



58



52



Brad Waters

The Fisher sideline reacts after quarterback Tim Bailey was sacked by Jarrell Chandler to end the four overtime game.

Devastation

Cardinals make too many mistakes, miss opportunities in 4OT loss to Gulls

STAFF WRITER
MATT WEINSTEIN

Needing to convert a fourth down-and-two in quadruple overtime to keep the game alive, St. John Fisher quarterback Tim Bailey dropped back to pass, hoping to hit a receiver on a quick slant pattern.

Before Bailey could even get set in the pocket, Salisbury defensive end Jarrell Chandler drove him and quite possibly Fisher's NCAA hopes into the ground.

Salisbury's Shelby Fisher scored the winner on a four-yard run in the fourth overtime and the Cardinals could not match as the Sea Gulls outlasted the Cardinals 58-52 in a non-conference game Saturday at Growney Stadium.

"They made more plays than we did and that was the difference," said Bailey, a sophomore who passed for 334 yards and tied a school record with five touchdown passes on 22 of 34 passing. "We're kind of bummed but we'll

TALE OF THE TAPE

58	Score	52
626	Total Offense	475
529	Rushing yards	141
97	Passing yards	334
7-5	Fumbles-lost	5-2
5-39	Penalty yards	8-75
7/16	Third down conv.	7/18
5/5	Fourth down conv.	3/4
7-109	Kickoff return	7-150
2-11	Punt Return	0-0
29:38	Possession Time	45:22

bounce back"

The instant classic saw a combined 1,101 yards of offense, 626 coming from the Sea Gulls.

It was the first time since 2005 the Cardinals lost two games in a row in the same season and the first time the team had a .500 record this late in the

season since 2002. The team lost on a late fumble the week before at home against conference foe Hartwick.

The Cardinals (3-3, 1-1 E8) chances for an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament are slim after the loss but the team still remains in contention for the E8 Championship.

St. John Fisher held a 14-point advantage twice, the last a 38-24 lead with 13:32 remaining in regulation after a one-yard run by Bailey. The Sea Gulls (5-1) cut the lead to seven points with nine minutes remaining and then tied the score on a one-yard run by Fisher with 33 seconds left.

"Both teams played well," Cardinals coach Paul Vosburgh said. "Our kids played hard and we had opportunities but we just couldn't get it done."

Bailey hit junior running back Brad Carlton with a shovel pass and Carlton scampered 12 yards for a TD on Fisher's first possession in OT. The Car-

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TOP TIER



'89 Fisher alumnus Russ Brandon has reached the peak of his profession

SPORTS EDITOR
MIKE SPIER

From rats to riches.

That is the career progression that can be attributed to 1989 St. John Fisher College graduate Russ Brandon, who now serves in the Buffalo Bills' top spot as Chief Operating Officer.

In his time at Fisher, Brandon was very productive, both academically and athletically. He was a four-year letterwinner as a wide receiver on the football team and finished his career on the baseball team with a .367 batting average. He was inducted into the Fisher Athletics Hall of Fame in 2004.

Starting sophomore year, in between playing football and baseball, the Syracuse native interned for the Rochester Red Wings, the local Triple-A team.

"I remember the first thing I had to do was go into a rat-infested area of Silver Stadium to reposition the merchandise that was in a water-logged area," Brandon said. "During the time I said to myself, 'Wow, this is my welcome to professional sports.'"

While the now-defunct facility may have been run down, Brandon couldn't say enough good things about the organization that hired him full time in 1990.

"That was when I went from an unpaid intern to a barely paid employee but I had the opportunity," he said. "My philosophy is that you can get to the door of opportunity but you need to walk through it. [The Red Wings] gave me that opportunity and I am forever indebted to them."

By the time he left the team in 1993, Brandon was the co-general manager along with Dan Mason, who is currently the Red Wings' GM.

From the Wings, Brandon went to work for the New York Yankees in a division called the Sports Advertising Network. While he liked the experience, he didn't enjoy the fact that he was away from the competition on the field.

After a year there, Brandon went down to work with the Florida Marlins, first at the spring training facility and then as the Director of Corporate Sales in Miami two years later.

While Brandon was in south Florida, the Marlins won the World Series over the Cleveland Indians on Oct. 26, 1997. Six days later, on Nov. 1, Brandon

was sitting in his new office in Buffalo as the Bills' new Executive Director of Business Development and Marketing. Just 13 months later, Brandon was promoted to the Vice President position in the same department.

"The biggest difference switching from baseball to football was having a game on a Tuesday night against the Montreal Expos in south Florida compared to every game being a huge event beginning in August and hopefully ending in late January," he said. "In football you have to bring you're A-game every week."

In 1999, as part of a way to expand the Bills' market area, Brandon helped bring the Bills training camp from SUNY Fredonia to St. John Fisher.

"We looked at a variety of places but Fisher just presented itself in a tremendous fashion in where it was going as an institution," Brandon said.

The training camp has been at Fisher ever since.

On Jan. 12, 2007, after spending two years as the Executive Vice President of Business Operations, Brandon was named the new Bills COO and took control over both business and football operations.

While the majority of his career has been based on business, Brandon said he has not had a hard time with the transition.

"It has been a nominal transition," he said. "The last 10 years I've been involved in every process from the draft to free agency."

"Everything is also in a team concept and you leave your ego at the door when you walk into our team offices. We've made a lot of decisions the last few months but they haven't been my decisions - they're Buffalo Bills' decisions. I'm just fortunate enough to be the leader of that group."

Now at the age of 40, Brandon has come a long way from the spry kid at Fisher who was a two-sport athlete. He has been asked by many people where he thought he'd be by mid-life.

"I never envisioned myself being that old," he said. "I didn't have a real vision but I always knew that I wanted to work in professional sports. Did I think I'd be sitting in this chair at age 40 in my home region? Absolutely not. It's a true privilege and a blessing."

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