Bluffton College gameday

Setting the scene
Welcome to Salzman Stadium and today's Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference match-up between Bluffton College (2-5, 0-3 HCA C) and Franklin College (2-5, 2-1 HCA C). BC is 2-1 at home this season and is looking to snap a three-game losing skid. Franklin, meanwhile, has won back-to-back games after losing their first five games of the season.

The series (BC leads 4-1)
These two teams first met back in 1956, with Bluffton taking a 27-14 win. It would be 42 years until they met again, however, as the series was renewed as both schools became members of the HCA C in 1998. Since then the series has been very competitive with three of their five meetings settled by 10 points or less, with last year's game being the closest by far as the Beavers pulled out a 26-24 win with a touchdowns with 1:28 left in the game.

The coaches
Bluffton is led by head coach Carlin Carpenter, who owns a school-record 102 wins. Now in his 24th season at BC, he owns the longest tenure among Ohio's collegiate head football coaches. Franklin is led by head coach Bill Unsworth, who owns a 19-28 record at FC in his fifth season.

Last meeting
These two teams met last season in Bluffton in a game that would not be decided until the final minutes. Bluffton led 20-9 at halftime but Franklin came back to take a 24-20 lead in the fourth quarter. BC quarterback Brad Moore, who passed for 207 yards and three touchdowns in the game, scored the winning touchdown on a one-yard run with just 1:28 left to play to give the Beavers a 26-24 victory.

What's happening with BC opponents
(2002 overall record, last week's result, today's game)
Marietta (1-6) lost to Wilmington 32-31, is at #3 Mount Union today.
Hiram (0-7) lost to Kenyon 22-10, hosts Denison today.
Tiel (3-5) lost to Bethany 31-9, is at SUNY-Brockport today.
Urbana (1-7) lost to Malone 52-10, hosts Tri-State today.
Anderson (4-3) lost to Hanover 41-23, hosts Mt. St. Joseph today.
#7 Hanover (7-0) beat Anderson 41-23, hosts Washington and Jefferson today.
Mount St. Joseph (5-2) beat Bluffton 37-35, is at Anderson today.
Franklin (2-5) beat Defiance 24-23, is here today.
Manchester (1-6) was idle, is at Defiance today.
Defiance (2-6) lost to Franklin 24-23, hosts Manchester today.

Bluffton College
Beavers
Franklin College
Grizzlies

Statistical match-ups
The offensive strengths of both these teams play perfectly into the opposing defenses' weakness. Bluffton leads the HCA C in rushing with 168.9 yards per game and will be going up against a Franklin defense that is allowing 218.7 yards per game, which ranks last in the HCA C. Franklin, meanwhile, is averaging 278.7 yards per game through the air, which ranks third in the HCA C, and will be facing a BC pass defense that is allowing 211.3 yards per game through the air, which ranks sixth. However, Franklin has thrown a league-high 14 interceptions and the Beavers held the top two passing teams in the HCA C, Hanover and Anderson, well below their passing averages earlier this season.

Bluffton College
(2-5, 0-3 HCA C)
vs.
Franklin College
(2-5, 2-1 HCA C)
Saturday, November 2, 2002
Dwight Salzman Stadium
1:30 p.m.
Bluffton, Ohio

The broadcasts
Every Bluffton College football game can be heard on WDOH 107.1 FM. Dan Hirn calls the play-by-play and today's analysis is being supplied by former BC player and coach Mike Richards '73 in the booth and former BC standout quarterback Cliff Hemmert '89 on the sideline. BC home football games are also broadcast by WBCR, the BC student radio station. See pages 38 and 39 for information on media coverage of BC football.

All Franklin College games are broadcast exclusively by Franklin College campus radio station WFCI-89.5 FM.

In addition to picking up the live broadcast over your computer, a text-only webcast is also available on the BC football Web site at www.bluffton.edu/sports/football.

Remaining schedule
Franklin is 2-1 in the HCA C and Bluffton is 0-3, but the remaining schedule for both teams is important to note. After today, Bluffton will face Manchester and Defiance, who are a combined 0-7 in the HCA C at this point. Franklin, however, will be going up against Hanover and Anderson, who are a combined 6-1 in the conference.
HCAC team rankings

In addition to the rushing and passing statistical matchups noted earlier (see statistical match-ups on page 33), several other statistical rankings will be interesting to observe today. Bluffton has been penalized the fewest yards in the league at just 39.4 ypg and ranks first in third down conversions at 47.6%. However, BC’s opponents are converting 44.6% of their third down conversions, which is the highest percentage allowed. Bluffton leads the HCAC in PAT kick conversions at 92.0% (23-for-25) and the Beavers own HCAC-best averages in kickoff return yardage (24.0 ypr) and punt return yardage (12.8 ypr). Franklin ranks second in the HCAC in punting average at 32.6 ypg and the Grizzlies own the league’s second-best pass defense, allowing 191.6 ypg through the air. On the negative side, Bluffton ranks 6th in the HCAC in turnover margin at minus three, but Franklin ranks 7th at minus 12. Franklin has collected the fewest quarterback sacks in the HCAC with just seven, but has sacked a league-high 24 times.

Bluffton HCAC individual rankings

Bluffton junior running back Jovan Johnson appears all over the HCAC individual rankings. He ranks 5th in rushing (61.6 ypg), 4th in receptions per game (5.9 rpg), 1st in kickoff return yardage (26.7 ypr) and 1st in all-purpose yards (171.3 ypg). Freshman Ben Dodds ranks 6th in rushing (56.6 ypg) and senior Brad M oore ranks 5th in passing yards per game (190.4 ypg). Junior Jimmy Dwenger ranks 8th in receptions per game (4.4 rpg) and 4th in receiving yards per game (75.4 ypg). Sophomore David Samsal ranks 3rd in punting average (36.6 ypp). Junior middle linebacker Chris Sommers leads the HCAC in tackles per game (11.3 tpg).

Moore moving up in BC records

Bluffton senior quarterback Brad M oore continues to move up in the BC career record book. He has passed for 4,743 yards, which ranks 4th all-time, and he needs 208 yards to move past Ciff Hemmert ‘89 into third place. M oore has also rushed for 773 yards and needs 211 yards on the ground to surpass Darrin Fox ‘97 for the most rushing yards by a quarterback. In total offense, M oore has collected 5,516 yards, which ranks 4th all-time, and needs 99 yards to move past Hemmert for 3rd place. M oore’s .550 career completion percentage is second all-time and his 37 touchdown passes are third all-time. He needs three TD passes to move into second place on that list. M oore has thrown just 16 interceptions in 620 attempts, for a record-low .026 interception percentage. In his career, M oore has been responsible for 326 points (either rushing or passing), which ranks second all-time and is just 20 points away from Joel Parrett ‘00, who owns the record with 346.
Players on the field
Complete Bluffton roster is on pages 30-31.

When Bluffton has the ball
Bluffton offense
QB 7 Brad Moore
RB 2 Jovan Johnson
RB 41 Ben Dodds
WR 6 Jimmy Dwenger
WR 83 Tony Boenker
WR 89 Troy Baumer
OT 79 Luke Sorrell
OG 74 Alan Estep
C 71 Travis Lepley
OG 59 Nathan Kreider
OT 78 Max Jurrus
Kicker 1 David Samsal
Punter 1 David Samsal
Holder 15 Jared Owens
Kickoff return 2 Jovan Johnson
Kickoff return 41 Ben Dodds
Punt return 6 Jimmy Dwenger
Long snapper 92 Matt Scholz

Franklin defense
DE 44 Zac Willis
DT 52 Jeff Porter
NT 72 Robert Balz
DE 39 Josh McMillin
OLB 9 Jesse Miller
ILB 40 Joe Mummert
ILB 8 Joe Neely
CB 45 Mo Shepley
SS 54 Zach Durrett
FS 22 Clint Rider
CB 2 Ki Yoon
Kicker 48 Nick Roberts
Punter 48 Nick Roberts

After the game...
Visit www.bluffton.edu/sports/football/ to check out post-game analysis, statistics, pictures and more!
Four Bluffton players nominated for Verizon Academic All-America team

Four Bluffton College football players have been nominated for the Verizon Academic All-America team, including junior wide receiver Jimmy Dwenger (Minster), senior quarterback Brad Moore (Norwalk), senior defensive back Cam Staley (Lima/Bath) and senior defensive end Brian Steiner (Rawson/Cory-Rawson).

The All-District team will be released November 14 and the All-America team will be released December 2. The honorees are selected by a vote conducted by members of the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Nominees must be of at least sophomore status, carry a minimum grade point average of 3.2 and be standout performers for their respective teams, as well.

Dwenger, a business major, carries the highest GPA on the team and was named Academic All-II-HCAC last season. Moore, a communication major, is a captain and was named first team All-II-HCAC as a sophomore and junior. Staley, a criminal justice and communication major, is a captain and was named Academic All-II-HCAC last season. Steiner, a sport management major, was a second team Verizon Academic All-District selection and earned Academic All-II-HCAC honors last season and is a captain this season.

Players on the field

When Franklin has the ball

Franklin offense

QB 15 Jeremey Neibert
RB 26 Andy M amula
RB 37 Rich Mittman
FB 33 Brandon Gillard Sr.
WR 88 Craig Thompson
WR 83 Ryan Vest
LT 68 Kevin Backman Sr.
LG 79 Michael White
C 62 Ben Mc Kenney
RG 77 David Armbuster
RT 67 Joe Moellman

Bluffton defense

DE 43 Brian Steiner
DT 92 Matt Scholz
DT 58 Jeff Vincent
DE 35 Lucas Wilson
OLB 40 Pat Craun
ILB 49 Chris Sommers
OLB 57 Scott Steiner
CB 19 Darin Riffle
SS 34 Cam Staley
FS 12 Matt Chiles
CB 5 Brian A sher

Bluffton schedule and results

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Franklin schedule and results

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