

ALBANY EMPIRE

WEEKLY GAME NOTES

ALBANY EMPIRE (0-2)

Vs

WASHINGTON VALOR (0-2)

7:30 p.m. Saturday May 5th, 2018 Times Union Center

QUICK FACTS

Albany Empire (0-2) vs Washington Valor (0-2)

Date: Saturday, May 5th, 2018

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. EST

Site: Times Union Center (13,500)

Officials: McCabe, Carr, Bovos, Bennett, Griffith

Radio: ALT 105.7

TV: CBS Sports

Series Record: 0-0

Coaches: Rob Keefe (0-2 with Albany); Dean Cokinos (3-13 with Washington)

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.	
April 21	@ Washington	7 p.m.	
May 19	@ Philadelphia	6 p.m.	
May 26	WASHINGTON	6 p.m.	
June 2	BALTIMORE	7 p.m.	
June 9	BALTIMORE	7 p.m.	
June 16	PHILADELPHIA	6 p.m.	
June 23	@ Baltimore	7:30 p.m.	
June 29	@ Washington	7 p.m.	
July 7	PHILADELPHIA	7 p.m.	

MEDIA CONTACTS

Albany	Washington
Jordan Lomaestro	Jackson Filyo
Manager, Communications/PR	Coordinator Franchise Communications
JLomaestro@TheAlbanyEmpire.com	jfilyo@monumentallsports.com
(518) 596-4455	(240) 357-8741

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY	Practice 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m
TUESDAY	Practice 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m
WEDNESDAY	Practice 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m
THURSDAY	Practice 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m
FRIDAY	Closed Walkthrough
SATURDAY	Albany vs Washington at 7:30 pm

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EMPIRE VS VALOR

MATCHUP PREVIEW

The first matchup to lookout for is the Albany Empire backfield versus the Valor receivers. Three-time league MVP, quarterback Nick Davila, suffered a season-ending injury in Philadelphia, leaving backup quarterback, Warren Smith, to finish the game. Davila tossed four touchdowns prior to his early exit against Philadelphia in Week 3. If Smith is at the helm for the Valor, that doesn't change the Empire's defensive game plan. Smith is a three-year AFL veteran, with this being his second year in Washington's system. He was the starting quarterback for the Spokane Shock in 2015, his rookie season, where he tallied 32 passing touchdowns and five rushing touchdowns.

The key to victory in this matchup is for the Empire to lockdown Valor receivers Rod Windsor and Josh Reese. Windsor dominated the targets in Week 1, reeling in team highs with nine catches for 87 yards and three touchdowns. Though four Valor receivers found pay dirt in the team's 2018 debut, Windsor received the lion's share of the action. Reese had a big second game as he claimed the team lead in total yards with 161 and caught three touchdown passes of his own. The pair combine for nine touchdown receptions of the Valor's 11 total passing touchdowns over the team's first two games. If the Empire can shut down Windsor and Reese, it will force the Valor to utilize other options and could cause problems for Washington all night long. Expect to see big plays out of Varmah Sonie and Arthur Hobbs as they lead the backfield and try to contain the Valor's offense.

Another matchup to watch out for is Empire receiver, Joe Hills, against the Valor defensive backs. Hills is coming off back-to-back Wide Receiver of the Year awards and is looking forward to continuing his chemistry with Empire quarterback Tommy Grady. Nicknamed 'Superman,' Hills can be an absolute nightmare for opposing defenses. In his Empire debut against the Brigade, Hills pulled in a whopping four touchdowns and was seemingly unstoppable on his way to Offensive Player of the Game. Reeling in his first touchdown early in the game against Baltimore, Hills improved his impressive streak of consecutive games with a receiving touchdown to 82. Standing in at 6'4, 225lbs, Hills has the explosive ability to burst off the line of scrimmage past any defender along with the capability to jump over defenders and pull in big catches. Dominic Addison of Washington will see a lot of Joe Hills on Saturday. The four-year veteran set a career high in tackles and pass breakups a season ago and led the Valor in tackles in Week 1. After two games, Addison continues to lead the Valor in tackles with 11.5. Addison will have his hands full trying to contain Joe Hills and his nose for the end zone.

THE IFS:

If the Empire defeats the Valor it would...

- * Be the first win in the history of the Albany Empire
- * Give the Empire a 1-2 record for the 2018 season
- * Place Albany ahead of Washington in the league standings

WASHINGTON TIES

- None of the current Empire players or coaches have played for the Washington Valor
- This season marks the second year in the Arena Football League for the Valor.

OPPOSING PLAYERS TO WATCH

Two players to look out for on the Valor are the wide receiver duo of Josh Reese and Rod Windsor. Of the team's 11 total receiving touchdowns, Reese and Windsor combine for nine of them.

Reese leads the Valor with 15 receptions and 161 yards over the first two game, adding in four receiving touchdowns.

Windsor is second in both receptions (13) and yards (138), but leads the team with five touchdown catches.

THE SERIES

This will be the first time the Albany Empire and Washington Valor compete against each other in AFL history.

WHAT'S AHEAD

After The Empire's return home against Washington, the team heads back on the road for a matchup against the Washington Valor. The game on Saturday, 5/11 will be at 7 p.m. Tune into [Facebook.com/AFLWatch](https://www.facebook.com/AFLWatch) 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.

Posting a career 61-30 record as a head coach in the AFL (#1), Keefe most recently 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. THE VALOR

This will be Coach Keefe's first time facing the Washington Valor as the coach of the Empire.

COACHING RECORD

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

2018 Regular Season: 0-2
Career Regular Season: 61-32
Career Playoff: 5-3
Career Total: 66-35

WASHINGTON VALOR HEAD COACH DEAN COKINOS

Entering his second season as head coach of the Valor, Cokinos has over 11 years of arena football coaching experience. Prior to joining the Valor, Cokinos served as assistant head coach and defensive coordinator for the Tampa Bay Storm. Prior to joining Tampa Bay, Cokinos was the head coach of the New Orleans VooDoo in 2014-15 and the head coach and director of football operations for the Alabama Hammers of the Professional Indoor Football League from 2012-14.

His 2013 Alabama team won the league championship and he was honored as the PIFL Coach of the Year after leading the Hammers to a 9-5 record, a six-win improvement from the previous year. Cokinos made his debut in the AFL in 2004 as an assistant head coach, offensive coordinator and director of personnel for the Nashville Kats, while also scouting all professional arena/indoor league players for the NFL's Tennessee Titans.

In 2017 in the Washington Valor's inaugural season, Cokinos and the Valor finished with a record of 3-11.

VS. THE EMPIRE

This will be Coach Cokinos' first time facing the Albany Empire.

COACHING RECORD

Coach Cokinos' record as a head coach in the AFL:

2018 Regular Season: 0-2
Career Regular Season: 3-13
Career Playoff: 0-1
Career Total: 34-53

EMPIRE PLAYMAKERS

Tommy Grady



Tommy Grady, tossed for six touchdowns in the Empire's road game loss to the Baltimore Brigade. Grady connected with new target, Joe Hills, four times in the end zone.

Joe Hills



Joe Hills was more than impressive in his debut with the Empire. Instantly clicking with Grady, Hills caught four touchdowns in the Empire's loss to Baltimore.

Malachi Jones



Malachi Jones for the second straight week had a touchdown catch-and-run of 40+ yards. He took a 42 yarder to the house in Week 3 at Baltimore.

Varmah Sonie



Varmah Sonie once again was everywhere for the Empire in Week 3. The defensive back leader forced a key fumble in the closing minutes of the first half to give the Empire the ball with great field position.

Joe Sykes



Joe Sykes led the defensive front with two sacks in the Empire's Week 3 matchup. Sykes also forced a fumble as he pressured the 2017 MVP, Randy Hippeard, all afternoon.

Darryl Cato-Bishop



Darryl Cato-Bishop was part of the Empire defensive line that caused issues for Brigade QB Randy Hippeard all game long. Cato-Bishop recovered a Hippeard fumble forced by Sykes.

EMPIRE LEADERS

WHAT'S AT STAKE: The Albany Empire look to bounce back from road loss to the Baltimore Brigade on April 28. The team will return home to face the Washington Valor and seek the team's first win and try to avoid an 0-3 start to the season.

AT THE HELM: QB Tommy Grady had a great game in the team's Week 3 loss to the Brigade. Grady threw for six touchdowns and found his new favorite target and old friend, Joe Hills, four times in the end zone. The signal caller methodically managed the offense and kept pace with Baltimore all game long. Grady also threw touchdowns to Collin Taylor and Malachi Jones.

THEY CAN'T COVER: WR Joe Hills, made his debut with the Empire and lived up to his nickname of "Superman." Hills found pay dirt four times in efforts against the Brigade and seemingly was unstoppable. He has now caught a touchdown in 82 straight games; a streak that doesn't look to be ending any time soon. Look for Hills to see plenty of action on the field against the Valor and find himself in the end zone – just don't expect any flashy dance moves!

HE'S LIGHTNING QUICK: WR Malachi Jones, impressed fans in his first ever AFL game with a 48-yard catch and run touchdown, breaking tackles and showing off his blazing speed. In Jones' second appearance with the Empire, he broke out for another 42 yard touchdown catch-and-run. After two consecutive games with a 40+ yard touchdown, Jones has proved himself to be a staple in the Empire offense. Look for Jones to be used on short-medium routes and don't be surprised to see him take another long run to the house.

PRESSURING THE QB: DE Joe Sykes, gave the 2017 league MVP trouble all afternoon long. Sykes took down Brigade Quarterback, Randy Hippeard, twice in the backfield, and also forced a fumble. Hippeard was under pressure all day from not just Sykes, but the entire Empire defensive line. Look for this star-studded D-Line to put pressure on the Valor and force errant throws that could turn into interceptions. With a backup quarterback getting the start for Washington, Sykes will look to lead the defensive line and cause havoc all night long.

2018 INDIVIDUAL REGULAR SEASON LEADERS: (As of 5/1/18)

Washington	Category	Albany
Davila (374)	Total Offense	Grady (511)
Davila (62.3)	Completion Pct.	Grady (66.2)
Davila (10)	Pass TDs	Grady (11)
Davila (121.3)	Passer Rating	Grady (108.4)
Davila (353)	Passing Yds	Grady (512)
Davila (33)	Pass Comps	Grady (47)
Davila (176.5)	Pass Yds/Gm	Grady (256.0)
Davila (12)	Touchdowns	Grady (11)
Reese (15)	Receptions	Two Tied (11)
Reese (161)	Receiving Yds	Jones (164)
Windsor (5)	TD Receptions	Hills (4)
Davila (21)	Rush Yds	Mauia (36)
Davila (2)	Rush TDs	Taylor (1)
Duvalt (10)	KO Returns	Taylor (9)
Duvalt (194)	KOR Yards	Taylor (80)
Duvalt (220)	All-Purpose Yds	Taylor (172)
Addison (11.5)	Tackles	Sonie (14)
N/A	Interceptions	N/A
Two Tied (1)	Sacks	Sykes (2)

AROUND THE LEAGUE



2018 AFL STANDINGS



Team	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	3	0	1.000	177	135
Baltimore	2	1	.666	162	159
Washington	0	2	.000	107	128
Albany	0	2	.000	84	108

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 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	7 p.m.

EMPIRE ROSTER

AS OF 5/1/18

#	POS	NAME	HT	WT	COLLEGE	EXP
3	DE	Darryl Cato-Bishop	6'4	265	NC State	4
68	OL	Ryan Cave	6'5	335	Hampton	7
6	DB	Oshay Dunmore	6'3	205	Southern Oregon	R
12	QB	Mike Fafaul	6'2	215	UCLA	R
92	DL	Calvin Fance	6'1	195	Angelo State	5
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
66	OL	Shawn Lockett	6'1	335	American International	R
	OL	Damian Love	6'4	310	Alabama State	R
13	FB	Wes Mauia	6'1	280	Western New Mexico	5
25	DE	Lance McDowdell	6'4	310	Central Florida	R
56	DE	Willie McGinnis	6'3	295	Rhode Island	5
23	DB	Erick McIntosh	5'10	180	Florida Atlantic	6
9	WR	Doug McNeil III	6'3	210	Bowie State	1
8	LB	Terence Moore	6'2	225	Troy	7
21	DB	Marrion Norman	6'1	205	Coastal Carolina	6
72	OL	Bret Piekarski	6'4	305	St. Cloud State	1
99	DL	Nick Seither	6'3	270	Georgetown KY	2
10	DB	Varmah Sonie	5'8	190	Northern Iowa	4
19	K	Kenny Spencer	6'1	220	Northern Alabama	6
58	OL	Kyle Steuck	6'3	310	Northern Michigan	R
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

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 5/1/18

#	POS	NAME	HT	WT	COLLEGE	EXP
1	DE	Joe Sykes	6'5	265	Southern	6
3	DE	Darryl Cato-Bishop	6'4	265	NC State	4
4	QB	Tommy Grady	6'7	245	Utah	7
6	DB	Oshay Dunmore	6'3	205	Southern Oregon	R
7	WR	Malachi Jones	6'3	215	Appalachian State	R
8	LB	Terence Moore	6'2	225	Troy	7
9	WR	Doug McNeil III	6'3	210	Bowie State	1
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	Wes Mauia	6'1	280	Western New Mexico	5
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
25	DE	Lance McDowdell	6'4	310	Central Florida	R
50	LB	Derrick Summers	6'1	260	Toledo	7
56	DL	Willie McGinnis	6'3	295	Rhode Island	5
58	OL	Kyle Steuck	6'3	310	Northern Michigan	R
66	OL	Shawn Lockett	6'1	335	American International	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
92	DE	Calvin Fance	6'1	245	Angelo State	5
99	DE	Nick Seither	6'3	270	Georgetown KY	2
	OL	Damian Love	6'4	310	Alabama State	R

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 5/1/18

#	POS	NAME	HT	WT	COLLEGE	EXP
1	WR	TT Toliver	6'0	185	Bethune Cookman	15
2	WR	Chris Duvall	5'11	180	Illinois	6
3	WR	Reggie Gray	5'10	175	Western Illinois	8
5	DB	Michael Everett	5'10	180	SW Minnesota State	R
6	DB	Tracy Belton	6'0	185	UMASS	8
8	QB	Warren Smith	6'0	200	Maine	3
10	QB	Nick Davila	6'3	220	Cincinnati	7
12	DL	Roosevelt Falls	6'2	230	Louisiana Tech	2
14	K	Pat Clarke	6'3	210	Buffalo	1
16	WR	Rod Windsor	6'2	210	W. New Mexico	7
19	WR	Josh Reese	6'0	185	Central Florida	1
20	DB	Qua Cox	6'0	185	Jackson State	1
21	DB	Michael Knight	5'10	185	Minnesota West CC	1
23	DB	Dominic Addison	6'2	185	Bethune Cookman	3
42	DL	Lanford Collins	6'2	245	Virginia Tech	2
44	OL	Will Corbin	6'6	15	Appalachian State	1
50	LB	James Gordon	6'2	275	Buffalo	3
53	OL	Devonte Danzey	6'3	315	Auburn	R
58	DL	Khreem Smith	6'4	265	Oklahoma State	3
62	OL	Siosifa Tufunga	6'3	315	Washington	R
70	OL	James Atoe	6'7	375	Washington	1
75	OL	Jordan Mudge	6'4	330	Nevada	2
91	DL	Brandon Sesay	6'6	300	Texas Tech	6
99	DL	Jake Payne	6'4	275	Shenadoah	1

VALOR COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Dean Cokinos

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Benji McDowell

WIDE RECEIVER/SPECIAL TEAMS COACH: Jeremy Grier

ASSISTANT COACH/OFFENSIVE LINE COACH: James Clark

HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER: Casey Carter

TRANSACTIONS

April 23, 2018

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Joe Hills

April 30, 2018

HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED: Damian Love

PLACING ON LEAGUE SUSPENSION: Greg Carr

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 5/3/2018

RUSHING

PLAYER	GP	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	YDS/G	TD/G
Mauia, Wesley	2	2	36	18.0	0	37	18.0	0.0
Moore, Terence	2	2	3	1.5	0	3	1.5	0.0
Taylor, Collin	2	1	1	1.0	1	1	0.5	0.5
Grady, Tommy	2	3	-1	-0.3	0	0	-0.5	0.0

PASSING

PLAYER	GP	COMP	ATT	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	LONG	TD/A%	INT/A %	YDS/G	TD/G	RAT
Grady, Tommy	2	47	71	66.2	512	11	3	48	15.5%	4.2%	256.0	5.5	108.4
Faulstich, Mike	2	0	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0	0.0	39.6

RECEIVING

PLAYER	GP	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	YDS/G	TD/G
Jones, Malachi	2	11	164	14.9	2	48	82.0	1.0
Hills, Joe	1	11	108	9.8	4	25	108.0	4.0
Taylor, Collin	2	9	92	10.2	2	27	46.0	1.0
CARR,GREG	2	8	74	9.3	2	18	37.0	1.0
McNeil III, Doug	2	5	44	8.8	1	26	22.0	0.5
Mauia, Wesley	2	2	18	9.0	0	11	9.0	0.0
Moore, Terence	2	1	12	12.0	0	12	6.0	0.0

EMPIRE 2018 STATISTICS

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
Sonie, Varmah	2	13	2	14	0	1	0.5	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Norman, Marrio	2	9	3	10.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moore, Terence	2	8	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hobbs, Arthur	2	4	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sykes, Joe	2	4	1	4.5	2	1	2.5	16	2	0	2	16	1	0	0	0	0
Cato-Bishop, Darryl	2	3	2	4	0	1	0.5	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Summers, Derrick	2	2	3	3.5	0	1	0.5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CARR,GREG	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hills, Joe	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McGinnis, Willie	2	1	1	1.5	1	1	1.5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McNeil III, Doug	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spencer, Kenny	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stephens, Brandon	2	1	1	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Williams, Jordan	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jones, Malachi	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Seither, Nick	2	0	4	2	0	1	0.5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

EMPIRE 2018 STATISTICS

KICKOFF RETURNS

PLAYER	GP	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	YDS/G	TD/G
Taylor, Collin	2	9	80	8.9	0	15	40.0	0.0
Williams, Jordan	2	4	58	14.5	0	20	29.0	0.0
Sonie, Varmah	2	2	18	9.0	0	17	9.0	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	2	11	542	4	2