

Camaraderie among Tribe team leads to

WINNING

season and coveted CAA honors

Working together, sophomore cornerback Ben Cottingham, safety Michael Alvarado and line backer Evan Francks tackle the University of New Hampshire receiver. The Tribe's victory over New Hampshire brought the team its sixth consecutive victory of the season.

In the game against the University of New Hampshire, sophomore wide out Chase Hill completes a pass despite the efforts of a New Hampshire defender. Hill's successful performance included a gain of 60 yards in five catches and two touchdowns which helped the Tribe win 38-34.



Photos courtesy of Sports Information.

The Tribe football team's 7-4 winning season was the result of mental preparedness, hard work both in practice and in games, and focused teamwork.

The Tribe upset several key teams including fourth-ranked University of New Hampshire. Despite losing to top-ranked James Madison University, the season was successful overall. The loss to JMU ended the team's five-game winning streak, but the team did not let it get them down. Seniors on the team did their best to make sure that the players were constantly focused on the game at hand. "The other captains and I try to emphasize that every game is just as important as the next; so we are, in a sense, having a play-off game each week," senior captain Josh Rutter said. "We try and carry that same mind-set into the preparation for each game," Rutter said.

Being prepared was a key aspect for the team, therefore working on basic skills continued off the field. For example, film studying was an important element for the Tribe team. It not only built up knowledge about the opposing team's plays and skills, but also brought the team together to decide on big plays and strategies. This enabled them to be mentally prepared for games and boosted their team camaraderie.

The team's winning season marked their first in the past three seasons. The few losses were overcome and even helped to bring the team together. Camarade-

rie within the team made winning possible, with every player willing to help out his teammates when necessary. "We didn't have winning seasons the past three years, and those results can give you a loser mentality," senior cornerback Derek Cox said. "Sometimes it's hard to break out of that mentality, and many teams never do. The way our team has come back this year speaks volumes about the team's camaraderie. For a team to make it through tough times and start having success, they have to believe in each other and stick it out together," Cox said.

New athletes also contributed to the team's success. "The freshmen we have on this team are really a talented bunch of guys," Rutter said. "A player like Jake Trantin on defense will be a great linebacker for the school in the next few years. And on the offensive side, running back Jon Grimes has already shown his ability and potential to be dominant in this league. There's plenty more that are in their first or second year of playing that are going to reestablish William & Mary's tradition of dominance in football," Rutter said.

As they climbed in national polls to 16th in the nation and had nine players earn All-CAA honors, the Tribe's first winning season in three years was marked by successes all around.

> Rachel Jablonski

Pushing past the other VMI players, senior cornerback Derek Cox moves for the football. In their first victory of the season, the Tribe football team beat VMI 52-17 in their first home game.



team

In Alphabetical order: Michael Alvarado, R.J. Archer, Tyler Bailey, David Caldwell, Mike Callahan, Terreon Conyers, Dante Cook, Ben Cottingham, Derek Cox, Derek Crossen, Cameron Dohse, Nick Downey, Kelly FitzGerald, Omar Francis, Evan Francks, Alex Gottlieb, Michael Grant, Jonathan Grimes, Robert Gumbita, C.J. Herbert, Chase Hill, Keith Hill Jr., Gareth Hissong, Luke Hiteshow, Jimmy Hobson, DeBrian Holmes, William Honbarrier, David Houff, Marcus Hyde, Cory Jessee, Chris Johnson, Fred Johnson, Blake Jones, Meltoya Jones, Nolan Kearney, Christopher Kearns, Sean Kroeger, Sean Lissimore, Robert Livingston, Elliott Mack, D.J. Mangas, Jake Marcey, Courtland Marriner, Zach Martin, D.J. McAulay, Thomas McCutcheon, David Miller, Tyler Miller, Jabrel Mines, Ryan Moody, C.J. Muse, James Neal, Donte Newbill, Matt Nickerson, Eric O'Brien, Kyle O'Brien, Jake O'Conner, James Pagliaro, Brian Pate, Jake Phillips, Michael Pigram, Ravi Pradhanang, TJ Ptachick, Daniel Pulley, Andy Ramp, Joshua Raxter, Todd Reyher, John Ribble, Terrance Riggins, Eric Robertson, Harold Robertson, Josh Rutter, Daneil Ryan, Mike Salazar, Terrance Schmand, Thomas Schonder, Mike Schriff, Robert Scott, Wes Steinman, Michael Stover, Chris Sutton, C.J. Thomas, Brian Thompson, Josh Thompson, Derek Toon, Andy Topping, Adrian Tracy, Jake Trantin, Rob Varno, Adam Warack, B.W. Webb, Terrell Wells, Ryan Woolfolk, Richard Yount. *Coaching staff:* Head Coach Jimmie Laycock, Asst. Head Coach Bob Solderitch, Offensive Coordinator Zbig Kepa, Defensive Coordinator Bob Shop.

<SCOREBOARD>

W&M 24 < 34 NORTH CAROLINA STATE
W&M 38 > 17 NORTHEASTERN

W&M 52 > 17 VMI
W&M 24 < 48 JMU

W&M 42 > 12 NORFOLK STATE
W&M 20 < 23 RICHMOND

W&M 28 < 38 VILLANOVA

W&M 38 > 34 NEW HAMPSHIRE

W&M 27 > 3 DELAWARE

W&M 34 > 24 RHODE ISLAND

W&M 34 > 14 TOWSON