

ALBANY EMPIRE

WEEKLY GAME NOTES

ALBANY EMPIRE (6-4)

Vs

Washington Valor (1-9)

7:00 p.m. Friday June 29th 2018 Capital One Arena

QUICK FACTS

Albany Empire (6-4) vs Washington Valor (1-9)

Date: Friday, June 29th, 2018

Kickoff: 7:00 p.m. EST

Site: Capital One Arena

Officials: Cutaia, Lowe, Kukar, Engelberts, Bell

Radio: ALT 105.7

Watch: Facebook.com/AFLWatch

Series Record: Empire 3 – Valor 0

Coaches: Rob Keefe (6-4 with Albany); Benji McDowell (1-5 with Washington as Interim HC)

MEDIA CONTACTS

Albany	Washington
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2018 EMPIRE SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Kickoff	Result
April 14	PHILADELPHIA	7 p.m.	L 56-35
April 21	BYE WEEK		
April 28	@ Baltimore	3 p.m.	L 52-49
May 5	WASHINGTON	7:30 p.m.	W 47-23
April 21	@ Washington	7 p.m.	W 53-42
May 19	@ Philadelphia	6 p.m.	W 41-36
May 26	WASHINGTON	6 p.m.	W 48-21
June 2	BALTIMORE	7 p.m.	W 61-53
June 9	BALTIMORE	7:30 p.m.	L 59-56
June 16	PHILADELPHIA	6 p.m.	L 75-74
June 23	@ Baltimore	7:30 p.m.	W 56-49
June 29	@ Washington	7 p.m.	
July 7	PHILADELPHIA	6 p.m.	

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY	Off
TUESDAY	Practice 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m
WEDNESDAY	Practice 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m
THURSDAY	Travel Day
FRIDAY	Albany at Washington at 7 p.m.
SATURDAY	Off

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EMPIRE VS VALOR

MATCHUP PREVIEW

After coming off a key victory visiting the league-leading Baltimore Brigade (7-3) last Saturday, the Albany Empire (6-4) look to wrap up a two-game road trip with a win at the Washington Valor (1-9) on Friday, June 29th 7:00 pm at the Capital One Arena. With the road win, Albany clinched the tiebreaker over Baltimore and has kept themselves alive for contention of the one-seed going into the playoffs. Playoff implications are on the line for the Empire with this week's matchup at Washington as a win could potentially move Albany into first place going into the regular season finale next week.

The first matchup to look out for is between the Valor's starting quarterback, Arvell Nelson, and Albany's defensive secondary. Nelson has solidified his starting role for the Valor by earning the team their first win of the season during a Week 9 visit to Philadelphia. Being named the MVP of the game, Nelson threw four touchdown passes and rushed for two more. In last week's defeat to the Soul, Nelson made another offensive impact with a four touchdown performance of two passing touchdowns and two rushing touchdowns. Nelson presents himself as a dual offensive threat due to his versatility- not only will he complete touchdown passes, he has proven himself to be even more dangerous with five rushing touchdowns on the season in just four games.

Another matchup to look out for is between Washington's top receiver, Reggie Gray, and one of Albany's pivotal defensive backs, Marrio Norman. Gray leads the Valor in multiple receiving categories including receiving yards (670), touchdown receptions (15), yards per game (67), and total receptions (59). As the numbers state, Gray is top target of Nelson and will likely be targeted often in this week's matchup with the Empire. In Washington's last meeting with Albany, Gray caught eight passes for 48 yards and a touchdown reception, becoming just the 15th player in AFL history to total more than 800 career receptions. Norman is coming off a stellar performance in Saturday's win versus the Brigade. Norman's 10 tackles put him in the team lead in the respective category with 57.5; ranked second in all of AFL. In a Week 4 47-23 victory against the Valor, Norman was named Defensive Player of the Game with nine tackles and two interceptions and one defensive touchdown.

The third and final matchup to be wary of is Washington's star kickoff returner, Chris Duvall, versus the Empire's special teams. Duvall has compiled 756 kickoff return yards on the season on 47 attempts, ranked second in the AFL. Averaging just over 16 yards per return, Duvall has been consistent all season long in setting up the Valor offense with good field position, including a 56-yard touchdown return from the kickoff, the longest of any kickoff returns in the AFL this season. This has been a weakness for the Empire all season long. Albany will need to tackle Duvall deep in Washington territory before he is able to make a move. If Duvall can find a seam in his return, look out!

BATTLE FOR FIRST

As the regular season winds down, first place is up for grabs between Albany, Baltimore, and Philadelphia...

- After handing the first place Brigade (7-3) their first home loss of the season last Saturday, the Empire (6-4) earned the tiebreaker between the two sides in the event of a tie.
- If Albany defeats the Valor and the Soul defeat the Brigade, Albany would have a chance at the number 1 seed with a win in the final game of the regular season.

WASHINGTON TIES

* Current Albany Empire wide receiver **Greg Carr** was a member of the 2017 Washington Valor during their inaugural season, compiling 67 total receptions for 776 total yards.

OPPOSING PLAYERS TO WATCH

Look out for Valor **QB Arvell Nelson** who has proven himself to be a rising, versatile offensive threat for Washington. In the Valor's past two games, Nelson has completed six touchdown passes and has added four rushing touchdowns. Nelson is credited for securing Washington's first win of the season a few weeks ago by earning the game's MVP honors with 214 passing yards.

WR Josh Reese is another notable offensive weapon for the Valor. Second on the Valor with 594 receiving yards, 51 receptions and nine touchdowns, Reese has been a solid number two receiver all season long. Reggie Gray will receive the majority of looks from Nelson, but don't be surprised to see Reese haul in targets all night and eventually find his way into the end zone at least once.

THE SERIES

This will be the fourth meeting between the Empire and the Brigade.

Week 4: Albany 47 – Washington 23

Week 5: Albany 53 – Washington 42

Week 7: Albany 48 – Washington 21

WHAT'S AHEAD

After wrapping up a two-game road trip this weekend in Washington, the Empire return home to face Philadelphia in the regular season finale. The game on Saturday, 7/7, will be at 6:00 p.m. Tune into CBS Sports Network or listen to Alt 105.7 for full coverage!

THE COACHES

ALBANY EMPIRE HEAD COACH ROB KEEFE

Keefe enters his ninth season as a coach in the AFL. At the age of 29 he became the youngest head coach in AFL history to win an Arena Football League Championship, when he led the Spokane Shock to an ArenaBowl victory in their first year in the AFL. He is the only person in Arena Football history to win an Arena Cup (AF2) and ArenaBowl (AFL) title as both a player and a coach.

As a player, Keefe was a defensive back. During his playing days, he set team records for the Spokane Shock as their all time leader in tackles and interceptions. Making the transition from AF2 to AFL, Keefe joined the Philadelphia Soul, where he won a championship in 2008.

Keefe's first season as a head coach, the Spokane Shock boasted the league's top-ranked defense, allowing a mere 37.6 points per game. The shock won an ArenaCup in that same season.

Coming into the 2018 season, Keefe posted a career 61-30 record as a head coach in the AFL (#1). Most recently, he led the Orlando Predators as head coach and vice president of football operations from 2014-2016. In his stint in Orlando, Rob won a division championship in each of his three years leading the team.

VS. VALOR

Coach Keefe is 3-0 against the Valor as the Head Coach of the Albany Empire

COACHING RECORD

Coach Keefe's record as a head coach in the AFL:

2018 Regular Season: 6-4
Career Regular Season: 67-34
Career Playoff: 5-3
Career Total: 72-37

WASHINGTON VALOR INTERIM HEAD COACH BENJI MCDOWELL

Entering his second season with Washington as the defensive coordinator, McDowell became the Interim Head Coach of the Valor after the dismissal of Head Coach Dean Cokinon on May 16th. With a 1-5 record so far, McDowell is credited for capturing the Valor's first victory of the season in Philadelphia during Week 9.

Before coaching, McDowell had a successful playing career in indoor football. McDowell's career began in triumph by winning the Arena Cup as a member of the Alabama Vipers in 2008. Playing as a defensive end, McDowell played for the Georgia Force from 2011-2012 in which he combined for 41 tackles and seven sacks during the two seasons. Taking a break throughout 2013-14, McDowell served on the coaching staff of the Alabama Hammers in the Professional Indoor Football League, helping the team to secure a championship in 2013. McDowell returned to playing in 2015 with the New Orleans VooDoo.

McDowell began his coaching career in the AFL in 2016 as the defensive coordinator for the Tampa Bay Storm, bolstering one of the top defenses in the AFL during that season.

VS. THE EMPIRE

Benji McDowell is 0-1 against the Empire as the Interim Head Coach of the Washington Valor

COACHING RECORD

Coach McDowell's record as a Interim Head Coach in the AFL:

2018 Regular Season: 1-5
Career Regular Season: 1-5
Career Playoff: 0-0
Career Total: 1-5

EMPIRE PLAYMAKERS

Tommy Grady



Tommy Grady earned the game's MVP honors on Saturday with a performance of 14 completions for 199 yards and seven touchdowns. Grady has totaled 188 completions for a league-best 2,465 yards and 66 pass TDs on the season.

Nick Seither



Though he only showed up in the stat book with 0.5 tackles on Saturday, Seither was able to reclaim momentum for the Empire with a crucial forced fumble and recovery late in the game.

Joe Hills



Joe Hills continued his dominance against Baltimore on Saturday with six catches for 76 yards and four touchdown receptions. **Hills has scored a receiving touchdown in 90 consecutive games.**

Joe Sykes



Defensive end Joe Sykes leads the league in sacks with seven and forced fumbles with four. Entering this weekend's contest, **Sykes is tied for the all-time AFL record in sacks with 60.5.**

Malachi Jones



In the victory at Baltimore, rookie receiver Malachi Jones compiled seven catches for 87 yards and three touchdown receptions. Jones leads the league in total touchdowns with 28.

Terence Moore



Terence Moore contributed three tackles, an interception, and a pass breakup on Saturday. Moore leads the league in interceptions with five.

EMPIRE LEADERS

WHAT'S AT STAKE: After ending a two-game skid in Baltimore, the Albany Empire look to wrap up their road trip with a win at the Washington Valor. Albany comes into the Capital One Arena undefeated against the Valor in 2018 (3-0). With the crucial win against the Brigade last Saturday, Albany has kept themselves alive for the #1 seed as the regular season begins to wind down.

THE GENERAL: QB **Tommy Grady** is has been nothing short of consistent all year long. Grady leads the league in touchdown passes (66), passing yards (2,465), and passer rating (124.5). Grady earned himself yet another game MVP honor last Saturday by converting seven touchdown passes on the way to a huge victory of the first-place Brigade.

JUST THROW IT UP AND HE'LL CATCH IT: WR **Joe Hills** completely dominated the Brigade defense last week with an incredible performance of six catches for 76 yards and four receiving touchdowns. Hills is a league-leader in touchdown receptions (27) and receiving yards per game (98.6). With the performance last week, Hills continued a streak of 90 games straight of receiving a touchdown pass- **a streak that is still active**. Heading into the matchup in Washington, Hills needs four receptions to reach the 800 career catches mark and 248 yards to reach 10,000 receiving yards on his career.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR WATCH: Ranked second in the league in receiving yards with 977, WR **Malachi Jones** was on the receiving end of three touchdown passes in Saturday's victory at Baltimore. Jones now has 23 receiving touchdowns on the season, a number that is also ranked second in the league behind Hills. With an additional five touchdowns on the ground, Jones leads the league in total touchdowns with 28 on the season.

STORMIN' NORMAN: DB **Marrio Norman** contributed a spectacular defensive performance on Saturday with a game-high 10 tackles. Despite missing a game to injury, Norman leads the Empire in total tackles with 57.5, good for second in all of AFL.

FORCING MOORE TURNOVERS: JLB **Terence Moore** has been a key contributor to the Empire defense all season long. Moore's five interceptions on the season leads the league and his 56 total tackles ranks third in the league. In Albany's last meeting with the Valor (Week 7), Moore had a stellar performance with 8.5 tackles and a 37-yard interception return for a touchdown. His efforts in the Week 7 in earned Moore Defensive Player of the Game.

2018 INDIVIDUAL REGULAR SEASON LEADERS: (As of 6/23/18)

Washington	Category	Albany
Nelson (1,036)	Total Offense	Grady (2,454)
Davila (62.3)	Completion Pct.	Grady (65.3)
Nelson (17)	Pass TDs	Grady (66)
Davila (121.3)	Passer Rating	Grady (124.5)
Nelson (959)	Passing Yds	Grady (2,465)
Nelson (77)	Pass Comps	Grady (188)
Nelson (239.8)	Pass Yds/Gm	Grady (246.5)
Nelson (17)	Touchdowns	Grady (66)
Gray (59)	Receptions	Hills (70)
Gray (670)	Receiving Yds	Jones (977)
Gray (15)	TD Receptions	Hills (23)
Nelson (77)	Rush Yds	Mauia (54)
Nelson (5)	Rush TDs	Jones (5)
Duvalt (47)	KO Returns	Williams (18)
Duvalt (756)	KOR Yards	Williams (269)
Duvalt (926)	All-Purpose Yds	Jones (1,013)
Knight (27.5)	Tackles	Norman (57.5)
Everett, Obi (2)	Interceptions	Moore (5)
Five tied (1)	Sacks	Sykes (7.0)

AROUND THE LEAGUE



2018 AFL STANDINGS



Team	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	7	3	.700	522	471
Albany	6	4	.600	520	466
Philadelphia	6	4	.600	506	458
Washington	1	9	.100	399	552

2018 AFL SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	
<i>Friday, April 13</i>	
Washington @ Baltimore	7 p.m.
<i>Saturday, April 14</i>	
Philadelphia @ Albany	7 p.m.
WEEK 2	
<i>Saturday, April 21</i>	
Baltimore @ Philadelphia	7 p.m.
WEEK 3	
<i>Saturday, April 28</i>	
Albany @ Baltimore	3 p.m.
Washington @ Philadelphia	7:30 p.m.
WEEK 4	
<i>Friday, May 4</i>	
Philadelphia @ Baltimore	7 p.m.
<i>Saturday, May 5</i>	
Washington @ Albany	7:30 p.m.
WEEK 5	
<i>Friday, May 11</i>	
Albany @ Washington	7 p.m.
WEEK 6	
<i>Saturday, May 19</i>	
Baltimore @ Washington	3 p.m.
Albany @ Philadelphia	6 p.m.
WEEK 7	
<i>Friday, May 25</i>	
Philadelphia @ Baltimore	7 p.m.
<i>Saturday, May 26</i>	
Washington @ Albany	6 p.m.

WEEK 8	
<i>Saturday, June 2</i>	
Philadelphia @ Washington	6 p.m.
Baltimore @ Albany	7 p.m.
WEEK 9	
<i>Saturday, June 9</i>	
Baltimore @ Albany	7:30 p.m.
<i>Sunday, June 10</i>	
Washington @ Philadelphia	4 p.m.
WEEK 10	
<i>Friday, June 15</i>	
Washington @ Baltimore	7 p.m.
<i>Saturday, June 16</i>	
Philadelphia @ Albany	6 p.m.
WEEK 11	
<i>Friday, June 22</i>	
Philadelphia @ Washington	7 p.m.
<i>Saturday, June 23</i>	
Albany @ Baltimore	7:30 p.m.
Week 12	
<i>Friday, June 29</i>	
Albany @ Washington	7 p.m.
<i>Saturday, June 30</i>	
Baltimore @ Philadelphia	7 p.m.
Week 13	
<i>Saturday, July 7</i>	
Baltimore @ Washington	3 p.m.
Philadelphia @ Albany	6 p.m.

EMPIRE ROSTER

AS OF 6/28/18

#	POS	NAME	HT	WT	COLLEGE	EXP
6	WR	Larry Beavers	5'11	175	Wesley	7
9	FB	Mykel Benson	6'0	290	Florida A&M	8
15	WR	Paul Browning	6'2	220	Colorado State Pueblo	2
2	WR	Greg Carr	6'5	200	Florida State	4
3	DE	Darryl Cato-Bishop	6'4	265	NC State	4
68	OL	Ryan Cave	6'5	335	Hampton	7
12	QB	Mike Fafaul	6'2	215	UCLA	R
4	QB	Tommy Grady	6'7	245	Utah	7
75	OL	Hayworth Hicks	6'3	330	Iowa State	3
81	WR	Joe Hills	6'4	225	Tennessee State	8
24	DB	Arthur Hobbs	5'10	190	Nebraska Kearney	2
7	WR	Malachi Jones	6'3	215	Appalachian State	R
55	OL	Damian Love	6'4	310	Alabama State	R
13	LB	Wesley Mauia	6'1	280	Western New Mexico	5
23	DB	Erick McIntosh	5'10	180	Florida Atlantic	6
8	LB	Terence Moore	6'2	225	Troy	7
21	DB	Marrion Norman	6'1	205	Coastal Carolina	6
14	DB	Al Phillips	5'11	180	Wagner	8
72	OL	Bret Piekarski	6'4	305	St. Cloud State	1
93	OL	Moqut Ruffins	6'5	355	Louisiana Tech	7
99	DL	Nick Seither	6'3	270	Georgetown KY	2
91	DL	Brandon Sesay	6'6	300	Texas Tech	6
5	DB	Terrance Smith	6'2	210	South Carolina State	7
10	DB	Varmah Sonie	5'8	190	Northern Iowa	4
19	K	Kenny Spencer	6'1	220	Northern Alabama	6
50	LB	Derrick Summers	6'1	260	Toledo	7
1	DE	Joe Sykes	6'5	265	Southern	6
11	WR	Collin Taylor	6'1	205	Indiana	7
18	WR	Jordan Williams	6'3	220	Edinboro	R
	DB	Brandon Stephens	5'11	210	Miami OH	4

EMPIRE COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Rob Keefe

ASSISTANT HEAD COACH: Les Moss

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Chris Thompson

DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL/PASS RUSH COORDINATOR: Beau Bell

DIRECTOR OF PLAYER OPERATIONS: Brandon Goldstein

NUMERICAL ROSTER

AS OF 6/28/18

#	POS	NAME	HT	WT	COLLEGE	EXP
1	DE	Joe Sykes	6'5	265	Southern	6
2	WR	Greg Carr	6'5	200	Florida State	4
3	DE	Darryl Cato-Bishop	6'4	265	NC State	4
4	QB	Tommy Grady	6'7	245	Utah	7
5	DB	Terrance Smith	6'2	210	South Carolina State	7
6	WR	Larry Beavers	5'11	175	Wesley	7
7	WR	Malachi Jones	6'3	215	Appalachian State	R
8	LB	Terence Moore	6'2	225	Troy	7
9	FB	Mykel Benson	6'0	290	Florida A&M	8
10	DB	Varmah Sonie	5'8	190	Northern Iowa	4
11	WR	Collin Taylor	6'1	205	Indiana	7
12	QB	Mike Fafaul	6'2	215	UCLA	R
13	FB	Wesley Mauia	6'1	280	Western New Mexico	5
14	DB	Al Phillips	5'11	180	Wagner	8
15	WR	Paul Browning	6'3	220	Colorado State Pueblo	2
18	WR	Jordan Williams	6'3	220	Edinboro	R
19	K	Kenny Spencer	6'1	220	Northern Alabama	6
21	DB	Marrion Norman	6'1	205	Coastal Carolina	6
23	DB	Erick McIntosh	5'10	180	Florida Atlantic	6
24	DB	Arthur Hobbs	5'10	190	Nebraska Kearney	2
50	LB	Derrick Summers	6'1	260	Toledo	7
55	OL	Damian Love	6'4	310	Alabama State	R
68	OL	Ryan Cave	6'5	335	Hampton	7
72	OL	Bret Piekarski	6'4	305	St. Cloud State	1
75	OL	Hayworth Hicks Sr.	6'3	330	Iowa State	3
81	WR	Joe Hills	6'4	225	Tennessee State	8
91	DL	Brandon Sesay	6'6	300	Texas Tech	6
93	OL	Moqut Ruffins	6'5	355	Louisiana Tech	7
99	DL	Nick Seither	6'3	270	Georgetown KY	2
	DB	Brandon Stephens	5'11	210	Miami OH	4

EMPIRE COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Rob Keefe

ASSISTANT HEAD COACH: Les Moss

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Chris Thompson

DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL/PASS RUSH COORDINATOR: Beau Bell

DIRECTOR OF PLAYER OPERATIONS: Brandon Goldstein

2018 VALOR ROSTER

AS OF 6/28/18

#	POS	NAME	HT	WT	COLLEGE	EXP
2	WR	Chris Duvalt	5'11	180	Illinois	6
3	WR	Reggie Gray	5'10	175	Western Illinois	8
4	QB	Arvell Nelson	6'5	230	Texas Southern	5
5	DB	Greg Reid	5'9	190	Florida State	3
6	DB	Tracy Belton	6'0	185	UMass	8
7	K	Pat Clarke	6'3	210	Buffalo	1
8	QB	Warren Smith	6'0	200	Maine	3
9	WR	Jared Dangerfield	6'3	205	Western Kentucky	R
10	QB	Nick Davila	6'3	220	Cincinnati	7
11	DL	Reggie Wilson	6'3	255	Texas	2
12	DL	Roosevelt Falls	6'2	250	Louisiana Tech	2
13	QB	Jerod Evans	6'3	235	Virginia Tech	R
14	DB	Oshay Dunmore	6'3	205	Southern Oregon	R
15	DB	Fred Obi	6'1	190	San Diego	3
16	WR	Rod Windsor	6'2	210	Western New Mexico	7
17	LB	Alvin Ray Jackson	6'1	210	Albany State	8
18	WR	Doug McNeill III	6'3	210	Bowie State	1
19	WR	Josh Reese	6'0	185	Central Florida	1
20	DB	Qua Cox	6'0	185	Jackson State	1
23	DB	Josh Atkinson	6'2	185	Bethune Cookman	3
25	DB	Michael Everett	5'10	180	SW Minnesota State	R
44	OL	Will Corbin	6'6	315	Appalachian State	1
50	LB	James Gordon	6'2	275	Buffalo	3
52	DL	Zack Bullock	6'4	250	South Florida	1
53	OL	Devonte Danzey	6'3	315	Auburn	R
58	DL	Khreem Smith	6'4	265	Oklahoma State	3
64	OL	Michael Bamiro	6'8	335	Stony Brook	R
70	OL	James Atoe	6'7	375	Washington	1
72	OL	Anthony Parker	6'6	380	Western Michigan	6
74	OL	Dionte Savage	6'5	335	Oklahoma	2
75	WR	Jordan Mudge	6'4	330	Nevada	2
89	WR	Josh Atkinson	6'2	205	Tulsa	R
90	DL	Austin Brown	6'2	280	Miami OH	1
93	DL	Roderick Henderson	6'1	360	Alabama State	R
99	DL	Jake Payne	6'4	275	Shenadoah	1

VALOR COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Dean Cokinos

ASSISTANT HEAD COACH: James Clark

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Benji McDowell

SPECIAL TEAMS COACH: Jeremy Grier

TRANSACTIONS

April 23, 2018

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Joe Hills

April 30, 2018

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Damian Love

PLACING ON LEAGUE SUSPENSION: Greg Carr

May 7, 2018

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Greg Carr

PLACING ON REASSIGNMENT: Lance McDowdell

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Doug McNeil III

May 17, 2018

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Brandon Sesay

PLACING ON REASSIGNMENT: Shawn Lockett

May 24, 2018

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Oshay Dunmore

ACTIVATING FROM RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Kenny Spencer

PLACING ON INJURED RESERVED: Paul Browning

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Brandon Sesay

May 29, 2018

ACTIVATING FROM REFUSE TO REPORT: Al Phillips

REACTIVATING FROM INJURED RESERVED: Kyle Steuck

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Mike Fafaul

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Brandon Stephens

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Jordan Williams

May 31, 2018

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Larry Beavers

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Mike Fafaul

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Brandon Sesay

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Brandon Stephens

ACTIVATING FROM RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Jordan Williams

PLACING ON INJURED RESERVE: Jordan Williams

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Oshay Dunmore

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Damian Love

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Willie McGinnis

June 4, 2018

PLACING ON REASSIGNMENT: Calvin Fance

June 7, 2018

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Calvin Fance

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Damian Love

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Moqut Ruffins

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Marrio Norman

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Nick Seither

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Kyle Steuck

June 8, 2018

ACTIVATING FROM RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Marrio Norman

ACTIVATING FROM RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Nick Seither

PLACING ON INJURED RESERVED: Marrio Norman

PLACING ON INJURED RESERVED: Nick Seither

June 11, 2018

PLACING ON REASSIGNMENT: Jordan Williams

June 14, 2018

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Jordan Williams

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Calvin Fance

June 15, 2018

CLAIMING OFF REASSIGNMENT (#1 CLAIM ORDER POS): Mykell Benson

REACTIVATING FROM INJURED RESERVE: Marrio Norman

REACTIVATING FROM INJURED RESERVE: Nick Seither

PLACING ON INJURED RESERVE: Larry Beavers

PLACING ON INJURED RESERVE: Brandon Stephens

June 16, 2018

PLACING ON REFUSE TO REPORT: Mykel Benson

June 19, 2018

ACTIVATING FROM REFUSE TO REPORT: Mykel Benson

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Terence Moore

June 20, 2018

ACTIVATING FROM RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Terence Moore

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Damian Love

June 22, 2018

ACTIVATING FROM RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Damian Love

PLACING ON INJURED RESERVED: Damian Love

June 27, 2018

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Terrance Smith

PLACING ON RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Jordan Williams

June 28, 2018

ACTIVATING FROM RECALLABLE REASSIGNMENT: Jordan Williams

PLACING ON INJURED RESERVED: Jordan Williams

2018 GAME SUMMARIES

Empire Bounce Back on the Road at Baltimore

6/23/2018

The Albany Empire (6-4) defeated the Baltimore Brigade (7-3) 56-49 Saturday night at the Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore, MD in front of a crowd of 5,552. Empire quarterback Tommy Grady went 14 of 20 passes for 199 yards and seven passing touchdowns earning himself the game MVP award. Empire receiver Joe Hills had 6 receptions for 76 yards and four receiving touchdowns being named Offensive Player of the Game. Empire defensive back Marrio Norman led the way with 10 total tackles and was named Defensive Player of the Game. With the victory over the Brigade, Albany now holds the tiebreaker for the playoff seeding should the two teams finish even in the standings.

Baltimore received the opening kick and began the game's initial drive from their own five-yard line. On the first play of the possession, Brigade quarterback Randy Hippeard fired a dart to receiver Brandon Collins for a quick four-yard pickup. On the very next play, Hippeard hit his top target Brandon Thompkins for a 41-yard touchdown to give Baltimore the early lead. After the Brigade failed to recover an onside kick, the Empire set up shop on the opposing 16-yard line. On the first play of the drive, Empire quarterback Tommy Grady found the league's leader in receiving touchdowns, Joe Hills, for the 16-yard score to tie the game. The touchdown reception marked the 90th consecutive game with a receiving touchdown for Hills.

The ensuing kickoff was returned by Thompkins to the Baltimore seven-yard line. On the first play of the drive, Hippeard found Collins over the middle who ran the ball down to the Empire four-yard line. After a three-yard rush by fullback Rory Nixon and an incomplete pass, the Brigade were able to capitalize on third down with a one-yard touchdown rush by Nixon. The Empire took over on their own one-yard line after a mishandled return by Jordan Williams that was recovered by Collin Taylor. With the first play of the drive, Grady found rookie receiver Malachi Jones for the quick first down. On the following play, newly acquired fullback Mykel Benson rushed ahead for 12 yards as the Empire approached midfield. After an incomplete pass, Grady found Hills who broke a tackle and pushed forward for another Albany first down. Facing fourth down after a short pass to Jones and an incompletion to Hills, the Empire were helped by a pass interference penalty as Grady was targeting Hills in the end zone. Wasting no time with the new set of downs, Benson was able to get a block on the outside and rush for a six-yard touchdown.

Thompkins had a nice return on the kickoff, but the yardage was quickly taken away thanks to a block in the back penalty, setting the Brigade up on their own two-yard line. Baltimore gained some space on an eight-yard completion to receiver Milton Williams. Two plays later, the Brigade were unable to convert on fourth down giving the ball back to Albany on the opposing 10-yard line. On the first play of the new drive, Grady found Jones on a screen pass who was able to take it the 10 yards for the Albany touchdown to take the lead early in the second quarter.

Starting on their own six-yard line, the Brigade were able to move the chains and pick up a first down after two short throws from Hippeard. After an incomplete pass thanks for pressure by defensive end Darryl Cato-Bishop and a short throw, Baltimore was set up on a third and short situation as the first half approached the one-minute warning. The Brigade picked up the first down on a quarterback sneak by Hippeard and let the clock run down inside of 30 seconds. Despite an incomplete pass, the Brigade were helped by a defensive holding penalty and entered the red zone with just 14 seconds remaining in the half. One play later, Hippeard found Collins for the eight-yard score. The Empire were set up on their own 21-yard line after a timely return by Jordan Williams. After being setback by a false start penalty, with just five seconds on the clock, Grady found Jones over the middle to push the ball back to midfield as the Empire field goal unit came onto the field. The first field goal of the Empire's inaugural season was missed from 40-yards out by kicker Kenny Spencer as Albany entered halftime with a 28-21 lead.

Down two possessions to start the fourth quarter, the Brigade offense took the field on their own five-yard line. On the second play of the drive, Nick Seither forced and recovered a fumble right in front of the Empire bench as Albany took over on the opposing 18-yard line. Two plays later, Grady found Hills once again who made a bobbling grab in the end zone for his fourth touchdown of the night to widen the lead. From their own 13-yard line, the Brigade were aided by a roughing the passer penalty to advance the ball to midfield. After a few short completions, Hippeard was able to find Collins for the 14-yard touchdown; his third touchdown reception of the night.

Baltimore recovered the onside kick attempted and the offense was back on the field starting from the 25-yard line. After an incomplete pass down field, the clock trickled to the one-minute warning. On third down, Hippeard hit receiver Williams for the 25-yard score to pull within a touchdown. Albany was able to recover the ensuing Baltimore onside kick attempt. After two kneel downs, the Empire were victorious 56-49.

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ALBANY	14	14	14	14	56
BALTIMORE	14	7	7	21	49

GAME MVP:

QB – TOMMY GRADY, ALB

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

WR – JOE HILLS, ALB

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

DB – MARRIO NORMAN, ALB

2018 GAME SUMMARIES

Empire Lose Heartbreaker to Soul

6/16/2018

The Albany Empire (5-4) was defeated by the Philadelphia Soul (5-4) 75-74 Saturday night at the Times Union Center in Albany, NY in front of a crowd of 9,534. Soul receiver Aaron Wascha caught 12 passes for 208 yards and seven receiving touchdowns earning himself the game MVP award. Empire receiver Malachi Jones had 7 receptions for 177 yards, five receiving touchdowns and one rushing touchdown on his way to being named Offensive Player of the Game. Empire mac linebacker Derrick Summers was named Defensive Player of the Game 4.5 total tackles and one sack.

The Empire received the opening kickoff and began the game on the five-yard line after a short return by Jordan Williams. After failing to connect on a bomb to receiver Joe Hills, Tommy Grady hit receiver Malachi Jones for a 45-yard touchdown to give the Empire an early 7-0 lead. Philadelphia took the ensuing kickoff to the 14-yard line and went to work on their first drive of the game. After an incomplete pass, defensive end Joe Sykes was able to apply pressure, but couldn't bring down Soul quarterback Shane Austin who scrambled across midfield for a 15-yard gain. The next play, Philadelphia was in the red zone as Austin connected with the league's leader in receiving yards, Darius Prince. Three plays later, Austin hooked up with Prince in the end zone for the short score to tie the game.

The Soul attempted an onside kick, but failed to recover it, setting up the Empire on the opposing 10-yard line. After an encroachment penalty on Philadelphia, Grady found Joe Hills from five yards out for the quick score. Hills' trip to the end zone marked the 89th consecutive game of his career with a receiving touchdown; an active league record.

Philadelphia took over on their own 15-yard line after a nice kick return by Poppy Livers. The Soul were across midfield on the first play of the drive as Austin went right back to Prince. After making it to the red zone, the Soul were setback thanks to a sack by defensive end Nick Seither. One play later, Austin found Aaron Wascha to get down to the Empire three-yard line. Philadelphia was quickly backed up because of an offensive pass interference play, but Austin found Prince on the next play for the score to tie the game at 14.

Albany went back to work on their on 12-yard line as the first quarter came to an end. With the first play of the second quarter, Grady found Hills down field to set the Empire up on the opposing seven-yard line. After Albany successfully overturned a fumble call, Malachi Jones ran the ball in from four-yards out for the score. The Soul returned the ensuing kickoff to the two-yard line and two plays later, Austin connected with Wascha for the 48-yard touchdown to once again tie the game.

Due to a holding penalty on the Empire return, the Albany offense went back out to the field starting on their own three-yard line. After an illegal contact penalty on Philadelphia and two completions to Hills, the Empire were quickly across midfield. One play later, Grady found Hills in the end zone once again as he bobbled the ball but secured it for the score. Albany would then attempt an onside kick but failed to recover, setting Philadelphia up on the six-yard line. Three plays later, Austin found Wascha once again for the score.

After another failed onside kick attempt by the Soul, Albany went back to work in the red zone on the seven-yard line. One play after the one-minute warning, Grady found receiver Greg Carr for the short score. The Empire then attempted an onside kick of their own but failed to recover, giving the Soul the ball back on the Albany 15-yard line. After a defensive pass interference, Philadelphia inched down to the six-yard line after a short rush by Austin. Albany used three timeouts on consecutive plays as the Soul ran the ball down to the four-yard line to set up a fourth and goal situation, but Philadelphia was able to cap the drive off with a touchdown to Wascha; his third of the quarter. The Empire offense took the field with a mere 21 seconds remaining in the first half with no timeouts. Making quick work, Albany was across midfield thanks to catches from Hills and Jones who were both able to get out of bounds. Grady was then able to connect with Jones from 14-yards out for the Empire touchdown, leaving just five seconds on the clock before halftime. The Empire took a 41-34 lead into the half.

Albany recovered the Soul's onside kick attempt and were quickly in the red zone threatening once again. Two plays later, Grady hit Carr on a fade in the corner of the end zone for the Empire touchdown pushing Albany to 74 points; the most points scored by any team on the season. After a short rushing attempt and two incomplete passes, the Soul were quickly forced into a fourth down and seven situation. Unable to pick up the yardage, Albany took over on downs in the red zone on the nine-yard line. After running down some clock, the Empire failed to get into the end zone, turning the ball over on downs back to the Soul. Within two plays, Philadelphia was across midfield and threatening once again. One play later, Austin found Wascha once again for his seventh receiving touchdown of the game.

The Soul recovered the ensuing onside kick and took over on their own 12-yard line down by five. After pushing across midfield in two plays, the Soul were threatening once again with little time left on the clock. From the 10-yard line, Austin took a shot at the end zone that fell incomplete leaving less than one second on the clock. On the following play, Austin rolled out and found Prince for the 10-yard score as time expired.

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ALBANY	14	27	20	13	74
PHILADELPHIA	14	20	14	27	75

GAME MVP:

QB – AARON WASCHA, PHI

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

WR – MALACHI JONES, ALB

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

LB – DERRICK SUMMERS, ALB

2018 GAME SUMMARIES

Empire Fall Short to Brigade in Rematch

6/9/2018

The Albany Empire (5-3) was defeated by the Baltimore Brigade (6-2) 59-56 Saturday night at the Times Union Center in Albany, NY in front of a crowd of 8,767. Brigade quarterback Randy Hippeard threw for 270 yards and eight touchdowns earning himself the game MVP award. Brigade receiver Brandon Thompkins had 17 receptions for 159 yards and three receiving touchdowns on his way to being named Offensive Player of the Game. Empire defensive back Brandon Stephens was named Defensive Player of the Game leading both teams with 11.5 total tackles

Albany received the game's opening kickoff and were setup on their own 11-yard line after a nice return by Larry Beavers. Grady went right to work finding the league's leader in receiving yards Malachi Jones on a short pass to the side for a 9-yard pick up. On the next play, Grady went right back to Jones and picked up 21 yards as the Empire were quickly in the opposing red zone. One play later, Grady found Jones once again from 10-yards out as the Albany took the early 7-0 lead. After a high kick off the net, Baltimore went to work on their own nine-yard line for their first possession of the game. After an incomplete pass on first down, Hippeard found his top receiver for a six-yard game to set Baltimore up in a third and short situation. The next play Hippeard went right back to Brandon Thompkins to pick up the first down and approach midfield. Three plays later, Brandon Sesay hit home for the sack to back the Brigade up to the 17-yard line for third and long. Joe Sykes assisted on the sack, tying him for the all-time career lead in sacks with 60.5. In two plays, Baltimore was able to pick up the necessary yardage to set up a first down on the one-yard line. On first down, Hippeard was sacked by Darryl Cato-Bishop. In response, Hippeard found receiver Quentin Sims who made an impressive one-handed catch in the end zone to tie the game.

After a touchback, the Empire began their second drive on their own three-yard line. After two incomplete passes, Grady found receiver Joe Hills for the Empire first down as the first quarter came to a close. Albany was quickly across midfield as Grady found Collin Taylor over the middle for another first down. The next play, Grady found Hills for an 18-yard touchdown as the ball was tipped and Hills made a nice play to recover in the end zone. This touchdown marked the 88th consecutive game with a receiving touchdown for Hills, an active league record. Baltimore went back to work on their own 20-yard line as the Empire kickoff sailed out of bounds outside of the net. In one play the Brigade were across midfield as Hippeard found Sims for the 10-yard gain. Three plays later, Hippeard was intercepted by jack linebacker Terence Moore thanks to pressure from defensive end Joe Sykes. On the first play of the drive, Grady found Jones and the Empire were quickly threatening on the Brigade 14-yard line. Two plays later, Grady found Hills again in the end zone as he battled defensive back Josh Victorian before eventually coming down with the Empire touchdown.

To start the half, the Brigade were set up after a nice return by Thompkins and quickly crossed midfield. Hippeard continued to target Thompkins as the Brigade moved into the red zone. Hippeard went right back to Thompkins from seven yards out for the score to give Baltimore the early second half lead. The Empire would begin their initial drive of the new half on their own 12-yard line. Albany quickly picked up a first down after completed passes to Hills and Jones. On the third play of the drive, Grady hit Taylor for a 27-yard touchdown to tie the game.

Starting on their own five-yard line, the Empire were quickly across midfield thanks to a pass interference penalty on Baltimore and a short reception by Jones to end the third quarter. After losing a chunk of yards due to an offensive pass interference penalty, Grady responded by finding Taylor for a 15-yard gain. One play later, Hills caught a five-yard reception to pick up the first down, but the Empire were setback due to another penalty on Hills. Hills bounced back bringing a catch-and-run down to the goal line. The next play, Albany was in the end zone on a one-yard rush by Jones.

Albany would recover the ensuing kickoff on another squib kick from Spencer and take over on the opposing four-yard line thanks to an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on Baltimore on the previous Empire touchdown. The next play, Grady found Hills again for the short touchdown, Hills' third of the game. Baltimore would return the ensuing kickoff to the 11-yard line, but thanks to a roughing the kicker penalty on the previous Empire extra point, the ball was moved back to the six-yard line. One play later, Thompkins caught a short pass and made a move to run in for a 44-yard touchdown.

Albany failed to recover an onside kick as Baltimore began their drive on the Empire 11-yard line with one-minute remaining in the game. Hippeard rushed down to the two-yard line on the first play of the game, forcing Albany to use one of their timeouts. Hippeard continued to kneel the ball causing the Empire to use up their remaining timeouts. With five seconds left, Baltimore kicker Mark Lewis drilled a 17-yard field goal to ice the game with a 59-56 victory in favor of Baltimore.

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	FINAL
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ALBANY	7	21	7	3	56
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BALTIMORE	7	21	14	17	59
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GAME MVP:

QB – RANDY HIPPEARD, BAL

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

WR – BRANDON THOMPCKINS, BAL

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

DB – BRANDON STEPHENS, ALB

2018 GAME SUMMARIES

Empire Claim a Share of First Place

6/2/2018

The Albany Empire (5-2) defeated the Baltimore Brigade (5-2) 61-53 Saturday night at the Times Union Center in Albany, NY in front of a crowd of 8,057. Empire quarterback Tommy Grady threw for 248 yards and eight touchdowns earning himself the game MVP award. Empire receiver Malachi Jones had eight receptions for 133 yards and three receiving touchdowns on his way to being named Offensive Player of the Game. Empire's jack linebacker Terence Moore was named Defensive Player of the Game for the second straight week with 4.5 total tackles, a forced fumble and an interception.

Albany received the opening kickoff and went to work on their own six-yard line. On the first play from scrimmage, quarterback Tommy Grady hit receiver Malachi Jones over the middle who then broke a tackle and took it to the house for a 44-yard touchdown for the early lead. The Brigade took the field on the 20-yard line after a nice return by Brandon Thompkins. After one play, Randy Hippeard found receiver Quentin Sims for a short pass and the Brigade were across midfield. A few plays later, Hippeard over threw his receiver and hit the field goal post only to be intercepted by linebacker Terence Moore. Shortly after, the Empire turned the ball over on downs giving the ball back to the Brigade on the short side of midfield. Two plays later Hippeard found Sims for a nine-yard score to tie the game 7-7.

The Empire took over on their own seven-yard line and Grady quickly found Jones who used his elusiveness to push the ball to midfield. After the quarter break, Grady found his favorite target Joe Hills for a 13 score. This touchdown marked the 87th consecutive game with a receiving touchdown for Hills. Albany failed to recover an onside kick setting up the Brigade with great field position on the opposing seven-yard line. One play later, Baltimore capitalized with a short touchdown to Brandon Thompkins.

Albany went back to work from their own seven-yard line and were quickly across midfield in one play thanks to an impressive diving catch by Jones. Two plays later, Jones found pay dirt for the second time of the half on a 17-yard pass from Grady.

Due to the Empire kickoff going out of bounds, Baltimore was set up on their own 20-yard line. Two plays later, Hippeard found receiver Milton Williams and the Brigade were quickly across midfield. The next play, Hippeard went right back to Williams, moving Baltimore into the red zone. Hippeard then found receiver Brandon Collins for the short touchdown as Collins held onto the ball while flipping over the wall.

After the drive started on their own two-yard line, Grady found receiver Collin Taylor for a 48-yard touchdown on the first play of the new possession to reclaim the lead 27-21 with only a minute remaining in the half. The Empire failed to recover another onside kick, setting the Brigade up on the six-yard line. Baltimore made quick work of the short field as Hippeard connected with Thompkins for a two-yard touchdown.

Baltimore successfully recovered an onside kick and went back to work on their own 11-yard line. Thanks to a successful challenge by Head Coach Rob Keefe, Moore forced and recovered a fumble one play later to get the ball back on the opposing 14-yard line. After three consecutive run plays to Jones and a kneel by Grady, Baltimore had burned through their timeouts. One play later, Grady found Jones once again for the six-yard score; Jones' third touchdown of the half. Baltimore returned the Empire kickoff and thanks to an unsportsmanlike penalty, were set up on the opposing 17-yard line. The Brigade ended the half with a 32-yard field goal to end the half still behind 33-31.

After a failed Brigade onside kick, the Empire went to work on the opposing 14-yard line. The Empire took their time burning away precious seconds on the clock. Grady then connected with Hills for his third touchdown of the game giving Albany a 61-46 lead with just over four minutes remaining in the game.

Collin Taylor recovered the Brigade onside kick attempt and the Empire offense took over on the 12-yard line with a minute remaining in the game. The Empire were quickly back in the red zone, but in no hurry to score. After three consecutive kneeldowns by Grady, the game was over, securing the Empire's fifth straight victory 61-53

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ALBANY	7	26	14	14	61
BALTIMORE	7	24	7	15	53

GAME MVP:

QB – TOMMY GRADY, ALB

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

WR – MALACHI JONES, ALB

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

DB – TERENCE MOORE, ALB

2018 GAME SUMMARIES

Empire Win Fourth Straight

5/26/2018

The Albany Empire (4-2) defeated the Washington Valor (0-6) 48-21 Saturday night at the Times Union Center in Albany, NY in front of a crowd of 7,847. Empire quarterback Tommy Grady threw for 237 yards and six touchdowns earning himself the game MVP award. Empire receiver Joe Hills had five receptions for 99 yards and three receiving touchdowns on his way to being named Offensive Player of the Game. The game marked the 86th consecutive game for Hills with a receiving touchdown; an active league record. Empire's jack linebacker Terence Moore was named Defensive Player of the Game with 8.5 total tackles and an interception return for a touchdown.

Washington received the game's opening kickoff and began their initial drive on their own five-yard line. After beginning with an incomplete pass, quarterback Shane Austin found receiver Reggie Gray for a quick five-yard pick up. The very next snap, Austin found Chris Duvall over the center of the field to push to ball closer to midfield. Two plays later, Austin was intercepted by Arthur Hobbs in the end zone to set the Empire up on their own five-yard line. The Empire opened the drive with a pass to rookie standout receiver Malachi Joes for an early first down. The next play, Grady connected with his top target Joe Hills for a long 30-yard touchdown to put Albany on top 7-0 midway through the first quarter.

The ensuing kickoff hit off the field goal post and was recovered by Jordan Williams, giving the ball back to the Empire on the opposing six-yard line. The first play of the new drive, fullback Wes Mauia couldn't haul in a pitch from Grady, fumbling the ball back to the Valor. Washington methodically worked the ball down the field and eventually capped their drive with an eight-yard touchdown to TT Toliver as he flipped over the back wall.

After a nice return by Jordan Williams, the Empire were set up on the 12-yard line. One play later, Grady found Jones deep in the end zone, but the play was erased by a penalty. Albany would bounce back as Grady hit Hills over the middle for an Empire first down as the first quarter came to a close. To open the second quarter, Grady connected with receiver Collin Taylor for a first down as Albany crossed midfield. One play later, Grady found Hills for a 17-yard Empire touchdown. After the Valor received the next kickoff, Jack Linebacker Terence Moore intercepted the first pass from Austin and returned the ball into the end zone to extend the Empire lead to two scores.

Starting from their own three-yard line, Austin found Reggie Gray for a quick 10-yard pick up. The ensuing play, Washington moved the ball through the air across midfield. After the play, Valor offensive lineman Will Corbin was ejected for a personal foul. After working the ball into the red zone, the Empire were able to stop Austin's scramble attempt from a yard out to force a turnover on downs. Albany would gain some space as Grady found Hills across the middle to quickly move the ball to midfield. After a couple of short completions to Taylor, Grady was able to hit Malachi Jones in the end zone from seven-yards out.

Wasting no time, the Valor returned the following kickoff all the way down field to the opposing seven-yard line setting them up with only 23 seconds remaining in the first half. Three plays later, Austin hooked up with receiver Josh Reese for a short score leaving only five seconds on the clock before halftime. On the final kickoff of the half, Valor receiver Jared Dangerfield was ejected for a personal foul. The Empire ran down the remaining seconds to end the first half with a 28-14 lead.

Empire quarterback Mike Fafaul entered the game for Grady late in the fourth quarter. After a Valor defensive penalty, the Empire were quickly over midfield and threatening again. Following the one-minute warning, Fafaul found Taylor as the Empire moved the ball inside of the Valor 15-yard line. The game was all but over as Fafaul took a knee and let the clock run out as the Empire won 48-21.

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ALBANY	7	21	14	6	48
WASHINGTON	7	7	0	7	21

GAME MVP:

QB – TOMMY GRADY, ALB

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

WR – JOE HILLS, ALB

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

DB – TERENCE MOORE, ALB

2018 GAME SUMMARIES

Empire Snap Soul's 20-Game Home Win Streak

5/19/2018

The Albany Empire (3-2) defeated the Philadelphia Soul (3-2) 41-36 Saturday night at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia, PA in front of a crowd of 9,715. The big win for the Empire broke the Soul's active streak of 20 consecutive wins at home. Empire quarterback Tommy Grady threw for 178 yards and five touchdowns earning himself the game MVP award. Empire receiver Malachi Jones had seven receptions for 63 yards and two receiving touchdowns, while chipping one rushing touchdown and earning himself Offensive Player of the Game for the second straight week. Soul's James Romain was named Defensive Player of the Game with eight total tackles and an interception.

The Soul received the initial kick and began their drive at their own five-yard line by opening with a 16-yard connection from Raudabaugh to Reynolds. Two plays later, the Soul found the end zone on a 27-yard hookup to Darius Prince to jump out to an early 7-0 lead.

Albany began their ensuing possession on their own five-yard line after a touchback on the kickoff. After a short completion to Joe Hills, the Empire were helped by a pass interference on fourth down to extend the drive. The drive was stalled by an interception by defensive back James Romaine on a pass intended for Hills in the end zone. Three plays into the Soul drive, Raudabaugh was hit hard by a swarm of Empire defensive linemen and was temporarily knocked out of the game, leaving backup quarterback Greg McGhee to handle the next play. After giving up a sack to Empire lineman Nick Seither, Raudabaugh returned to the game. The Soul failed to convert on fourth down, turning the ball back over to Albany. At the end of the first quarter, Philadelphia led the defensive battle 7-0.

With the first play of the second quarter, the Empire were setback by an intentional grounding penalty on third down and were unable to convert on a long fourth down to give the ball back over to the Soul. Philadelphia worked quickly as they crossed into Empire territory in just two plays. Unable to convert another first down, the Soul attempted a long 46 field goal. The field goal was no good and returned by Empire receiver Collin Taylor to the five-yard line, but thanks to a Soul penalty, the Empire began their drive from the 15-yard line. Two plays later, Grady connected with Malachi Jones for a 30-yard touchdown to tie the game at 7-7.

Albany wasted no time after another Soul score as Grady connected with Jones for his second touchdown reception of the half to give the Empire a 14-13 lead. The Empire then failed to recover an onside kick of their own, setting up the Soul on the Albany 12-yard line. The Soul would take advantage of the short field by taking back the lead on a 27-yard field goal. With little time on the clock, the Empire couldn't find a way to score, with the first half ending 16-14 in favor of the Soul.

Albany would begin their second possession of the second half on their own 20-yard line after the Soul kickoff went out of bounds outside of the nets. Two plays later, Grady connected with Jordan Williams for a 25-yard touchdown; the first touchdown reception of Williams' young AFL career. The first play of the Soul's next possession ended with a fumble by fullback Adrian Ferns, giving the ball back to the Empire inside of the Soul 5-yard line. Defensive end Joe Sykes forced the fumble giving him a league leading four forced fumbles on the season. The Empire capitalized on the Soul turnover with a one-yard touchdown run by Malachi Jones to further the Albany lead. At the end of the third quarter, the Empire led 35-23.

To end the game, the Empire took over on the opposing six-yard line after a failed onside kick by the Soul with just under two minutes to go in the game. The Empire were unable to capitalize on the short field, giving the ball back to the Soul who then drove down field and capped with an eight-yard touchdown to Darius Prince to close the Empire gap to 41-36 with 33 seconds remaining. The Empire recovered the Soul onside kick attempt and were able to kneel the ball to run the remaining seconds on the clock and come away with a victory.

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ALBANY	0	14	21	6	41
PHILADELPHIA	7	9	7	13	36

GAME MVP:

QB – TOMMY GRADY, ALB

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

WR – MALACHI JONES, ALB

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

DB – James Romain, PHI

2018 GAME SUMMARIES

Empire Spoil Valor's Home Opener

5/11/2018

The Albany Empire (2-2) defeated the Washington Valor (0-4) 53-42, Friday night at the Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C. in front of a crowd of 9,036. Empire quarterback Tommy Grady threw for 257 yards and seven touchdowns earning himself the game MVP award. Empire receiver Malachi Jones had six receptions for 120 yards and three receiving touchdowns, while chipping one rushing touchdown and earning himself Offensive Player of the Game. Terence Moore was named Defensive Player of the Game with six total tackles and a fumble recovery.

The Empire received the opening kick and began their drive just inside the 10-yard line. With the first play of the game, Grady found Malachi Jones for a 41-yard bomb and a touchdown giving the Empire an early 6-0 lead. The Valor's Chris Duvalt returned the ensuing kickoff to nearly midfield, giving the Valor excellent field position for their first drive in their home opener. Three plays later, Valor quarterback Warren Smith connected with wide receiver TT Toliver for the score.

Grady found Jones for a quick first down to open the team's second drive of the game. After a few Valor penalties and a couple of hookups between Grady and his top target Joe Hills, the Empire were able to cap the long drive off with three-yard touchdown to a wide-open Greg Carr.

The Empire attempted to surprise the Valor with an onside kick, however the try was unsuccessful, giving the Valor the ball on the Albany nine-yard line. The Valor were able to capitalize on the short field position with another touchdown to Toliver to end the first quarter with the lead, 14-12.

In response, the Empire opened the second quarter with a quick-hitter to Joe Hills that moved the ball to midfield. The very next play, Grady connected with Jones for a 19-yard touchdown; Jones' second of the game. The Valor were able to keep the back and forth pace up with the Empire as they marched down the field and ended with a 21-yard touchdown to Duvalt.

After a nice kickoff return by Jordan Williams, the Empire were set up on their own 15-yard line. Two plays later, Grady found a wide-open Collin Taylor in the end zone from 19 yards out, giving the lead back to Albany, 26-21. The Empire once again attempted an onside kick but failed to recover, setting up the Valor on the Albany 5-yard line. The very next play, the Valor scored on a 5-yard touchdown run by Warren Smith.

With under two minutes to go the Empire went to work inside of their own five-yard line. Two plays later, Grady found Hills for a long completion as Hills smartly stayed out of the end zone to keep the clock running. The Empire capped the drive with a two-yard rushing touchdown by Malachi Jones: his third touchdown of the half. At the end of the first half, the Empire led 32-28.

The Valor began the second half with the ball and were able to methodically work down field, but the drive stalled inside of the Empire 5-yard line and turned the ball over on downs. With 45 yards of turf ahead of them the Empire picked up where they left off by finding Malachi Jones for a completion over the middle. The next play, Grady connected with Jones for a short pass, but Jones was able to make some elusive moves and make his way into the end zone for his fourth total score of the night.

The next Valor possession began with a quick pass, but a Valor penalty brought the offense back inside of their own 10-yard line. Washington worked the ball with ease and ended the drive with a five-yard touchdown pass to receiver Josh Reese. The Valor attempted to get the ball back with an onside kick, but failed, giving the ball to the Empire on the short side of the field. The Empire took a knee and watched the clock wind down on their way to a 53-42 victory.

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ALBANY	12	20	7	14	53
WASHINGTON	14	14	0	14	42

GAME MVP:

QB – TOMMY GRADY, ALB

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

WR – MALACHI JONES, ALB

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

DB – TERENCE MOORE, ALB

2018 GAME SUMMARIES

Empire Routs Valor 47-23

5/5/2018

The Albany Empire (1-2) won their first game in franchise history against the Washington Valor (0-3) 47-23, Saturday night at the Times Union Center in front of a crowd of 10,065 wearing orange. Empire quarterback Tommy Grady threw for five touchdowns on his way to winning the game MVP award. Valors's Rod Windsor caught the two of the three Washington touchdown passes earning Offensive Player of the Game. Marrio Norman was named Defensive Player of the Game with two interceptions and a touchdown.

Albany receiving the opening kickoff and instantly found receiver Joe Hills on the first play of the game for a first down. On just the third play of the drive, Quarterback Tommy Grady threw a 25-yard floater that looked like it was intercepted, but the ball bobbed up into the hands of Hills for the touchdown. With the score, Joe Hills extended his record of consecutive games with a touchdown reception to 83.

To answer, the Washington Valor methodically drove the ball down the field. On fourth down in the red zone, Valor quarterback Warren Smith found Washington's top target Rod Windsor for the score. On the ensuing possession, Grady found Collin Taylor for a long catch-and-run hookup, but after being tackled from behind, Taylor fumbled the ball into the end zone for a Valor touchback. After the quarter break, the Valor were unable to capitalize and turned the ball over on downs thanks to a sack by defensive end, Joe Sykes.

After a penalty on Washington and a few short completions, Grady was able to find rookie receiver Malachi Jones on a short pass that he broke for a 14-yard touchdown. That touchdown marked the third touchdown in as many games for the rookie.

Starting on their own 1-yard line on the following possession, the Valor were helped by a series of Empire penalties that slowly moved the ball down the field. Washington was able to capitalize on the penalties and cap the drive off with an 8-yard touchdown to Windsor, his second of the game. The extra point attempt was blocked but recovered by the Valor for a two-point conversion, giving them the lead 15-14.

After Valor kickoff went out of bounds, the Empire received the ball with great starting field position at the 20-yard line. Albany easily worked the ball down the field finishing the drive with a four-yard fade to Hills for his second touchdown reception of the game.

The Empire surprised Washington with an onside kick that was recovered by Malachi Jones, giving Albany the ball with a minute remaining in the first half. The offense milked some clock while at the same time making their way down field thanks to two catches by Hills and a Valor penalty. The Empire controlled the ball down to the one-yard line as time was about to expire before Malachi Jones capped the drive off with a short touchdown run giving the Empire the lead 28-15 at the half.

The first play of the second half, Valor quarterback Warren Smith was intercepted by Marrio Norman, who ran it back for a touchdown. The Valor's next possession ended with another turnover on a strip sack by Willie McGinnis, giving the ball back to the Empire on the short side of midfield. Beginning on the Valor 20-yard line, the Empire took their time as they moved down field and capped the drive with a five-yard hookup from Grady to Hills.

The Empire capitalized working their offense before finishing the drive with a pass off the net, caught by Collin Taylor in the end zone for the score, furthering the Empire lead 47-15.

After a late Valor touchdown, the game was already on ice as the Empire took the field for the final time and ran down the remaining seconds on the clock on their way to a 47-23 victory.

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ALBANY	7	21	12	7	47
WASHINGTON	7	8	0	8	23

GAME MVP:

QB – TOMMY GRADY, ALB

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

WR – ROD WINDSOR, WAS

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

DB – MARRIO NORMAN, ALB

2018 GAME SUMMARIES

Brigade Defeats Empire 52-49 in Albany's First Road Game

4/28/2018

The Albany Empire (0-2) played the team's first game on the road in Baltimore and left with a loss to the Baltimore Brigade (2-1) 52-49, Saturday night at the Royal Farms Arena. Brigade quarterback Randy Hippeard threw for seven touchdowns on his way to winning the game MVP award. Empire's Joe Hills caught four touchdown passes in his debut, earning Offensive Player of the Game. Virgil Gray was named Defensive Player of the Game with ten tackles and an interception.

The Empire offense was led by quarterback Tommy Grady, who threw for six touchdowns. His top target, Joe Hills, caught four of those touchdown passes from Grady. Malachi Jones and Collin Taylor chipped in receiving touchdowns of their own as well.

Baltimore received the first kick and started inside of their own 5-yard line. Reigning league MVP Hippeard took the field for the first time against the Empire and led the Brigade to a score, finishing with a 34-yard touchdown to Milton Williams on third down.

In response, The Empire came out firing as Grady connected with Malachi Jones for a first down on the team's opening play. After missing on a bomb to Joe Hills, Grady completed another medium gain to Collin Taylor for first down. The drive ended with a 6-yard touchdown hookup to Joe Hills, his first touchdown reception of the game. This touchdown extended Joe Hills' active streak and league record of consecutive games with a touchdown reception to 82 games.

With the first play of the second quarter, Hippeard found receiver Brandon Thompkins for a 26-yard touchdown. Shortly after, Grady was picked off trying to go deep to Hills by Virgil Gray. Hippeard capitalized on the Empire turnover with a short touchdown pass to receiver Lamark Brown.

After a long catch-and-run by Malachi Jones and a couple of penalties by the Brigade, the Empire scored with a 5-yard touchdown to Collin Taylor; his second in as many games.

The Empire began the second half with the ball and methodically worked down the field. The drive was capped off with a 1-yard touchdown run by Collin Taylor; the first rushing touchdown of the Empire's young franchise. The Brigade answered by marching down the field to take back the lead with another touchdown pass to Brown.

The Empire took over and ran a quick-hitter to Malachi Jones who turned it into a 42-yard catch-and-run from deep in Empire territory for a touchdown; his second consecutive game with a 40+ touchdown catch.

Heading into the fourth quarter, the Brigade controlled the ball and opened the quarter with a long touchdown pass to Williams; Hippeard's sixth touchdown toss of the game. The Empire then took over on the Baltimore eight-yard line after a Brigade failed onside kick. The very next play, Grady connects with Hills for the pair's fourth touchdown giving the lead back to Albany, 49-45.

With just over 12 minutes remaining in regulation, Hippeard leads the Brigade on a long drive down the field, capping off with another touchdown to Sims; his second of the day.

The following possession for the Empire began inside their own 10-yard line. Grady completed a pair of short passes to Hills and Jones before misconnecting with Hills deep in the end zone. Shortly after, the snap was mishandled by Grady and recovered by Baltimore as the Brigade took over with 52 seconds remaining in regulation.

The Brigade were able to milk to remaining seconds on the clock and come away with a close game victory.

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ALBANY	7	21	14	7	49
BALTIMORE	7	24	7	14	52

GAME MVP:

QB - Randy Hippeard, BAL

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

WR – Joe Hills, ALB

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

DB – Virgil Gray, BAL

2018 GAME SUMMARIES

Soul Defeats Empire 56-35 in Albany's Inaugural Game

4/14/2018

The Albany Empire (0-1) opened their inaugural season with a loss to the Philadelphia Soul (1-0), 56-35, Saturday night in front of a sold-out crowd at the Times Union Center. Soul quarterback Dan Raudabaugh, threw for six touchdowns on his way to winning the Offensive Player of the Game award. Torez Jones was named Defensive Player of the Game with five tackles, a fumble recovery and an interception.

The Empire offense was led by quarterback Tommy Grady, who tossed for 259 yards and five touchdowns. His top target Greg Carr, caught eight passes from Grady, tallying for 74 yards and two touchdowns.

Philadelphia came out firing on all cylinders. After returning the opening kickoff to nearly midfield, the Soul marched their way into the end zone, capping off their drive with a seven-yard touchdown to wide receiver Shaun Kauleinamoku.

The Empire answered right back on their first drive. Despite being the first time in game action together, the Empire gelled quickly and made their way to the end zone. The empire capped off their first ever offensive possession with a 10-yard touchdown pass to Carr.

The Soul wasted no time going right down the field again on their second possession. Raudabaugh found receiver Darius Prince 15 yards downfield in the back of the end zone for this first touchdown reception of the night at the end of the first quarter.

The first score of the second quarter came on a deep, 27-yarder to receiver, to Collin Taylor, for his first touchdown as a member of the Empire. After another Soul touchdown to answer, the Empire recovered a failed onside kick from Philadelphia, giving Albany great field position. The Empire capitalized with another hookup between Grady and Carr for six. To end the half, the Soul scored two touchdowns in the final minute, giving Philadelphia a 35-21 lead. At the end of the half, Grady had 132 passing yards for three touchdowns. His counterpart, Dan Raudabaugh, compiled 110 yards for four touchdowns.

After a halftime ceremony highlighted by the retirement of Albany Firebird legend "Touchdown" Eddie Brown's number 17, the Empire took the ball. Despite moving the ball downfield, Philadelphia forced a turnover on a backwards pass fumble from Grady. The Soul marched their way down for another score.

Down 42-21, The Empire made their way down the field in large part to a huge gain on the ground from fullback, Wes Mauia. The drive was completed with a short, six-yard touchdown pass from Grady to Doug McNeil III. The next Philadelphia drive ended with a missed field goal that bounced in play and was recovered for a Soul touchdown. The Empire wasted no time responding, tossing a 48-yard touchdown to receiver, Malachi Jones.

On a crucial driving being down by only two touchdowns midway through the fourth quarter, the Empire turned the ball over on downs on the opposing three-yard line. Philadelphia milked a lot of clock and moved the ball down field for another score, increasing their cushion to 21.

The Empire were unable to convert on their next possession, giving the ball back to Philadelphia. The Soul maintained control until the final seconds ticked off the clock. The final score of the game was 56-35.

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ALBANY	7	14	14	0	35
PHILADELPHIA	14	21	14	7	56

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

QB - Dan Raudabaugh, PHI

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME:

DB – Torez Jones, PHI

EMPIRE 2018 STATISTICS

AS OF 6/23/2018

RUSHING

PLAYER	GP	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	YDS/G	TD/G
Mauia, Wesley	10	8	54	6.8	0	37	5.4	0.0
Jones, Malachi	10	17	36	2.1	5	8	3.6	0.5
Benson, Mykel	1	5	25	5.0	1	12	25.0	1.0
Moore, Terence	10	2	3	1.5	0	3	0.3	0.1
Taylor, Collin	10	1	1	1.0	1	1	0.1	0.1
Hills, Joe	9	1	-2	-2.0	0	0	-0.2	0.0
Faulf, Mike	7	3	-5	-1.7	0	0	-0.7	0.0

PASSING

PLAYER	GP	COMP	ATT	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	LONG	TD/A%	INT/A %	YDS/G	TD/G	RAT
Grady, Tommy	10	188	288	65.3	2465	66	5	48	22.9%	1.7%	246.5	6.6	124.5
Faulf, Mike	7	3	9	33.3	18	0	1	8	0.0%	11.1%	3.0	0.0	2.8

RECEIVING

PLAYER	GP	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	YDS/G	TD/G
Jones, Malachi	10	66	977	14.8	23	48	97.7	2.3
Hills, Joe	9	70	887	12.7	27	45	98.6	3.0
Taylor, Collin	10	27	380	14.1	7	48	38.0	0.7
Carr, Greg	8	15	108	7.2	6	18	13.5	0.8
McNeil, Doug	3	6	49	8.2	1	26	16.3	0.3
Mauia, Wesley	10	4	42	10.5	1	18	4.2	0.1
Williams, Jordan	8	1	25	25.0	1	25	3.1	0.1
Moore, Terence	10	1	12	12.0	0	12	1.2	0.0
Beavers, Larry	3	1	3	3.0	0	3	1.0	0.0

EMPIRE 2018 STATISTICS

AS OF 6/23/2018

DEFENSE

PLAYER	GP	Tackles			Tackle for Loss				Sacks				Fumbles			Int	
		UA	A	TOT	UA	A	TOT	YDS	UA	A	TOT	YDS	FF	FR	YDS	INT	YDS
Norman, Marrio	9	52	11	57.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	32
Moore, Terence	10	50	12	56	1	1	1.5	4	0	1	0.5	0	1	2	9	5	28
Sonie, Varmah	10	46	3	47.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	25
Hobbs, Arthur	10	46	8	30.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Stephens, Brandon	10	22	3	23.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sykes, Joe	10	12	7	15.5	6	2	7	40	6	2	7	40	4	1	0	0	0
Summers, Derrick	10	12	8	16	0	1	0.5	2	0	1	0.5	2	0	1	0	0	0
Phillips, Al	4	10	1	10.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Seither, Nick	9	7	6	10.0	5	0	5	23	3	0	3	20	2	1	0	0	0
Cato-Bishop, Darryl	9	6	5	8.5	2	1	2.5	7	1	1	1.5	5	0	2	0	0	0
McGinnis, Willie	6	6	0	6.0	3	0	3	7	1	0	1	4	1	1	0	0	0
Carr, Greg	8	5	1	5.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jordan Williams	8	5	2	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Jones, Malachi	10	3	0	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Mauia, Wesley	10	3	0	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Taylor, Collin	10	3	0	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beavers, Larry	3	2	0	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hills, Joe	9	2	1	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sesay, Brandon	5	2	3	3.5	1	1	1.5	7	1	1	1.5	7	1	0	0	0	0
Spencer, Kenny	10	2	3	3.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunmore, Oshay	1	1	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruffins, Moqut	1	1	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

EMPIRE 2018 STATISTICS

AS OF 6/23/2018

KICKOFF RETURNS

PLAYER	GP	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	YDS/G	TD/G
Williams, Jordan	8	18	269	14.9	0	26	33.6	0.0
Beavers, Larry	3	9	158	17.6	0	30	52.7	0.0
Taylor, Collin	10	16	125	7.8	0	25	12.5	0.0
Sonie, Varmah	10	2	18	9.0	0	17	1.8	0.0
Dunmore, Oshay	1	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0

KICKING

Field Goals	Made-Att	Pct	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	Long	Blkd
Spencer, Kenny	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

KICKOFFS

PLAYER	GP	NO	YDS	TB	OB
Spencer, Kenny	10	77	3866	18	5