



GAME NOTES

4.28.18
3 P.M.
ROYAL FARMS ARENA
GAME #3
HOME GAME #2

The Baltimore Brigade host the Albany Empire for the first time this Saturday, April 28 at 3 p.m. at Royal Farms Arena. Baltimore looks to rebound from a Week 2 loss to the Philadelphia Soul while the Empire return from a week off.

BRIGADE PLAYER TO WATCH: QB Randy Hippeard– Hippeard has accounted for 12 touchdowns (10 passing, two rushing) in his two games this season, including seven scores in the team’s Week 1 win over the Washington Valor. The Virginia Wise alumnus has not turned the ball over this season.

EMPIRE PLAYER TO WATCH: QB Tommy Grady – Grady threw for 259 yards and five touchdowns in his first game with the Empire, completing 60.5% of his passes, accounting for all 35 of Albany’s Week 1 points.

MATCHUP TO WATCH: Brigade WRs vs. Empire DBs – Through two weeks of the season, it has been score-by-committee among the Baltimore wide receiving corps. In Week 1, all five of Hippeard’s touchdown passes went to a different receiver. In Week 2, four different receivers caught a touchdown. In total, six different receivers have accounted for the Brigade’s 12 receiving touchdowns, led by Brandon Collins’ three scores. The Empire defense is led by defensive back Varmah Sonie, who spent last season in Baltimore. Sonie registered six total tackles and a pair of pass break-ups in Albany’s Week 1 matchup with Philadelphia.

BROADCAST INFORMATION: Saturday afternoon’s game will be broadcast live on Monumental Sports Network, AFL Now and Facebook Watch.

BALTIMORE BRIGADE (1-1)				ALBANY EMPIRE (0-1)			
VS.							
2018 STAT LEADERS							
BALTIMORE				ALBANY			
PASSING				PASSING			
NAME	%	YDS	TD	NAME	%	YDS	TD
Hippeard	69.1	518	10	Grady	60.5	259	5
RECEIVING				RECEIVING			
NAME	REC.	YDS	TD	NAME	REC.	YDS	TD
Thompkins	11	132	1	Carr	8	74	2
Williams	11	95	2	McNeil III	5	44	1
Collins	8	117	3	Taylor	4	56	1
Ings	6	85	1	Jones	3	55	1
Sims	6	58	2				
RUSHING				RUSHING			
NAME	ATT.	YDS	TD	NAME	ATT.	YDS	TD
Nixon	7	26	1	Mauia	1	37	0
Brown	1	6	1	Grady	1	0	0
Hippeard	3	6	2				
DEFENSE				DEFENSE			
NAME	TOT	SCK	INT	NAME	TOT	SCK	INT
Obi	12.5	0	0	Sonie	6.0	0	0
Powell	12.0	0	0	Moore	5.5	0	0
Gray	10.5	0	0	Hobbs	3.5	0	0
				Norman	2.5	0	0
				Cato-Bishop	2.0	0	0

LEAGUE STANDINGS

TEAM	REC	HOME	AWAY	+/-	WEEK	DATE	OPP.	TIME	TV/RESULT
PHI	2-0	1-0	1-0	+13	1	4/13	WAS	7 p.m.	W, 61-56
BAL	1-1	1-0	0-1	0	2	4/21	@ PHI	7 p.m.	L, 49-54
WAS	0-1	0-0	0-1	-5	3	4/28	ALB	3 p.m.	MSN
ALB	0-1	0-1	0-0	-21	4	5/4	PHI	7 p.m.	MSN

2018 BRIGADE SCHEDULE

5	BYE	BYE	BYE	BYE
6	5/19	@ WAS	3 p.m.	CBSSN
7	5/25	PHI	7 p.m.	MSN
8	6/2	@ ALB	7 p.m.	MSN
9	6/9	@ ALB	7 p.m.	CBSSN
10	6/15	WAS	7 p.m.	CBSSN
11	6/23	ALB	7:30 p.m.	CBSSN
12	6/30	@ PHI	7 p.m.	MSN
13	7/7	@ WAS	3 p.m.	MSN

NOTABLES

HIPPEARD’S CONSISTENCY

Through two weeks of the 2018 season, Brigade quarterback Randy Hippeard has thrown for 500+ yards and 10 touchdowns. Hippeard threw for five touchdowns and zero interceptions in each of the team’s first two outings.

BRANDON’S BIG PLAYS

Brigade wide receiver Brandon Collins leads Baltimore’s balanced wide receiver corps with three touchdowns. In Week 2 against the Philadelphia Soul, Collins caught just two passes, but turned them both into scores.

BALANCED ATTACK

In Week 1, all five of Hippeard’s touchdown passes went to a different receiver. In Week 2, four different receivers caught a touchdown. In total, six different receivers have accounted for the Brigade’s 12 receiving touchdowns.

TOPPING THE CHARTS

A trio of Brigade defensive backs account for three of the top four positions on the AFL’s total tackles leaderboard. Fred Obi (13.5), Joe Powell (12) and Virgil Gray (10.5) rank first, second and fourth, respectively.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Obi.....oh-BEE
Hippeard.....HIP-erd
LaFrance.....Luh-FRANCE
Monte.....mon-TAY

OFFICIALS

REFEREE.....Thomas McCabe
UMPIRE.....Robert Colosimo
HEAD LINESMAN.....Marc Bovos
LINE JUDGE.....Mark Bennett
BACK JUDGE.....Bradley Brunet

BRIGADE ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

#	POS.	PLAYER	HT	WT	BIRTHDATE	AFL EXP.	COLLEGE
44	OL	Rodney Austin	6'4	310	12/4/1988	R	Elon
6	DB	Willie Bailey	6'2	185	4/30/1993	R	Florida
8	QB	Shane Boyd	6'1	220	9/18/1982	8	Kentucky
11	WR	Lamark Brown	6'4	225	7/5/1989	3	Minnesota State
17	WR	Brandon Collins	6'1	180	4/21/1989	3	Texas
4	DB	Virgil Gray	5'10	185	3/7/1984	6	Rhode Island
12	QB	Randy Hippeard	6'3	230	12/6/1985	5	Virginia Wise
7	WR	Kendrick Ings	5'10	180	6/17/1990	3	N/A
55	LB	Dexter Jackson	6'2	285	3/19/1988	8	Bethune Cookman
48	DL	Royce Lafrance	6'3	275	7/17/1993	R	Tulane
99	DL	Justin Lawrence	6'2	305	6/19/1987	6	Morgan State
19	K	Mark Lewis	5'9	200	3/25/1979	13	Florida International
90	DL	Monte Lewis	6'4	260	10/14/1988	2	Jacksonville State
63	OL	Jordan McCray	6'3	315	5/31/1992	2	Central Florida
50	OL	Raymond McNeil	6'2	340	10/14/1984	7	Fort Valley State
23	FB	Rory Nixon	6'1	305	9/10/1991	4	St. Augustine
2	DB	Fred Obi	6'1	190	9/7/1990	3	San Diego
1	DB	Joe Powell	6'1	210	2/25/1994	1	Globe Tech
75	OL	Kyron Samuels	6'2	330	4/20/1994	R	Jacksonville State
18	WR	Quentin Sims	6'3	210	7/11/1990	3	Tennessee Martin
67	DL	Terrance Taylor	6'1	305	5/14/1986	7	Michigan
14	WR	Brandon Thompkins	5'10	195	10/9/1987	7	Arkansas State
60	OL	Jeremiah Warren	6'3	320	9/20/1987	1	South Florida
84	WR	Milton Williams	6'3	215	3/7/1994	1	Delaware State

AS OF 4/26/18

BRIGADE NUMERICAL ROSTER

#	POS.	PLAYER	HT	WT	BIRTHDATE	AFL EXP.	COLLEGE
1	DB	Joe Powell	6'1	210	2/25/1994	1	Globe Tech
2	DB	Fred Obi	6'1	190	9/7/1990	3	San Diego
4	DB	Virgil Gray	5'10	185	3/7/1984	6	Rhode Island
6	DB	Willie Bailey	6'2	185	4/30/1993	R	Florida
7	WR	Kendrick Ings	5'10	180	6/17/1990	3	N/A
8	QB	Shane Boyd	6'1	220	9/18/1982	8	Kentucky
11	WR	Lamark Brown	6'4	225	7/5/1989	3	Minnesota State
12	QB	Randy Hippeard	6'3	230	12/6/1985	5	Virginia Wise
14	WR	Brandon Thompkins	5'10	195	10/9/1987	7	Arkansas State
17	WR	Brandon Collins	6'1	180	4/21/1989	3	Texas
18	WR	Quentin Sims	6'3	210	7/11/1990	3	Tennessee Martin
19	K	Mark Lewis	5'9	200	3/25/1979	13	Florida International
23	FB	Rory Nixon	6'1	305	9/10/1991	4	St. Augustine
44	OL	Rodney Austin	6'4	310	12/4/1988	R	Elon
48	DL	Royce Lafrance	6'3	275	7/17/1993	R	Tulane
50	OL	Raymond McNeil	6'2	340	10/14/1984	7	Fort Valley State
55	LB	Dexter Jackson	6'2	285	3/19/1988	8	Bethune Cookman
60	OL	Jeremiah Warren	6'3	320	9/20/1987	1	South Florida
63	OL	Jordan McCray	6'3	315	5/31/1992	2	Central Florida
67	DL	Terrance Taylor	6'1	305	5/14/1986	7	Michigan
75	OL	Kyron Samuels	6'2	330	4/20/1994	R	Jacksonville State
84	WR	Milton Williams	6'3	215	3/7/1994	1	Delaware State
90	DL	Monte Lewis	6'4	260	10/14/1988	2	Jacksonville State
99	DL	Justin Lawrence	6'2	305	6/19/1987	6	Morgan State

AS OF 4/26/18

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

DEFENSE

SPECIAL TEAMS

QB	12	Hippeard	8	Boyd	DE	67	Taylor	90	Mo. Lewis	K	19	Ma. Lewis
FB	23	Nixon	75	Samuels	NG	99	Lawrence	67	Taylor	H	8	Boyd
C	50	McNeil	75	Samuels	DE	48	LaFrance	90	Mo. Lewis	LS	60	Warren
G	60	Warren	44	Austin	LB	55	Jackson	90	Mo. Lewis	KR	14	Thompkins
TE	63	McCray	44	Austin	LB	11	Brown	90	Mo. Lewis			
WR	18	Sims	84	Williams	DB	2	Obi	6	Bailey			
WR	14	Thompkins	7	Ings	DB	1	Powell	6	Bailey			
WR	17	Collins	7	Ings	DB	4	Gray	6	Bailey			

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PLAYER BIOS

FULL BIOS, CAREER STATS AND INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE MEDIA GUIDE

4.4 RODNEY AUSTIN

POS: OL // H: 6-4 // W: 310 // DOB: 12/4/1988 // College: Elon // AFL EXP: R

6 WILLIE BAILEY

POS: DB // H: 6-2 // W: 185 // DOB: 4/30/1993 // College: Florida // AFL EXP: R

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	SOLO	AST	TOT	SACK	PBU	FF	FR	INT	TD
1	WAS	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	PHI	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		4	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

SOLO.....	3 (4/21/18 at PHI)
AST.....	2 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)
TOT.....	3 (4/21/18 at PHI)
SACK.....	N/A
PBU.....	N/A
INT.....	N/A
TD.....	N/A

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

SOLO.....	3 (4/21/18 at PHI)
AST.....	2 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)
TOT.....	3 (4/21/18 at PHI)
SACK.....	N/A
PBU.....	N/A
INT.....	N/A
TD.....	N/A

8 SHANE BOYD

POS: QB // H: 6-1 // W: 220 // DOB: 9/18/1982 // College: Kentucky // AFL EXP: 8

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	PASSING							RUSHING			
		COMP	ATT	%	YDS	TD	INT	RAT	ATT	YDS	TD	
1	WAS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	PHI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

COMP.....N/A
 ATT.....N/A
 %.....N/A
 PASS YDS.....N/A
 PASS TD.....N/A
 INT.....N/A

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

COMP.....29 (4/12/14 at IA)
 ATT.....42 (7/27/13 at JAX)
 %.....70.7 (4/12/14 at IA)
 PASS YDS.....387 (4/12/14 at IA)
 PASS TD.....7 (3x)
 INT.....4 (6/20/14 at SPO)

11 LAMARK BROWN

POS: WR // H: 6-4 // W: 225 // DOB: 7/5/1989 // College: Minnesota State // AFL EXP: 3

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	RECEIVING			RUSHING		
		REC	YDS	TD	ATT	YDS	TD
1	WAS	-	-	-	1	6	1
2	PHI	1	6	-	-	-	-
CAREER		1	6	-	1	6	1

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

REC.....1 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 REC YDS.....6 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 REC TDS.....N/A

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

REC.....11 (2x)
 REC YDS.....142 (4/22/17 vs. CLE)
 REC TDS.....3 (5/7/17 at BAL)

17 BRANDON COLLINS

POS: WR // H: 6-0 // W: 180 // DOB: 4/21/1989 // College: Texas // AFL EXP: 3

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	REC	YDS	TD
1	WAS	6	57	1
2	PHI	2	60	2
TOTAL		8	117	3

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

REC.....6 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)
 REC YDS.....60 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 REC TDS.....2 (4/21/18 at PHI)

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

REC.....11 (2x)
 REC YDS.....142 (4/22/17 vs. CLE)
 REC TDS.....3 (5/7/17 at BAL)

4 VIRGIL GRAY

POS: DB // H: 5-10 // W: 185 // DOB: 3/7/1984 // College: Rhode Island // AFL EXP: 6

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	SOLO	AST	TOT	SACK	PBU	FF	FR	INT	TD
1	WAS	3	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
2	PHI	7	1	7.5	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		10	1	10.5	-	2	-	-	-	-

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

SOLO.....7 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 AST.....1 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 TOT.....7.5 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 SACK.....N/A
 PBU.....1 (2x)
 INT.....N/A
 TD.....N/A

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

SOLO.....10 (2x)
 AST.....7 (8/12/11 vs. JAX)
 TOT.....11 (5/19/12 at UTA)
 SACK.....N/A
 PBU.....8 (7/26/14 vs. PHI)
 INT.....3 (3x)
 TD.....2 (7/27/13 at IA)

12 RANDY HIPPEARD

POS: QB // H: 6-3 // W: 230 // DOB: 12/6/1985 // College: Virginia Wise // AFL EXP: 5

2018 GAME LOG

PASSING

RUSHING

WEEK	OPP	COMP	ATT	%	YDS	TD	INT	ATT	YDS	TD
1	WAS	22	31	.709	240	5	-	3	6	2
2	PHI	25	37	.675	278	5	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		47	68	.691	518	10	-	3	6	2

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

COMP.....25 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 ATT.....37 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 %.....70.9 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)
 PASS YDS.....278 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 PASS TD.....5 (2x)
 INT.....N/A

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

COMP.....37 (4/22/17 vs. CLE)
 ATT.....51 (7/8/17 at CLE)
 %.....89.7 (4/18/15 at ORL)
 PASS YDS.....397 (4/25/15 at SPO)
 PASS TD.....9 (2x)
 INT.....4 (3/21/14 at SA)

7 KENDRICK INGS

POS: WR // H: 5-10 // W: 180 // DOB: 6/17/1990 // College: N/A // AFL EXP: 3

2018 GAME LOG

RECEIVING

RETURNING

WEEK	OPP	REC	YDS	TD	RET	YDS	TD
1	WAS	1	31	1	-	-	-
2	PHI	5	54	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		6	85	1	-	-	-

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

REC.....1 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)
 REC YDS.....31 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)
 REC TDS.....1 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

REC.....12 (4/24/15 at CLE)
 REC YDS.....172 (4/24/15 at CLE)
 REC TDS.....3 (3x)

55 DEXTER JACKSON

POS: LB // H: 6-2 // W: 285 // DOB: 3/19/1988 // College: Bethune Cookman // AFL EXP: 8

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	SOLO	AST	TOT	SACK	PBU	FF	FR	INT	TD
1	WAS	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	PHI	1	1	1.5	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL		1	3	2.5	-	-	1	-	-	-

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

SOLO.....1 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 AST.....2 (4/13/18 vs. WAS)
 TOT.....1.5 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 SACK.....N/A
 PBU.....N/A
 INT.....N/A
 TD.....N/A

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

SOLO.....4 (5/26/11 vs. MIL)
 AST.....4 (4/15/17 vs. PHI)
 TOT.....4 (5/26/11 vs. MIL)
 SACK.....2 (5/26/11 vs. MIL)
 PBU.....1 (7x)
 INT.....1 (3/28/11 at MIL)
 TD.....N/A

48 ROYCE LAFRANCE

POS: DL // H: 6-3 // W: 275 // DOB: 7/17/1993 // College: Tulane // AFL EXP: R

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	SOLO	AST	TOT	SACK	PBU	FF	FR	INT	TD
1	WAS	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	PHI	3	1	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		4	1	4.5	-	-	-	-	-	-

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

SOLO.....3 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 AST.....1 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 TOT.....3.5 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 SACK.....N/A
 PBU.....N/A
 INT.....N/A
 TD.....N/A

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

SOLO.....3 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 AST.....1 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 TOT.....3.5 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 SACK.....N/A
 PBU.....N/A
 INT.....N/A
 TD.....N/A

99 JUSTIN LAWRENCE

POS: DL // H: 6-2 // W: 305 // DOB: 6/19/1987 // College: Morgan State // AFL EXP: 6

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	SOLO	AST	TOT	SACK	PBU	FF	FR	INT	TD
1	WAS	-	1	.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	PHI	-	1	.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

SOLO.....N/A
 AST.....1 (2x)
 TOT.....0.5 (2x)
 SACK.....N/A
 PBU.....N/A
 INT.....N/A
 TD.....N/A

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

SOLO.....4 (2x)
 AST.....3 (3x)
 TOT.....4.5 (6/16/12 at PIT)
 SACK.....2 (7/15/17 vs. WAS)
 PBU.....2 (5/14/11 at UTA)
 INT.....1 (7/15/11 at IA)
 TD.....1 (7/15/11 at IA)

19 MARK LEWIS

POS: K // H: 5-9 // W: 200 // DOB: 3/25/1979 // College: Florida International // AFL EXP: 13

CAREER STATS

WEEK	OPP	FGM	FGA	FG%	XPM	XPA	XP%
1	WAS	-	-	-	7	9	.777
2	PHI	-	-	-	7	7	1.000
TOTAL		-	-	-	14	16	.875

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

FGM.....N/A
 FGA.....N/A
 XPM.....7 (2x)
 XPA.....9 (4/13/18 vs. WAS)

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

FGM.....4 (Week 14, 2006 vs. AUS)
 FGA.....5 (Week 16, 2006 vs. SJ)
 XPM.....11 (2x)
 XPA.....12 (2x)

90 MONTE LEWIS

POS: DL // H: 6-4 // W: 260 // DOB: 10/14/1988 // College: Jacksonville State // AFL EXP: 2

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	SOLO	AST	TOT	SACK	PBU	FF	FR	INT	TD
1	WAS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	PHI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

SOLO.....N/A
 AST.....N/A
 TOT.....N/A
 SACK.....N/A
 PBU.....N/A
 INT.....N/A
 TD.....N/A

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

SOLO.....4 (8/26/17 at PHI)
 AST.....3 (7/30/16 vs. PHI)
 TOT.....4 (8/26/17 at PHI)
 SACK.....3 (5/20/17 vs. WAS)
 PBU.....1 (2x)
 INT.....N/A
 TD.....N/A

63 JORDAN MCCRAY

POS: OL // H: 6-3 // W: 315 // DOB: 5/31/1992 // College: Central Florida // AFL EXP: 2

50 RAYMOND MCNEIL

POS: OL // H: 6-2 // W: 340 // DOB: 10/14/1984 // College: Fort Valley State // AFL EXP: 7

23 RORY NIXON

POS: FB // H: 6-1 // W: 305 // DOB: 9/10/1991 // College: St. Augustine // AFL EXP: 4

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	RECEIVING			RUSHING		
		REC	YDS	TD	ATT	YDS	TD
1	WAS	-	-	-	6	27	1
2	PHI	2	12	-	1	-	-
CAREER		2	-	-	7	27	1

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

REC.....2 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 REC YDS.....12 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 REC TDS.....N/A
 RUSH ATT.....6 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)
 RUSH YDS.....27 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)
 RUSH TD.....1 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

REC.....3 (4x)
 REC YDS.....41 (7/16/16 vs. CLE)
 REC TD.....1 (7x)
 RUSH ATT.....7 (2x)
 RUSH YDS.....27 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)
 RUSH TD.....3 (8/7/16 vs. CLE)

2 FRED OBI

POS: DB // H: 6-1 // W: 190 // DOB: 9/7/1990 // College: San Diego // AFL EXP: 3

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	SOLO	AST	TOT	SACK	PBU	FF	FR	INT	TD
1	WAS	4	3	5.5	-	1	-	-	-	-
2	PHI	7	-	7	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTAL		11	3	12.5	-	1	-	1	-	-

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

SOLO.....7 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 AST.....3 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)
 TOT.....7 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 SACK.....N/A
 PBU.....1 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)
 INT.....N/A
 TD.....N/A

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

SOLO.....11 (2x)
 AST.....3 (6x)
 TOT.....11 (3x)
 SACK.....N/A
 PBU.....3 (3x)
 INT.....2 (6/21/15 at LV)
 TD.....1 (2x)

1 JOE POWELL

POS: DB // H: 6-1 // W: 210 // DOB: 2/25/1994 // College: Globe Tech // AFL EXP: 1

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	SOLO	AST	TOT	SACK	PBU	FF	FR	INT	TD
1	WAS	5	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-
2	PHI	7	-	7	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		12	-	5	-	1	-	1	-	-

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

SOLO.....7 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 AST.....N/A
 TOT.....7 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 SACK.....N/A
 PBU.....1 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 INT.....N/A
 TD.....N/A

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

SOLO.....7 (2x)
 AST.....8 (5/23/16 at TB)
 TOT.....9 (4/29/16 vs. ORL)
 SACK.....N/A
 PBU.....2 (2x)
 INT.....2 (2x)
 TD.....1 (4/1/16 vs. PHI)

75 KYRON SAMUELS

POS: OL // H: 6-2 // W: 330 // DOB: 4/20/1994 // College: Jacksonville State // AFL EXP: R

18 QUENTIN SIMS

POS: WR // H: 6-3 // W: 210 // DOB: 7/11/1990 // College: Tennessee Martin // AFL EXP: 3

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	REC	YDS	TD
1	WAS	5	43	1
2	PHI	1	15	1
TOTAL		6	58	2

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

REC.....5 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)
 REC YDS.....43 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)
 REC TDS.....1 (2x)

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

REC.....14 (2x)
 REC YDS.....205 (4/22/17 at TB)
 REC TDS.....5 (x4)

67 TERRANCE TAYLOR

POS: DL // H: 6-1 // W: 305 // 5/14/1986 // College: Michigan // AFL EXP: 7

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	SOLO	AST	TOT	SACK	PBU	FF	FR	INT	TD
1	WAS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	PHI	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

SOLO.....1 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 AST.....N/A
 TOT.....1 (4/21/18 at PHI)
 SACK.....N/A
 PBU.....N/A
 INT.....N/A
 TD.....N/A

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

SOLO.....3 (3x)
 AST.....3 (5x)
 TOT.....4.5 (7/19/13 vs. SA)
 SACK.....3 (7/19/13 vs. SA)
 PBU.....1 (6x)
 INT.....1 (2x)
 TD.....1 (7/26/13 vs. PIT)

14 BRANDON THOMPKINS

POS: WR // H: 5-10 // W: 195 // DOB: 10/9/1987 // College: Arkansas State // AFL EXP: 7

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	RECEIVING			RETURNING		
		REC	YDS	TD	RET	YDS	TD
1	WAS	4	61	1	5	149	-
2	PHI	7	71	-	4	111	1
TOTAL		11	132	1	9	260	1

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

REC.....7 (4/21/18 at PHI)
REC YDS.....71 (4/21/18 at PHI)
REC TDS.....1 (4/13/18 VS. WAS)

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

REC.....13 (5/21/16 at PHI)
REC YDS.....184 (8/10/13 at AZ)
REC TDS.....7 (5/5/12 at UTA)

60 JEREMIAH WARREN

POS: OL // H: 6-3 // W: 320 // DOB: 9/20/1987 // College: South Florida // AFL EXP: 1

84 MILTON WILLIAMS

POS: WR // H: 6-3 // W: 215 // DOB: 3/7/1994 // College: Delaware State // AFL EXP: 1

2018 GAME LOG

WEEK	OPP	REC	YDS	TD
1	WAS	5	46	1
2	PHI	6	49	1
TOTAL		11	95	2

2018 SINGLE GAME HIGHS

REC.....6 (4/21/18 at PHI)
REC YDS.....49 (4/21/18 at PHI)
REC TDS.....1 (2x)

SINGLE GAME CAREER HIGHS

REC.....7 (2x)
REC YDS.....90 (5/27/17 vs. CLE)
REC TDS.....3 (5/27/17 vs. CLE)

COACHING STAFF

OMARR SMITH **HEAD COACH**

Smith is one of the most successful players and coaches in AFL history, earning a combined seven AFL championships. Named to the Arena Football Hall of Fame for his storied playing career, Smith enters his second season as the Brigade's head coach. Baltimore qualified for the playoffs in the team's inaugural season, falling to the eventual-champion Philadelphia Soul in the semifinals. Prior to joining the Brigade coaching staff, Smith spent one season (2016) as the head coach of the LA KISS, earning a home playoff appearance after finishing second in the National Conference. As an assistant coach, Smith won an ArenaBowl title with the Arizona Rattlers in 2012 and 2013 and the San Jose SaberCats in 2015. Smith won Assistant Coach of the Year in 2013 with the Arizona Rattlers as the team's defensive coordinator. In 2012 and 2013, the Rattlers won consecutive ArenaBowl Championships with a defense ranked second in points allowed per game every season Smith led the defensive unit.

During his nine-year playing career, Smith won four ArenaBowl titles (2002, 2003, 2004, 2007) and finished his career with 35 interceptions, 88 pass break-ups and eight defensive touchdowns. The Torrance, California native graduated from San Jose State University and is tied for second on the school's career interceptions list with 13. The Torrance, Calif., native graduated from San Jose State University and is ranked second on the school's list in career interceptions (13).

AS A COACH...

YEAR	TEAM	REGULAR SEASON				POSTSEASON			
		WON	LOST	%	FINISH	WON	LOST	%	RESULT
2016	LA	7	9	.438	2nd in NC	0	1	.000	Lost to CLE in Conference Semifinals
2017	BAL	4	10	.286	4th in AFL	0	1	.000	Lost to PHI in AFL Semifinals
2018	BAL	1	1	1.00	3rd in AFL				
CAREER		12	20	.375		0	2	.000	

WALT HOUSMAN **ASSISTANT HEAD COACH**

Housman returns as assistant head coach and has over 16 years of coaching experience in the AFL, including last season with the Brigade. Housman spent the 2016 season alongside Smith in Los Angeles. In 2006, he served as defensive coordinator for the ArenaBowl-champion Chicago Rush. Before moving to the sidelines, Housman played for the AFL's New York Knights, Denver Dynamite and New Orleans Night.

CEDRIC WALKER **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR**

Walker, who will lead the defense as defensive coordinator, boasts nearly 20 years of arena football experience, including ten years as a player (Charlotte, Orlando, Arizona, Albany, Chicago, Austin, Las Vegas) and nine as a coach (Bakersfield, Everett, Tri-Cities, Green Bay, Milwaukee, San Jose), including the last six seasons of his coaching career as a defensive coordinator. Walker won ArenaBowl XXVIII as defensive coordinator of the San Jose SaberCats in 2015 and ArenaBowl XI as a player with the Arizona Rattlers in 1997.

JAMES ROE **OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**

Roe enters his second seasons as the Brigade's offensive coordinator. During his playing career, Roe won three ArenaBowl titles (2002, 2004, 2007), all with the San Jose SaberCats. He earned All-Ironman Team honors in 2003, 2004, and 2005 and was named Ironman of the Game following San Jose's ArenaBowl win in 2004. Roe spent three years as a member of the Baltimore Ravens.

SCOTT BAILEY **SPECIAL TEAMS AND QUARTERBACKS COACH**

Bailey, in his second season as the Brigade's special teams and quarterbacks coach, brings extensive player personnel experience to the team. He, along with Housman, helped the Chicago Rush win the ArenaBowl Championship in 2006. Bailey was later promoted as the team's assistant special teams coach. Prior to joining the Brigade, Bailey also spent time on the LA KISS coaching staff.

TRANSACTIONS

DATE	TRANSACTION	POS.	NAME
April 19	Act. from recallable reassignment	OL	Kyron Samuels
April 19	Placing on refuse to report	FB	Mykel Benson
April 17	Have been assigned	FB	Mykel Benson
April 17	Placing on recallable reassignment	OL	Kyron Samuels
April 9	Placing on league suspension	WR	Daniel Adams
April 9	Placing on league suspension	DB	Qumain Black
April 9	Placing on league suspension	DL	Kendall Montgomery
April 9	Placing on league suspension	DL	Rykeem Yates
April 8	Have been assigned	WR	Brandon Collins
April 6	Have been assigned	DB	Willie Bailey
April 6	Placing on injured reserve	DB	Cleshawn Page
April 6	Placing on league suspension	WR	Rashaun Simonise
April 6	Placing on recallable reassignment	WR	Daniel Adams
April 6	Placing on recallable reassignment	DL	Kendall Montgomery
April 6	Placing on recallable reassignment	DL	Silverberry Mouhon
April 6	Placing on recallable reassignment	DB	Kent Richardson
April 6	Placing on recallable reassignment	DL	Rykeem Yates
April 6	Placing on reassignment	DB	Qumain Black
April 6	Placing on reassignment	DB	Corey Butler-Byrd
April 5	Activating from refuse to report	K	Mark Lewis
April 5	Placing on league suspension	OL	Zach Voytech
April 4	Placing on league suspension	DL	Miles Grooms
April 3	Have been assigned	DB	Kent Richardson
April 2	Have been assigned	DL	Silverberry Mouhon
April 2	Activating from refuse to report	WR	Quentin Sims
April 2	Placing on PUP	DB	Qumain Black
April 2	Placing on PUP	WR	Corey Butler-Byrd
April 2	Placing on recallable reassignment	DL	Miles Grooms
March 30	Have been assigned	WR	Brandon Thompkins
March 30	Have been assigned	OL	Jeremiah Warren
March 30	Activating from refuse to report	DB	Joe Powell
March 30	Placing on refuse to report	DL	Rodney Fritz
March 30	Placing on recallable reassignment	OL	Reuben Carter
March 28	Have been assigned	OL	Rodney Austin

DATE	TRANSACTION	POS.	NAME
March 28	Have been assigned	DL	Royce LaFrance
March 28	Have been assigned	WR	Rashaun Simonise
March 28	Placing on PUP	DB	Cleshawn Page
March 28	Placing on refuse to report	DB	Joe Powell
March 28	Placing on recallable reassignment	DL	Andre Monroe
March 28	Placing on reassignment	WR	Dominique Reed
March 26	Have been assigned	OL	Raymond McNeil
March 26	Have been assigned	DB	Cleshawn Page
March 26	Placing on refuse to report	K	Mark Lewis
March 26	Placing on refuse to report	WR	Dominique Reed
March 26	Placing on refuse to report	WR	Quentin Sims
March 22	Have been assigned	DL	Rodney Fritz
March 22	Have been assigned	LB	Dexter Jackson
March 22	Have been assigned	DB	Joe Powell
March 22	Have been assigned	WR	Quentin Sims
March 21	Have been assigned	DB	Virgil Gray
March 21	Have been assigned	DL	Justin Lawrence
March 21	Have been assigned	K	Mark Lewis
March 21	Have been assigned	FB	Rory Nixon
March 21	Have been assigned	WR	Dominique Reed
March 21	Have been assigned	DL	Terrance Taylor
March 20	Have been assigned	WR	Daniel Adams
March 20	Have been assigned	DB	Qumain Black
March 20	Have been assigned	QB	Shane Boyd
March 20	Have been assigned	WR	Lamark Brown
March 20	Have been assigned	WR	Corey Butler-Byrd
March 20	Have been assigned	OL	Reuben Carter
March 20	Have been assigned	DL	Miles Grooms
March 20	Have been assigned	QB	Randy Hippeard
March 20	Have been assigned	WR	Kendrick Ings
March 20	Have been assigned	DL	Monte Lewis
March 20	Have been assigned	OL	Jordan McCray
March 20	Have been assigned	DL	Andre Monroe
March 20	Have been assigned	DL	Kendall Montgomery

2018 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATS	BAL	OPP
SCORING	110	110
Points Per Game	55.0	55.0
Points Off Turnovers	14	0
FIRST DOWNS	36	40
Rushing	6	7
Passing	28	30
Penalty	2	3
RUSHING YARDAGE	38	50
Yards gained rushing	39	50
Yards lost rushing	1	0
Rushing Attempts	11	13
Average Per Rush	3.5	3.8
Average Per Game	19.0	25.0
TDs Rushing	4	4
PASSING YARDAGE	496	518
Comp-Att-Int	47-68-0	46-61-0
Average Per Pass	7.3	8.5
Average Per Catch	10.6	11.3
Average Per Game	248.0	259.0
TDs Passing	10	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	534	568
Total Plays	83	74
Average Per Play	6.4	7.7
Average Per Game	267.0	284.0
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	10-266	13-179
FG RETURNS: #-Yards	0-0	0-0
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	0-0	0-0
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	26.6	13.8
FG RETURN AVERAGE	0.0	0.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	0.0	0.0
FUMBLES-LOST	0-0	2-2
PENALTIES-Yards	12-80	9-52
Average Per Game	40.0	26.0
KICKOFFS-Yards	14-748	15-765
Average Per Kick	53.4	51.0

Net kick average	40.3	31.9
TIME OF POSSESSION/ Game	30:58	29:02
3RD-DOWN Conversions	7/14	6/8
3rd-Down Pct	50%	75%
4TH-DOWN Conversions	4/5	1/1
4th-Down Pct	80%	100%
SACKS BY-Yards	0-0	4-22
MISC YARDS	-4	-1
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	16	16
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	0-0	0-0
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-3	0-3
RED-ZONE SCORES	(6-9) 67%	(11-12) 92%
RED-ZONE TOUCH- DOWNS	(6-9) 67%	(11-12) 92%
4-point drop-kick FGs	0-0	0-0
PAT-ATTEMPTS	(14-16) 88%	(14-15) 93%
2-point drop-kick PATs	0-0	0-0
ATTENDANCE	5358	9326
Games/Avg Per Game	1/5358	1/9326
Neutral Site Games		0/0

2018 PLAYER STATS

RUSHING	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
Nixon, Rory	2	7	27	1	26	3.7	1	19	13.0
Brown, Lamark	2	1	6	0	6	6.0	1	6	3.0
Hippeard, Randy	2	3	6	0	6	2.0	2	3	3.0
Total.....	2	11	39	1	38	3.5	4	19	19.0
Opponents.....	2	13	50	0	50	3.8	4	17	25.0
PASSING	GP	Rating	Cmp-Att-Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Avg/G	
Hippeard, Randy	2	128.2	47-68-0	69.1	518	10	38	259.0	
TEAM	2	39.6	0-0-0	0.0	-22	0	0	-11.0	
Total.....	2	126.8	47-68-0	69.1	496	10	38	248.0	
Opponents.....	2	139.9	46-61-0	75.4	518	12	38	259.0	
RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G		
Thompkins, Brandon	2	11	132	12.0	1	28	66.0		
Williams, Milton	2	11	95	8.6	2	22	47.5		
Collins, Brandon	2	8	117	14.6	3	38	58.5		

Ings, Kendrick	2	6	85	14.2	1	31	42.5		
Sims, Quentin	2	6	58	9.7	2	16	29.0		
McCray, Jordan	2	2	13	6.5	1	11	6.5		
Nixon, Rory	2	2	12	6.0	0	8	6.0		
Brown, Lamark	2	1	6	6.0	0	6	3.0		
Total.....	2	47	518	11.0	10	38	259.0		
Opponents.....	2	46	518	11.3	12	38	259.0		
FG RETURNS	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long				
Total.....	0	0	0.0	0	0				
Opponents.....	0	0	0.0	0	0				
INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long				
Total.....	0	0	0.0	0	0				
Opponents.....	0	0	0.0	0	0				
KICK RETURNS	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long				
Thompkins, Brandon	9	260	28.9	1	55				
Powell, Joe	1	6	6.0	1	6				
Total.....	10	266	26.6	2	55				
Opponents.....	13	179	13.8	0	36				
FUMBLE RETURNS	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long	Pass	2PT	Saf	Points
Total.....	0	0	0.0	0	0	0-0	0	0	12
Opponents.....	0	0	0.0	0	0	0-0	0	0	7
SCORING	TD	FGs	Kick	Rush	Rev	Pass	2PT	Saf	Points
Collins, Brandon	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	18
Lewis, Mark	0	0-0	14-16	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	14
Sims, Quentin	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	12
Hippeard, Randy	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	12
Thompkins, Brandon	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	12
Williams, Milton	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	12
Brown, Lamark	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
Powell, Joe	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
Ings, Kendrick	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
McCray, Jordan	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
Nixon, Rory	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
Total.....	16	0-0	14-16	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	110
Opponents.....	16	0-0	14-15	0-0	0	0-1	0	0	110
TOTAL OFFENSE	GP	Plays	Rush	Pass	Total	Avg/G			
Hippeard, Randy	2	71	6	518	524	262.0	Net	YdLn	
Nixon, Rory	2	7	26	0	26	13.0			
Brown, Lamark	2	1	6	0	6	3.0	36.8	13	

TEAM	2	0	0	-22	-22	-11.0	29.6	20	
Total.....	2	79	38	496	534	267.0	Total	Avg/G	
Opponents.....	2	74	50	518	568	284.0	210	210.0	
KICKOFFS	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB	Retn	Net	YdLn	
Lewis, Mark	14	748	53.4	1	0	0	2	2.0	
Total.....	14	748	53.4	1	0	13.8	40.3	9	
Opponents.....	15	765	51.0	4	2	26.6	31.9	18	
ALL PURPOSE	GP	Rush	Rcv	FG	KR	IR	Total	Avg/G	
Thompkins, Brandon	2	0	132	0	260	0	392	196.0	
Collins, Brandon	2	0	117	0	0	0	117	58.5	
Williams, Milton	2	0	95	0	0	0	95	47.5	
Ings, Kendrick	2	0	85	0	0	0	85	42.5	
Sims, Quentin	2	0	58	0	0	0	58	29.0	
Nixon, Rory	2	26	12	0	0	0	38	19.0	
McCray, Jordan	2	0	13	0	0	0	13	6.5	
Brown, Lamark	2	6	6	0	0	0	12	6.0	
Hippeard, Randy	2	6	0	0	0	0	6	3.0	
Powell, Joe	2	0	0	0	6	0	6	3.0	
Total.....	2	38	518	0	266	0	822	411.0	
Opponents.....	2	50	518	0	179	0	747	373.5	

DEFENSIVE LEADERS	GP	Tackles			TFL-Yds	Sacks		Pass Defense		Qbh	Fumbles	
		Solo	Ast	Total		No-Yds	Int-Yds	BU	PD		Rev-Yds	FF
Obi, Fred	2	11	3	12.5	.			1	1	.	1-0	.
Powell, Joe	2	12	.	12.0	.			1	1	.	1-0	.
Gray, Virgil	2	10	1	10.5	.			2	2	.		.
Bailey, Willie	2	4	2	5.0	.			.	.	.		.
Lafrance, Royce	2	4	1	4.5	.			.	.	.		.
Brown, Lamark	2	4	1	4.5	.			1	1	.		.
Sims, Quentin	2	2	2	3.0	.			.	.	.		.
Jackson, Dexter	2	1	3	2.5	.			.	.	2		1
Lawrence, Justin	2	.	2	1.0	.			.	.	.		.
Taylor, Terrance	2	1	.	1.0	.			.	.	.		.
Williams, Milton	2	.	1	0.5	.			.	.	.		.
Lewis, Mark	2	.	1	0.5	.			.	.	.		.
Total.....	2	49	17	57.5	.	0-0		5	5	2	2-0	1
Opponents.....	2	48	20	58.0	5-23	4-22		7	7	.		.

2018 HIGHS AND LOWS

INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Rushes	6	Nixon, Rory vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Yards Rushing	26	Nixon, Rory vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
TD Rushes	2	Hippeard, Randy vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Long Rush	19	Nixon, Rory vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Pass attempts	37	Hippeard, Randy at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Pass completions	25	Hippeard, Randy at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Yards Passing	278	Hippeard, Randy at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
TD Passes	5	Hippeard, Randy vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
		Hippeard, Randy at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Long Pass	38	Hippeard, Randy at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Receptions	7	Thompkins, Brandon at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Yards Receiving	71	Thompkins, Brandon at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
TD Receptions	2	Collins, Brandon at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Long Reception	38	Collins, Brandon at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Long Kickoff Return	55	Thompkins, Brandon at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Tackles	7.5	Gray, Virgil at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)

TEAM GAME HIGHS

Rushes	10	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Yards Rushing	38	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Yards Per Rush	3.8	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
TD Rushes	4	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Pass attempts	37	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Pass completions	25	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Yards Passing	264	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Yards Per Pass	7.5	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
TD Passes	5	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
		at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Total Plays	41	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Total Offense	270	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Yards Per Play	6.9	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Points	61	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
First Downs	20	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Penalties	7	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Penalty Yards	42	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)

OPPONENT INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Rushes	6	RICHARDSON,JERA, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Yards Rushing	20	DAVILA,NICK, vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
TD Rushes	2	RICHARDSON,JERA, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Long Rush	17	DAVILA,NICK, vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Pass attempts	34	RAUDABAUGH,DAN, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Pass completions	28	RAUDABAUGH,DAN, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Yards Passing	321	RAUDABAUGH,DAN, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
TD Passes	6	DAVILA,NICK, vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
		RAUDABAUGH,DAN, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Long Pass	38	DAVILA,NICK, vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
		RAUDABAUGH,DAN, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Receptions	11	REYNOLDS,DARIUS, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Yards Receiving	151	REYNOLDS,DARIUS, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
TD Receptions	4	REYNOLDS,DARIUS, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Long Reception	38	REESE,JOSH, vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
		REYNOLDS,DARIUS, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Long Kickoff Return	36	DUVALT,CHRIS, vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Tackles	7.5	HOLLIS,DWAYNE, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Sacks	1.0	COLLINS,LANFORD, vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)

		GORDON,JAMES, vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
		RICHARDSON,JERA, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
		DOVER,THOMAS, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Tackles For Loss	1.0	COLLINS,LANFORD, vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
		GORDON,JAMES, vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
		SMITH,KHREEM, vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
		RICHARDSON,JERA, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
		DOVER,THOMAS, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)

OPPONENT TEAM GAME HIGHS

Rushes	7	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Yards Rushing	31	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Yards Per Rush	5.2	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
TD Rushes	2	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
		at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Pass attempts	34	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Pass completions	28	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Yards Passing	321	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Yards Per Pass	9.4	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
TD Passes	6	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
		at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Total Plays	41	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Total Offense	340	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Yards Per Play	8.3	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Points	56	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
Sacks By	2	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
		at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
First Downs	21	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Penalties	6	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Penalty Yards	40	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)
Turnovers	1	vs Washington Valor (Apr 13, 2018)
		at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 21, 2018)

GAME AWARDS

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

WEEK	TEAM	POS	NAME	STATS	OPP
1	BAL	QB	Randy Hippeard	Completed 22/31 passes for 240 yards and five TDs, ran for two TDs	WAS
2					

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME

WEEK	TEAM	POS	NAME	STATS	OPP
1	WAS	QB	Nick Davila	Completed 18/27 passes for 197 yards and six TDs, ran for one TD	BAL
2	PHI	WR	Darius Reynolds	Caught 11 passes for 151 yards and four touchdowns	BAL

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME

WEEK	TEAM	POS	NAME	STATS	OPP
1	BAL	DB	Joe Powell	Tallied five solo tackles, registered a fumble recovery in the first quarter	WAS
2	PHI	DB	James Romain	Registered four solo tackles and a pair of pass break-ups	BAL

AFL WEEKLY AWARDS

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

WEEK	TEAM	POS	NAME	STATS	OPP
1	BAL	QB	Randy Hippeard	Completed 22/31 passes for 240 yards and five TDs, ran for two TDs	WAS
2	PHI	WR	Darius Reynolds	Finished with 11 receptions for 151 yards and four touchdowns	BAL

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

WEEK	TEAM	POS	NAME	STATS	OPP
1	PHI	DB	Torez Jones	5.5 total tackles, an interception, fumble recover and two pass break-ups	ALB
2	BAL	DB	James Romain	Recorded four total tackles and a pair of pass break-ups	BAL

GAME RECAPS

WEEK 1 VS. WASHINGTON

Washington Valor (0-1) vs. Baltimore Brigade (1-0)

Date: Apr 13, 2018 • Site: Baltimore, MD • Arena: Royal Farms Arena • Attendance: 5358

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Score
Washington Valor	7	21	14	14	56
Baltimore Brigade	20	20	7	14	61

1st	09:23	BAL	Ings, Kendrick 31 yd pass from Hippeard, Randy (Lewis, Mark kick) 7 plays, 44 yards, TOP 6:16	0 - 7	
	06:11	BAL	Hippeard, Randy 1 yd run (Lewis, Mark kick) 3 plays, 1 yard, TOP 2:33	0 - 14	
	02:44	WSH	Duvalt, Chris 4 yd pass from Davila, Nick (Clarke, Pat kick) 4 plays, 29 yards, TOP 2:39	7 - 14	
2nd	00:29	BAL	Thompkins, Brandon 11 yd pass from Hippeard, Randy (Lewis, Mark rush fumbld) 2 plays, 23 yards, TOP 1:37	7 - 20	
	09:17	WSH	Windsor, Rod 4 yd pass from Davila, Nick (Clarke, Pat kick) 7 plays, 41 yards, TOP 5:43	14 - 20	
	05:37	BAL	Brown, Lamark 6 yd run (Lewis, Mark kick) 4 plays, 28 yards, TOP 2:48	14 - 27	
	02:50	WSH	Gordon, James 1 yd run (Clarke, Pat kick) 3 plays, 41 yards, TOP 2:00	21 - 27	
	00:56	BAL	Nixon, Rory 2 yd run (Lewis, Mark kick) 2 plays, 2 yards, TOP 0:59	21 - 34	
	00:43	WSH	Gray, Reggie 12 yd pass from Davila, Nick (Clarke, Pat kick) 1 play, 12 yards, TOP 0:13	28 - 34	
	00:00	BAL	Hippeard, Randy 2 yd run (Lewis, Mark kick failed) 6 plays, 15 yards, TOP 0:43	28 - 40	
	3rd	11:36	WSH	Davila, Nick 17 yd run (Clarke, Pat kick) 4 plays, 40 yards, TOP 3:24	35 - 40
		06:48	BAL	Collins, Brandon 6 yd pass from Hippeard, Randy (Lewis, Mark kick) 5 plays, 40 yards, TOP 4:09	35 - 47
01:24		WSH	Reese, Josh 16 yd pass from Davila, Nick (Clarke, Pat kick) 6 plays, 39 yards, TOP 4:43	42 - 47	
4th	10:28	BAL	Sims, Quentin 2 yd pass from Hippeard, Randy (Lewis, Mark kick) 8 plays, 45 yards, TOP 5:16	42 - 54	
	07:29	WSH	Windsor, Rod 9 yd pass from Davila, Nick (Clarke, Pat kick) 3 plays, 21 yards, TOP 2:07	49 - 54	
	02:59	BAL	Williams, Milton 22 yd pass from Hippeard, Randy (Lewis, Mark kick) 5 plays, 45 yards, TOP 3:54	49 - 61	
	00:40	WSH	Windsor, Rod 7 yd pass from Davila, Nick (Clarke, Pat kick) 5 plays, 25 yards, TOP 1:34	56 - 61	

Kickoff time: 7:06 pm • End of Game: 9:37 pm • Total elapsed time: 2:31

Referee: Bradley Brunet • Umpire: R. Colosimo • Linesman: Kenny Leffie • Line judge: Terri Valenti • Back judge: M. Griffith •

Most Valuable Player: BAL #12 Randy Hippeard, QB

Offensive Player of the Game: WSH #10 Nick Davila, QB

Defensive Player of the Game: BAL #1 Joe Powell, DB

BRIGADE STATS

RUSHING	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Nixon, Rory	6	27	1	26	1	19	4.3
Hippeard, Randy	3	6	0	6	2	3	2.0
Brown, Lamark	1	6	0	6	1	6	6.0
Totals...	10	39	1	38	4	19	3.8

PASSING	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Hippeard, Randy	22-31-0	240	5	31	2
TEAM	0-0-0	-8	0	0	0
Totals...	22-31-0	232	5	31	2

RECEIVING	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Collins, Brandon	6	57	1	15
Williams, Milton	5	46	1	22
Sims, Quentin	5	43	1	16
Thompkins, Brandon	4	61	1	28
Ings, Kendrick	1	31	1	31
McCray, Jordan	1	2	0	2
Totals...	22	240	5	31

##	Baltimore Brigade	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL/Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blkd	Sack/Yds	QBH
2	Obi, Fred	4	3	5.5	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
1	Powell, Joe	5	.	5.0	.	.	1-0	.	.	.	.	.
4	Gray, Virgil	3	.	3.0	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
11	Brown, Lamark	2	.	2.0	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
18	Sims, Quentin	1	2	2.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6	Bailey, Willie	1	2	2.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
48	Lafrance, Royce	1	.	1.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
55	Jackson, Dexter	.	2	1.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
99	Lawrence, Justin	.	1	0.5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
19	Lewis, Mark	.	1	0.5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
84	Williams, Milton	.	1	0.5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

BRIGADE BEAT VALOR, 61-56, IN SEASON OPENER

Hippeard named MVP for seven-touchdown game

BALTIMORE, MD — The Baltimore Brigade (1-0) opened their 2018 season with a win, topping the Washington Valor (0-1), 61-56, Friday night at Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore, Md. Brigade quarterback Randy Hippeard threw for five touchdowns and ran for another two on his way to winning the game's Most Valuable Player award.

"We came out and we found a way to win," Brigade Head Coach Omarr Smith said after the game. "I'm proud of the way we played offensively...to be able to go out and win the first game is important for us. We're all about trying to improve from last year. It feels good to be 1-0, but we have to enjoy it for 24 hours and then get back to work."

Baltimore got on the board first when quarterback Randy Hippeard, the AFL MVP in 2017, connected with wide receiver Kendrick Ings for the game's first score, giving the Brigade a 7-0 advantage. Minutes later, Hippeard notched his first rushing touchdown of the season and gave the Brigade a two-score lead early in the first quarter. Davila found wide receiver Chris Duvalt for Washington's first score of the season late in the opening quarter. Another Hippeard passing touchdown, this time to Brandon Thompkins, who is playing in his second season with the Brigade, gave Baltimore a 20-7 lead after the first quarter. Davila tossed his second score of the game to Rod Windsor to bring the game back within one score. Baltimore and Washington traded scores throughout the remainder of second quarter, which ended with another Hippeard rushing touchdown as time expired on the first half, giving the Brigade a 40-28 lead.

Davila started off the second half scoring with a 17-yard rushing touchdown, cutting the Baltimore lead to 40-35. Wide receiver Brandon Collins answered for the Brigade, hauling in another Hippeard touchdown to make the score 47-35. Davila and Hippeard traded passing touchdowns, keeping the game within two scores for the entirety of the fourth quarter. With under one minute remaining, Davila found Windsor for their third scoring connection of the game, setting the final score at 61-56.

WEEK 2 @ PHILADELPHIA

Baltimore Brigade (1-1) vs. Philadelphia Soul (2-0)

Date: Apr 21, 2018 • Site: Philadelphia, Pa. • Arena: Wells Fargo Center • Attendance: 9326

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Score
Baltimore Brigade	7	21	7	14	49
Philadelphia Soul	6	21	7	20	54

SCORING SUMMARY BAL -PHI

1st 13:43 PHI Reynolds, Darius 38 yd pass from Raudabaugh, Dan (Trevino, Adrian kick blockd)
2 plays, 47 yards, TOP 1:17 0 - 6

	06:37	BAL	Collins, Brandon 22 yd pass from Hippeard, Randy (Lewis, Mark kick) 7 plays, 45 yards, TOP 6:10 7 - 6
2nd	14:53	BAL	Collins, Brandon 38 yd pass from Hippeard, Randy (Lewis, Mark kick) 2 plays, 48 yards, TOP 0:55 14 - 6
	09:53	PHI	Richardson, Jeramie 1 yd run (Trevino, Adrian kick) 6 plays, 49 yards, TOP 4:17 14 - 13
	05:05	BAL	Sims, Quentin 15 yd pass from Hippeard, Randy (Lewis, Mark kick) 5 plays, 37 yards, TOP 3:54 21 - 13
	03:24	PHI	Prince, Darius 10 yd pass from Raudabaugh, Dan (Trevino, Adrian kick) 2 plays, 13 yards, TOP 1:02 21 - 20
	02:27	BAL	Powell, Joe 6 yd kickoff return (Lewis, Mark kick) 28 - 20
	00:45	PHI	Reynolds, Darius 5 yd pass from Raudabaugh, Dan (Trevino, Adrian kick) 3 plays, 13 yards, TOP 0:44 28 - 27
3rd	14:45	BAL	Thompkins, Brandon 55 yd kickoff return (Lewis, Mark kick) 35 - 27
	08:10	PHI	Reynolds, Darius 9 yd pass from Raudabaugh, Dan (Trevino, Adrian kick) 6 plays, 41 yards, TOP 5:53 35 - 34
4th	11:01	PHI	Manley, PhillipKeith 8 yd pass from Raudabaugh, Dan (Trevino, Adrian kick) 6 plays, 35 yards, TOP 4:22 35 - 41
	05:14	BAL	McCray, Jordan 11 yd pass from Hippeard, Randy (Lewis, Mark kick) 6 plays, 45 yards, TOP 4:54 42 - 41
	01:50	PHI	Richardson, Jeramie 1 yd run (Trevino, Adrian kick) 4 plays, 43 yards, TOP 2:49 42 - 48
	00:31	BAL	Williams, Milton 11 yd pass from Hippeard, Randy (Lewis, Mark kick) 4 plays, 12 yards, TOP 0:29 49 - 48
	00:12	PHI	Reynolds, Darius 9 yd pass from Raudabaugh, Dan (Raudabaugh, Dan pass failed) 5 plays, 46 yards, TOP 0:17 49 - 54

Kickoff time: 7:08 pm • End of Game: 9:58 pm • Total elapsed time: 2:50

Referee: Dave Cutaia • Umpire: Rick Lowe • Linesman: Cedric Walker • Line judge: Matt Kukar • Back judge: Paul Engelberts • Field judge: Bradley Brunet •

Offensive Player of Game - Darius Reynolds (PHI)

Defensive Player of Game - James Romain (PHI)

BRIGADE STATS

RUSHING	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Nixon, Rory	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0

PASSING	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Hippeard, Randy	25-37-0	278	5	38	2
TEAM	0-0-0	-14	0	0	0
Totals...	25-37-0	264	5	38	2

RECEIVING	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Thompkins, Brandon	7	71	0	17
Williams, Milton	6	49	1	12
Ings, Kendrick	5	54	0	16
Collins, Brandon	2	60	2	38
Nixon, Rory	2	12	0	8
Sims, Quentin	1	15	1	15
McCray, Jordan	1	11	1	11
Brown, Lamark	1	6	0	6
Totals...	25	278	5	38

##	Baltimore Brigade	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL/Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blkd	Sack/Yds	QBH
4	Gray, Virgil	7	1	7.5	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
2	Obi, Fred	7	.	7.0	.	.	1-0	.	.	.	.	.
1	Powell, Joe	7	.	7.0	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
48	Lafrance, Royce	3	1	3.5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6	Bailey, Willie	3	.	3.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
11	Brown, Lamark	2	1	2.5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
55	Jackson, Dexter	1	1	1.5	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
18	Sims, Quentin	1	.	1.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
67	Taylor, Terrance	1	.	1.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
99	Lawrence, Justin	.	1	0.5	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.

BRIGADE FALL, 54-49, TO DEFENDING-CHAMPION SOUL

Hippeard throws five touchdowns, zero interceptions for second-straight week

PHILADELPHIA, PA — The Baltimore Brigade (1-1) dropped a 54-49 final to the defending-champion Philadelphia Soul (2-0) Saturday night at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. Brigade quarterback Randy Hippeard threw for 278 yards and five touchdowns, including two to wideout Brandon Collins. Philadelphia wide receiver Darius Reynolds was named Offensive Player of the Game for his 151-yard, four-touchdown performance.

After Philadelphia scored on the game's opening possession, the Brigade answered with a pair of Hippeard-to-Collins touchdowns, taking a 14-6 lead less than a minute into the second quarter. Collins' scores of 22 and 38 yards earned him his first multi-touchdown game of the season. Fullback Jeramie Richardson's one-yard rush brought the Soul back within a point before Brigade wideout Quentin Sims grabbed his second touchdown of the season – a 15-yarder from Hippeard with just over five minutes left in the second quarter. Baltimore's onside kick attempt on the following possession failed, setting up Soul quarterback Dan Raudabaugh's second touchdown pass of the night – a 10-yard throw to wide receiver Darius Prince – bringing the score to 21-20, Baltimore. On the ensuing kickoff Philadelphia attempted an onside kick of their own, but Brigade defensive back Joe Powell grabbed the ball out of the air and walked it in for a touchdown, giving Baltimore a 28-20 lead with 1:29 left in the first half. Raudabaugh found Reynolds for another score on the next possession, bringing the Soul within one point going into halftime.

Brigade wideout Brandon Thompkins tallied his first kickoff return touchdown of the season, extending Baltimore's lead to 35-27 on the first play of the second half. Consecutive Philadelphia touchdowns – both passes by Raudabaugh – gave the Soul a 41-35 lead with 10:11 left in the game. Baltimore regained the lead, 42-41, with just over five minutes remaining on a short pass from Hippeard to tight end Jordan McCray. Richardson found the end zone once again on another one-yard rush, giving Philadelphia a 48-41 lead with one minute left in the game. Hippeard found wide receiver Milton Williams across the middle of the field for an 11-yard touchdown to retake the lead, 49-48, with 31 seconds left on the clock. A pair of Reynolds catches covered 34 yards, setting up Philadelphia with a chance to win. On second down from the nine-yard line, Raudabaugh found Reynolds at the goal line for their fourth scoring connection of the night, giving the Soul a 54-49 lead with 12 seconds remaining. Philadelphia held Baltimore out of the end zone on a Hail Mary attempt as time expired to seal the win.

THIS WEEK'S OPPONENT

ALBANY EMPIRE



Founded.....2018
Arena.....Times Union Center
Address.....51 S Pearl St, Albany, NY 12207
Capacity.....17,500
Colors.....Midnight Navy, Albany Orange
Website.....thealbanyempire.com
Phone Number.....518.533.2200
PR Contact.....Jordan Lomaestro (jlomaestro@albanyafl.com)
Twitter.....@Albany_Empire
Instagram.....albany_empire
Facebook.....Albany Empire

2018 SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	OPP.	TIME
1	4/14	PHI	7 p.m.
2	4/21	@ WAS	7 p.m.
3	4/28	@ BAL	3 p.m.
4	5/5	WAS	7:30 p.m.
5	BYE	BYE	BYE
6	5/19	@ PHI	6 p.m.
7	5/26	WAS	6 p.m.
8	6/2	BAL	7 p.m.
9	6/9	BAL	7 p.m.
10	6/16	PHI	6 p.m.
11	6/23	@ BAL	7:30 p.m.
12	6/29	@ WAS	7 p.m.
13	7/7	PHI	7 p.m.

On October 24, 2017, it was announced that the Arena Football League would return to Albany, New York for the 2018 season.

“The Albany Empire represents the home team for the Capital of New York, the Empire State along with the power needed to be successful in the tough, fast-paced sport of Arena Football,” the team said in a press release.

It was announced that the team would be owned and operated by a local group of businessmen including George Hearst III, Dan Nolan and Ed Swyer. The local group partnered with the ownership group of the Philadelphia Soul of the Arena Football League, led by Ron Jaworski, Craig Spencer, Dick Vermeil, Marques Colston, Jahri Evans and other Philadelphia area businessmen.

“I could not be more excited to be part of the group bringing Arena Football back to Albany,” said Empire co-owner Dan Nolan. “We are bringing back a sport that has proven to be endeared by this city, and bringing it back with a great group of dynamic business leaders, football experts and all around great people.”

“Having the highest level of Arena Football back in the city of Albany is going to be amazing,” said team co-owner George Hearst III. “This team will be a pillar in the community for years to come. Our unique ownership group, which includes local passion with proven AFL and sports operating expertise ensures we will have the first-class business operation that this city deserves.”

COACHING STAFF

Rob Keefe.....Head Coach
Les Moss.....Assistant Head Coach
Chris Thompson.....Offensive Coordinator/Director of Football Operations
Beau Bell.....Director of Player Personnel/ Pass Rush Coordinator
Brandon Goldstein.....Director of Player Operations

NEWS CLIPS

BRIGADE ADDS REIGNING AFL MVP FOR SEASON NO. 2 (ABC2 WMAR)

BALTIMORE, Md. (WMAR) - In the offense heavy Arena Football League the quarterback is everything. Now the Brigade has the best QB in the AFL.

"To come here and to be a part of what they were doing and to see who they were bringing in and the pieces they were putting together, it seemed like the right spot for me," said Randy Hippeard.

He is Baltimore's new signal caller and is the reigning AFL Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year. He comes over from the Tampa Bay Storm.

"We want to be combative, mentally tough, maximum effort, detail sound and accountable," Hippeard added.

"His leadership, his dedication to the game and his willingness to give of himself to win is remarkable," said Brigade Head Coach Omarr Smith.

The Brigade posted a 4-10 record in the franchise's first season. This year Coach Smith says he wants the defense to play more of a role in deciding games.

That defense now includes Virgil Gray. The 34-year-old, six-year veteran stepped away from the field to coach on the Brigade staff last season. His plan was to retire but he had a change of heart.

"I felt like I could still play the game," he said. "My parents, they both wanted me to play and I felt like I kind of owed it to them to continue to play because that's what they wanted me to do too."

"That playing bug wasn't out of his system and now, having that year of coaching experience under his belt, he's going to see the game completely differently," said Smith.

Just like in its inaugural season there is some local flavor on the Brigade roster.

Receiver Daniel Adams is a Maryland native and played for the Terrapins.

Defensive lineman Justin Lawrence went to Morgan State and is one of the best defensive lineman in AFL. He joins the Brigade after winning back-to-back titles with Philadelphia.

"I spent most of my adult life here. I've been here since 2005. I actually live in Columbia now. Baltimore is my second home," said Lawrence. "I won two championships. I want to bring one back to Baltimore, rep my school really well."

The Brigade opens the season on Friday, April 13 when they host the Washington Valor.

IN SECOND ARENA FOOTBALL LEAGUE SEASON, BRIGADE WILL ENCOUNTER FAMILIAR COMPANY (BALTIMORE SUN)

The Baltimore Brigade will kick off their second Arena Football League season Friday night at Royal Farms Arena against the Washington Valor, but if you can't make it to the first meeting of the Ted Leonsis-owned franchises, don't worry.

There will be a second meeting. And a third. And a fourth. And possibly a fifth and sixth in a playoff matchup, too.

With the Tampa Bay Storm folding in December and the Cleveland Gladiators suspending operations for the next two seasons, the AFL is down to four teams, its fewest since the league's inaugural 1987 season: the second-year Brigade and Valor, the expansion Albany Empire and the two-time defending champion Philadelphia Soul.

The Brigade will play each team four times, twice at home and twice on the road, before a guaranteed home-and-home semifinal series. (After finishing 4-10 overall and fourth in the five-team AFL last season, the Brigade lost a one-and-done semifinal to top-seeded Philadelphia.)

The league's veterans are by now accustomed to these scheduling quirks. They also know what such familiarity breeds. First-year Brigade quarterback Randy Hippeard recalled that when his Storm faced the Valor four times in an eight-week span last season, each game seemed increasingly competitive. The result never changed, but Tampa Bay's margin of victory did, from eight and six points in their first two meetings to one and four points in the final two.

"We are creatures of habit," Brigade defensive lineman Justin Lawrence (Morgan State) said. "It's not like we're going to change the way we play one week from week to week. Maybe the schemes will change, but you as a player, you are going to be you."

The teams themselves, though, Hippeard speculated, will look completely different by year's end. Come playoff time, "there's going to be so many new wrinkles that there's no point almost in watching the first half of the season" on film, he said.

That wasn't always the case, of course. Not long ago, the regular season was more than just a runway to the postseason. Brigade coach Omarr Smith played in the AFL during its heyday in the 2000s, when as many as 19 teams vied for an ArenaBowl title. And now?

"We've got four teams," he said. He carried on as if it didn't matter. "On July 28, there's going to be a team that's on a podium, holding a trophy, and on a ring, it doesn't say how many teams are in the league."

Hippeard, the Brigade's top offseason acquisition, is the AFL's reigning Most Valuable Player. The team he won it playing for no longer exists. Among all the AFL's returning players, it's probably the league's best quarterback who best understands what it means to have a career in arena football.

In 2013, Hippeard's AFL tenure began in Tampa Bay. Two seasons later, he signed with the Orlando Predators. After two years there, the franchise suspended operations. Hippeard returned to Tampa Bay last season, leading the league in passing yards and completions and ranking second in passing touchdowns. Then the Storm ceased to exist, too.

"To have to up and leave what we have there, even if it's just for five, six months at a time, it's still a struggle," he said.

Hippeard, 32, and his girlfriend were considering buying a home in Florida when his career rerouted him to Maryland. Those plans are on hold for now, he said. He's living in Annapolis with his girlfriend, an environmental engineer, and a couple of pets. What comes next, he cannot say.

"It's kind of up in the air because if I'm going to continue to play for the next three to five years, where do we want to be?" he said. "So that's kind of where we're looking at now, toward the future."

With only 11 days of training camp under the Brigade's belt, the team is far from a finished product. But Smith highlighted cornerback Virgil Gray, who served on the team's coaching staff last season and last played in the AFL three years ago, and veteran linebacker Dexter Jackson as early standouts.

On offense, wide receivers Milton Williams, Kendrick Ings and Quentin Sims have been impressive, Smith said.

NEW AFL COMMISSIONER RANDALL BOE, A MONUMENTAL EXECUTIVE, OPTIMISTIC ABOUT INNOVATIONS (THE WASHINGTON TIMES)

You've heard that professional football is dying. You've also heard about the leagues, new or reborn, who want to defy that assumption. The XFL, the Alliance of American Football, the Spring League and the Pacific Pro League have all made recent headlines.

As the market grows ever more crowded, the Arena Football League will kick off its 31st season Friday night when two teams owned by Ted Leonsis' Monumental Sports and Entertainment, the Washington Valor and Baltimore Brigade, play in Baltimore.

Randall Boe, Monumental executive vice president and general counsel, was named the league's new commissioner for 2018, and he is not fazed about competition from other football startups. He and the league's executives see an opportunity to "reboot" the league.

"The opportunity to grow the Arena Football League is really very exciting. It's kind of like being in a startup business in a lot of ways," Boe, 55, told *The Washington Times*. "Fans get excited, it's very engaging, it's fast-paced, so it just seemed like an exciting opportunity at a good moment in time."

The AFL was in danger of folding last month when negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement weren't going well. Ivan Soto led the players' union and Boe, before being officially announced as commissioner March 27, headed the league's efforts.

"Like every negotiation, there were some ups and downs, and we certainly took it to the last possible minute before reaching a deal, which is typically what happens in any deal," Boe said.

The new CBA includes a 40 percent increase in player compensation and addition of health-care coverage, according to Boe.

"Our goal is to have the highest quality football out there on the field, and you can't do that if you don't fairly compensate your players," he said.

Originally from Iowa City, Iowa, Boe graduated law school at the University of Pennsylvania and went into private practice in Washington. He joined America Online in 1996 and served as its executive vice president and general counsel for 11 years, leading cases during the internet's formative years.

He joined Lincoln Holdings in 2008, before it became Monumental Sports and Entertainment via merger — and long before being a commissioner of a football league was imaginable. He remembers the early days of the AFL with fondness, watching some games during the era of the Orlando Predators' dominance and thinking it was a "pretty novel and exciting version of football."

Now that he is the Roger Goodell of the AFL, don't think Boe will be flustered at the possibly thankless task ahead.

“I remember how fans used to boo David Stern at the NBA Draft every year. I just think that’s part of fun,” Boe said. “The funny thing about sports, part of being a fan is being critical of the leagues and the teams and the way they’re run. ... That passion tells you how engaged the fans are and how knowledgeable they are and how much they pay attention.”

Boe said there was no formal search for a new commissioner to replace Scott Butera, who left the post after four years. Nor does Boe have a formal contract of determined length for the position. Everyone’s focus, he said, is to put on a great season of football and start growing the league again.

The AFL has had as many as 19 teams, but by 2017 the number dwindled down to five. Of those, the Cleveland Gladiators and Tampa Bay Storm suspended operations, but could return in the future. Despite the contraction, an expansion team — the Albany Empire — will debut in 2018 and join the Valor, Brigade and Philadelphia Soul. Boe thinks the league will add new teams in the Eastern U.S. before expanding west again.

Why should audiences choose to watch the AFL over the XFL, the AAF or the next string of letters to come along? Boe believes the AFL’s product is different — a faster-paced, higher-scoring brand of football, in a league not primarily meant to develop players for the NFL like others do.

And the league’s strategy promises innovation. Cameras in players’ helmets are being considered, and in a recently announced partnership, DraftKings will stream AFL games on its app and add AFL fantasy sports contests starting in 2019.

“Everyone is looking around the corner at the advent of legalized sports betting on a much wider basis in this country than has existed in the past,” Boe said. “We can foresee the day when you’ll be watching the game ... and being able to place wagers, proposition bets, on the next play, on different players.”

Depending on what else Boe and league leadership foresee and choose to do, they could be poised to turn the AFL around.

ABOUT THE BALTIMORE BRIGADE:

The AFL's Baltimore Brigade is owned and operated by Monumental Sports & Entertainment, which is one of the largest integrated sports and entertainment companies in the country with one of the most diverse partnership groups in all of sports. The company also owns and operates the NBA's Washington Wizards, NHL's Washington Capitals, the WNBA's Washington Mystics, the NBA G League's Capital City Go-Go, the AFL's Washington Valor, NBA 2K League's Wizards District Gaming, as well as Capital One Arena, the premier sports and entertainment venue in Washington, D.C. Monumental Sports & Entertainment is also co-owner of aXiomatic, which has controlling interest in global esports franchise Team Liquid, and oversees the management of Kettler Capitals Iceplex--the training facility for the Washington Capitals--and the Eagle Bank Arena at George Mason University.

ABOUT MONUMENTAL SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT:

Monumental Sports & Entertainment (MSE), located in Washington, D.C., is one of the largest integrated sports and entertainment companies in the country with one of the most diverse partnership groups in all of sports. MSE owns and operates seven professional sports teams: the AFL's Baltimore Brigade and Washington Valor, NBA's Washington Wizards, NBA G League's Capital City Go-Go, NBA 2K League's Wizards District Gaming, NHL's Washington Capitals and the WNBA's Washington Mystics. The company is also co-owner of aXiomatic, which has controlling interest in global esports franchise Team Liquid, and owns and operates Capitol One Arena in Washington, D.C. Monumental Sports & Entertainment also manages Kettler Capitals Iceplex, the state-of-the-art training facility for the Capitals and EagleBank Arena on George Mason University's campus. The District of Columbia and Events DC are building a new sports and entertainment facility in Southeast DC on the St. Elizabeth's East campus. The facility will feature a state-of-the-art training facility for the Washington Wizards and Washington Mystics and will also include a 4,200-seat arena which will become the new home of the Mystics and Go-Go. The facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2018. Monumental Sports & Entertainment also co-owns and operates Monumental Sports Network (MSN) with the NBC Sports Group. MSN is the mid-Atlantic region's top destination for exclusive fan experiences and original sports content across desktop, tablet, mobile and OTT streaming devices. Visit www.monumentalsports.com.

ABOUT THE ARENA FOOTBALL LEAGUE:

The Arena Football League will enter its 31st Season in 2018. Since its inception in 1987, the Arena Football League has showcased a fast-paced and exciting game to millions of fans in a myriad of markets across the country. Teams slated for 2018 include: Albany, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. CBS Sports Network nationally broadcasts AFL games each week, culminating with the ArenaBowl. The AFL launched AFLNow, the League's streaming "Over-the-Top" network to give fans even more access to the League on arenafootball.com. For all the latest news and discussion on the Arena Football League follow the AFL on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@aflarenaball).