

Football loses 16th straight to rival UNH

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

Under a sunny sky on Saturday, Oct. 19, the Owls fell 21-0 to the University of New Haven Chargers for their 16th straight loss over the span of 14 seasons in the past 15 years. Their last win was in 2009, representing a streak that no one wishes for, except UNH. This season, though the numbers may not be a pretty sight to see, they do not tell the whole story. The Owls have lost their last three games by a combined 20 points. Year after year, the Chargers have always been a force to be reckoned with, as they have not had a losing season in at least 15 years.

“They were just better prepared, and we gave it all we had out here,” quarterback Keith Ridley Jr., a graduate, said. “We fought for the last minute, and that’s all you can ask for.” It is not Mississippi State-Ole Miss or Alabama-Auburn, but the NE10 matchup is and was about much more than a football game. It is about two colleges who are in the same region, and the quarterbacks, two former



Pass to tight end Michael Strachan, a sophomore, broken up in the end zone.

Boston College teammates, facing off again. “We talked to each other after the game and just tell each other good game,” Ridley said. “We both grinded hard to be in the position that we’re at now, and it’s all respect at the end of the day.” The Chargers offense had two notable drives in the first quarter, each

leading to a touchdown. On the first offensive possession, Christopher Ais raced to the end zone for a 45-yard touchdown run, capping a five-play, 69-yard drive. “We just came out the first quarter flat,” safety Joenel Figueroa, a junior, said. “We went back in and came out and said we got to come out with more

energy, we got to come out with more power.” After the Owls’ drive stalled at the Chargers’ 35, electing to punt, Andreas Picarelli, a junior, pinned the Chargers to their own one-yard line. In four and a half minutes, the Chargers went 99 yards, scoring a touchdown highlighted by a 48-yard pass from

Daelen Menard. “They got a good team. No. 1 offensive in the conference right now. 21 is good enough to win,” Godek said. “We gotta move the ball to get a score, and unfortunately, that didn’t happen.” As the Chargers were once again marching down the field, Figueroa intercepted Menard and was the spark the Owls needed. However, it was voided via a defensive penalty. “I was in the sideline getting hyped with my team,” Figueroa said. “I look back, my whole defense is out there still with a flag on the floor. It was a great play; it was a great turn. We had momentum coming out, but it sucks.” As halftime neared, the Chargers forced the Owls to punt for the fourth straight drive but gained a new set of downs as Kha’il Eason was called for roughing the kicker. With the assistance of multiple penalties on the Chargers defense, the Owls offense started to gain momentum via the run game by Ridley and running back E’Lijah Gray, a senior. A no-huddle two-minute drill was underway. The Owls

would not convert on fourth down, something they struggled to do all game, forced a turnover on downs. “We just got to do a better job on first, second and third down, so we don’t get into situations like that,” Ridley said. “They were just better prepared. We gave it all we had out here and fought for the last minute, so that’s all you can ask for.” Each half was a different game. Outside of one additional touchdown, the Chargers could not move the ball in the second half. Defensive back Branden Louis, a junior, was disqualified with a helmet to helmet hit. Louis was not available for a comment postgame; however, Head Coach Tim Godek was. “It’s hard without instant replay here. It’s hard when that side makes the call when their backs are to it,” Godek said. “I was hoping we get some information from the far side, but it’s hard where he would be ejected because there’s no instant replay on that.” As the game went on, it got chippy after every play.

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Owls offensive line clear a lane for running back E’Lijah Gray, a senior.



Inside linebacker Kuhron Walker, a sophomore, looks to make a tackle.



Quarterback Keith Ridley Jr., a graduate, in the pocket.

Field hockey wins late



Midfielder Ruby Webb, a sophomore, works around a defender.



Defender Sofia Frassinelli, a freshman, looks to control the ball.

Men’s cross-country chasing history

By Matt Cain
Contributor

With the post-season right around the corner, the cross-country team is gearing up for the NE10 Conference meet. The Owls have won the conference for the past two years. They could make history, as they look to take home the crown for the third consecutive time. The depth of the team makes the Owls strong and competitive. They also have competed at various Division I meets, making them ready for the NE10 competition. In the conference, the Owls are heavy favorites to take the title home

again. With the conference meet taking place on Sunday, Oct. 27, the Owls feel good about their chances. “We feel good. We have been reducing mileage and focusing on more speed preparing for the post-season,” runner William Lamburn, a senior, said. The running history at the university is very prestigious. They have been dominant in the NE10 and built a foundation beginning with the coaches. Assistant Coach Brian Nill competed for the university previously. He ran in big meets and helped the Owls capture several conference titles. “To run for Nill, he’s

a good coach and knows how to get us ready for the season and post-season,” Lamburn said. “There’s been a lot of great runners from the past.” Nill tries to structure his training so that his athletes run their best at the right time. October is the month where the team is tested for the conference meet. “So far, I think we checked all the boxes we needed to in terms of doing what we need to do to run fast at the national meet, and conference will be a step in the right direction,” runner Bryan Ryder, a senior, said.

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2024 Men’s cross-country media day.

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