

109th Army-Navy Game Dec. 6

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Game can be seen locally at noon on WHP CBS-21, Comcast Cable channel 3

Army War College Army and Navy students to square off Friday, Dec. 5 at 1 p.m. on Indian Field.

What is it?

The Black Knights of the United States Military Academy at West Point will host the Midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy in the 109th edition of the historic Army/Navy Game, Dec. 6, in Philadelphia.

Army brings a 3-8 record and a high-powered option running attack into the game against the 6-4 Midshipmen, who are scheduled to play Northern Illinois on Nov. 25, prior to the epic rivalry matchup.

What has the Army done?

Coach Stan Brock oversaw major offseason offensive adjustments – schematically and personnel-wise – to energize an offense that struggled during the 2007 football campaign. Army unveiled a run-based option offense that has seen the Black Knights jump into the top 25 of rushing offenses nationally. While the 2007 team totaled 1408 rushing yards, Fullback Collin Mooney has run for 1285 yards alone during the first 11 games of the 2008 season.

The Army defense has also seen improvement this year. Through the first 11 games, the Black Knight defenders have yielded 76 less points than at the same point last year. Senior Lineback (LB) Frank Scappaticci leads the Army team with 82 tackles and sophomore LB Stephen Anderson is credited with 72 tackles while also tying the Army single-season record of five fumble recoveries.

Why is it important to the Army?

Only 10 Football Bowl Series (formerly Division 1-A) rivalries have featured more games than the Army-Navy series. The series began when Cadet Dennis Mahan Michie accepted a "challenge" from Naval Academy Midshipmen for a football game against the Cadets. That first contest was held on "The Plain" at West Point on Nov. 29, 1890. The more experienced Mids, who had been playing

organized football since 1879, defeated the Cadets 24-0.

Eighty of the 108 Army-Navy games have been played within the Philadelphia city limits. With but seven exceptions, the Army-Navy classic has been played in Philadelphia annually since 1945. The 1983 game was played at the Rose Bowl, while the 1989, 1993, 1997 and 2001 confrontations took place at Giants stadium. The city of Baltimore hosted the 2000 and 2007 contests.

The Army-Navy series has been tied on 13 occasions (five times since 1979). The latest tie came following Navy's victory in 2004. The Mids' win in 2005 gave Navy its first edge in the series since 1993. Until winning in 1980 to break a 37-37-6 stalemate, Navy had not led in the series standing since 1921, after just the 24th meeting between the academies.

What continued effort does the Army have planned for the future?

The 110th Army-Navy game is scheduled for Dec. 12, 2009, also in Philadelphia. This will be the first Army-Navy game played on the second Saturday of December. Traditionally, the game has been played on the first Saturday of December.

Resources:

For additional information, see the following Web sites:

United States Military Academy home page <<http://www.westpoint.edu/>>

Web page for all West Point intercollegiate athletics <<http://www.goarmysports.com/>>

City of Philadelphia Web site for Army-Navy classic

<<http://www.phillylovesarmynavy.com/AMERICAS-GAME-PHILADELPHIAS-HONOR>>