

**July 20, 2009**

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## **THE ROAD TO MIAMI HAS BEGUN**



**THERE WAS NO RAIN IN LOUISVILLE SATURDAY, BUT THERE  
WAS DEFINITELY A STORM- PHOTO BY ALONZO MAYFIELD**

# **NASHVILLE STORM STAY UNDEFEATED WITH 35-22 VICTORY OVER LOUISVILLE SAINTS IN LOUISVILLE**

## **NOTES ON THE GAME:**

- **The Nashville Storm traveled to Louisville, KYs Fern Creek High School Saturday night, July 18 to take on a Louisville Saints team that had won its' first two games and left Louisville with a hard-fought 35-22 victory to bring the Storm to a 4-0 record (2-0 in NAFL play). The victory was the Storm's 18<sup>th</sup> straight road victory in a streak dating back to June of 2006.**
- **While the Storm held the lead throughout the game, a tenacious Saints team loaded with ex-college talent at every skill position prevented the Storm from putting the game out of reach until the last 90 seconds of the game. Storm QB Phellepe Hall (Maplewood/TSU) put the Storm up 7-0 on the first series of the game with a 33-yard TD pass to WR Roger Moore (Glenclyff/Missouri Western), then hit WR Ivan Burley (TSU) with a 25-yard TD strike at the 6:30 mark of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to raise the Storm lead to 14-0. Saints QB Kevin Warner (Kentucky State) hit Saints WR Ta'Shawn McBroom (Georgetown College) with a 33-yard TD pass with 5:35 left in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to cut the Storm lead to 14-6, a score that held up thru the halftime break.**
- **The Storm opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with a HUGE special teams play from rookie Storm DB Cord Cowan (Oakland HS) , who, on the opening kickoff of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, outraced 3 members of the Saints return team to recover a fumbled Saints' return at the Saints 15. 3 plays later, Storm FB Quintin Eskridge ran the ball into the end zone from the 1-yard line to put the Storm in front 21-6. The Saints cut the Storm lead back to a touchdown at 21-14, however, on Kevin Warner's 2<sup>nd</sup> TD pass of the night to Ta'Shawn McBroom, this time a 5-yarder with 8:37 left in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, followed by a 2-point conversion.**
- **Early in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, mammoth Storm RB Julius Johnson put the Storm back up 28-14 with a 1-yard TD**

- run. When Saints punter Zack Larson threw an incomplete pass on 4<sup>th</sup> down with under 2 minutes left in the game from the Saints' 10-yard line, the Storm appeared to have the game wrapped up. But on the Storm's first offensive play, Terrance Coger (Columbia Central) appeared to be tackled after a 1-yard gain--- but Saints DB Travis Watters (Western Kentucky) popped out of the pile with the ball and ran 91 yards with it to the Storm end zone and was awarded a touchdown. The Saints scored on another 2-point conversion to cut the Storm lead to 28-22. But then on the Saints' kickoff to the Storm, Storm WR Mario Merriweather (Bethel College) caught the kickoff at the 16 and used his 4.28 second 40-yard dash speed to take the kickoff "to the house" for the Storm's final score to make the score 35-22.**
- In a lot of ways, the Nashville Storm offense had a night they'd like to forget about. The Storm committed 6 turnovers, most of them in scoring range in Saints' territory. Storm QB Phellepe Hall had 1 spectacular quarter (the first) followed by 3 very subpar quarters--- Hall was 4 for 4 passing for 94 yards and 2 TDs in the first quarter, but in the last 3 quarters, Hall was 7 for 23 passing for 74 yards with 2 interceptions. The Storm running game was effective with 178 yards rushing, led by Marcellus Tibbs' 74 yards in 13 carries (despite having a 31-yard TD run called back by a holding penalty); Terrance Coger had a 47-yard run, and Batman Martin and Arrenzo Ocasio also were effective running for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight game.**
  - The Louisville Saints, despite having a former Division 1A RB in Cauvey Jackson (Tulsa), made almost NO effort to establish a running game--- the Saints made 45 pass attempts (out of 61 offensive snaps), and Saints QB Kevin Warner was sacked 8 times by the Storm defensive front. The Saints finished with 189 yards of total offense; 244 passing, (-55) rushing.**
  - Mario Merriweather's 84-yard KO return TD was the first TD return of a kickoff by a Storm KO returner since Grantley Hunter (Cumberland) returned a kickoff for a TD in the 2005 NAFL playoffs against the Panhandle Tigers.**
  - In the absence of Storm K/P Garrett Morgan (Central Arkansas), K John Gorecki went 5 for 5 on extra points; Gary Peete took over the punting duties and frustrated**

**the Saints' dangerous punt returners by kicking rugby-style punts to the corners of the field. The Saints did not have a significant punt return in the game.**

- **On defense, the Storm got pass interceptions from Sherrod Robinson (Jackson State) and Joshua Gordon (Antioch HS); the Storm got a third turnover on a pass play when Cromwell Stewart (UT-Martin) stripped the ball from Saints' WR Brandon Corker and S Michael Curtis (Campbellsville) recovered the fumble. The Storm had 12 tackles for losses including 8 QB sacks. Storm DT Desmond Scantling (TSU) had 2.5 TFLs while Sherrod Robinson had 2. DE Lonnie Harris (Arkansas-Pine Bluff) had 2 QB sacks. In addition, Storm DLs batted down 4 Kevin Warner pass attempts in the backfield--- 2 by Danny Roberson (TSU) and 1 each by Corvelli Haynes (Ole Miss) and Gary Peete.**
- **The Nashville Storm and Louisville Saints will play again in Nashville on Saturday night, August 22.**
- **HOW STORM 2009 OPPONENTS FARED LAST WEEKEND- The Memphis Panthers played to a 16-16 tie with the Alabama Warriors in Memphis; the Arkansas Rhinos lost 16-6 to the St. Louis Bulldogs in St Louis; the Memphis Blast (next Storm opponent) lost 28-26 to the Tennessee Hurricanes; the Asheville Grizzlies defeated the Iredell Warriors 6-0; the defending NAFL National Champions, the Indianapolis Tornados, defeated the Indiana Warriors 51-14.**



## **NEXT UP- NASHVILLE STORM @ MEMPHIS BLAST, SATURDAY, JULY 25, 5:00 PM KICKOFF**

**The Nashville Storm (4-0, 2-0 in NFL play) head to Memphis, TN to play the Memphis Blast (5-4) in a game with a 5:00 PM kickoff at Memphis' Greenhill Stadium (4241 O.K. Robertson Road, Memphis, TN 38127). While the Blast are members of the Alliance Football League, this game will count in the NFL standings for the Nashville Storm, as the game is a replacement game for a game against an NFL opponent who suspended operations.**

**While the Nashville Storm are riding an 18-game road game winning streak (dating back to June of 2006) and haven't lost a game to another team from the State of Tennessee since 2002, the Storm will have to play well to win this game. Last year, when the Nashville Storm and Memphis Blast played in Memphis, the Storm won a close 14-8 decision---- and the 2009 Blast are, from all indications, a better team than the 2008 Blast. 3 of the Blast's 4 losses have been by a touchdown or less, including a pair of 2-point losses to the**

**Alliance Football League's only undefeated team, the Tennessee Hurricanes. The Blast's only loss by more than a touchdown was a 25-0 loss in May to the Dallas Diesel, the team that defeated the Nashville Storm in the 2006 NAFL National Championship Game (24-19).**

**Kickoff of the Nashville Storm- Memphis Blast game will be at 5 PM CDT at Greenhill Stadium. A link to a Google map to the site of the game is below.**

**Link To Google Map To Greenhill Stadium-**  
[maps.google.com/.webloc](http://maps.google.com/.webloc)



**WILL STILLEY TAKES A BREAK ON SIDELINE IN 2008 GAME-  
PHOTO BY DONNIE BEAUCHAMP**

## **STELLAR NASHVILLE STORM OLB WILL STILLEY (#55) IS BACK FROM IRAQ**

**On Saturday (7/18) US Army Special Forces Soldier Will Stilley returned to Ft Campbell after the conclusion of his 2<sup>nd</sup> tour**

**of duty in Iraq. Like the many other brave soldiers returning with him, Stilley returns to friends, family, and comrades grateful for his service and glad to see him home alive and safe. Unlike many of his compatriots though, Stilley's personal welcoming party includes a large extended family just down the road from Ft Campbell in Nashville---- the family of the Nashville Storm.**

**Will Stilley wears his country's uniform with pride, but on Saturdays in the summer and fall, Stilley wears jersey #55 for the Nashville Storm----- and the former 3-year starting OLB for Eastern Kentucky University has been one of the best players in Nashville Storm history, earning Minor League Football News All-American honors in both 2007 and 2008. Will is likely to see his first action of the 2009 season this Saturday in the Nashville Storm's game against the Memphis Blast.**

**Welcome Home, Will.**