



Robinson passes on Rochester Raiders

Cardinals' RB signs contract, backs out

SPORTS EDITOR
MIKE SPIER

Mark Robinson went into CGI Communications, Inc. looking for a job just like any other St. John Fisher senior.

He came out of the interview with a contract in hand to play for the CGI-owned Rochester Raiders of the Continental Indoor Football League (CIFL).

"I was talking to Bob Bartosiewicz, the owner of CGI, and all of a sudden he asked me if I wanted to play football," Robinson said. "I said that I still have a feeling to play football and he said he would get me a contract. It kind of caught me off guard but I decided to sign it and see what happened."

On March 20, both the *Democrat and Chronicle* and *RNews* reported that Robinson and another running back, Temple University's Jamil Porter, had been signed to replace injured Raiders running back Reggie Cox. Three days later, on March 23, Robinson opted out of his contract and left the team.

"On Friday night, they posted the dress list and I wasn't on it," Robinson said. "I decided that it wasn't going to work out and I told them that I couldn't give up

six nights a week and not make any money without having another job."

Robinson noted that non-dress list players make \$100 per week while players on the dress list earn \$250-300 per week.

Raiders' Director of Player Personnel Mark Thurston did not agree with Robinson's decision.

"He should not have quit," Thurston said. "The dress list changes and there are a lot of injuries during the season, which may have meant opportunities for him to play."

Robinson's co-signee, Porter, who did make the dress list, was not going to make it any easier for Robinson to get on it. In Porter's first game on March 24, he rushed for 137 yards and three touchdowns to help the Raiders beat the New England Surge. He was named CIFL Offensive Player of the Week for his performance.

"I didn't expect Porter to be that good but he was a Division I running back at Temple, so he definitely has some moves," Robinson said. "I was expecting to come in and take the main spot but he came out of nowhere and just took over."

"Porter had a friend on the team so he knew the plays ahead



Mike Spier

After a successful Fisher career, Mark Robinson opted out of his contract with the Rochester Raiders.

of time," Thurston said. "Besides, Porter was here more and, knowledge-wise, he's a few more steps ahead of Robinson."

Robinson felt like he was at a disadvantage from the start.

"I felt like I wasn't even part of the team," he said. "I was kind of an outcast because I was the only player there who was still in college. I have night class on Monday and Wednesday so I couldn't be there when the team practiced from 6:15 to 8:15 [p.m.]. It really hurt that I couldn't be there every night that week. Overall, I really don't feel like I made a smart decision to jump right into it like that and it was more of an on-the-fly decision."

There was also a sense that he was signed for something other than his talent as a tailback.

"I kind of felt like the Raiders were using me as a marketing tool. I was willing to stick around if they were going to play me, but I wasn't going to stay if they just

kept me so my name would be advertisement for them. I wasn't going to let them use me like that, just because I went to Fisher."

Thurston disagreed with Robinson's comment.

"We did not sign him just as a marketing tool," Thurston said. "We wanted to sign him because he's a good back. It was just a bonus that he was from the Rochester area."

Although his tenure with the Raiders didn't last long, Robinson's success as a college running back still has teams from the Canadian Football League (CFL) looking at him.

"Two CFL teams, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and the Edmonton Eskimos, have been looking at me," Robinson said. "If I can get up there and get a tryout and impress some people you never know what can happen. To play football and get paid for it has been my dream ever since I started playing."

The Washington Redskins of

the NFL also requested tape from Cardinals' head coach Paul Vossburgh.

"We sent tape down to the Redskins after they requested it and also to a couple of guys we know up in the CFL," Vossburgh said. "It's hard to say what's going to happen. It all depends on how they judge it when they see it and if he fits what they are looking for."

No matter how his football career pans out, Robinson will not be stubborn and is willing to let football go if need be.

"I'm letting football kind of go away but I've been working out and keeping in shape if that opportunity does come," Robinson said. "It was fun putting on the pads again for another week so I've still got the itch a little bit. If a team contacts me, I'd love to play but if it doesn't happen, I won't be upset about it."

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Men's lacrosse wins three straight in Empire 8

STAFF WRITER
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They already have one loss in the Empire 8 Conference and the St. John Fisher men's lacrosse team could not afford another one this early in the season.

They would not go down without a fight.

With their most dominant defensive performance in the program's six year history, the Cardinals demolished Alfred 7-1.

The Cardinals jumped out to an early lead as freshman Dave Malone scored two goals within the first three minutes of the contest.

Fisher led 5-0 at halftime thanks to goals from freshmen Malone, Chris Schmidt, Jeff Price and junior Dennis Bell.

The Cardinals' relentless defense anchored by sophomore Matt Pompo was virtually unstoppable as Alfred had very few chances to even enter the crease. When they did, senior goalie Brian Cummings dominated in the net as he did not allow

a single goal in three-and-a-half quarters of play.

To open up the fourth quarter, junior Mike Cortina scored the first goal of the second half with the assist by senior Jason Brannigan.

With the clock winding down in the final quarter and Alfred finally starting to show some life, an improbable comeback was brought to a screeching halt. As an Alfred defenseman scooped up a ground ball and charged up-field, Cortina and freshman Scottie Bowen delivered a bone-wrenching hit to jar the ball loose and send the Fisher sidelines into pandemonium.

Senior Matt Hargather scored the final goal of the game, slashing through multiple defenders, taking a hit and shooting from the ground for the goal, putting an exclamation point on the win.

On March 31, the Cardinals played host to Hartwick College as they played their second straight Empire 8 game. Very similar to their last game, the men's lacrosse team played very consistent both defen-

sively and in goal.

Head coach John Johnson was pleased with his team's performance.

"We did a really nice job today," Johnson said. "For the second straight game, our guys have played consistent defensively."

The Cardinals received a contribution from an unfamiliar source as Bowen scored three goals in the first half.

"With one loss already in the Empire 8 Conference, this was a really big win for us," Bowen said. "It was a must win game if we want to get into the Empire 8 Tournament and I was just glad to contribute and help the team win."

Bowen was in the right place at the right time, receiving assists in front of the crease from Malone and Price.

"Scottie Bowen got the game ball and rightfully so," Johnson said. "With three goals, he had a huge game. I'm really happy for him."

Just before halftime, Schmidt, who already has 14 goals so far this season, scored on a remarkable play as he went airborne in

front of the net to give Fisher a 4-2 lead.

In another low scoring game, Cummings made 12 saves against Hartwick to lead the team to its third straight victory.

"Our defense is really starting to step it up," Cummings said. "They are forcing outside shots which really helps me out as a goalie."

Hartwick scored its fourth goal of the game and Cummings realized he had to bear down as Fisher was walking on thin ice, clinging to a 6-4 lead. Shortly after, Cummings made an amazing save and then followed up on the rebound to deny Hartwick's run once again.

"As a goalie, I try not to think too much. The more you think the more you stink," Cummings said jokingly.

After an impressive home stretch, the Cardinals are very confident sitting on a three game winning streak, clicking on all cylinders and ready to face any opponent thrown their way.

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2007 ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

The winners are announced in the April 18 edition of the *Cardinal Courier* with follow-up on the April 19 episode of *Fisher Sports Desk*.

