1st, TSN; 1st, USA Today/ESPN
- 2004 — 7th, TSN; 8th, USA Today/ESPN
- 2007 — 2nd, TSN; 2nd, AFCA; 2nd, CSN/AGS
- 2010 — 2nd, TSN; 2nd, AFCA/FCSS

Note: The Sports Network took over the I-AA poll in 1993. USA Today/ESPN Sportsticker began a poll in 1997. NCAA Committee Poll was the only poll from 1976-1992. UPI poll was conducted by coaches, AP by the media.

NCAA FCS FOOTBALL ALL-TIME WIN LEADERS

1. Yale	864-342-55	.707
2. Harvard	812-380-50	.674
3. Pennsylvania	813-458-42	.635
4. Princeton	785-378-50	.668
5. Fordham	748-450-53	.619
6. Delaware	651-415-44	.606
Dartmouth	651-432-46	.597
8. Lafayette	650-552-39	.539
9. Lehigh	639-566-45	.529
10. Cornell	620-474-34	.565

a 27-18 setback. The Hens could never take advantage of four Eagle fumbles and consistently good field position as Georgia Southern left Newark with a win and downed Montana the following week for their second straight national title. The Hens were a team loaded with stars with the likes of All-Americans Matt Nagy at quarterback, Jeff Fiss at center, Mike Cecere at defensive end, and co-captain Brian McKenna at linebacker. Nagy set 12 school season and career records during the campaign, firing away for 3,436 yards and 28 touchdowns. Fiss anchored an offensive line that helped the Hens rank second nationally in scoring at 41.4 points per game (2nd best all-time in UD history) while McKenna, the Atlantic 10 Defensive Player of the Year, and Cecere, the first four-time all-conference selection in school history, paced a rugged defense that posted three shutouts and held four other opponents to 14 points or less. Among the other highlights were a No. 2 national ranking in The Sports Network Top 20 poll; setting a regular season home attendance record (21,154) for the second straight year; establishing a modern day UD record for points in a game with an early season 84-0 drubbing of West Chester; and an emphatic 44-14 win over eventual national quarterfinalist and No. 4 ranked Hofstra as

versatile co-captain and team MVP Craig Cummings became the first player in UD history to pass for a touchdown, rush for a touchdown, and catch a touchdown pass in the same game.

2001 — Although the Blue Hens suffered their first losing season since 1987 with a 4-6 mark, the year was a memorable one as head coach Tubby Raymond earned his 300th career coaching victory with a late-season 10-6 triumph over Richmond at Delaware Stadium. The win placed Raymond among just nine coaches in the history of the sport to reach the monumental victory plateau. The game proved to be the last home game for Raymond as he announced his retirement in February, ending a Hall of Fame career that saw him lead the Blue Hens to national prominence on the small college level, and handing the reigns over to his former player, K.C. Keeler. Other highlights saw the emergence of quarterback Mike Connor, who became the first true freshman to play quarterback in a varsity game for the Blue Hens since Don Miller in 1951 when he led UD against William & Mary Oct. 20. In addition, senior spread end Jamin Elliott moved up among the all-time leading receivers in Atlantic 10 history and was drafted by the Chicago Bears in the sixth round of the NFL draft, becoming Delaware's first drafted player since 1987. Among the disappointments was a 20-7 loss to Northeastern Sept. 29 in a game that saw the Blue Hens gain just 56 total yards, the lowest total in Raymond's tenure at Delaware. The season was also marred by the tragedies of Sept. 11 that rocked the United States and forced the cancellation of most every sporting event in the country, including the Blue Hen football team's Sept. 15 game vs. West Chester. It was the first time that a UD football game was cancelled since the Blue Hens moved into Delaware Stadium in 1952.

2002 — The start of the K.C. Keeler Era of University of Delaware football certainly got off to an exciting start. With Tubby Raymond literally passing the ball to Keeler in a pre-game ceremony in which the Delaware Stadium field was named in the Hall of Fame coach's honor, the 2002 season started with a bang with the Hens knocking off No. 5 ranked and eventual national semifinalist Georgia Southern 22-19 before a crowd of 19,056. However, the young Blue Hen team could not sustain the momentum and finished with a 6-6 mark. But it was a season of tough losses and close calls for a team led by All-American linebacker Dan Mulhern. In addition to the win over Georgia Southern, the Hens also posted one-sided wins over Atlantic 10 co-champions Northeastern (27-10) and Maine (37-13). But the Hens also dropped an overtime decision to last place Rhode Island and lost their six games by a combined total of just 26 points, including five of them by four points or less. Never were the close losses tougher than the season finale when rival Villanova, led by Atlantic 10 Player of the Year QB Brett Gordon, marched 74 yards on 11 plays to score the game-winning touchdown on a seven-yard pass with just 15 seconds remaining for a 38-34 Wildcat victory. The 2002 season also marked the retirement of a Delaware football icon for the second straight year. Elbert Chance, who missed just a handful of games in his 49-year tenure as the unmistakable voice as public address announcer at Delaware Stadium, announced his retirement.

2003 — Delaware's first I-AA National Championship came in a near perfect season as the Blue Hens went 15-1 on their way to their first national title in 24 years. Although the regular season was not without its thrillers — the Blue Hens beating bowl-bound Navy in Annapolis, sparked by a first down run by Sean Bleiler on a fake punt deep in Delaware territory; a furious fourth

quarter rally sparked by Sidney Haugabrook's punt return for a touchdown in the closing seconds of the third quarter to beat Maine in overtime; a triple-overtime win over Massachusetts on Senior Day to prevent the Minutemen from clinching the Atlantic 10 title outright; a courageous effort by Andy Hall, leading Delaware to a win over rival Villanova on the final day of the regular season after separating his shoulder midway through the first quarter. The playoffs, however, Delaware made look easy — disposing of Southern Illinois with a 27-point first quarter, blistering Northern Iowa after eight inches of snow fell on Delaware Stadium the morning of the game, shutting down a potent Wofford option attack in the semifinals to cap a perfect 10-0 mark at home, and holding Colgate's Walter Payton Award winner Jamaal Branch to 55 yards rushing in a 40-0 thumping of the Big Red in the national title game in front of a national ESPN audience. It was the eighth time all season that Delaware had scored 40 or more points in a game. Hall, who finished third in the Walter Payton Award voting, set records for completions in a game and season, while also thrilling Blue Hen fans with his ability to run, becoming just the fourth quarterback at UD to rush for 1,000 career yards and throw for 2,000 career yards — amassing those totals in just two seasons. Hall was joined by Shawn Johnson, Jason Nerys and Germaine Bennett on All-American squads.

2004 — Although the 2004 University of Delaware football season fell agonizingly short of a second straight NCAA I-AA national championship, another chapter of success was added to the rich legacy of Blue Hen football. Yet another Blue Hen campaign consisted of record-breaking individual performances, sellout crowds at Delaware Stadium, special plays, and a conference championship. Playing the second toughest schedule among all I-AA schools, K.C. Keeler's charges put together an impressive record of 9-4, advanced to the NCAA I-AA quarterfinals, and captured a second straight Atlantic 10 Conference title with a record of 7-1. Of the Hens' four losses, three were to 2004 I-AA playoff teams, including national champion James Madison, and one came at the hands of I-A bowl participant Navy. A stunning 44-38 overtime loss to Atlantic 10 foe William & Mary in the I-AA quarterfinals, a game in which the Hens led 31-10 at halftime, did nothing to diminish what was one of the finest seasons in school history. The Blue Hens proved all season that they could come back from adversity. After falling to New Hampshire in the season opener, Delaware bounced back with six straight wins to get back into the playoff hunt. After the Hens followed that streak with back to back losses to Navy and James Madison, Delaware once again showed its mettle, defeating Richmond on the road and rival Villanova at home to clinch a I-AA playoff berth. Facing pesky Patriot League champion Lafayette in the opening round, the Hens held on for a 28-14 victory over the Leopards, setting up the showdown with the Tribe in Williamsburg, VA. The 2004 season was loaded with individual accomplishments for the Blue Hens. Cornerback and kick returner Sidney Haugabrook earned a spot on several All-American teams and played in the prestigious East-West Shrine Game in San Francisco. A threat every time he touched the ball, Haugabrook ranked among the national leaders in both punt returns and kickoff returns and returned three kicks for touchdowns on the season. Chris Mooney and Tom Parks became one of the nation's top defensive line tandems as both earned All-American honors. Once again the vocal leader of the defensive unit was middle linebacker Mondoe Davis — a first team All-Atlantic 10 selection who led the squad with 123 total tackles. Led by quarterback Sonny Riccio, the Blue Hen offense scored 20 or more points in all

but one game. Riccio had several record-setting performances and finished the year throwing for 2,698 yards and 16 touchdowns. All-East tackle Trip DelCampo led a veteran offensive line, while third team All-Atlantic 10 selection David Boler caught 65 passes to lead a talented group of receivers.

2005 — While the emergence of Omar Cuff as one of the nation's top all-purpose runners excited Blue Hen coaches and fans alike, the 2005 campaign was a disappointing one in the fact that injuries ravaged the squad and kept Delaware (6-5) from making a third straight trip to the NCAA I-AA playoffs despite opening the year 3-0 and winning the final two games of the season over William & Mary and Villanova on the road. Cuff, who came to the forefront midway through the 2004 season, proved that the previous season was no fluke as he earned All-American honors and became the first player to lead the team in both rushing and receiving since 1985. He ran for 1,205 yards and caught 41 passes for 414 yards to rank among the national leaders and enjoyed one of the finest games ever for UD back when he ran for 236 yards and four touchdowns in a mid-season 34-28 win over defending NCAA I-AA national champion James Madison. But the injuries took their toll. The Blue Hens lost 13 players to season-ending injuries at some point during the season, including the loss of All-Atlantic 10 wide receiver David Boler to a knee injury before pre-season drills even started, the loss of co-captain Roger Brown to a sports hernia after the third game of the season, and that of wide receiver Joe Bleymaier to a spleen injury at mid-season. However, those injuries did give head coach K.C. Keeler the opportunity to see what some other players could do. And many responded well as a total of eight true freshmen saw game action — a school record — and 19 different players started one or more games. Among the emerging standouts who were thrust into first-year competition due to injuries and other circumstances were defensive end Matt Marcocelle, center Jon Herrman, safety Aaron Hicks, kicker Zach Hobby and punter Stuart Kenworthy. The season was a history-making one only for the fact that for the first time in Delaware Stadium history, a home game had to be moved due to unplayable field conditions. Opening the season with six home games in the first seven weeks and a rainy fall didn't help the cause and a heavy rainstorm Oct. 8 made the Tubby Raymond Field surface virtually unplayable in a 10-6 loss to Hofstra. The conditions of the field forced the following week's scheduled home game vs. Richmond to be moved south to Richmond, VA and natural turf was set down in order to play the Massachusetts game three weeks later. But like the injuries, good came of this too. A new \$900,000 surface was installed and irrigation systems improved during the spring, making the field good as new for the 2006 campaign.

2006 — After suffering a myriad of injuries for the second straight season, Delaware finished with a 5-6 mark, finishing under .500 for just the second time since 1988. After opening the season with a 30-7 win over West Chester and a surprising 17-10 setback to Albany, the Blue Hens scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns to defeat Rhode Island, 24-17, in their Atlantic 10 opener. After a pair of narrow defeats, including a 52-49 shootout loss to top-ranked New Hampshire, Delaware posted a 10-6 Homecoming win over Hofstra and then stunned No. 10 Richmond by a 28-24 score. Senior tight end Ben Patrick, playing his only season with the Blue Hens after transferring from Duke, was a consensus first team All-American and was picked in the seventh round of the NFL draft by the Arizona Cardinals. He led the team with 64 receptions and six touchdown catches and was joined on the All-Atlantic 10 team by running back Omar Cuff,

offensive lineman Mike Byrne, wide receiver Aaron Love, and kick returner Rashaad Woodard.

2007 — Following two sub-par seasons, Delaware football returned to national prominence in a big way, advancing all the way to the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision national title game before falling to three-time defending champion Appalachian State by a 49-21 score in Chattanooga, Tenn. The Blue Hens finished with an 11-4 mark and also earned the Lambert Cup Trophy and were named the ECAC Team of the Year for the first time since the 2003 national title season. The Colonial Athletic Association, of which the Blue Hens were members in almost every sport, took over governance of the football league that was previously run by the Atlantic 10. The CAA could not have been happier that they made the move as the league placed an NCAA record five teams in the playoffs with Delaware being joined by league co-champions Massachusetts and Richmond as well as New Hampshire and James Madison. The season was highlighted by the brilliant play of the Blue Hen offensive unit, which led the CAA in scoring, passing, and total offense behind the efforts of five All-Americans, including RB Omar Cuff, QB Joe Flacco, and OT Mike Byrne. Cuff capped a career that saw him set 28 school records by running for 1,945 yards and setting NCAA records with 35 rushing touchdowns and 39 total scores. QB Joe Flacco, who would go on to become Delaware's first-ever first round NFL Draft pick, was spectacular, throwing for 4,263 yards and 23 touchdowns to earn CAA and ECAC Player of the Year honors. The Blue Hens jumped out to a 5-0 record, including an impressive 49-31 win at William & Mary in the season opener as Cuff matched an NCAA record by scoring seven touchdowns while also rushing for 244 yards in the first-ever CAA contest. Wins over West Chester, Rhode Island, Towson, and Monmouth followed before a comeback fell short in a 35-30 loss at New Hampshire. Three straight wins followed, including a memorable, highlight-reel 59-52 win over NCAA FBS Bowl-bound Navy and a key 37-34 win over No. 12 James Madison. The Hens closed out the regular season with two straight losses, including a grueling five-overtime 62-56 epic setback at home to Richmond, but the team's body of work for the season earned Delaware the NCAA playoff berth. As usual, the "second season" took on a life of its own. The Blue Hens faced off against in-state rival Delaware

State in the historic first-ever meeting between the state's only NCAA Division I programs in the opening round. A media frenzy descended upon the matchup, but when it was all done, the Hens had picked up an easy 44-7 win before a national ESPN audience and a Delaware Stadium playoff record crowd of 19,765. Cuff led the way, setting a school single game record with 288 yards rushing. The Hens then hit the road and came away with two impressive comeback victories to earn a spot in the national championship game for the second time in five years. Delaware started off with a 39-27 win over top-ranked and previously undefeated Northern Iowa, overcoming a quick 10-0 deficit and the deafening roar of the indoor UNI Dome to post one of the most impressive wins in school history. The next week it was off to Illinois where the Hens once again fell behind 10-0 early on but recovered to knock off No. 3 seed Southern Illinois in the semifinals. That set up a meeting with Appalachian State in the title game as Delaware faced a Mountaineer team that not only was the two-time defending national champions, but had earlier made all the headlines when it knocked off Michigan in one of the biggest upsets in college football history. But the dream season ended there as Appalachian State, led by star QB Armanti Edwards, jumped out to a 28-7 lead at halftime and never looked back on the way to the win.

2008 — During a season in which the Blue Hens were decimated by injuries, Delaware went 4-8 and set a school record for losses in a season. After opening the year with a respectable 14-7 loss at ACC foe Maryland, the Blue Hens defeated West Chester, 48-20, in their home opener. Following a narrow two-point defeat at Furman, UD again evened its record with a 38-7 blowout of Albany. Following three consecutive losses the Blue Hens rebounded with a 17-0 shutout at Hofstra. Delaware's final victory of the season came during a 31-21 victory over Towson, as Junior Jabbari ran for two touchdowns. Despite the challenging season, wide receiver Aaron Love set a school record with 193 career receptions. Safety Charles Graves was named to the All-CAA First Team and was a second team Associated Press All-American. Center Kheon Hendricks was named honorable mention All-American, while defensive end Matt Marcocelle joined Hendricks on the All-CAA Second Team. Tight End Robbie Agnone was named to the all-conference third team for the Blue Hens.

2009 — Delaware bounced back from a disappointing 2008 season by finishing over .500 with a 6-5 mark in 2009. The Blue Hens opened the season with a 35-0 shutout of West Chester, and following a last-minute loss to top-ranked Richmond, Delaware rebounded with a 27-17 triumph over Delaware State in the first ever regular season meeting between the two schools. A loss at William & Mary knotted UD's record at 2-2, but the Hens then reeled off three consecutive victories, including an impressive 43-27 win over 12th ranked Massachusetts at Delaware Stadium on October 10. After splitting its next two games, Delaware hung tough in its final two contests but fell to Navy and eventual national champion Villanova. First-year quarterback Pat Devlin completed a school-record 42 passes against the Wildcats, while his 242.2 passing yards per game led the CAA. Senior free safety Charles Graves was named a first team AFCA and Walter Camp Foundation All-American, and was joined on the first team All-CAA by junior cornerback Anthony Walters, senior defensive lineman Brandon Gilbeaux, and senior wide receiver Mark Duncan. Junior cornerback Anthony Bratton and senior offensive lineman Corey Nicholson were second team all-conference selections, while junior punter Ed Wagner was named to the third team.

2010 — Following a two-year absence from the postseason, Delaware returned to the national scene by posting a 12-3 record and advancing to the NCAA FCS Championship game before a heartbreaking 20-19 loss to Eastern Washington. The Blue Hens went 12-3 on the year, earned a share of the CAA title, and was selected as the Lambert Cup Trophy winners as well as the ECAC Team of the Year. Senior QB Pat Devlin was one of five All-Americans on the squad, as he led the nation in completion percentage on his way to earning CAA and ECAC Offensive Player of the Year honors. RB Andrew Pierce burst onto the scene, as the freshman was named the CAA Offensive Rookie of the Year after setting UD freshman single season records for rushing yards and touchdowns. SS Anthony Bratton and CB Anthony Walters anchored an outstanding Blue Hen defense that led all of FCS by allowing just 12.1 points per game while ranking among the top 10 in numerous other categories. After UD won its first three home games by a cumulative score of 87-9, the Blue Hens began to show the promise of their stellar year by cruising to a 34-13 victory at then fifth-ranked Richmond. The following week Delaware posted another impressive road victory when Mike Perry drilled a game-winning field goal with three seconds remaining to give the Blue Hens a dramatic 13-10 triumph at No. 3 James Madison. Delaware returned home to defeat Maine and Rhode Island, and following a tough one-point loss at William & Mary, easily dispatched Towson and Massachusetts. An overtime defeat to Villanova forced the Blue Hens to share the conference crown, but Delaware still entered the FCS playoffs as the No. 3 seed. Following a first round bye, the Blue Hens began their postseason run by scoring 28 unanswered points to ease past Lehigh, 42-20, in the second round. UD led just 14-13 midway through the second quarter, but Devlin connected on touchdown strikes to Chris Campbell and Tommy Crosby to give the Blue Hens a cushion. David Hayes then scored a 16-yard scamper, while Devlin capped UD's scoring with a scoring strike to Nijah White. Following the offensive outburst it was the defense's turn to dominate in the quarterfinals, a 16-3 Friday night victory over New Hampshire played before a national television audience. The Blue Hen defense limited the Wildcats to just 237 yards and two third down conversions on the night, as a field goal late in the first quarter would be the only points UNH would muster. A Perry field goal sent the teams into the half tied at 3-3, before Devlin hit White on a 24-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter to put



Running back Omar Cuff (28) clearly established himself as one of the great ball-carriers in the history of Delaware football, earning All-American honors in both 2005 and 2007, leading the nation in scoring in 2007, and ending his career as the No. 2 leading ground gainer. (Photo by Mark Campbell).

Delaware in front for good. Mark Schenauer hauled in a another TD strike from Devlin early in the fourth, while Walters picked off a pass at the Blue Hens' 9-yard line with 5:47 to play to ice the victory. The UD defense was the deciding factor the following week as well, forcing four Georgia Southern turnovers in Delaware's 27-10 win that sent the Blue Hens to their second FCS National Championship Game appearance in four years. Devlin found Schenauer on a six-yard strike to open the scoring, and after the Eagles pulled within 10-3, Phillip Thaxton hauled in a 24-yard touchdown pass from Devlin to put the Blue Hens up by 14 points. Midway through the fourth quarter Georgia Southern scored its lone touchdown to again get within seven, but the Hens answered just a minute and a half later on a seven-yard touchdown run by Hayes to put the game away. Facing top seeded Eastern Washington in the final in Frisco, Tex., the Blue Hens dominated for most of the opening three quarters while opening up a 19-0 lead. Pierce opened the scoring with a two-yard touchdown run in the first quarter, while two Perry field goals in the second gave Delaware a 13-0 advantage at the break. Hayes scored from one yard out halfway through the third stanza as it appeared the Hens were well on their way to the title, but the Eagles began their comeback with a touchdown near the end of the third quarter. Bo Levi Mitchel then connected with Nicholas Edwards with 8:16 remaining, and then found Brandon Kaufman for an 11-yard strike with 2:47 left to put EWU in front. Delaware had one last chance, but Devlin's fourth down pass to Schenauer came up short of a first down at the EWU 39-yard line with 47 seconds remaining.

DELAWARE FOOTBALL POST-SEASON HISTORY

Entering the 2011 season, Delaware will be taking aim on the quest for its 25th year of post-season competition since 1968, a record that speaks for itself.

In those previous years, Blue Hen teams have appeared in four Boardwalk Bowls (winning all four) and participated in five NCAA Division II tournaments, posting an overall record of 7-4 with an NCAA title in 1979 and runner-up spots in 1974 and 1978.

Since the move to I-AA football in 1981 (now FCS), Delaware has qualified for the playoffs 15 times, posting an overall mark of 22-14, winning its first I-AA National Championship in 2003 and advancing to the championship game in 1982, 2007 and 2010.

Overall, the Blue Hens own an impressive all-time NCAA playoff mark of 33-18.

The following is a recap of Delaware's all-time post season appearances.

1946 • CIGAR BOWL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

It's necessary to go back to 1946 to find the first post-season appearance for a UD football team. After completing the season with a 10-0 slate, Coach Bill Murray's first post-war team accepted a bid to play Rollins (Fla.) in the first Cigar Bowl.

On New Year's Day in Tampa, Fla., Delaware dominated the Tars 21-7. The extended their unbeaten string to 31. Although it came in the post-season polls, the win gave Delaware its first ever small college national championship.

Delaware's game-breaker was fullback Paul Hart, who passed for the Hens' first and third TDs and scored the second



Halfback Jimmy Zaiser was the hero of the 1956 Refrigerator Bowl, scoring two fourth quarter touchdowns to lift the Blue Hens over Kent State.

himself on a three-yard run. "Big Paul" chalked up 118 of Delaware's 231-yard rushing total. He was used so much that he wore out jerseys three times, donning numbers 42, 50 and 34 in 80-degree heat.

Morning News Editor, Marty Levin, wrote, "...they (Delaware) played a bang-up game and simply overpowered the scrappy Rollins eleven with their enormous reserve strength."

The Hens went on to be ranked No. 16 in the entire country.

1954 • REFRIGERATOR BOWL

Almost eight years later it was Dave Nelson's 1954 team that went "bowling", this time to the Refrigerator Bowl in Evansville, Ind. Delaware (8-2), whose losses were two 14-13 losses to Gettysburg and Muhlenberg, was plagued by mistakes but came on to defeat Kent State 19-7.

"It was 35 and there was a freezing rain," reminisced Nelson of his only bowl game. "We flipped a coin to see who would sit on the warmer side of the field where there were stands, since one side was completely open. The loser got to dress in the locker room instead of a school up the road. As it turned out, we lost both because they carried their bench over to our warm side of the field. There were bails of hay stacked along the sidelines to keep us warm."

Kent State scored first, taking a seven point lead after capitalizing on All-American quarterback Don Miller's mishandling of a Kent State punt. Delaware scored with 25 seconds left in the first half on Robert Moneymaker's three-yard carry. But Jimmy Flynn missed the extra point.

It didn't look like Delaware's day when another drive was stopped by an interception at the Golden Flashes' two. But the fourth quarter became a blessing as two Jimmy Zaiser touchdown runs iced the cold contest.

1968 • BOARDWALK BOWL

It was 1968, Tubby Raymond's third year as head coach, when the Hens played in the first of four consecutive Boardwalk Bowls. And that particular affair on the Atlantic City Convention Hall sod was the only close one.

Unbeaten Indiana (Pa.) took a 9-0 mark against 7-3 Delaware. A 32-yard field goal gave the underdogs a 24-23 lead over Delaware with a minute to play. On the kickoff, Jim Lazarski returned the ball to the Hen 43 and All-America Quarterback Tom DiMuzio went to work.

Three passes set up a first down on the Indiana 11. DiMuzio found Ron Wittholder all alone for the score with :20 left and a 31-24 Delaware win.

1969-70-71 BOARDWALK BOWLS

The next three years, North Carolina Central (31-13), Morgan State (38-23) and C.W. Post (72-22) fell in the Jersey shore classic. Even the first time black jack gambler at Resorts International must have had better luck than C.W. Post did that day. The 72 points were the second most ever scored by a Raymond team and clinched his first of two straight National Championships.

NO TO BOARDWALK BOWL BID

Ironically enough, Delaware gained as much notoriety by NOT playing in the Boardwalk Bowl. In 1972, Tubby's troops finished 10-0 and were voted National Champions in the polls. The Boardwalk Bowl wanted a Delaware-UConn match-up, even though the Huskies had lost an earlier meeting 32-7. The Hen players, not wanting to risk their unbeaten season on a team they'd soundly beaten, voted the bid down.

"I've always given the team a say," said Raymond. "This is supposed to be an institution of enlightenment, where you have the opportunity to place decisions in the hands of students. It wasn't right to play for the Eastern Championship when we'd already won the National Championship. I got heat for it, but it was a very courageous bit of accepting responsibility."

A year later the NCAA introduced the eight-team Division II playoffs.

1973

NCAA DIVISION II TOURNAMENT

In the first NCAA College Division playoff game, Grambling proved to be too strong an opponent, holding the Hens to 85 total offensive yards in a 17-8 win. Of that game, Tubby Raymond is quick to point out that four members of that Grambling team were first round NFL draft picks the following winter, including Sammy White, the former Minnesota Vikings' All-Pro receiver.

1974

NCAA DIVISION II TOURNAMENT

One year later, the Hens went 10-1 and won their seventh straight Lambert Cup. Youngstown State was victimized in the quarterfinals 35-14 and UNLV fell a week later 49-11.

It was the win over UNLV, seen on nationwide television, that brought praising reviews of the Delaware Wing-T and has been called a classic.

"The occasion for all this wooing was a clinic on how to run the Wing-T," described Bill Lyon of the Philadelphia Inquirer. "The instruction was provided by the University of Delaware. The unwitting and frustrated defense was provided by UNLV, a team that had been 12-0. "Oh, this wasn't supposed to be a clinic. It was supposed to be the Grantland Rice Bowl. Well, Delaware taught Nevada a 49-11 object lesson, and there it was again, the quarterback handing off to the right halfback, who was handing off to fullback, who was..."

A week later the tables were dramatically turned by Central Michigan, leaving the Hens as NCAA runners-up to a 54-14 tune.

"It is conceivable that it was one of our best games," admitted Raymond of the 49-11 UNLV win, "but it was very costly. Six regulars didn't play in the final game and three replacements didn't even make the team the next year. They couldn't stay high for the long period (14 games) of time."

1976
NCAA DIVISION II TOURNAMENT

The 1976 playoff appearance completed one of Raymond's most rewarding seasons as coach. Nonetheless, the season ended on a bitter note.

A 17-7 Delaware lead in the NCAA quarterfinals against Northern Michigan turned into a 28-17 loss when the visitors turned a stunning illegal fake substitution into the go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter.

With only 10 players lined up on the field, Northern Michigan hid a receiver along the sidelines, shielded by teammates. On the snap he took off down the sidelines, the Hen defense unknowing, and caught a 35-yard touchdown pass.

"That was the first year of the escalated schedule," said Raymond, "and the kids responded well. We won games that, in reality, we had no business winning, beating William & Mary and Temple and tying Villanova. The kids really came on in what was supposed to be a rebuilding year."

Though Delaware's 1977 record of 6-3-1 wasn't quite enough for a playoff spot, the season-ending 21-3 upset of unbeaten Colgate provided an impetus to success. The Hens rode a wave of emotion and All-American QB Jeff Komlo's arm through pre-season and an 8-3 record in 1978.

1978
NCAA DIVISION II TOURNAMENT

In a Thanksgiving weekend quarterfinal game in Delaware Stadium, linebacker K.C. Keeler intercepted three Jacksonville (Ala.) State second half passes to turn a 27-27 tie into a 42-27 victory.

One week later, Delaware put on an encore performance of their 1974 Las Vegas win by stunning No. 1 ranked Winston-Salem 41-0. An ABC-TV audience saw Delaware's defense hold the unbeaten victors, who counted All-Pro Timmy Newsome, a future Dallas Cowboy, among their players, to just seven yards rushing, a small chunk of their 300-yard average.

But on a cold, wet afternoon in Longview, Tex., championship dreams were shattered. The roots of Eastern Illinois' 10-9 win could be found in five Hen turnovers, a missed extra point, and a stingy Eastern defense inside the 20-yard line. As the final seconds ticked off, Brandt Kennedy's 40-yard field goal sailed inches to the right.

1979
**NCAA DIVISION II TOURNAMENT
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**

The bitter cold memories of Texas were diminished in part in 1979 under the sunny skies of Albuquerque, NM, where Delaware (13-1), in its third try, won its elusive Division II national title by roaring back from a 21-7 deficit to defeat Youngstown 38-21.

Delaware finished its 1979 regular season schedule with an impressive 10-1 slate, the only blemish being a 31-14 loss to the nation's 17th ranked Division I team and eventual Garden State Bowl champion, Temple. The impressive performance earned Delaware the tourney's top seed and an opening round host assignment.

The guest was Virginia Union in a game billed as "the irresistible versus the immovable." Virginia Union's team defense against opponent scoring and opponent rushing was the best in Division II while Delaware was the nation's top ranked team in both scoring and total offense. The Hen offense proved the Virginia Union defense was indeed movable. Delaware rolled to a comfortable 58-28 quarterfinal win with 352 yards rushing as a team.

As Delaware had done in 1974 and 1978, the Hens saved their best game for semifinal competition, giving a "near perfect" performance in defeating Mississippi College 60-10 at home.

Of the 10 times Delaware touched the ball, nine times it crossed the goal line. The 12th Delaware win tied the school win record set in 1974 and sent Delaware to the title game for the third time in six years. The 60 points set an NCAA Tournament record.

Four weeks after rallying from a 31-7 halftime deficit to win the famed "Shoot-Out at Youngstown" by a 51-45 margin, Delaware and Youngstown squared off again in New Mexico Stadium, with the stakes being the NCAA title.

As was the case in the first meeting, Delaware quickly fell behind 21-7 before Scott Brunner hit Phil Nelson with a five-yard pass and Vince Hyland picked off a Keith Snoddy pass and returned it 61 yards for a 21-21 tie as the first half ended.

In the second half, an Al Minite-led defense shut down Snoddy's option and passing games. Though Penguin running back Robby Robson gained 127 yards, he could not survive the best day of Scott Brunner's Blue Hen career. Brunner tossed for 296 yards including a game winning 75-yard aerial to Jay Hooks

in the third quarter.

A 47-yard Kennedy field goal and a 34-yard Gino Olivieri run completed the scoring as Delaware finished the year at 13-1, the nation's winningest team at any level. The national title was the third of the decade for UD and the first on the field.

"I would have to say the total aspect of this team might well make it the best we have ever had," said Raymond in the Wilmington News Journal. "It's the approach where a group of players get together to say, 'Let's do it.' To me, that makes it far better and far stronger and far more talented than the sum of its parts.

"When you consider there are 138 Division II teams, no one else comes close to this achievement. I feel the championship game was more difficult than Ohio State going to the Rose Bowl. All Ohio State had to do was win the Big 10 championship. We had to win three playoff games."

1981
NCAA I-AA TOURNAMENT

In 1981 the Blue Hens continued that tradition of saying "Let's do it," but winning the final five games of the season to earn a berth in the Division I-AA tournament as an independent and the tourney's seventh seed.

They drew the unenviable task of facing Eastern Kentucky, the tourney's top seed and eventual national runner-up.

The game proved to be one marked primarily by offense as both teams were practically unstoppable when in control of the ball. In the end, however, the Colonels halted the Hens, who shanked a punt and with just one minute remaining, ECU's Chris Issac hit flanker Ranard McPhaul with a 32-yard scoring pass to settle the score at 35-28 in Eastern Kentucky's favor.

1982
NCAA I-AA TOURNAMENT

In 1982 Eastern Kentucky and Delaware would meet again, this time for the I-AA championship. Delaware raced through the 1982 season, losing only to Temple 22-0. The Hen offense, paced by quarterback Rick Scully, averaged 34 points a game, while the defense, led by All-American George Schmitt, picked off 39 opponent passes, 13 by Schmitt. Voted third by the NCAA I-AA Football Committee and second by the national sportswriters' poll, Delaware received an opening round tournament bye.

Colgate, winners over Boston University 21-7 in opening round play, arrived in Newark hoping to halt the Hens' nine-game win streak and for a while it seemed as if they might. The Red Raiders jumped to a 7-0 second quarter lead as QB Steve Calabria hit Joe Kozak on a 39-yard aerial over the middle. The Hens moved back in front 12-7 at the half on scores by Scully and Dan Reeder.

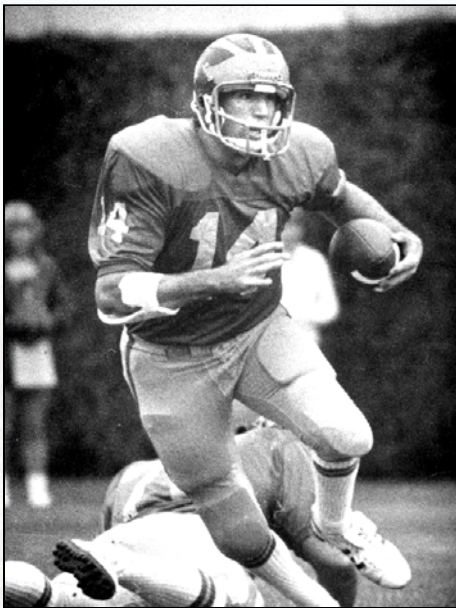
Neither team scored until Colgate's John Hoff scored on a 57-yard punt return and the Raiders led 13-12 with 13:15 remaining. Cliff Clement provided the winning points for the third-seeded Hens when he converted a fourth and goal on the Colgate one with 8:22 left. Clement added the conversion and the Hens, behind a Schmitt interception with 1:47 left and a last second pass deflection at the two, advanced 20-13.

In a game reminiscent of the Hens' win over Nevada-Las Vegas eight years earlier, Delaware shocked second seed Louisiana Tech on its home field 17-0 in a game played in hurricane-like rain that turned the stadium floor to a quagmire.

Against a team that had been ranked 29th among all colleges by some leading football magazines and upset a ranked I-A team, Delaware's defense stymied the efforts of vaunted QB Matt Dunigan who completed only 22 of 47 passes and was



Head coach Tubby Raymond is carried off the field on the shoulders of his team following the Blue Hens' 38-21 win over Youngstown State in the 1979 NCAA Division II national championship game at the Zia Bowl in Albuquerque, NM. The Blue Hens have won six national titles.



One of the most underrated quarterbacks in Delaware history, Rick Scully led the 1982 Blue Hens all the way to the national title game before falling to Eastern Kentucky 17-14.

intercepted three times.

Tech was so dominated by Delaware they reached Hen turf only once in the opening half and had a blocked punt lead to a 7-0 Delaware lead on a one-yard Rick Scully run.

The second half was no different. Kevin Phelan swept in from the two for a 14-0 lead early in the final period and a Ken Pawloski interception set up a 22-yard K.C. Knobloch field goal to make it 17-0.

Rick Scully, and Dan Reeder, who had 114 yards rushing, ran out the clock, prompting Hen coach Tubby Raymond to remark "How 'Bout Them Hens!" in reference to Tech's Bulldog slogan.

A week later Delaware took aim on its second national title in four years when it squared off against Eastern Kentucky in the Pioneer Bowl in Wichita Falls, Tex. The Colonels capitalized on a blocked Delaware field goal and staved off a Delaware rally to claim a 17-14 win.

Eastern Kentucky entered the game with a perfect 12-0 mark and the top seed. Delaware looked as if they would gain the game's first score early in the second period when they covered a Colonel's fumble. A dropped pass in the end zone led to a field goal try, but Richard Bell broke through, blocked the kick and ran 77 yards for the score.

Delaware fumbled the second half kickoff and five plays later Eastern Kentucky went in to make it 17-0. It wasn't until the fourth quarter that the Hens were able to punch in a score as Mark Steimer scored off a 20-yard option pass from halfback Phelan.

Comeback hopes improved when Bill Maley covered an EKU fumble with 6:00 left and four plays later Delaware pulled to within three, 17-14, when Scully hit Tim Sager for a five-yard score.

Eastern Kentucky, however, hung on to the ball until only 1:08 remained and Delaware started from its own two. Scully valiantly marched his troops to the Eastern Kentucky 49, but his last-gasp attempt went incomplete.

1986

NCAA I-AA TOURNAMENT

In 1986, the Hens returned to the I-AA playoff field as winners of their first Yankee Conference championship.

The quest started with promise Thanksgiving weekend in sunny Williamsburg, Va. where Delaware avenged a mid-season 24-18 loss to William & Mary by pounding the Tribe 51-17 in a first-round game played at Cary Stadium.

Delaware jumped to a 20-9 halftime lead on scoring runs by Gannon and Bob Norris and two Neil Roberts field goals. The Tribe points had all come off Steve Christie three field goals as the Hen defense frustrated the Tribe offense.

Delaware scored on eight of nine second half possessions and finished the day with 519 yards of offense. Gannon had an outstanding day, completing 15 of 23 passes for 234 yards and rushing for three touchdowns.

The season came to an abrupt end the following week in Delaware Stadium when an explosive Arkansas State, the No. 2 seed, ran up a record 646 yards in total offense on its way to a 55-14 win.

Using their powerful Wishbone offense, they rushed for 518 yards and scored on their first four possessions for a 31-14 at the half.

In all, four ASU runners ran for 80 or more yards. Delaware (9-4) picked up 421 yards of offense itself, but seemed snake-bit with three fumbles and an interception.

"They may have been the best team to ever visit Delaware Stadium," said Tubby Raymond. "The discouraging part is that we turned the ball over. I felt in many ways they never stopped us until it was too late. I'm not saying that we should have beaten them, but we could have made it a very respectable football game. It simply turned out to be a bad day at Black Rock."

1988

NCAA I-AA TOURNAMENT

The Blue Hens made a surprising return visit to the NCAA I-AA playoffs. Surprising was the fact that the Hens started the year off 0-2 and were more geared to gaining back respectability than looking towards a playoff berth.

What transpired over the next nine weeks was a total turnaround for the "never say die" Blue Hens. Six straight wins and a Yankee title-clinching win over Boston University set the stage.

What followed was a disappointing 21-7 loss on Furman's home turf in Greenville, SC in a game in which the outcome was separated only by a trio of big plays, none of which went the Hens' way. And what made the loss even more painful was the No. 5 seed Paladin's subsequent march to the national title.

Furman's first touchdown was set up by Delaware QB Dave Sierer's fumble at his own 32 on the Hens' first series. A three-yard scamper by QB Frankie DeBusk was followed by two Glenn Connolly field goals that gave the Paladins a 13-7 halftime lead. Tight end John Yergey's 19-yard TD reception from Sierer with 6:18 left in the half had put the No. 15 Hens on the board.

In the fourth quarter, with the Hens still trailing by just six points, a major scoring opportunity was squandered when Sierer was intercepted two plays after UD safety Bryan Bossard had recovered a Furman fumble at the Paladin 25. Then came the biggest blow. Furman TB John Bagwell followed with a 63-yard run and a one-yard touchdown dive with 12:07 left.

"I thought we played a truly great game," said Tubby Raymond. "For the want of a couple of bounces we could have won the game...we would have won the game."

1991

NCAA I-AA TOURNAMENT

No one could have predicted an end to a season that was more exciting, or more disappointing.

The Hens (10-2) had entered the playoffs as the No. 4 seed, but bowed out in the opening round as No. 16 James Madison (9-3) scored on the first play of the second overtime period and then stopped the Hens inside the five-yard line to claim the 42-35 double overtime win at Delaware Stadium.

Delaware spotted JMU a 21-7 lead before rallying with two fourth quarter scores to send the game into overtime.

After neither team scored in the first overtime, JMU scored the game-winner on the first play of the second extra session as Kenny Sims scampered 25 yards for his third touchdown. On Delaware's possession, the Hens moved 19 yards to the two-yard line but on a fourth and one, Lanue Johnson fumbled a pitch and Tyrone Washington recovered to end the game.

James Madison opened up a 21-7 halftime lead, but the Hens, who gained a season-high 536 yards on offense, battled back with 28 second half points to tie the score at 28-28, scoring the last 14 on a 37-yard end around by SE Keita Malloy with 9:45 left and sending the game into overtime on Johnson's 48-yard run with 5:14 to play.

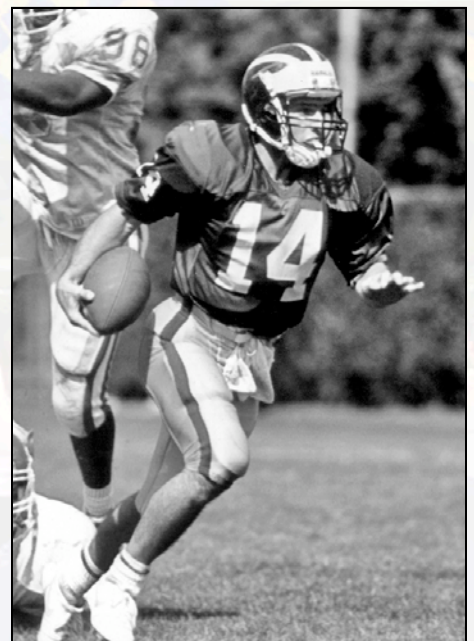
"I wanted to win this game so bad," said Vergantino, who hit on 19 of 24 passes for 239 yards and rushed for 121 more. "We had such a great team, such great talent with so much commitment that it hurts like hell to lose. We'll never know how good we could have been."

1992

NCAA I-AA TOURNAMENT

The Blue Hens second straight trip to the NCAA I-AA playoffs was a thrilling one, but one that fell just one game short of the national championship game.

After winning their first ever outright Yankee Conference title, the No. 8 Blue Hens and their high-powered offense ran over the likes of Samford (Ala.) 56-21 and No. 1 ranked Northeast Louisiana 41-18 before eventual champion Marshall



The classic Wing-T quarterback, Bill Vergantino set numerous school records during his career and led the Blue Hens to NCAA I-AA playoff appearances in 1991 and 1992.



Defense and leadership were the key components of Delaware's march to the 1992 NCAA I-AA semifinals with captain and safety Darryl Brown leading the way.

stopped the UD charge on their home turf in Huntington, WV, 21-7.

The Hens opened at home vs. Samford and were dominating, scoring 21 points in the second and third quarters and rolling up a season-high 586 yards of offense. Darryl Brown ran for 116 yards and two touchdowns and Marcus Lewis scored on a 53 yard run and on a 53-yard pass to lead the effort.

It was on to Monroe, LA for the Hens, who needed to get past No. 1 ranked Northeast Louisiana, a powerful team that featured four NFL draft picks, including 1,000-yard rushers Roosevelt Potts and Greg Robinson. But this chilly day belonged to the Blue Hens.

Northeast Louisiana scored three minutes into the game but the Hens refused to be intimidated, scored four straight touchdowns, including a 37-yard interception return for a touchdown by Brian Quigg early in the second quarter, to control the game. When the dust cleared, the Hens were 41-18 winners and on to the NCAA semifinals.

Next up was Marshall, site of the 1992 NCAA title game, where the Thundering Herd and their hostile fans were waiting.

And if not for a stubborn virus that crept up the back of Bill Vergantino, the Hens might have made a return trip to Huntington the next week. Vergantino, who spent the day before the game sick in bed, gave a gutsy effort, leading the Hens to a 7-7 halftime tie. But he lasted just one series in the second half as the virus became too much to handle.

Vergantino handed the reins over to Dale Fry, but the Hens could muster only 117 second half yards. Marshall broke the 7-7 deadlock on a 31-yard screen pass from Michael Payton to Glenn Pedro with 5:53 left in the third quarter and the Herd added two late touchdowns to end the Hens' bid for their first NCAA title game appearance since 1982.

1993

NCAA I-AA TOURNAMENT

Capping off a season that could only be described as mountainous the way it had ups and downs, the Blue Hens headed for the hills of Missoula for the first round of the playoffs against the Grizzlies of Montana on an 8-degree Saturday.

The game followed the theme of the season as the teams combined for four touchdowns in the final 2:44. However, Montana's Andy Larson missed an extra-point kick to provide the difference in the Hens' 49-48 win.

The fourth quarter began tied at 28-28 and lasted for all of one play as Scott Gurnsey caught his second touchdown pass of the day from Dave Dickenson. UD drove back and scored on a 3-yard run by Lanue Johnson. Montana opened the late scoring splurge with 2:44 left on another Dickinson touchdown pass.

Following the kickoff, Johnson broke the first play for a 70-yard scoring scamper to tie it at 42-42. Damon Boddie, not to be outdone, took the ensuing kickoff 80 yards for another touchdown.

However, Larson hooked the PAT and left the door open for Leo Hamlett, a freshman inserted in the third quarter for starter Keith Langan, to find Keita Malloy from 32-yards out with 55 seconds left for the win.

The following week Delaware travelled to the unfriendly confines of Huntington, WV to face the Marshall Thundering Herd. In one week, Delaware had gone from eight degrees and long-johns to 52 degrees and raincoats.

Making only his second appearance since fracturing his clavicle at mid-season, senior quarterback Dale Fry came in to throw two fourth quarter touchdowns to rally Delaware to a 31-31 tie with 1:44 remaining.

However, David Merrick's 38-yard field goal with three seconds remaining gave Marshall a 34-31 win, and ousted the Hens from the playoffs for the second straight year.

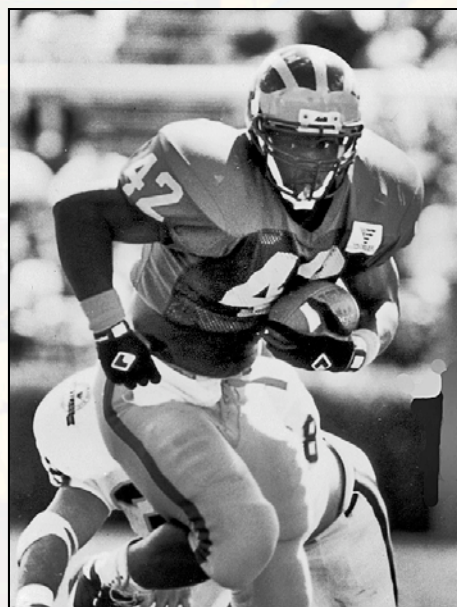
1995

NCAA I-AA TOURNAMENT

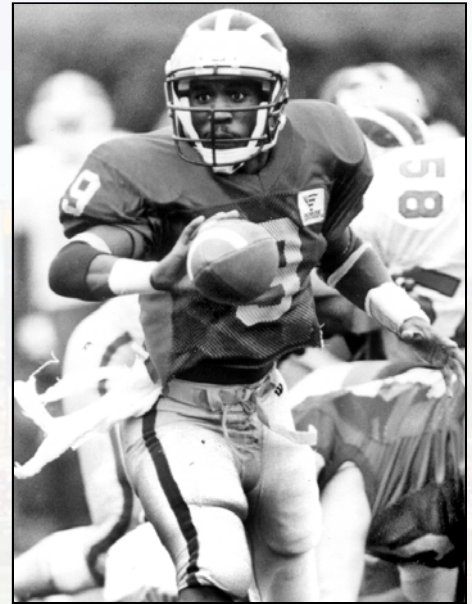
The Blue Hens made sure that their playoff absence in 1994 would be a brief one.

Delaware returned to the playoffs for the fourth time in five years as the Hens rolled through the regular season, posting a perfect 8-0 Yankee Conference mark and suffering their only setback to I-A Navy.

The Hens opened the playoffs against a talented No. 11 ranked Hofstra squad that was making its first ever I-AA playoff appearance.



Delaware's all-time leading rusher, Darryl Brown ran the Blue Hens to the 1992 national semifinal game and gained 116 yards in a first round win over Samford.



Freshman QB Leo Hamlett came off the bench to lead the Blue Hens to a thrilling 49-48 win over host Montana in an NCAA I-AA first round playoff game in 1993 (Photo by Bill Wood)

The game was a rematch from just a year earlier when the teams played to a 41-41 tie at Delaware Stadium. The players and the fans clamored for a rematch. They got one.

But the rematch belonged to the No. 8 seed Blue Hens. Delaware jumped out to a 24-7 halftime lead on two Kai Hebron scoring runs and never looked back in defeating a Hofstra team that turned the ball over four times after suffering only nine miscues the entire season. The Hens clinched the win on Paul Williams' 100-yard interception return, a I-AA playoff record, with 1:47 left to play.

It was then back to the Bayou for the Blue Hens with a quarterfinal tussle with top-ranked McNeese State (13-0) in Lake Charles, LA.

But as 17,000 cowbell-ringing fans filled the warm night air, the Blue Hens' 1995 season came to a quick halt. Quarterback Kerry Joseph tossed five touchdown passes, the Cowboy defense forced six turnovers, and McNeese returned two kickoffs for touchdowns to make quick work of the Blue Hens.

The Hens held slight edges in first downs (20-19), total offense (428-425), and possession time, but three fumbles proved too costly. Leo Hamlett, hobbled by an ankle injury that forced him to leave the game twice, hit on 6 of 21 passes for 110 yards and threw three interceptions.

1996

NCAA I-AA TOURNAMENT

The Blue Hens' visit to the NCAA I-AA playoffs was a brief one.

But then again, so was the visit for most teams when they met up against Marshall during the 1996 season.

Delaware struggled late in the season, losing two of their final three regular season games after being ranked as high as sixth in the nation.

The Hens barely squeezed into the post-season, earning an at-large bid and a No. 15 seed ranking. The reward was another visit to Huntington, WV and a Marshall team just one year shy of moving to the I-A level.

The Hens ran into a buzzsaw on a cold day in West Virginia as a pair of I-A transfers, QB Eric Kresser (Florida) and SE Randy

Moss (Florida State) worked their magic to the tune of a 59-14 victory over the Hens.

Kresser threw for 449 yards and four touchdowns with the 6-5 speedster Moss hauling in eight passes for an NCAA I-AA playoff record 288 yards and three touchdowns.

No. 1 ranked Marshall, which went on to dominate the field in the playoffs and win the title with a perfect 15-0 record, racked up 689 total yards, the most ever allowed by the Hens.

Marshall jumped out to a 21-0 lead but the Hens rallied to cut the lead to 21-14 at halftime. Denis Hulme returned an interception 75 yards to set up a 33-yard scoring pass from Leo Hamlett to Eddie Conti and Brian Smith returned a fumble 65 yards to set up a seven-yard Hamlett to Conti score.

But the second half belonged to Marshall as the Herd scored 24 third quarter points and never looked back.

"This Marshall team was not a I-AA football team today," said Delaware's Tubby Raymond.

1997

NCAA I-AA TOURNAMENT

The 1997 University of Delaware football team was one that got every ounce of effort from every member of the team.

Lacking any "superstars" and having to overcome the loss of standouts Eddie Conti and Dale Koscielski to season-ending knee injuries in the third game of the year, the well-balanced Blue Hens almost pulled out their first national title since 1979.

If not for a last second game-winning 31-yard field goal by McNeese State's Shonaz LaFrenz in the semifinals at Delaware Stadium, the Hens were poised for a trip to the I-AA title game in Chattanooga, TN.

The No. 4 seeded Blue Hens began their playoff journey with a rematch against a Hofstra team they had defeated 38-17 in the opening round of the playoffs back in 1995.

The Blue Hens managed just 276 total yards, but the special teams unit was there to bail them out. Delaware jumped out to a 24-0 lead, setting up scores when the Hens tackled Hofstra punter David Ettinger at his own 13-yard line and when Brian Smith blocked a punt that Jamie Belle took into the end zone for a score.

The Dutchmen, who entered the game averaging 34.8 points and 453.9 yards per game, were held out of the end zone until the second half when All-American QB Giovanni Carmazzi (33 of 61 for 276 yards) hit Bryan Kish for two touchdown passes.

Next up for the Hens was a young Georgia Southern team that came north to Delaware with one of the nation's most dangerous running attacks. But again, the Delaware defense put the clamps down, holding the Eagles to just 296 total yards and a late touchdown.

Sean Leach kicked three field goals to give the Hens a 9-0 lead and freshman QB Matt Nagy, subbing for injured starter Brian Ginn, led the Blue Hens to the win.

Defensively, LB Ralph D'Angelo had 19 tackles and keyed a unit that made two big goal line stands in the second half.

The Georgia Southern advanced Delaware to the national semifinals for the first time since 1982.

It was a classic battle in the early afternoon chill at Delaware Stadium that ended with No. 6 seed McNeese State winning 23-21 on a field goal with five seconds left to play.

The Cowboys, who lost to Youngstown State in the I-AA final the following week, converted a fourth and one at their own 48-yard line on a pass from Blake Prejean to Chris Fontenot with 1:44 left to play to keep the winning drive alive.

McNeese had built a 17-7 lead but the Hens rallied as Nagy, hit Craig Cummings on a 33-yard scoring pass and then put the Hens up 21-17 with a 30-yard touchdown pass to Greg McGraw

five minutes into the final quarter.

LaFrenz cut the lead to 21-20 with his second field goal, a 31-yarder, with 6:14 left to play. But the Hens' next drive netted just 14 yards, giving McNeese one more chance. One of many chances they took advantage of during the day.

"I'm going to have nightmares for a while," said All-American linebacker Brian Smith. "That was just too close....."

2000

NCAA I-AA TOURNAMENT

The rallying cry for the 2000 Delaware team was redemption.

After two "disappointing" 7-4 seasons that resulted in consecutive post-season snubs in 1998 and 1999, a veteran Blue Hen unit was aching not only to get back into the NCAA I-AA tournament, but to win the whole thing.

Led by a veteran cast that featured four All-Americans and two outstanding captains in linebacker Brian McKenna and halfback Craig Cummings, the Blue Hens almost pulled it off.

After two lopsided home playoff victories over Portland State and local nemesis Lehigh, the Hens earned the chance to take on defending national champion Georgia Southern in the semifinals.

But while the defense did its job, holding the powerful Eagle running attack in check most of the day and recovering four Georgia Southern fumbles, the usually reliable UD offense could not take advantage. Four times the Hens were stopped inside the GSU 20-yard line, twice on blocked field goal attempts.

The result was a 27-18 Georgia Southern win, vaulting the Eagles into the finals where they downed Montana for their second straight national title.

The Blue Hens, behind the nation's No. 2 scoring offense and a veteran defense that posted three shutouts, cruised through the regular season with a 10-1 mark and took the No. 2 seed heading into the post-season.

In the opening round, the Hens hosted high-scoring Big Sky runner-up Portland State, a former NCAA Division II power that was making its I-AA playoff debut.

Delaware, which piled up an incredible 620 yards of total offense, broke out to a 21-0 lead and cruised to the 49-14 win.

Quarterback Matt Nagy threw for 263 yards and two touchdowns and the Hens rambled for 357 yards rushing as four

different players picked up 60 or more yards on the afternoon.

The Vikings, who entered the game averaging 35.6 points and 433.3 yards per game, were held way below their averages. Walter Payton Award candidate Chip Dunn, who had rushed for 1,792 yards during the regular season, was held to just 53 yards on the ground.

The quarterfinal game brought an intriguing matchup with Lehigh, a long-time bitter rival of the Hens and a team that had ruined Delaware's playoff chances with a 42-35 victory at Delaware Stadium a year earlier.

The Patriot League champion Mountain Hawks were 31-7 first round winners over Western Illinois, fueled by resentment of the NCAA Tournament committee over having to travel for a first round playoff game despite a perfect 11-0 record.

A quarterfinal win over Atlantic 10 champion Delaware would further Lehigh's claim for well-earned national respect.

But the Blue Hens would have none of it. In another explosive offensive assault, Delaware overcame an early 10-7 deficit by scoring 40 unanswered points for a 47-22 victory.

Nagy threw for 266 yards and two touchdowns, including a 70-yard bomb to Jamin Elliott, as the Hens piled up 472 total yards.

The Delaware defense held Lehigh to 323 total yards, forced four turnovers, and tackled quarterback Brant Hall in the end zone for a third-quarter safety to solidify the effort.

The Hens led 47-10 before Lehigh scored two fourth quarter touchdowns.

The win moved the Hens into a home semifinal game for the second time in four years.

And while the result, a 27-18 setback, was not nearly as shocking as the 1997 loss to McNeese State, it still hurt just as much.

Georgia Southern All-American and 2000 Walter Payton Award runner-up Adrian Peterson ran for 198 yards and Andre Weathers carried four times for 122 yards to lead the Eagles to the win and to yet another national title.

After Georgia Southern took a 21-10 lead into halftime, the Delaware defense clamped down on the Eagle offense in the second half, forcing four fumbles and giving the UD offense plenty of good field position.

Unfortunately, four trips inside the GSU 20-yard line resulted in zero points. The Eagles blocked two Scott Collins field goals and record-setting kicker was wide on a third attempt.

Delaware's Butter Pressey cut the lead to 21-18 with a one-yard scoring run with 2:34 left in the third quarter, but that was all the Hens could muster.

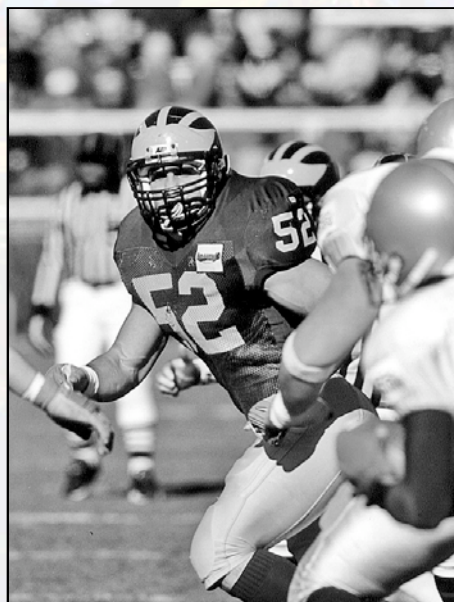
Georgia Southern sewed up the win with two short fourth quarter field goals by Scott Shelton to end the Hens' hopes.

2003

NCAA I-AA TOURNAMENT NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Delaware won its first National Championship in 24 years and its first as a member of NCAA Division I-AA in 2003. It might as well, however, been in the I-A system with the way the Blue Hens "bowled" over the competition, outscoring the opposition, 149-23.

In the opener, Delaware disposed of Southern Illinois quickly, blasting the Salukis for 27 points in first quarter. Southern Illinois, which came into the game feeling slighted by being sent to face the No. 2 seeded Blue Hens after anticipating a first round home game, committed six turnovers and had a punt blocked. Less than 12 minutes into the game, SIU found itself down 20-0. However, it got worse two minutes later when Sean Bleiler jumped on a blocked punt in the end zone to cap the first quarter scoring.



Senior captain Brian McKenna was the heart and soul of the Delaware defense in 2000, leading the Hens to the national semifinals (UD Photo Services)

On the day, SIU's two-headed rushing attack of M. Abdulqaadir and Tom Koutsos were both held in check, combining for 116 yards rushing. However, Delaware's duo of Germaine Bennett (116) and Antawn Jenkins (99) combined for more than 200 yards on the ground.

In the quarterfinals, Delaware fans earned their tickets to see a football game. A major winter storm blanketed Newark with more than eight inches of snow Friday and into Saturday morning.

Delaware's defense took advantage of the dome-home Northern Iowa squad, holding it to just 164 total yards. Meanwhile Bennett and Jenkins combined for 217 yards and four touchdowns on the ground for Delaware as the Blue Hens blasted Northern Iowa, 37-7, disposing of a Gateway Conference foe for the second straight week.

In the semifinal round, it was Bennett's biggest day as a Blue Hen. The 5-8 senior rushed for a career-high 186 yards, notching his fourth-straight 100-yard rushing game and breaking Daryl Brown's single-season rushing record in the process.

A Wofford option-attack that came in as the fifth-best rushing team in the nation, averaging 268 yards a game, managed just over half of that against Delaware (136). Wofford's lone touchdown of the day came as time expired.

In making its first title game appearance since 1982, Delaware made it look easy in claiming its first crown since 1979. In an all too familiar scenerio, Delaware jumped out to a 20-0 lead after a Hall to David Boler TD pass on the first play of the second quarter and never looked back.

Delaware pitched the first-ever shutout in a NCAA I-AA Championship Game, blanking Colgate, 40-0, and snapping the Big Red's 21-game winning streak. Delaware, playing in front of a national ESPN-TV audience, held Colgate to just 46 yards on the ground for the game. The Big Red featured Walter Payton Award winning RB Jamaal Branch. However, Branch, who set the NCAA I-AA single-season rushing record in 2003, got very little on the Delaware defense. He rushed for just 55 yards on 20 carries. His longest run of the night went for only eight yards.

The thumping capped one of the most dominating playoff performances in NCAA Football history as Delaware never trailed in four playoff games.

2004

NCAA I-AA TOURNAMENT

Delaware could not successfully defend its 2003 national championship, but it came pretty darn close before falling in excruciating fashion.

The Blue Hens won their final two regular season games to qualify for the tournament, and opened the playoffs with a 28-14 win over Patriot League opponent Lafayette at Delaware Stadium.

Delaware took the early lead by driving 66 yards on its opening drive of the game, and Omar Cuff scored on a one-yard run with 8:22 left in the first quarter to put the Blue Hens up 7-0.

The Leopards, who were making their first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance, tied the game in the second quarter on a three-yard touchdown pass, but Sonny Riccio scored on a two-yard run to cap a 77-yard drive as the Blue Hens took a 13-7 lead into halftime.

After a scoreless third quarter, Lafayette took its first lead of the game four minutes into the final period when Joe McCourt scored from one yard out to put the Leopards up 14-13.

However Delaware rallied to regain the lead as Riccio capped a 76-yard drive with a six-yard touchdown run and then threw a two-point conversion pass to tight end Steve Selk to make it a 21-14 game with 6:26 left.

Lafayette then mounted what appeared to be the game-tying drive as Brad Maurer hit Chad Walker for 24 yards on a fourth and 21 play to move to the Delaware 12 yard line. However two plays later, Maurer swept to the right and was hit by Delaware's Sidney Haugabrook and Mondoe Davis. The ball popped out and Garron Bible picked it up and ran 87 yards untouched down the Delaware sideline for a touchdown to preserve the victory.

The Blue Hens seemed to carry the momentum of that win into the following week's quarterfinal game at William & Mary, as Delaware took a 31-10 lead into the final quarter.

Cuff opened the scoring with a 37-yard touchdown run just three and a half minutes into the game, and following a Tribe touchdown, Cuff found the end zone again from five yards out as Delaware took a 14-7 advantage into the second quarter.

Riccio hit David Boler for a 58-yard score only 30 second into the period to put Delaware up 14, and after a field goal by William

& Mary's Greg Kuehn, Brad Shushman nailed a 31-yard field goal and Riccio again hit Boler on a 15-yard touchdown pass to give the Blue Hens a 21-point cushion heading into the half.

Delaware appeared to have the game in hand following a scoreless third quarter, but the Tribe scored three touchdowns in the fourth, the final one on a 15-yard pass from Lang Campbell to Joe Nicholas with 1:56 left, to force overtime.

Delaware opened the scoring in the first overtime period when Justin Long caught a kneeling seven-yard scoring strike from Riccio on a pass that was tipped, but the Tribe answered to knot the score at 38-38 on Campbell's two-yard toss to Nicholas.

William & Mary took the ball first in the second overtime and scored on a nine-yard run by Jon Smith, but Kuehn then missed his first extra point of the season to open the door for the Blue Hens.

However Delaware could not take advantage despite a 19-yard pass to the nine yard line from Riccio to Boler that gave the Blue Hens a first down.

A run for no yards and three incomplete passes followed, including one to a diving Boler in the end zone to end the game.

2007

NCAA I FCS TOURNAMENT NATIONAL RUNNERS-UP

From a historic first-ever meeting between Delaware and Delaware State and the media frenzy that surrounded it, to the successful road trips and comeback victories at Northern Iowa and Southern Illinois, the 2007 post-season had it all.

Not even a 49-21 loss to three-time defending national champion Appalachian State in the national title game could put a damper on one of the most thrilling seasons in Delaware history.

Despite losing their final two regular season games, the Blue Hens still earned an at-large berth into the NCAA Tournament, becoming one of an NCAA record five teams from the Colonial Athletic Association to advance. And it was Delaware that managed to last the longest.

Most experts thought that if both Delaware and Delaware State qualified for the post-season, the teams would meet in the first round. And that is exactly what transpired.

The game drew national media attention as the two teams, just 45 minutes away from each other, met for the first time on the gridiron. With a national live ESPN audience on hand and an enthusiastic Delaware Stadium post-season record crowd of 19,765 in the house, the game was over quickly. Delaware scored three quick touchdowns in the first quarter on the way to a 30-0 lead at the break and never looked back in posting a 44-7 victory, snapping the Hornets' eight-game win streak.

Omar Cuff rushed for a school-record 288 yards and scored four touchdowns and Delaware's defense held Delaware State to just 144 total yards and forced three turnovers for the victory.

The win earned the Hens a trip to the Midwest and a quarterfinal date with an undefeated Northern Iowa team that earned the No. 1 seed in the tournament. While a snowstorm raged outside, the Blue Hens were having their own problems inside the UNI Dome. Delaware could barely hear, or think, due to the crowd roar inside the cavernous facility, and quickly fell behind 10-0 in the first quarter.

But they soon recovered in the second stanza as Joe Flacco threw touchdown passes to Mark Duncan and Robbie Agnone and Erik Johnson scooped up a fumble and returned it 55 yards for a touchdown for proved to be the big play in the game. Delaware took a 19-13 lead into halftime, and after falling behind 20-19 in the third quarter, rallied again in the second half behind a short Cuff touchdown in the third quarter and two long field goals by All-



The University of Delaware won its sixth national title in 2003, its first championship since 1979. The Blue Hens defeated Colgate, 40-0, recording the first-ever shutout in the NCAA I-AA National Championship Game. The championship was Delaware's first as a NCAA I-AA member. From left to right during the postgame celebration are Bryan Tingle, Rick Lavelle and Mondoe Davis.



Senior free safety Garrison Bible returned a fumble 87 yards for a touchdown to clinch the 28-14 win over Lafayette in the first round of the 2004 NCAA I-AA playoffs (Photo by Bob Burleigh)

American Jon Striefsky for a 37-29 victory.

After the snowstorm stranded the team in Iowa for an extra two days, it was home to Delaware for a few days and right back on the road to Illinois for the Blue Hens. A semifinal matchup with No. 3 seed Southern Illinois greeted the Hens, who had met the Salukis before in the post-season when they overpowered SIU on the way to the national title.

Although it looked like revenge would be in the cards for the Salukis on a misty night in Carbondale, the Hens had other ideas. Southern Illinois jumped out to a 10-0 lead, but Delaware's comeback kids struck once again. Flacco threw short touchdown passes to Agnone in the second quarter and to Kervin Michaud in the third to give the Blue Hens a 14-10 lead.

Southern Illinois later tied the game at 17-17 on an 88-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Craig Turner, but Striefsky converted a 24-yard field goal with 6:58 left to play for what proved to be the winning points. Freshman CB Anthony Walters picked off a pass in the final minutes to preserve the 20-17 victory and send the Hens back to the national championship game.

A trip to the national championship game was a great reward for the Hens, but this time, a comeback would not be in the cards.

Two-time national champion Appalachian State, owner of an stunning early-season triumph at Michigan, was just too much to handle. The Mountaineers jumped out to a 28-7 halftime lead and never looked back in piling up 556 total yards and posting the 49-21 victory. Flacco threw for 334 yards, but could manage only a second-quarter touchdown pass to Mark Duncan.

"We lost to a great football team today," said Delaware head coach K.C. Keeler, who lost for just the second time in 10 NCAA FCS post-season appearances. "We didn't make some plays early and things just steamrolled from there. Whatever went wrong for us tonight was because of Appalachian State. They are a deserving national champion."

2010 NCAA I FCS TOURNAMENT NATIONAL RUNNERS-UP

Delaware dominated for the majority of its post-season run, before a late comeback by Eastern Washington in the FCS National

Championship Game dashed the Blue Hens' hopes for a seventh national title.

After receiving a bye during the first round, Delaware was matched up with Lehigh during the second round. Although the Mountain Hawks stayed with the Blue Hens for the first quarter and a half, UD eventually pulled away on the strength of four unanswered touchdowns.

Lehigh trailed by just a point at 14-13 following a field goal with 7:47 remaining in the second quarter, but Pat Devlin connected with Chris Campbell from the 1-yard line to put Delaware up eight at the half. The Blue Hens then put the game away in the third quarter when Devlin hit Crosby for a 38-yard score, David Hayes scored from 16 yards out, and Nijha White hauled in a 20-yard scoring strike. Devlin, who also fired a touchdown pass to Mark Schenauer, connected on four TD passes and threw for 256 yards on the day.

Delaware remained home the following Friday night, when the Blue Hens faced CAA rival New Hampshire on a chilly night at Delaware Stadium before a national television audience. The Wildcats entered the contest with an outstanding offense that had scored at least 28 points in six of their last seven games, but the Blue Hen defense shut down UNH all night as UD grinded out a 16-3 victory.

The Wildcats opened the scoring with a field goal late in the first quarter, before a Mike Perry field goal with three minutes left in the second evened the game at 3-3 heading into halftime. The Blue Hens took the lead when Devlin hit White with a 24-yard touchdown pass, while Schenauer hauled in a 9-yard scoring strike early in the fourth quarter to give UD a two-score cushion. That would be plenty of support for the UD defense, while held the Wildcats to just 237 yards and a pair of third-down conversions. The Hens also recorded three sacks and forced the game's only turnover when Anthony Walters picked off a pass at the Delaware 9-yard line with 5:47 to play.

The Delaware defense was again the story during the FCS Semifinal against Georgia Southern, forcing four Eagles turnovers as the Blue Hens posted a 27-10 victory to advance to the championship game.

Georgia Southern appeared poised to take the lead on its



Linebacker Erik Johnson, who dominated on defense for the Blue Hens throughout the 2007 NCAA playoffs, celebrates after returning a recovered fumble 55 yards for a touchdown during the first half of Delaware's quarterfinal win over Northern Iowa. (Photo by Mark Campbell)



Running back David Hayes scored on a seven-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter to seal the Blue Hens' 27-10 victory over Georgia Southern in the 2010 NCAA FCS Semifinals. (Photo by Mark Campbell)

opening possession, but the Eagles fumbled on the 1-yard line as the game remained scoreless. Delaware struck first early in the second quarter on a six-yard touchdown pass from Devlin to Schenauer, while a field goal by Perry gave the Blue Hens a 10-0 advantage at the half.

The Eagles got on the board with a field goal three minutes into the third quarter, but Devlin found Philip Thaxton for a 24-yard scoring strike to make it a 17-3 game. Georgia Southern pulled within seven with a six-yard run by Robert Brown, but just a minute and a half later Delaware answered back on a seven-yard scamper by Hayes. Anthony Bratton paced the UD defense with 14 tackles, Paul Worrlow added 12 tackles and two forced fumbles, and Chris Morales recovered two fumbles including the one on the goal line early in the contest.

Delaware then had a three-week break until the championship game in Frisco, Tex., but the layoff did not seem to bother the Blue Hens. Pierce scored on a two-yard touchdown run in the first quarter to put UD in front, and although the extra point was blocked, two second quarter field goals by Perry gave Delaware a 12-0 lead at the break.

The Blue Hens continued to dominate in the third quarter, as Hayes scored from one yard out to put UD up 19 with 7:12 left in the stanza.

However Eastern Washington's high-powered offense would respond, as Bo Levi Mitchell found Brandon Kaufman for a 22-yard touchdown late in the third to put the Eagles on the board. EWC continued to rally in the fourth quarter, as Mitchell connected with Nicholas Edward for a 9-yard strike to make it a 19-14 game.

Following a controversial spot on a fourth down play on the Eagles' next possession, Mitchell hit Kaufman again for an 11-yard score, putting EWU in front 20-19 with 2:47 remaining.

Delaware had a final chance and moved the ball to the Eagles' 39-yard line, but on fourth and 10 Devlin's completion to Schenauer fell one yard short of the marker, giving the Eagles the victory and the championship.

By Kevin Tresolini, 1979
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