The Tribe football team’s 7-4 winning season was the result of mental preparedness, hard work both in practice and in games, and focused teamwork.

The Tribe upset several key teams including fourth-ranked University of New Hampshire. Despite losing to top-ranked James Madison University, the season was successful overall. The loss to JMU ended the team’s five-game winning streak, but the team did not let it get them down. Seniors on the team did their best to make sure that the players were constantly focused on the game at hand. “The other captains and I try to emphasize that every game is just as important as the next; so we are, in a sense, having a play-off game each week,” senior captain Josh Rutter said. “We try and carry that same mindset into the preparation for each game.” Rutter said.

Being prepared was a key aspect for the team, therefore working on basic skills continued off the field. For example, film studying was an important element for the Tribe team. It not only built up knowledge about the opposing team’s plays and skills, but also brought the team together to decide on big plays and strategies. This enabled them to be mentally prepared for games and boosted their team camaraderie.

The team’s winning season marked their first in the past three seasons. The few losses were overcome and resulted in games, and focused teamwork. As they climbed in national polls to 16th in the nation, and had nine players earn All-CAA honors, the Tribe’s first winning season in three years was marked by success.

Winning season and coveted CAA honors

The freshmen we have on this team are really a talented bunch of guys,” Rutter said. “A player like Jake Trantin on defense will be a great linebacker for the school in the next few years. And on the offensive side, running back Jon Grimes has already shown his ability and potential to be dominant in this league. There’s plenty more that are in their first or second year of playing that are going to contribute to the team’s success.”

“Camaraderie among Tribe team leads to winning season and coveted CAA honors”

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In the game against the University of New Hampshire, sophomore wide out Chase Hill completes a pass despite the efforts of a New Hampshire defender. Hill’s successful performance included a gain of 60 yards in five catches and two touchdowns which helped the Tribe win 58-38.


Working together, sophomore comeback Ben Cottingham, safety Michael Alvarado and linebacker Evan Francks tackle the University of New Hampshire receiver. The Tribe’s victory over New Hampshire brought the team its sixth consecutive victory of the season.

In their first home game. The Tribe football team beat VMI 52-17 in their first home game.

Photos courtesy of Sports Information.

In their first victory of the season, the Tribe football team beat VMI 52-17 in their first home game.

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