



# Cards claim Courage Bowl III

## Penalties aplenty in 37-21 victory over U of R Yellowjackets



Brad Waters

In front of a capacity crowd of 5,887 fans on Sept. 15, honorary captains from Camp Good Days assisted with the coin toss for Courage Bowl III. St. John Fisher beat the U of R Yellowjackets 37-21.

SPORTS EDITOR  
**MIKE SPIER**

Many times you will hear football coaches drone on about how much penalties can hurt their teams.

In the case of Courage Bowl III, where St. John Fisher defeated the University of Rochester, 37-21, it turns out they were right.

The Yellowjackets outmatched the Cardinals in almost all of the major offensive categories including rushing (145-109), passing (160-143) and time of possession (36:54-23:06)

The only thing that got Fisher's offense jumpstarted in the first half was the amount, and timing of, the Yellowjackets' penalties. Overall, U of R had 10 penalties for 90 yards in the game.

"We shut their offense down," U of R Head Coach Scott Greene said. "Our guys played hard out there, and Fisher is a great team, but we knew that we couldn't have penalties and that hurt us."

The Yellowjackets stingy defense helped stall the first two Fisher drives in a game that Fisher has won the last six years. Normally accurate Cardinals' senior quarterback Rob Kramer started off this particular game 1-for-7.

"Kramer was a little sporadic there for a little while," said Cardinals' Head Coach Paul Vosburgh, who is in his 17th season at the helm. "We had a couple of guys wide open, but the great thing about Rob was that he recovered and made some great throws."

Kramer finished the game going 9-for-17 for 143 yards, three touchdowns and an interception.

The Cardinals third drive was mostly assisted by Yellowjacket penalties. When Fisher was on the U of R 47 there was a pass interference call. A few plays later came a personal foul that put the Cardinals on the 14. From



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Senior Ryan Hanson dives past two University of Rochester defenders into the endzone for the final score of the game.

there it only took three plays for senior tailback Ryan Hanson to score his first of two touchdowns. Overall, he rushed for 95 yards on 23 carries.

That score, with the help of the penalties, gave the Cardinals enough momentum to jump out to a 20-point lead.

"U of R was playing great, and after some of their penalties, we fortunately came up with big plays to get our 20 points in the first half," Vosburgh said

Rochester wasn't satisfied with getting shut out heading into halftime though.

With six seconds remaining in the

half, Rochester quarterback Adam Barrett heaved a ball deep in the endzone from 32 yards away. With at least four Cardinal defenders around him, junior tight end Tom Malczewski snatched the ball after it was tipped up in the air by one of the defenders.

"I think our guys were trying to tip it out of the back of the end zone," Vosburgh said. "It was just one of those freaky plays where the receiver makes a great catch."

Almost immediately after the half, senior linebacker Steve Flagler intercepted a pass. That led to a field goal by Kyle Piccirilli, giving the Cardinals

a 23-7 lead.

After that field goal, U of R drove 59 yards and scored a touchdown on a 10-yard pass to sophomore Pedro Sosa. With a successful two-point conversion, the Yellowjackets put the score at 23-15 with 4:04 remaining in the third.

In Fisher's first possession of the fourth quarter, Kramer threw his third interception of the year into the arms of sophomore Jim Milks, who ran the ball for a four-yard touchdown. After a failed two-point conversion, the score was 23-21.

After Milks' touchdown, U of R

St. John Fisher 37  
Rochester 21



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pooch-kicked the ball down the sideline and grabbed the ball away from a Cardinals' special teams player. Instead of the Yellowjackets having the ball at the Fisher 41, the referees ruled it to be illegal interference, giving the Cardinals the ball at the U of R 44.

"Our guy got there before their guy did. I just didn't understand that call," Greene said. "I think the game should be decided on the field. I don't think the refs should be deciding it."

After that penalty, Fisher capitalized with a perfect pass from Kramer to junior wide out Jimmy Smith in the far right corner of the end zone.

With 3:57 left in the game, Hanson scored the final touchdown right after senior Scott Miranto finished off Rochester's chances on a fourth down stop.

"When our team faces adversity they get after it," Vosburgh said. "In our games this season, when something goes wrong for us, that's when we seem to play our best."

On Sept. 22, Fisher will travel to Ithaca to face the Bombers. In the last meeting in Ithaca the Cardinals lost in overtime, 41-35. The Cardinals have never won at Butterfield Stadium.

"Winning this game and starting 3-0 was big for us," Smith said. "It will definitely give us good momentum heading into Ithaca."

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