SPORTS

Weekly Recap

Football: 2–4 (2–1)

W 35-34 @ Pace University

The team erased a 21-point first quarter deficit. They trailed by 13 going into the fourth quarter. Quarterback John Giller, a freshman, ran for 97 yards and three touchdowns. Running back Kieran Falzon, a junior, had 181 and two touchdowns. Linebacker Dom Barbuto, a graduate student, had 2.5 TFLs and the game sealing interception. It is the Owls' third consecutive victory over Pace University and a signature win for Head Coach Joe Loth.

Next: 10/25 vs. Saint Anselm College, 1 p.m.

Women's soccer: 2–7–3 (0–6–1)

L 1-0 @ Bentley University

The team sits at the bottom of the NE10 table. They play three more games. Forward Frida Norrett, a freshman, has been a standout. She leads the team alongside forward Nicky Deslauriers, a senior, with two goals a piece.

Next: 10/21 vs. Pace University, 7 p.m.
10/26 vs. Franklin Pierce University, 1 p.m.

Men's soccer: 6–2–4 (3–0–3)

W 2-1 @ Molloy University
T 0-0 vs. Saint Michael's College

The team remains unbeaten in their previous 9 matches. They sit third in the NE10 table. Midfielder Jeremy Martin, a graduate student, leads the team with two goals and two assists.

Next: 10/22 @ Adelphi University, 7 p.m.
10/25 @ Saint Anselm College, 2 p.m.

Field Hockey: 7–7 (4–4)

W 1-0 @ Mercy University
L 3-0 vs. Saint Anselm College

Midfielder Linsdey Onofrio, a sophomore, scored against Mercy University. The team's four conference wins are as many as they have had since 2012. The team will play four more games.

Next: 10/22 @ Molloy University, 3 p.m.
10/25 @ Southern New Hampshire University, 3 p.m.

Volleyball: 11–4 (2–1)

W 3-0 vs. Saint Michael's College
L 3-0 @ Bentley University

The team had its win streak snapped at seven against Bentley University. Libero Sarah Henault, a junior, received NE10 Faces in the Crowd honors last week.

Next: 10//21 @ Pace University, 7 p.m.
10/23 @ Post University, 6 p.m.
10/28 @ Franklin Pierce University, 6 p.m.

Field Hockey loses 3-0 to defending champs

For the story on the game, visit thesouthernnews.org



PHOTO | WADE BARILLARO

Midfielder Avery Vaccaro, a freshman, lifts the ball in the air.

Men's soccer stays in good form



PHOTOS | WILLIAM GAGNÉ

Defender Yussif Mohammed, a sophomore, dribbles past a defender near the sideline.

By Matt Cain
Contributor

The Owls battled through a hard-fought matchup against a tough and steady conference rival. The university played Saint Michael's University to a 0–0 draw.

The team showed flashes of strong execution and resilience throughout the game, but players and coaches alike emphasized the importance of tightening up in key moments to reach their full potential.

"Effort is not a problem with this group," defender Edward Mensah, a graduate, said. "This group has no problem with effort."

With the result, the Owls move to 6–2–4 overall and remain unbeaten in league play at 3–0–3. The match proved to be a defensive showcase, as both sides limited each other to just two shots on goal.

The university's best chances came from Mensah and forward Giancarlo Ciotoli, a graduate, but neither could find the back of the net against a well-organized Saint Michael's defense.

Goalkeeper Diego Flores, a freshman, who was named NE10 Rookie of the Week last week, continued his impressive form between the posts.

Coming off his third straight NE10 Rookie of the Week honor, Flores recorded two saves to notch another clean sheet, maintaining a strong first season in goal.

Despite a solid core of veteran leaders, the Owls remain a notably young squad. Their starting lineup featured five players who are sophomores or younger, bringing a youthful energy that fueled their intensity and physical style of play throughout the match.

In the first half, midfielder Ryad Benmessaoud, a freshman, picked up a yellow card, prompting Head Coach Kevin Anderson to go to his bench early.

With the game hanging in the balance, the second half mirrored much of the first. The Purple Knights disrupted the Owls' attack, forcing the Owls to make several in-game adjustments.

"We showed up as a team. We were the better team out there, but we've got to execute, and we didn't," midfielder Samuel Nagy, a graduate, said.

Nagy, who was named team captain at the start of the season, has experienced a mix of highs and lows throughout the year.

Nagy was benched for most of the second half, only returning for the final ten minutes of play.

"I didn't play well," Nagy said.

As the Owls turn their attention to the final stretch of the regular season, their focus remains on consistency and execution.

With an unbeaten conference record still intact, the university has shown it can compete with anyone in the NE10.

Now, it is about turning stalemates into statements.

The Owls will look to build on their defensive solidity and sharpen their finishing touch as they prepare for their next conference matchup on the road next week.

Volleyball win streak hits seven

By Draven Dabrowski
Sports Writer

The Owls pushed their win streak to seven, improving to 11–3 overall on the season with a dominant 3–0 victory over Saint Michael's University on Oct. 14, in Pelz Gymnasium.

This match served as an osteosarcoma awareness game in honor of former Mercer University volleyball alum Aliyah Waldon, who passed away four weeks ago after losing her battle with osteosarcoma, a friend of outside hitter Lauren Dumont, a sophomore.

"This win was super special," outside hitter Ceci Carter, a graduate, said. "Last week, they dedicated the game to my friend, so I am glad we were able to get a win at home in dedication to Lauren's friend."

The opening set was tightly contested, with both the Owls and the Purple Knights trading points, as neither side led by more than three through the first 20 rallies.

The Purple Knights capitalized on a few early errors to stay close, but once the Owls found their rhythm behind strong serving from outside hitter Kerrigan Habing, a sophomore, and powerful swings from setter Kimi Mitchell, a freshman, momentum shifted in the Owls' favor.

A 9–1 run at the end of the set broke the tie, and the Owls closed out the set 25–15 to establish control of the match.

In the second set, the Owls jumped out to a quick lead behind early kills from Carter and libero Sarah Henault, a junior, but the Purple Knights fought back midway to cut the deficit to three.

After a timeout by Head Coach Lisa Barbaro, the university regrouped and regained control, with a kill by right-side hitter Sydney Bennett, a senior, and an attack error by Saint Michael's Anna Daggett, giving the Owls the second set win by a score of 25–20.

Barbaro said she used the timeout to give the team a breather.

"I told them to stay within themselves. We struggled against Assumption in that same way, so I just wanted them to breathe and stay within themselves," Barbaro said.

By the third set, the Owls' energy was evident. There were strides of momentum shifting back and forth between Saint Michael's and the Owls, but in the end, the Purple Knights struggled to keep up with the university's offensive rhythm and defensive coverage.

The university closed out the final set 25–18, securing its seventh consecutive win.

For the Owls, Habing had another big game, getting 15 kills and 10 digs. Carter was not far behind, getting six kills of her own and two assists.

"Our passing was phenomenal today," Carter said. "With a pass, you can do anything, as you can see with our win today."

The Owls hit .126 while holding Saint Michael's to just .043. They tallied 39 kills to 22 from the Purple Knights and recorded eight service aces, continuing to show consistency and balance across all positions.

The match capped off another strong all-around performance for the team, as the team's awareness night also highlighted its consistency on both ends of the floor.

The Owls maintained composure from start to finish, controlling the pace and executing when it mattered most.

"We're looking forward to our next game," Habing said. "It was a good team win tonight, and hopefully we can keep that momentum going forward."



PHOTOS | WILLIAM GAGNÉ

Libero Sarah Henault, a junior, spins to make a return while her team looks on.

Op-ed: Jet's woes



By Draven Dabrowski
Sports Writer

The Jets season has spiraled into familiar territory — frustration, offensive struggles and fans wearing brown paper bags over their heads. At 0–6 under rookie Head Coach Aaron Glenn, the Jets have become a weekly case study in how to lose football games in spectacular fashion.

After six weeks, the Jets sit at the bottom of the AFC East, still searching for their first victory.

Their most recent game, a 13–11 loss to the Denver Broncos in London, reached historic lows when quarterback Justin Fields finished with just 45 passing yards, completing nine of 17 passes and getting sacked nine times for a loss of 55 yards.

Even by Jets standards, that is uncharted territory.

It was not always this heartbreaking. The Jets showed flashes of hope in a 34–32 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers. Fields threw for over 200 yards with a touchdown, Garrett Wilson found the end zone, and Breece Hall rushed for 107 yards on 19 carries.

The defense held Pittsburgh scoreless in the third quarter, a sign that the Jets might finally be turning a corner. Fans left MetLife Stadium that day a little optimistic, thinking perhaps this was the beginning of something different. Six losses later, that optimism feels like a lifetime ago.

The passing attack has been nonexistent. Fields has thrown for only 799 yards, four touchdowns through six games. Star wideout Garrett Wilson, who has 36 receptions for 395 yards and four touchdowns, suffered a knee injury that may sideline him for several weeks, it is a devastating blow for an offense that cannot afford to lose anyone else.

Running back Breece Hall remains the lone bright spot, tallying 410 rushing yards.

But with opposing defenses stacking the box, even his explosiveness has been limited, with no touchdowns on the season. The Jets' offense ranks near the bottom of the NFL, averaging 20.5 points per game, while the defense allows nearly 28 points per game.

To their credit, the defense has shown some fight. Cornerback Jarvis Brownlee Jr., acquired midseason, forced the team's first turnover in week six, ending a five-game drought.

Linebacker C.J. Mosley continues to anchor the middle of the field, and defensive tackle Quinnen Williams has provided steady pressure up front.

Still, the defense has been asked to do too much, too often thanks to constant three-and-outs and poor field position.

When removing garbage time stats, the Jets' offense ranks 31st in expected points added and 32nd in passing efficiency. Fields' quarterback rating sits below 65, ahead of only a handful of backups.

The Jets entered 2025 with modest expectations. Fans hoped Glenn's leadership could finally end the team's playoff drought, which dates back to 2010.

Instead, the franchise appears headed toward another early offseason and another top five draft pick.

For long-suffering fans, the 2025 season has not brought new heartbreak. It is, unfortunately, par for the course.