

WEEK FIFTEEN

NAVY VS ARMY

PHILADELPHIA -- Army coach Jeff Monken hopped on top of a wall and pumped his fist toward stoked cadets set to belt out the alma mater. Monken brought the party to locker room and waved an "Army Football" flag as the Black Knights bounced around him.

Army ditched its mundane routines and cut loose like a bunch of rowdy civilians. And why not? The setting was right after Army beat Navy for the third straight game, this time in front of a packed house and the president.

"I don't ever want our guys to stop celebrating," Monken said. "I promise you, I'll be celebrating every year if we win this thing because I know how hard it is."

Monken resuscitated the Black Knights and turned a program that suffered annual losses to the Midshipmen into a bowl-bound team that can keep the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy back at West Point.

The No. 22 Black Knights recovered two fumbles in the fourth quarter, Kelvin Hopkins Jr. had two rushing touchdowns and Army beat Navy 17-10 on Saturday to win its third straight game in the series.

President Donald Trump attended the 119th game between the rivals and flipped the coin before spending a half on each side in a show of impartiality. No matter his view, Army (10-2) always had the edge.

Army retained the CIC Trophy -- awarded to the team with the best record in games among the three service academies -- after winning it for the first time in 22 years last season and snuffed a late Navy (3-10) rally to retain possession of the patriotic prize

With Navy down 10-7, quarterback Zach Abey lost a fumble on fourth-and-12 deep in its own territory. Hopkins would score on a 1-yard run to make it 17-7 and give Army the cushion it needed to win in front of 66,729 fans at Lincoln Financial Field.

Army hopped and waved hands in celebration during a replay timeout and got the cadets in the stands to bounce along. They had good reason to celebrate: Army has regained its grip in a series that had gotten out of hand. Navy had a series-best 14-game winning streak from 2002-2015 and leads the series leads 60-52-7.

"It's been hard on all of us. Our players, our coaches, our staff, our school," coach Ken NiumataloIo said. "We like to win. We've been winning a lot of games. Losing sucks."

Trump sat on the Army side in the first half and crossed the field to the Navy side at halftime. Trump officiated the coin toss and was introduced by public address announcer Dan Baker to a cheering crowd.

Navy won Trump's toss and elected to kick off.

That was a mistake.

Kell Walker ran 51 yards to the 10 on the fourth play from scrimmage and Hopkins dashed in for the TD on the next play for a 7-0 lead.

"I think anything I did was just within the game plan," said Hopkins, the game's MVP.

In a series steeped in tradition -- the "March On" and drumline battles, among them -- perhaps none is more ingrained than the running game. Last year's game had a combined three pass attempts and quarterbacks for each team are usually the leading rushers.

But Army and Navy passed on the rush and tried to throw, with mixed results. Army safety Jaylon McClinton had an interception in the first half. Army also dropped a key third-down pass that led to John Abercrombie's missed 33-yard field goal in the second quarter.

Abercrombie rebounded to kick a 33-yarder in the third for a 10-0 lead.

Last season's game was an instant classic and was decided by a field goal: Bennett Moehring narrowly missed a 48-yarder in the snow on the final play and Army held off Navy 14-13.

Moehring made the extra point on Lewis' score and he kicked a 45-yard field goal with 29 seconds left. Malcom Perry's 43-yard run to the 5 set up Garret Lewis' 1-yard rushing TD with 7:10 left in the game that pulled Navy to 10-7.

There were reminders all around the Linc, home of the Super Bowl champion Eagles, that this was no ordinary game. The Navy "Leap Frogs" parachute team earned a roar from the crowd with each safe landing on the field. Bill the Goat, Navy's mascot, was safely leashed and secured from a possible abduction attempt from overzealous cadets. And each side safely returned "captives" in the Prisoner Exchange -- when seven midshipmen and seven cadets swap service academies for a semester. The Army prisoners spelled out "3-PEAT on the back of their uniforms.

Trump was the 10th sitting president to attend Army-Navy, a tradition that began with Theodore Roosevelt in 1901. Barack Obama was the most recent president to attend the game, in 2011 at FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland. Trump also went to the 2016 game when he was president-elect.

Trump and Defense Secretary James Mattis stood silent during an invocation and a moment of silence for former President George H.W. Bush, who died recently died at age 94.

Army will have another game, the Armed Forces Bowl against Houston on Dec. 22 in Fort Worth, Texas. Navy's season is over, but 34 seniors recently received their service assignments.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
NAVY	0	0	0	10	10
ARMY	7	0	3	7	17

Scoring Summary -----

	NAVY	ARMY
FIRST QUARTER		
ARMY TD 12:34		
Kelvin Hopkins Jr. 10 Yd Run (John Abercrombie Kick)		7
5 plays, 82 yards, 2:26	0	
THIRD QUARTER		
ARMY FG 4:33		
John Abercrombie 33 Yd Field Goal		10
14 plays, 64 yards, 8:19	0	
FOURTH QUARTER		
NAVY TD 7:10		
Garret Lewis 1 Yd Run (Bennett Moehring Kick)	7	10
4 plays, 48 yards, 1:52		
ARMY TD 1:28		
Kelvin Hopkins Jr. 1 Yd Run (John Abercrombie Kick)		17
4 plays, 22 yards, 1:34	7	
NAVY FG 0:29		
Bennett Moehring 46 Yd Field Goal		17
10 plays, 47 yards, 0:59	10	

	NAVY	ARMY
Team Stats		
First Downs	11	12
Total Yards	208	283
Total Plays	54	59
Avg Gain Per Play	3.9	4.8
Net Yards Rushing	127	222
Rushes	37	50
Yards Per Rush	3.4	4.4
Net Yards Passing	81	61
Comp-Att	5-17	4-9
Yards Per Pass	4.8	6.8
Times Sacked	1	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-10	-8
Interceptions	2	0
Punts	4	4
Punt Average	36.3	39.0
Penalties	5	3
Penalty Yards	30	25
Fumbles	2	0
Fumbles Lost	2	0
Possession	25:39	34:21

Individual Stats

RUSHING

NAVY	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
10 Malcolm Perry	6	52	8.7	43	0
38 Anthony Gargiulo	8	38	4.8	7	0
7 Garret Lewis	6	14	2.3	10	1
21 Tre Walker	3	10	3.3	6	0
43 Nelson Smith	4	9	2.3	4	0
23 Myles Fells	1	5	5.0	5	0
34 Mike Martin	1	2	2.0	2	0
25 Tazh Maloy	1	2	2.0	2	0
9 Zach Abey	6	0	0.0	4	0
88 Mychal Cooper	1	-5	-5.0	0	0

ARMY	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
8 Kelvin Hopkins Jr.	18	64	3.6	17	2
33 Darnell Woolfolk	16	62	3.9	18	0
5 Kell Walker	5	56	11.2	51	0
40 Andy Davidson	6	31	5.2	22	0
16 Malik Hancock	1	8	8.0	8	0
25 Connor Slomka	1	1	1.0	1	0
3 Jordan Asberry	2	1	0.5	2	0

PASSING

NAVY	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
7 Garret Lewis	5	11	81	7.4	0	0	107.3
10 Malcolm Perry	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
9 Zach Abey	0	4	0	0.0	0	2	-100.0
86 OJ Davis	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

ARMY	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
8 Kelvin Hopkins Jr.	4	9	61	6.8	0	0	101.4

RECEIVING

NAVY	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
28 Keoni-Kordell Makekau	2	52	26.0	34	0
10 Malcolm Perry	2	18	9.0	13	0
89 Taylor Jackson	1	11	11.0	11	0

ARMY	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
5 Kell Walker	2	30	15.0	25	0
6 Glen Coates	1	17	17.0	17	0
21 Zack Boobas	1	14	14.0	14	0