



Finishing the season strong is an emphasis that coaches preach every week; strengthening weaknesses while mentally preparing players for the pressure that will come with each passing game with many Canadian student-athletes playing a part of that success.

After a 45-31 victory over Northern Illinois, Central Michigan completed a successful 10-2 campaign. For the first time in the school's history, the Chippewas finished a perfect 8-0 against Mid-American Conference opponents. The team received significant contributions from their Canadian student-athletes. Junior receiver Kito Poblah (Montreal, QC) reeled in five passes for 77 yards and one touchdown. Senior free safety Eric Fraser (Burnaby, BC) chipped in five tackles for the Chippewas. Central Michigan will play Ohio for the MAC Championship next week.

Following a 57-35 dismantling of West Liberty, California University will continue to the Division II semi-final round against Northwest Missouri State. The Vulcans offense and offensive tackle Jack Range (Ottawa, ON) compiled 594 total yards, along with eight touchdowns. The defense managed to intercept three passes and held the Hilltoppers to 85 yards.

New Hampshire took their first FCS Playoff game against McNeese State with a 49-13 blowout win. Wildcats corner Ryan Hinds (Toronto, ON) led the team with nine tackles, holding the Cowboys to 170 passing yards. The Wildcats will face off against Villanova in the quarterfinal round.

Nevada literally gave No. 6 Boise State a run for their money, but came up short in a 44-33 loss to the Broncos. The Wildcats rushing attack didn't slow, racking up 242 rushing yards with offensive lineman John Bender (Cochrane, AB) paving the way. Broncos defensive tackle Michael Atkinson (Windsor, ON) collected two tackles in the game to help clinch the program's seventh West Athletic Conference title.

Akron ended a 3-9 season with a home win over Eastern Michigan 28-21. Zips defensive lineman Hasan Hazime (Pickering, ON) had a strong game accumulating eight tackles, a sack, and broke up a pass. The defense stifled the Eagles passing game, holding them to 148 yards on 31 attempts. Freshman Eagles linebacker Andy Mulumba (Montreal, QC) played in the contest.

A defensive battle brewed in Kent, Ohio as Buffalo received a 9-6 road win over Kent State. The Bulls connected on a 22-yard field goal with five seconds remaining to seal the deal. Junior defensive end Bruno Lapointe (Lennoxville, QC) recorded four tackles and a sack to limit the Golden Eagles to just 159 total yards on offense. The Bulls finished the season with a 5-7 record.

Connecticut became bowl eligible for the third straight year with a 56-31 triumph over Syracuse. Huskies center Muhammed Petrus (St. Laurent, QC) and receiver John Delahunt (Ottawa, ON) both started on offense as the team rushed for 204 yards. Freshman defensive end Jesse Joseph (Laval, QC) assisted in holding the Orange to 3.6 yards per carry.

Baylor nearly shocked Texas Tech who held a 13-3 halftime lead, but the Bears could not hold on. The Red Raiders would put up 17 unanswered points in the second half to win 20-13, and end the Baylor season at 4-8. Bears' Phillip Blake (Brampton, ON) and Danny Watkins (Kelowna, BC) started on the offensive line as the team rushed for 104 yards.

After Central Arkansas had a field goal blocked and another missed, North Dakota prevailed 17-16 in the season finale. Fighting Sioux receiver Ismael Bamba (Montreal, QC) made one catch for 46 yards and returned two kickoffs for 36 yards. Junior linebacker Curtis Dublanko (Thorsby, AB) had a stellar performance leading the team in tackles with ten. North Dakota concluded their season at 6-5.

It took one overtime session to decide the 33-30 finale win for Tulsa over Memphis. The Golden Hurricanes rolled up 416 total offensive yards with Tyler Holmes (Ottawa, ON) at left tackle. Tulsa ends their season at 5-7.

Duke ended their season 5-7, after falling to Wake Forest 45-34 in the finale. Blue Devil corner Chris Rwabukamba (Windsor, ON) piled up five tackles and broke up a pass.

Carson Newman squeezed out a 24-21 Division II quarterfinal win over University North Alabama. Eagles corner Blaine Ruttan (Ottawa, ON) made a tackle to help limit the Lions to just 4 rushing yards. Carson Newman advances to the semi-finals against Grand Valley State.

Weber State gets ousted by William & Mary in a first round 38-0 FCS playoff loss. Tight end Tyrell Francisco (Kewlowna, BC) started for the Wildcats.