

September 15, 2009

**CHECK OUT THE NASHVILLE STORM ON
MYSPACE AT**

<http://www.myspace.com/nashvillestormfootball>

**AND ON FACEBOOK AT
<http://www.facebook.com/People/Bill-Caldwell/693162567>**

THE ROAD TO MIAMI HAS BEGUN



**REMEMBER THESE GUYS?????????? WE'LL BE SEEING THEM
AGAIN THIS WEEKEND, THIS TIME IN INDIANAPOLIS**

**THE REMATCH- THIS
SATURDAY- NASHVILLE STORM**

VS. INDIANAPOLIS TORNADOS, PART II

For every great movie, there is a sequel, and top-level football rivalries (especially intersectional rivalries) are no different. This Saturday (September 19), the Nashville Storm will travel to Indianapolis, IN for their second 2009 game against the defending NFL National Champion Indianapolis Tornados. The two teams' first meeting was on August 29 in Nashville, a game the Nashville Storm won by a score of 23-13.

A great Tornado team will be eager to even the score with the Storm on their home turf, but there will be extra motivating factors for both teams; the Nashville Storm are riding a 21-game winning streak in road games that dates back to June of 2006 (that the Storm would like to continue), and depending on the results of other games, both teams have a chance to clinch the #1 playoff seed in their respective regions (and the home-field advantage that goes with that seeding) with a victory.

This game promises to be another football classic. The game will be played at Indianapolis' Park Tudor High School (7200 N College Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46240), and kickoff will be at 7 PM EDT (6 PM CDT). We encourage everyone who supports the Nashville Storm to come to Park Tudor to cheer the Storm on. A link to a Google map to the game site is below:

Link- maps.google.com/3.webloc



NASHVILLE STORM DEFEAT INDIANA WARRIORS 46-12 TO CAPTURE 21ST STRAIGHT ROAD VICTORY; STORM NOW 10-0 (8-0 IN NAFL PLAY)

There's nothing more dangerous than a home underdog, and the Indiana Warriors played like a team determined to be dangerous from the opening kickoff to the final horn on Saturday night, September 12 at Indianapolis' Manual High School against the visiting but heavily-favored Nashville Storm. The Warriors gave the Storm a lot of anxious moments in the 60-minute game---- but in the end, the Storm's red-zone defense and offensive firepower were too much for the Warriors to overcome, as the Storm won the contest 46-12 to remain undefeated in 2009 for at least one more week.

NOTES ON THE GAME:

- The home-standing Warriors finished the game with 202 yards of total offense, making the Warriors the first team to gain over 200 yards against the Storm defense in the 2009 season, and only the 2nd team to break the 200 barrier against the Storm D in the last 2 seasons (the Asheville Grizzlies gained 281 yards against the Storm defense in the Storm's 47-27 playoff victory in 2008). The Warriors also controlled the football for 63 offensive snaps against only 39 offensive snaps for the Storm. However, the Storm defense stiffened in the shadow of the Storm's goal line, as the Storm stopped the Warriors offense without points in 4 different trips to the Storm red zone.**
- Meanwhile, the Nashville Storm offense made the most of their 39 offensive snaps, gaining 433 yards of total offense (199 rushing, 234 passing). Storm QB Phelepe Hall (Maplewood/TSU) completed 11 of 15 passes for 234 yards and 4 TD passes; 2 of the TD passes were to WR Jeremie "Bird" Whittaker (Coahoma CC), a 60-yarder and a 13-yarder; Hall also threw an 11-yard TD strike to Ivan Burley (TSU) and a 74-yarder to Mario Merriwether (Clarksville HS/Bethel College).**

- **The Storm running game had a dominating night with 199 yards in only 24 carries; the Storm used 5 running backs, and all of them were effective. Huge (6'4", 270) Storm RB/FB Julius Johnson led the Storm runners with 71 yards in 4 carries with TD runs of 10 and 46 yards; "Batman" Martin (Hillwood HS/Mesa CC) had 63 yards in 5 carries; Kelcey Williams (Humboldt HS/Northwestern Oklahoma) had 35 yards in 4 carries, Marcellus Tibbs (Hillsboro HS/Dodge CC) had 21 yards in 6 carries, and Arrenzo Ocasio (Cumberland U) had 15 yards in 3 carries. Late in the game, the Storm even gave a carry to former Goodpasture and TSU Fullback Blake Harris (who is normally used exclusively as a blocker); Harris ran for 9 yards and an apparent first down, but the run was called back on a penalty.**
- **Neither of the Nashville Storm's 2 kicking specialists (Garrett Morgan or John Gorecki) made the trip to play the Warriors, and the Storm kicking game had "interesting" results, to say the least. The Storm's only 2 attempts to kick extra points (Gary Peete trying the kicks) were both blocked by the Warriors. The Storm's only conversion points were on two 2-point conversions, one a pass from Phellepe Hall to DeQuinn Watford (THE St. Ambrose University), and the other on a run by Jeremie "Bird" Whittaker; both of these 2 point conversions came after the Storm had lined up to kick extra points, but had been penalized by the refereeing crew, making the Storm start each conversion attempt from the 17-yard line. Gary Peete did the punting, averaging 38 yards on his 2 punts. In the 4th Quarter, Storm QB Phellepe Hall actually kicked a Storm kickoff to the Warriors--- and saved a touchdown by successfully tackling the Warrior kickoff returner at the Storm 20 after the returner had eluded the rest of the Storm's kickoff unit.**
- **The Storm defense produced some highlights; Storm DBs Danarius Fowler (Pearl-Cohn/TSU), Marcus Hill (McGavock/TSU), and Cord Cowan (Murfreesboro Oakland HS) intercepted Warrior passes, and Fowler returned his pick 72 yards for a TD. The Storm defensive unit recorded 12 tackles for losses, led by DE Lonnie Harris (Arkansas- Pine Bluff) with 3 ½. DE Gary Peete (AF2 Memphis Xplorers) accounted for another turnover when he stripped the ball from a Warrior QB**

on a QB sack and the ball was recovered by Storm LB Mark Williamson (Pearl-Cohn).

- **Storm DE Corvelli Haynes (Ole Miss) suffered torn ligaments while recording an 18-yard-loss QB sack in the first quarter and has been ruled out for the remainder of the season by his doctors. Haynes had been a highly effective playmaker as a Storm rookie, and we wish him as speedy a recovery as possible. The injury is a blow to a Storm defense that has already lost starting LBs Jeremy Sims and Will Stilley (Eastern Kentucky) for the season to military-service related duty assignments.**
- **The defending NAFL National Champion Indianapolis Tornados did not have a game on September 12, and a number of them were at the Storm-Warriors game as spectators. At the end of the game, when the fans went out to their cars to leave, they found promotional flyers for the remainder of the Tornados' home schedule under their windshield wipers. The effort at least did the Tornados a LITTLE good---- I know that I'M going to be at the Tornados' next home game (LOL).**



THE NASHVILLE STORM AND ASHEVILLE GRIZZLIES LAST MET IN THE 2008 NAFL PLAYOFFS, A GAME THE STORM WON 47-27- PHOTO BY DONNIE BEAUCHAMP

THE NASHVILLE STORM'S SEPTEMBER 26 REGULAR SEASON HOME FINALE COULD BE A BATTLE FOR THE NAFL SOUTH'S #1 PLAYOFF SEED

On Saturday night, September 26, the Nashville Storm will play their final regular season home game of 2009 against Coach Phil Lytle's Asheville Grizzlies at Stratford High School (1800 Stratford Avenue, Nashville, TN 37216). The Grizzlies are having an excellent season and currently, with only 1 loss in 2009, have the NAFL South's 2nd best record. Depending on the outcome of the Grizzlies' September 19 game against the Virginia Crimson Cardinals in Asheville, and to a lesser degree, the Nashville Storm's September 19 rematch against the Indianapolis Tornados in Indianapolis, the September 26 Storm-Grizzlies battle could be a game where the NAFL South's #1 Playoff seeding (and the home-field advantage that goes with it) is on the line.

Here's the bottom line: if the Storm defeat the Tornados in Indianapolis and the Grizzlies lose to the Crimson Cardinals, the Storm will have clinched the NAFL South's #1 seed, regardless of the outcome of the Storm-Grizzlie regular season finale. But if the Grizzlies defeat the Crimson Cardinals, the winner of the Storm-Grizzlie game will be the NAFL South's #1 playoff seed, irregardless of whether the Storm wins or loses the Sept 19 game against the Tornados (if the Storm and Grizzlies had the same record, the head-to-head matchup would be the tiebreaker).

Hope we haven't confused you--- but Nashville Storm-Asheville Grizzlies games are always exciting. And the game coming up a week from Saturday night---- well, it could be a little more than that.