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Knoxville's Bulldogs get some revenge

Knoxville College proved that a game isn't over until it's over. Their very unlikely 29-27 upset win over Winston-Salem State on Sept. 1 is ample testimony.

When Michael McDade knuckled ball a 42-yard field goal through the uprights with 13 seconds left in the game, all of the Dogs' frustration and record of futility came to a halt. For that night anyway.

What made this win all the more amazing is that seven days earlier, Knoxville had been humiliated by Arkansas-Pine Bluff 55-0 in the Arkansas Classic. That's hardly the kind of setting one would expect for a team to pull off such a major victory against one of Division II's perennial powerhouses.

The most refreshing thing about Knoxville's victory is that they went after it. They never gave up in spite of being down by 10 points early, then falling behind by 11 in the third quarter.

True enough, the Rams gave Knoxville plenty of opportunities to stay in the game (seven turnovers and numerous untimely penalties). But Knoxville's new head coach Robert Kinney (a former assistant at Prairie View) refused to let his troops call it a night.

The Dogs seized a 13-10 halftime lead on the strength of a three-yard TD run by Robert Kennedy and a 23-yard scoring pass from Ronnie Jackson to Michael House.

However, the Rams weren't about to let the Dogs steal their thunder on their home grounds. Winston pounced back to take command, 24-13. Then strange things started to happen. Midway through the third quarter, Jackson and House hooked up again, this time for a 32-yard TD. Then back-up quarterback Jim Glover enters the contest and dazzles Winston with a 42-yard scoring run on an option keeper. The Dogs were back on top, 26-24.

The Rams came back once more on a 36-yard field goal and it appeared that the home team would hold on to win 27-26.

But that was before Knoxville decided that they would storm right back with a game winning drive of their own. Once again, Jackson was the key that turned the ignition for his team. One key play was his 27-yard pass to Torrance Whitaker (on third and 24 to go) that kept the drive alive.

If you're an avid college football fan, witnessing that kind of upset is very refreshing. Winston entered the game as the No. 4 ranked team in the Sheridan poll. Poll-wise, Knoxville was non-existent .After that win, the Dogs were ranked No. 19 and Winston had dropped down to the No. 14 spot.

This is the kind of thing that separates college sports from its counterparts. It's always nice to see a decided underdog come through and prove all of the experts wrong.

That's why they play the games in the first place.

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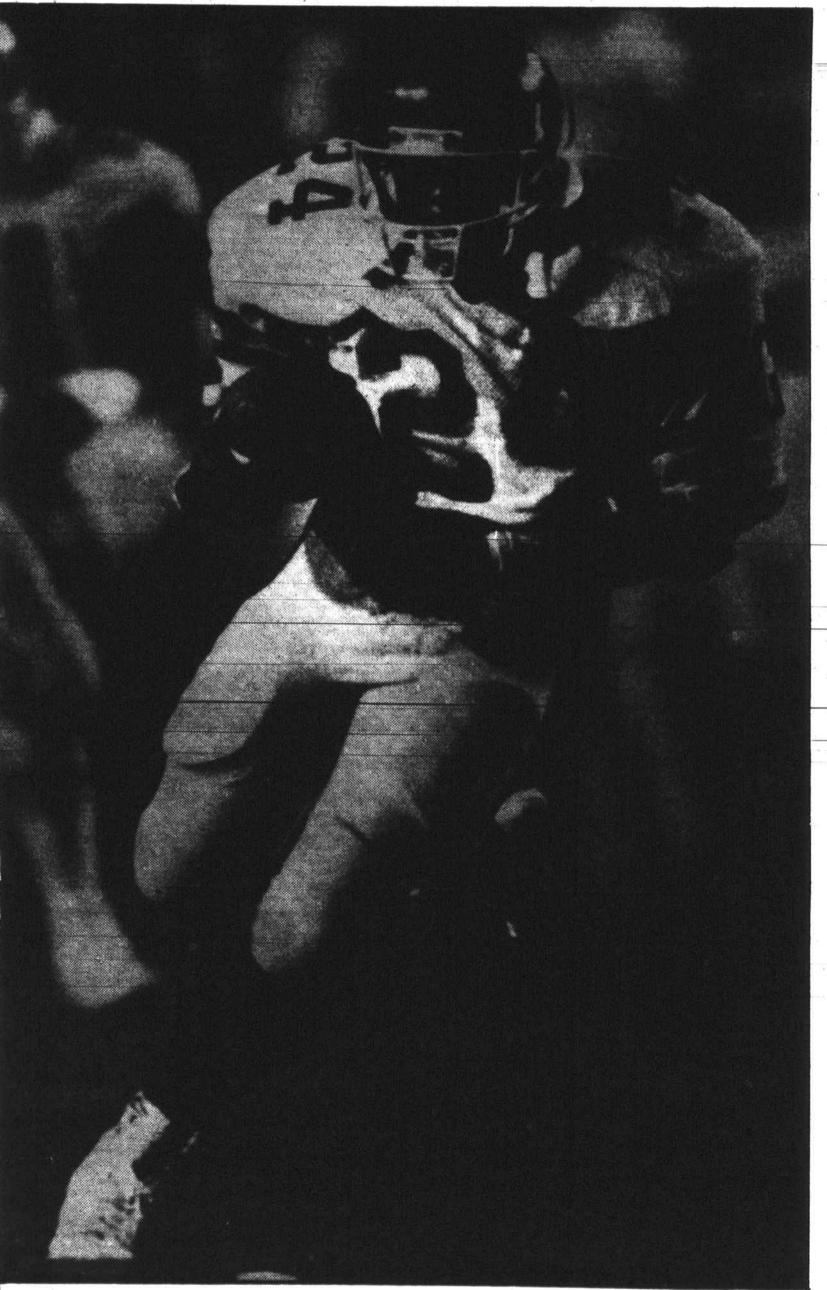


Photo by Mark Gail

Mr. Endzone

Grambling fullback Walter Dean has a sixth sense for the endzone. He scored three TDs in the G-Men's opening day route of Alcorn State. Labeled as "the Dean of Running Backs," the senior is being actively promoted for the Heisman Trophy and the Walter Payton Award.