

In spite of lack of overall efficiency, Bulldogs still manage to shutout game Spartans

Written by Levi Johnson, Sports Editor
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ORANGEBURG - Although not operating at an overall efficient level for a good portion of the time in its Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) outing opposite Norfolk State (NSU), South Carolina State (SCSU) still managed to end play as the victor.

And on the heels of shutting out the visiting Spartans 14-0 Sat. (Sept. 30), on Willie E. Jeffries Field at Dawson Bulldog Stadium, the Bullogs, to a man, were apparently more than satisfied with what they termed a "much needed win."

With the MEAC triumph, Buddy Pough's charges evened their conference tally at 1-1 and kept alive their hopes of winning or sharing the league crown. In all games, the SCSU worksheet improved to 2-3.

In falling on the road to the Bulldogs, Pete Adrian's defending champion Spartans record dropped to 0-2 and 2-3 overall.

Not getting much offensive push, after a rather fast start, which saw them claim a 7-0 advantage, when running back Julius Pendergrass' 3 yard burst to paydirt completed a six-play, 75 yard drive in the opening 1:19 of the family affair, the victorious Bulldogs had to circle the wagons with the defense leading the charge.

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In search of a momentum starting victory, the Bulldogs used key defensive stops the rest of the way to seal the deal in a game they admitted they had been looking forward to competing in for quite some time.

None more than Kimario McFadden, who was the man of the hour on two game-impacting plays which benefitted the Bulldogs like no others. McFadden's pick late in the initial stanza of play resulted in a 34-yard return for a TD and his second interception in the fourth quarter deep in S.C. State territory took away the Spartans last hope.

"This was one we had to have; and I've been waiting from the start of the season to play like I did today," said the Bulldogs redshirt junior strong safety, who hails from Riverdale, Ga. "Today, I played liked I knew I can (and I feel really good about that and getting this big win).

"How we played (overall) wasn't pretty but we went out and got a win that is definitely a confidence booster for us."

Saying his team played tough when it had to, Buddy Pough admitted to its overall lack of efficiency. Nonetheless, he readily expressed his pleasure after getting the "W".

"No doubt about it; that was one we had to have. Especially so, to keep our hope of winning the conference championship alive," the SCSU coach said. "We knew coming in Norfolk State would play us tough. That happened but we hung in there long enough to get this important win."

Added secondary defender Cortney Ingram, "We made a lot of mistakes but getting this win against a team we wanted and needed to beat is really going to help us as we go forward."