

WHERE HAVE YOU GONE, WAYNE CHREBET? HOFSTRA PRIDE START SEASON 0-5

BY JOSHUA CASPER

As they mercifully enter their bye week, the only Pride that Hofstra's football program can claim exists is its moniker

After being out-rushed by 259 yards (302-43), the Pride's 2003 record fell to an abysmal 0-5, and 0-3 in the A-10 Conference, falling to seventh-ranked Delaware 24-14 on Sunday.

"I can't hide the fact that our offense is struggling...but we're going to get better," says Head Coach Joe Gardi. "We're going to beat some people in this league before this season is over. I really believe that."

Since going 10-1 en route to winning the 2001 Atlantic 10 Conference Championship, the team's second in three years and fifth consecutive eight-plus win season, Hofstra

fell to 6-6 last year. This season, at 0-5 the Pride are in danger of their worst season in 20 years, since going 1-9-1 in 1974. The once-promising program has taken a nose-dive to the bottom of the A-10.

For a Division I-AA team, the Pride has had a propensity for turning out professional players, notably producing two NFL All-Pro's in the mid-'90s—Jets WR Wayne Chrebet and Titans FS Lance Schulters. Giovanni Carmazzi, who led the Pride to the 1999 A-10 title, was drafted by the 49ers in the eighth round and is now a backup QB with the club, and over the last two years, eight other players saw time with NFL clubs. Quarterback Rocky Butler and DB Patrick Dorcyclus, who led Hofstra in 2001, are



Renauld Williams

now in the CFL.

The lone bright spot this year for Hofstra has been Renauld Williams, from Westbury High School, where he excelled at running back. After transferring to Hofstra from New Hampshire, he converted to linebacker. A preseason pick for the Buck Buchanan Award, given annually to the top defensive player in Division I-AA, Williams has excelled at linebacker, totaling 49 tackles, two sacks, an interception and three forced fumbles. ●