

WESTERN FOOTBALL

Weekly Notes for Oct. 25 - home vs. CSU-Pueblo



VS.



Oct. 25 @ 1 p.m.
Mountaineer Bowl
Western State

Overall: 2-5
RMAC: 2-4
Last Week: Lost at
Mesa State, 19-29

CSU-Pueblo

Overall: 3-4
RMAC: 2-4
Last Week: Won
against N.M. Highlands,
21-14

Series History

Series: Western leads
9-6
Last Game: Western
won 46-10 (1984)

Last Week

The Mountaineers were defeated by Mesa State, 19-29 in Grand Junction, Colo., on CBS College Sports Network. The Mountaineers started off strong, entering the second quarter with a 7-0 lead. The Mavericks rallied back, to head into halftime with a 14-13 lead. The second half wasn't so kind to the Mountaineers. The Mavericks ended up scoring two more touchdowns to seal the game.

Offensive Numbers

Western ranks fifth in the conference with an average of 21.6 points-per-game, while averging 344.7 yards-per-game in total offense. The Mountaineers have accumulated 232.3 yards-per-game through the air.

That's a Mountaineer FIRST DOWN

The Mountaineers rank in the middle of the conference in first downs. In seven games, Western has tallied 121 first downs. These first downs have come off of 38 rushes, 72 passes and 11 penalties.

WSC Player of the Weeks

Defense - Trevor Bobb - Lineback, Sophomore
Offense - Collin Metz - Offensive Line, Sophomore, Scott Stuller - Offensive Line, Sophomore, Steve Johnson - Offensive Line, Junior
Special Teams - Levi Ostrom - Defensive Line, Sophomore
Scout Offense - Steven Imber - Offensive Line, Freshman
Scout Defense - Colton Martin - Defensive Back, R-Freshman

Up Next

The Mountaineers (2-5, 2-4) return home today to face CSU-Pueblo (3-4, 2-4) at the Mountaineer Bowl.

All About CSU-Pueblo

Colorado State University-Pueblo is a comprehensive state university with an enrollment of more than 4,000 students, including nearly 200 international students. Located in Pueblo, Colorado, the CSU-Pueblo football team plays its home games at the newly added Neta and Eddie DeRose ThunderBowl. Last week, the ThunderWolves defeated New Mexico Highlands at home, 21-14.

CSU-Pueblo's Head Coach - John Wristen

Head coach John Wristen, a former all-conference quarterback at Colorado State University-Pueblo, enters his first season as the ThunderWolves head football coach. He is responsible for creating a football program that has been dormant for 24 years after the team was cut following the 1984 season.

Wristen becomes just the fourth head coach for the University since becoming a four-year institution in 1963. Joe Prater served as coach from 1963 to 1973 and had a 52-53-2 career record. Mike Friedman led the team from 1974 to 1983 and had a 60-38-2 overall record. Gary Richardson coached the final year of football in 1984 and finished with a record of 2-8 overall.

CSU-Pueblo

John Wristen knows Division I football. Ever since he got his first D-I job at the University of Colorado in 1990, the same season the Buffs won the National Championship, he developed an expectation about how a football program, D-I or otherwise, should be run.

That mindset of a champion, seeking to build a Division I program at the Division II level at Colorado State University-Pueblo.

On Sept. 6, 2007, with little in place except a funding source and a head coach in Wristen, the workload ahead was daunting. There was no blueprint in place for the journey in which the ThunderWolves' football program was about to embark. Nobody tried to do this in a year. Nobody.

Wristen and the football program were blazing a new path, one in which there were no standards. And the first mindset that needed to be adopted by the ThunderWolf football program was that there are no excuses. No expectations of losing for a few years before things pick up. The goal would be to be as competitive as possible right away. No excuses.

The first step was successfully to hire one of the best groups of assistants around. The Pack's coaching staff brings a track record as one of the most experienced staffs around, combining more than 50 years of Division I coaching experience and over 80 years of overall coaching experience at the collegiate level. The ThunderWolves added longtime Air Force Academy assistant, Tom Miller, as assistant head coach, as well as former Adams State Head Coach, Wayne McGinn, and former CU and Tennessee Graduate Assistant, Hunter Hughes, as defensive coordinator. That was followed by four more hires, including former Denver Bronco, Steve Sewell.

But not even a coaching staff of Knute Rockne, Vince Lombardi and Bear Bryant could win without good players, and that problem was soon remedied, too.

The ThunderWolf football program quickly ascended beyond a destination of last resort to recruits, which is usually a moniker attached to startup programs, and instead became a destination of choice. Pueblo's very locale was attractive, as CSU-Pueblo became the one football program on Colorado's Front Range that was accessible to athletes. Out of all the Front Range football programs, three are Division I (Air Force, Colorado, Colorado State), one is Division I-AA (Northern Colorado), and the lone D-II and D-III programs (Colorado Mines and Colorado College, respectively) are among the most academically prestigious institutions in not only the state, but the country.

The result was that an exemplary high school football star who wished to stay close to home only had three options: Pray for a D-I scholarship, and if not, walk-on and pray some more; become your school's valedictorian so you can get in to Mines or CC; or, just plain leave home. CSU-Pueblo changed all that. Of the 100-plus players in preseason camp, more than 75 hail from Colorado's Front Range.

Combined with an impressive selection of some of the country's finest junior college transfers and out-of-state high school recruits, the Pack is primed and ready to compete – now. Throwing in the team's new stadium, the state-of-the-art \$7 million Neta and Eddie DeRose ThunderBowl, already received as one of the finest D-II football complexes in the country, the ThunderWolves are primed for success right away.

CSU-Pueblo, after cutting the football program 24 years ago, kicked off its first football season since 1984, and closed the evening with a storybook ending - a 24-13 home-team win over the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Aggies.

The ThunderWolves were picked to finish last in the RMAC Preseason Poll and have proven to the conference that that is not where they belong. Currently, CSUP is holding the fifth spot in the conference standings.

Offensively, the ThunderWolves are averaging 15.6 points-per-game and 230.0 yards-per-game. Defensively, CSU-Pueblo is giving up 22.0 points and 360.3 yards-per-game.

Weather

Saturday's forecast is expected to be Sunny and a high of 62 degrees.

Watch WSC Football LIVE B2 Networks

For the first time in 2008, Mountaineer fans will be able to watch live online streaming VIDEO broadcasts of all available WSC football games (home & away), courtesy of B2 Networks. A single game may be purchased for \$7, and a 2008 WSC football season pass (all available WSC home & away games) is available for \$40. A 2008-09 WSC Athletics all-access pass (access to all available WSC football, volleyball, men's basketball and women's basketball and wrestling home & away games) may be purchased for \$125. For more information, visit <http://wscathletics.com> and click on B2 NETWORKS LOGO.

Listen to WSC Football LIVE on KPKE/KEJJ Radio For coverage on all Mountaineer football games, listen to KPKE 1490 AM/KEFF 98.3 FM.



Stewart on 2008

Third year Head Coach Pat Stewart and his coaching staff are optimistic about this season. "We believe that the 2008 season will be a successful one- our players and coaches have worked extremely hard and are feeling very positive going into this season," stated Stewart. "We believe that we have a chance to be a good football team this fall."

The Mountaineers went 1-10 overall last season and 0-8 in RMAC play. This season the expectation has risen.

"Success in the early years isn't always necessarily measured in wins, although Western State Football tradition will ultimately evaluate us on our win / loss record," said Stewart. "We feel that as a program we have progressed every year that we have been here. Last year we didn't win many games, but we felt we were a better football team in many different ways.

After a heart breaking season last year, Stewart and Recruiting Coordinator, Brenton Illum hit the recruiting trail hard to find the highest quality players available.

"We recruited a great deal of talent this past winter and spring which is all a tribute to Brenton Illum and the rest of the coaching staff's tremendous recruiting efforts." said Stewart. "We were able to recruit very successfully the areas within our program which were experiencing immediate needs. The results were some of the best high school football players in the state of Colorado coming to Western this fall. We also acquired transfers that fit within our program and that will have an immediate impact for us this fall. This year we should be a more mature and confident football team." We really feel that we have a healthy mix of older guys and younger guys heading into the season."

School	RMAC Record	Overall Record
Chadron State	6-0	7-1
Mesa State	6-0	6-2
Colorado Mines	5-1	6-2
Nebraska-Kearney	5-1	5-3
Colorado St.-Pueblo	2-4	3-4
<i>Western State</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>2-5</i>
Adams State	2-4	2-6
Fort Lewis	1-5	2-6
N.M. Highlands	1-5	1-7
Western N.M.	0-6	0-7

Head Football Coach:	Pat Stewart
Alma Mater:	Western State College
Record at School:	4-18
All-Time Record:	101-71
Defensive Backs:	Seth Bell
Defensive Coordinator:	Brenton Illum
Defensive Line:	Kevin Stanley
Offensive Coordinator:	C.J. Teply
Offensive Line:	David Pena
Tight Ends:	Jarrod Burns
Running Backs:	Jeff Williamson
Other Assistant Coaches:	Steve Haase Jeff Wilkerson

Western State College Football Facts

Program Induction:	1922
All-Time Record:	355-377-12
NCAA Playoffs:	3
Last Post-Season Appearance:	1997

19 RMAC Football Championships

1954	1978	1963
1964	1965	1966
1971	1973	1974
1975	1976	1977
1978	1979	1991
1992	1994	1995
1997	1998	

Western State College - Gunnison, Colo.

Name of School: Western State College of Colorado

Mailing Address: 210 Paul Wright Gym
Gunnison, CO. 81231

Phone: 970-943-2079

Fax: 970-943-2754

Web site: www.wscathletics.com

Founded:	1901
Enrollment:	2,500
Mascot:	Mountaineers
School Colors:	Crimson, Slate
Home Arena:	Mountaineer Bowl
Capacity:	4,000
Affiliation:	NCAA Division II
Conference:	Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference

President: Jay Helman
Alma Mater: Santa Clara University