

ALBANY EMPIRE

WEEKLY GAME NOTES

ALBANY EMPIRE (2-2)

Vs

PHILADELPHIA SOUL (3-1)

6:00 p.m. Saturday May 19th, 2018 Wells Fargo Center

QUICK FACTS

Albany Empire (2-2) vs Philadelphia Soul (3-1)

Date: Saturday, May 19th, 2018

Kickoff: 6:00 p.m. EST

Site: Wells Fargo Center (19,500)

Officials: Brunet, Colosimo, Leffle, Valenti, Bell

Radio: ALT 105.7

TV: CBS Sports Network

Series Record: Soul 1 – Empire 0

Coaches: Rob Keefe (2-2 with Albany); Clint Dolezel (73-26 with Philadelphia)

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.	
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	Philadelphia
Jordan Lomaestro	Gabbi Townsend
Manager, Communications/PR	Manager, Communications
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(518) 596-4455	(865) 630-3441

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY	Off
TUESDAY	Practice 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m
WEDNESDAY	Practice 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m
THURSDAY	Closed Walkthrough
FRIDAY	Albany at Philadelphia at 6:00 pm
SATURDAY	Off

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EMPIRE VS SOUL

MATCHUP PREVIEW

The Empire head to Philadelphia in Week 6 for a rematch to try to even the series matchup. The Soul came to Albany in Week 1 and spoiled the Empire's inaugural game but since then, the Empire have been on a roll winning two straight games. The top two teams in the league power rankings will square off for the second time to prove who the most dominant team in the league is.

The first matchup to look out for is between Empire receiver Joe Hills and the Soul defensive backfield. In Week 1, the Empire were without their star wide receiver so the Soul have yet to see Hills in action this season. Look for Dwayne Hollis and James Romain of the Soul to attempt to shadow Hills all night and mix up coverages. Hills expects to dominate no matter who covers him. Currently he leads the league in receiving touchdowns (9) despite playing one less game than other receivers near the top of the leaderboard. He also holds the record for most consecutive games with a touchdown reception (84); a number he will look to build on against the Soul.

Sticking with the Empire receiving unit, look for Malachi Jones to have another big game for Albany. The Soul got a brief look at Jones in the Week 1 matchup, but since then Jones has broken out as one of the leagues biggest threats. Jones leads the league in receiving yards, has six touchdown catches, and even chipped in two rushing touchdowns. With Joe Hills drawing so much attention, don't be surprised to see Jones reel in a ton of targets over the middle of the field. Jones is a matchup nightmare for opposing DBs. He can burn the defense on a "go" route, or catch a short pass and use his elusiveness to make a defender look foolish.

The last matchup to look for is in the trenches between the Empire defensive line and the Soul offensive line. There were no sacks in the Week 1 matchup for either team. Since then, the Empire have seven sacks in their last three games. Led by Joe Sykes, who has six of those sacks, he has a nose for poking the ball out when he gets to the quarterback. Sykes has forced a league-high three fumbles on the season. Look for the league's all-time career sack leader to put pressure on Soul QB Dan Raudabaugh. The Soul offensive line has only given up one sack on the season giving Raudabaugh plenty of time to seek out his targets. Look for Coach Keefe to mix up coverages in the backfield to confuse Raudabaugh and give the defensive line more time to force pressure. If the Empire defensive line can continue it's dominance and get to Raudabaugh, Albany will have a real good shot at coming out of Philadelphia with a win.

THE IFS:

If the Empire defeats the Soul it would...

- * Break the Soul's 21-game home win streak
- * Give the Empire a winning record of 3-2 on the season
- * Even the series matchup to 1-1
- * Tie both team's in the standings with a 3-2 record

PHILADELPHIA TIES

- * Empire Head Coach, Rob Keefe, won a championship playing with the Philadelphia Soul in 2008
- * Pass Rush Coordinator, Beau Bell, played the last three seasons with the Philadelphia Soul, winning two ArenaBowl's and receiving All-Arena Honors and Defensive Player of the Year
- * The Empire have three players on the 24-man roster that have played on the Philadelphia Soul in years past

OPPOSING PLAYERS TO WATCH

Look out for the Soul's Darius combination. Both Darius Prince and Darius Reynolds find themselves in the top four in the league in receiving yards and touchdowns. In the Week 1 matchup, the two combined for 182 receiving yards and four touchdowns while hauling in 18 catches. The Empire will have their hands full trying to limit the Soul star WRs.

So far on the season, both Dwayne's have six receiving touchdowns, while Prince leads the Soul in catches (28) and receiving yards (329)

THE SERIES

This will be the second meeting between the Empire and the Soul. They first met on 4/14 in Albany. The Soul won the game 56-35.

WHAT'S AHEAD

After The Empire's trip to Philadelphia, the team heads home for a matchup against the Washington Valor. The game on Saturday, 5/26 will be at 6 p.m. Tune into CBS Sports 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. THE SOUL

Coach Keefe is 0-1 against the Soul as the Head Coach of the Albany Empire

COACHING RECORD

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

2018 Regular Season: 2-2
Career Regular Season: 63-32
Career Playoff: 5-3
Career Total: 68-35

PHILADELPHIA SOUL HEAD COACH CLINT DOLEZEL

Dolezel begins his sixth season as Head Coach of the Philadelphia Soul. During his first season with the team, the fourth-year AFL head coach led the team to an ArenaBowl appearance, a 14-7 record and an American Conference Championship.

Dolezel landed his first professional head coaching position with the San Angelo Stampede (IFL) and guided them to the second round of the playoffs. In 2011, Dolezel was tabbed as head coach of the AFL's Dallas Vigilantes and made the playoffs with an 11-7 regular-season record and a playoff appearance in his rookie head-coaching season.

Dolezel spent 2012 as the Offensive Coordinator of the Philadelphia Soul, where the team shattered offensive scoring records... 1,228 points and 68.2 average per game.

The 2012 AFL Hall of Fame inductee had a storied 13-year playing career where he still finds himself amongst the all-time leaders in passing yards (No. 3 with 44,564), touchdown passes (No. 2 with 931), passing attempts (No. 4 with 5,698), and completions (No. 4 with 3,749). He was also named the No. 8 top player in AFL history by the Silver Anniversary Committee in 2012.

VS. THE EMPIRE

Coach Dolezel is 1-0 against the Empire as the Head Coach of the Philadelphia Soul

COACHING RECORD

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

2018 Regular Season: 3-1
Career Regular Season: 76-30
Career Playoff: 8-4
Career Total: 84-34

EMPIRE PLAYMAKERS

Tommy Grady



Tommy Grady was nearly perfect in the Empire's second win against the Valor. He led an offense that scored on every possession while tossing seven TDs and 257 yards.

Joe Hills



Superman had a "down" game for his standards, only finding the end zone twice. The vet led the team in catches with seven and added on 112 receiving yards.

Malachi Jones



Malachi Jones has proven himself as a threat. The league leader in receiving yards broke out in D.C. catching six passes for 120 yards and 3 TDs. He also chipped in a rushing TD.

Varmah Sonie



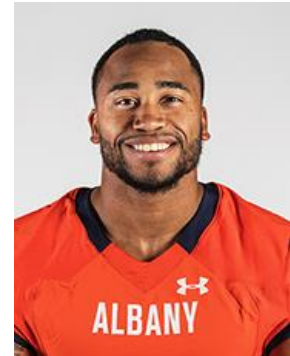
Varmah Sonie continued to lead the Empire's ball hawking backfield. He finished the Week 5 victory with 4.5 total tackles and a team leading two pass breakups.

Joe Sykes



Joe Sykes had another two sacks on Saturday as he claimed the AFL's all time lead in career sacks with 59.5. Sykes leads the league in sacks (6) and forced fumbled (3).

Terence Moore



Terence Moore was all over the field in the Empire's second win. Moore led the team in total tackles with 7.5 while scooping up a fumble recovery and adding a pass breakup.

EMPIRE LEADERS

WHAT'S AT STAKE: The Albany Empire look to continue their momentum with a rematch against the Soul. In the teams' first meeting, the Soul won 56-35 in Albany. The Soul were clicking on all cylinders as they forced Empire turnovers and spoiled Albany's first Arena game since the late 90's.

JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE: QB Tommy Grady continued his great 2018 campaign in the Empire's second consecutive victory last weekend. Grady led an offense that scored on every possession. Throwing for 257 yards and seven touchdowns, look for Grady to continue to find Joe Hills. This offense has been elevated to a new level since bringing in Hills a few weeks ago. Their chemistry on and off the field show why they should be one of the most feared duos in the league. So far on the season, Grady leads the league in passing touchdowns with 23.

HE CAN'T BE COVERED: WR Joe Hills has lived up to his nickname of "Superman" since joining the Empire. In just three games, Hills leads the league in receiving touchdowns (9) and is third in catches (25) and receiving yards (305). He currently holds the AFL record for most consecutive games with a touchdown reception with 84 – a **streak that is still active**. Hills will draw a ton of Soul attention, but that won't stop Superman from getting his. Expect to continue to see the connection between Grady and Hills as the duo hooks up for multiple touchdowns in yet another game.

HEY ROOKIE : WR Malachi Jones may be an AFL rookie, but he has done nothing but dominate in the team's first four games of the season. Jones leads the league in receiving yards with 346 and has eight total touchdowns in his rookie campaign. Give him the ball in open space and look out. He has multiple 40+ yard touchdowns on the season and can burn a defense in more ways than one. If the Soul defense focuses too heavily on Joe Hills, look for Jones to break free and find himself in the end zone often.

"JACK" OF ALL TRADES: JLB Terence Moore holds down the middle of the Empire defense at the Jack Linebacker position. Whether he is covering a short route, or chasing down a ball carrier, he always seems to be wherever the ball is. In the team's Week 5 win in the Nation's Capital, Moore led the team with 7.5 total tackles and recovered a fumble. So far on the season, Moore is third on the team in tackles with 21.5. Look for Moore to direct traffic and even lay a big hit in the middle of the field versus the Soul.

2018 INDIVIDUAL REGULAR SEASON LEADERS: (As of 5/12/18)

Philadelphia	Category	Albany
Raudabaugh (949)	Total Offense	Grady (989)
Raudabaugh (70.1)	Completion Pct.	Grady (66.9)
Raudabaugh (19)	Pass TDs	Grady (23)
Raudabaugh (126.7)	Passer Rating	Grady (120.6)
Raudabaugh (949)	Passing Yds	Grady (990)
Raudabaugh (82)	Pass Comps	Grady (83)
Raudabaugh (237.3)	Pass Yds/Gm	Grady (247.5)
Raudabaugh (19)	Touchdowns	Grady (23)
Prince (28)	Receptions	Hills (25)
Prince (329)	Receiving Yds	Jones (346)
Two Tied (6)	TD Receptions	Hills (9)
Ferns (89)	Rush Yds	Mauia (47)
Ferns (4)	Rush TDs	Jones (2)
Livers (13)	KO Returns	Taylor (11)
Livers (192)	KOR Yards	Taylor (115)
Prince (329)	All-Purpose Yds	Jones (351)
Hollis (24)	Tackles	Norman (27.5)
Two Tied (1)	Interceptions	Norman (2)
Two Tied (1)	Sacks	Sykes (4)

AROUND THE LEAGUE



2018 AFL STANDINGS



Team	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	3	1	.750	198	166
Baltimore	3	1	.750	193	180
Albany	2	2	.500	184	173
Washington	0	4	.000	172	228

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 5/14/18

#	POS	NAME	HT	WT	COLLEGE	EXP
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
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
55	OL	Damian Love	6'4	310	Alabama State	R
13	FB	Wes Mauia	6'1	280	Western New Mexico	5
56	DE	Willie McGinnis	6'3	295	Rhode Island	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
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
5	DB	Brandon Stephens	5'11	210	Miami OH	4
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 5/14/18

#	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	Brandon Stephens	5'11	210	Miami OH	4
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
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
50	LB	Derrick Summers	6'1	260	Toledo	7
55	OL	Damian Love	6'4	310	Alabama State	R
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

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 SOUL ROSTER

AS OF 5/14/18

#	POS	NAME	HT	WT	COLLEGE	EXP
1	WR	Poppy Livers	5'7	175	Villanova	1
2	QB	Greg McGhee	6'3	205	Howard	R
3	FB	Jeramie Richardson	6'1	270	Angelo State	6
5	QB	Dan Raudabaugh	6'3	225	Miami (OH)	8
6	WR	Darius Prince	6'1	185	Penn State Beaver	R
7	WR	Darius Reynolds	6'2	205	Iowa State	6
10	DB	Robert Brown	6'3	205	Seton Hill	1
11	DL	John Sheehy	6'5	270	West Texas A&M	1
12	K	Adrian Trevino	5'11	190	Missouri Valley	5
18	JLB	Joe Goosby	6'1	235	Tulane	6
19	WR	Aaron Wascha	6'3	205	N/A	R
20	DB	Bryce Peila	6'1	205	Western Oregon	5
21	WR	Shaun Kauleinamoku	5'7	175	Western Oregon	7
22	DB	Dwayne Hollis	5'10	180	NC Wesleyan	2
23	DB	LaRico Stevenson	5'10	205	West Georgia	8
24	DB	Torez Jones	6'1	190	West Carolina	2
25	DB	James Romain	5'11	175	Delaware State	8
44	OL	Phillip Keith Manley	6'5	330	Toledo	3
45	FB	Adrian Ferns	6'1	245	Chowan	1
55	DL	Sean Daniels	6'3	265	Temple	2
58	WR	Thomas Dover	6'3	260	Ediboro	1
69	OL	Wayne Tribue	6'5	330	Temple	3
72	OL	Keith Newell	6'6	310	Delaware State	5
76	DL	Walter Thomas	6'5	350	Oklahoma State	R
77	OL	Neal Tivis	6'5	330	Abilene Christian	7
90	DL	Donte Rumph	6'4	330	Kentucky	R
99	DL	Robert Hayes	6'2	270	Shepherd	3
	OL	Leonard Sanelli	6'3	315	Millersville	R

SOUL COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Clint Dolezel

GENERAL MANAGER, ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/LINE

COACH: Phil Bogle

DEFENSIVE BACKS COACH: Bernie Nowotarski

EQUIPMENT MANAGER: Shawn Cronin

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

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 5/12/2018

RUSHING

PLAYER	GP	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	YDS/G	TD/G
Mauia, Wesley	4	5	47	9.4	0	37	11.8	0.0
Jones, Malachi	4	6	5	0.8	2	3	1.3	0.5
Moore, Terence	4	2	3	1.5	0	3	0.8	0.0
Taylor, Collin	4	1	1	1.0	1	1	0.3	0.3
Grady, Tommy	4	3	-1	-0.3	0	0	-0.3	0.0
Hills, Joe	3	1	-2	-2.0	0	0	-0.7	0.0
Faul, Mike	4	2	-3	-1.5	0	0	-0.8	0.0

PASSING

PLAYER	GP	COMP	ATT	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	LONG	TD/A%	INT/A%	YDS/G	TD/G	RAT
Grady, Tommy	4	83	124	66.9	990	23	3	48	18.5%	2.4%	247.5	5.8	120.6
Faul, Mike	4	1	6	16.7	5	0	1	5	0.0%	16.7%	1.3	0.0	0.0

RECEIVING

PLAYER	GP	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	YDS/G	TD/G
Jones, Malachi	4	24	346	14.4	6	48	86.5	1.5
Hills, Joe	3	25	305	12.2	9	35	101.7	3.0
Taylor, Collin	4	16	182	11.4	4	35	45.5	1.0
Carr, Greg	3	9	77	8.6	3	18	25.7	1.0
MCNEILIII,DOUG	3	6	49	8.2	1	26	16.3	0.3
Mauia, Wesley	4	3	24	8.0	0	11	6.0	0.0
Moore, Terence	4	1	12	12.0	0	12	3.0	0.0

EMPIRE 2018 STATISTICS

DEFENSE

AS OF 5/12/2018

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	4	25	5	27.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	32
Sonie, Varmah	4	21	2	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Moore, Terence	4	20	3	21.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	0	-2
Hobbs, Arthur	4	11	4	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sykes, Joe	4	10	1	10.5	6	0	6	36	6	0	6	36	3	0	0	0	0
McGinnis, Willie	4	6	0	6	3	0	3	7	1	0	1	4	1	1	0	0	0
Cato-Bishop, Darryl	3	5	1	5.5	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Summers, Derrick	4	4	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Seither, Nick	4	3	3	4.5	2	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spencer, Kenny	4	2	1	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stephens, Brandon	4	2	1	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carr, Greg	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hills, Joe	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jones, Malachi	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
MCNEILIII,DOUG	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taylor, Collin	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Williams, Jordan	4	1	1	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

EMPIRE 2018 STATISTICS

AS OF 5/12/2018

KICKOFF RETURNS

PLAYER	GP	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	YDS/G	TD/G
Taylor, Collin	4	11	115	10.5	0	25	28.8	0.0
Williams, Jordan	4	6	91	15.2	0	21	22.8	0.0
Sonie, Varmah	4	2	18	9.0	0	17	4.5	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	4	25	1301	7	2