



Football
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Peacocks Comeback Effort Falls Short

Duquesne defeats Saint Peter's 35-21 in MAAC opener

JERSEY CITY, NJ - (October 14, 2006) – The Saint Peter's College Peacocks (0-6, 0-1 MAACFL) dropped their MAAC opener to the Duquesne University Dukes (5-2, 1-0 MAACFL), 35-21 at Cochrane Stadium this afternoon. The Peacocks tried to overcome a 28-0 first half deficit, but fell short. **Shaun Puluse** had 21 carries for 143 yards a touchdown to lead the Saint Peter's offense.

Saint Peter's started the game with a great drive, but **John Bond** fumbled the ball after a completed pass at the four-yard line. Duquesne took over and immediately had to punt. On Duquesne's next drive the Dukes missed a 43-yard field goal. On the Peacocks next drive, a bad snap on fourth down led the great field position for the Dukes. **Scott Knapp** found **Philip Hayes** from six yards out to give the Dukes a 7-0 lead, which is how the first quarter ended.

Saint Peter's then had a 48-yard field goal go wide left on their first drive of the second quarter. On the next play from scrimmage, Duquesne's **James Jacobs** ran the ball 68 yards for a touchdown and a 14-0 lead. After a Peacocks three and out, the Dukes needed just three plays to score again. Knapp found **Dan Spriggs** for a 65-yard touchdown pass that gave Duquesne a 21-0 lead. The Dukes then took a 28-0 lead at the 2:50 mark of the second quarter on a 25-yard touchdown pass from Knapp to **Bruce Hocker**.

The Peacocks then went into their two-minute drill, traveling 85 yards in 11 plays and using 2:36 on the clock. **Scott Bonnono** found Bond from two-yards out for a touchdown with two-seconds left in the half. **Jacob Thomas** added the PAT and the Peacocks went into the intermission with some momentum, trailing 28-7.

The Peacocks immediately forced a Duquesne punt to start the third quarter and took advantage. Saint Peter's went on a five-play 39-yard drive that culminated with a two-yard touchdown run by Puluse. The score cut the deficit to 14 points, at 28-14. The remainder of the quarter went scoreless and Duquesne took a 28-14 lead into the fourth.

After a bad punt for the Peacocks, the Dukes added to their advantage with a touchdown run by **James McCullough** with 9:51 left to play. On the ensuing drive, Saint Peter's again answered as Bonnono connected with **Mark Anderson, Jr.** for a 56-yard pass play that went for a touchdown and cut the deficit back to 14 points at 35-21 with 7:41 to play. Saint Peter's could not find the endzone again and fell by the final score of 35-21.

Bonnono went 21-43 for 245 yards, two touchdowns and an interception for Saint Peter's. His two touchdown passes made him the all-time career touchdown pass leader with 27 in his career. Bond made six catches for 77 yards and a touchdown, while **Jaleel Kindell** made four catches for 44 yards.

Knapp was 17-34 for 222 yards and three touchdowns for Duquesne. Spriggs caught six Knapp passes for 120 yards and a touchdown. Jacobs had five rushes for 74 yards, while McCullough had 18 rushes for 75 yards.

On the defensive side of the ball, **Jerome Gordon** led Saint Peter's with nine tackles, a tackle for loss and a hurry. **Sydney Murray** and **Rashid Smith** each recorded six tackles. The Dukes were led by **Ronne Garvin** who had 10 tackles. **Greg Hough** recorded nine tackles, a sack and a blocked kick.

Saint Peter's will have a short work week as they host Salisbury University on Thursday night. The game is scheduled for a 7pm kickoff at Cochrane Stadium. The game can also be heard at www.redzonemedia.com with the pre-game show at 6:50pm.

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