

Any Given Sunday

By DeSean Lawson

Week three of the NFL season began with defending Super Bowl champions The New York Giants, defeating the Carolina Panthers 36-7 on Sept. 20. The Giants were led by two-time Super Bowl MVP quarterback Eli Manning. Manning went 27-35, 288 passing yards and one touchdown. Although Newton threw for 242 yards and had a six-yard rushing touchdown, the Giants front four dominated and frustrated Cam Newton all night. The Giants front four picked off Newton three times and held him to a horrific 53 percent completion percentage for the game.

There were a few surprising games on Sunday as well. Prior to the season the Arizona Cardinals didn't even know who their starting quarterback was going to be. First game of the season the Cardinals defeated the Seattle Seahawks 20-16 after starting quarterback John Skelton got injured and backup quarterback Kevin Kolb came in and save the day. The following week the Cardinals and backup quarterback Kevin Kolb upset Tom Brady and the Patriots 20-18. So coming into this game the Cardinals were very confident.

The Cardinals improved their record to 3-0 after defeating the Philadelphia Eagles 27-6. Kolb went 17-24, 222 passing yards and two touchdowns. The Cardinals defense held Michael Vick to 17-37, 217 passing yards and no touchdowns.

The Cardinals win over the Eagles wasn't the only upset of the day. The Cardinals NFC West divisional foe the San Francisco 49ers headed into Sunday's matchup with the Minnesota Vikings as heavy favorites. The 49ers came into the game on Sunday 2-0 with two

impressing wins over the Green Bay Packers and the Detroit Lions. The Packers and Lions were playoff teams last year.

But the Vikings could care less about how much success the 49ers had the previous two weeks. The young all-star squad dominated the 49ers from start to finish. The Vikings defeated the 49ers 24-13. Second year quarterback Christian Ponder went 21-35, 198 passing yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions. Ponder played a seasoned veteran against the number one defense in the NFL. The Vikings defense held the 49ers explosive running game to just 89 yards rushing. The 49ers came into the game averaging 206 rushing yards per game.

Besides all the upsets in week three, all eyes were on the primetime game Sunday night which featured the Baltimore Ravens versus the New England Patriots. This was a rematch of the AFC championship game last year. The Ravens defeated the Patriots 31-30 after they came back from a nine point fourth quarter deficit. Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco ushered a ten play 70 yard drive which set up the game-winning 27-yard field goal by Steven Tucker. Flacco had a marvelous game. Flacco went 28-40, 382 passing yards, three touchdowns and one interception. The Ravens and the Patriots are definitely teams that will be reckoned with in the AFC come playoff time.

Week three in the NFL was definitely a day for the underdog and upsets. So just like former NFL Commissioner Bert Bell stated back in the early 1960's, "On any given Sunday a team can be beat in the NFL".



Courtesy of yahoo.sports.com
Left: Cardinals OLB Daryl Washington sacking QB Michael Vick



Courtesy of canada.com
Right: Vikings QB Christian Ponder scores a rushing TD

Anderson and Hawkins Top Performers At Adidas XC Challenge

By Aaron Williams

The Fayetteville State men's and women's cross country teams finished in ninth and 11th places, respectively, this past Friday as both teams competed at the Adidas Cross Country Challenge hosted by NC State University at Wake Med Soccer Park.

NC State captured both the men's and women's competition on Friday with North Carolina, East Carolina and West Virginia Wesleyan following behind in second, third and fourth places. On the men's side NC State University Club finished fifth followed by St. Augustine's in sixth, Winston-Salem State in seventh and Shaw in eighth. The Rams placed fifth on the women's side and were followed by Meredith in sixth, NC State University Club in seventh, Queens in eighth, St. Augustine's in ninth and Shaw in 10th.

Ernest Hawkins, for the second straight meet, was the leading finisher for the Broncos, as he placed 50th with a time of 17:25.2. Douglas Jackson was the second leading finisher for Fayetteville State with a 54th place finish and a time of 17:40.7, while Ervin Brinkley finished 89th and

a time of 20:56.1. Anthony Mullen and Taron Sanders finished back-to-back in 92nd and 93rd places for the Broncos as Mullen posted a time of 21:38.8 and Sanders 21:52.0. Brandon Elmore and Andrew Brassard rounded out the competition for Fayetteville State as Elmore finished 97th with a time of 22:26.4 and Brassard 100th at 25:13.9.

Amanda Anderson was also the women's top finisher for the second consecutive week as she placed 106th with a time of 25:07.9. Nia Trawick was the second-highest finisher for the Broncos with a 117th place finish and time of 26:58.4, while Renee Gueshard ran a 27:46.9 for a 120th place finish. Rachael Hays, Chi-quanna Anderson and Brittany Wilkins were the final finishers for Fayetteville State as Hays finished 122nd, Anderson 126th and Wilkins 127th. Hays recorded a time of 28:07.4, Anderson ran a 30:23.7 and Wilkins posted a 30:51.2.

The Broncos will return to action on Friday, Sept. 28 as they travel back to Cary, NC for the HBCU Challenge at 9 a.m.



Courtesy of fsubroncos.com
Nia Trawick Sept. 17 Cross Country

FSU Volleyball suffers first losses at JCSU Invitational

By Aaron Williams

The Fayetteville State volleyball team dropped its first matches of the 2012 campaign on Friday afternoon to USC-Aiken and Armstrong Atlantic State during day one of the Johnson C. Smith Invitational Tournament at Brayboy Gymnasium.

The Lady Broncos fell to the Pacers 3-0 (19-25, 21-25, 23-25) and 3-1 to the Pirates (13-25, 25-20, 11-25, 16-25).

Fayetteville State falls to 7-2 on the season, while USC-Aiken improves to 7-5 overall and Armstrong Atlantic State is now 10-3. The Lady Broncos will conclude play at Johnson C. Smith on Sept. 22 as they face the Golden Bulls at 3 p.m.

Joi Emanuel (Sr., Charlotte, NC) led Fayetteville State in game one with eight kills, while Ifeyinwa Nwokolo (Sr., Greensboro, NC) added seven kills. Joylene Thompson (Jr., Spanish Town, JA) and Jessica Hardy (So., Fayetteville, NC) also contributed five

kills a piece.

The Lady Broncos quickly fell behind USC-Aiken in the first set 6-0, but would work their way back to a two-point deficit at 9-7. It would be as close as the Lady Broncos got in the opening set as the Pacers would go on an 11-3 run and pace their way to a first-set victory.

Both teams traded points back-and-forth early in the second set with the scored tied 8-8 before USC-Aiken went ahead by three at 12-9 and never trailed from that point on. Fayetteville State kept itself within four points of the Pacers, but could never get any closer as the set moved forward.

The final set saw both teams within three points or less of each other, with the Lady Broncos leading on three different occasions. After a kill by Emanuel and attack error by Shannon Byers put Fayetteville State ahead 21-19, USC-Aiken tied the set at 22-22, but Emanuel put the Lady Broncos back

in front 23-22. From there the Pacers scored the final three points of the set to take the match from Fayetteville State.

In game two against the Pirates, Emanuel posted a team-high seven kills while Thompson, Hardy and Nwokolo had four kills each.

Armstrong Atlantic State led the entire first set over the Lady Broncos and had a lead as big as 11 points at 20-9, while Fayetteville State responded to take the second set and tie the match 1-1. The Lady Broncos trailed late in the second set 18-16, but ran off a string of five straight points off serves from Alea Jones (Jr., Charlotte, NC). The Pirates trimmed their deficit to one at 21-20, but Fayetteville State closed off the set scoring the final four points.

Armstrong Atlantic State responded in the final two sets as the Lady Broncos never held a lead. The Pirates went ahead 10-3 in the third and then, at 16-8, went on a 9-3

run to take the set. The fourth set saw Fayetteville State hold a 13-10 lead midway through the set, but Armstrong Atlantic State would hold the Lady Broncos to just three more points along the way.

The Lady Broncos however, remain undefeated in the Conference and will take on CIAA rival Elizabeth City State on September 29th at 1pm.



Voice Photo By: Rasheed McLain
Taylor Norris (3-Middle Blocker) spikes the ball over the net to score a point for the Lady Broncos during the Sept. 18 UNC-P game.