

**WEEK FOURTEEN
BOSTON COLLEGE at PITTSBURGH**

Dillion, Boston College chug past Pitt 26-19

PITTSBURGH -- Steve Addazio turned the corner and saw his players waiting for him. With a shove from freshman defensive tackle Kyiev Bennermon, the Boston College head coach made his way into the middle of what quickly became a giddy mosh pit.

For the next 30 seconds, all the angst over Addazio's future with the program vanished, replaced by a mixture of relief and joy.

If his team's 26-19 over Pittsburgh on Saturday was his last stand, so be it. Addazio would prefer to think of it as the launching point for something even more meaningful. The win assured Boston College (6-6, 4-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) of a bowl bid for fourth straight year and sixth in Addazio's seven seasons on the job.

"All I cared about was getting this team to six wins and getting another month with them," Addazio said. "And then watching what I watched. That was the greatest gift that I got. You want to talk about me? That was a great gift."

One the Eagles gave him behind another punishing performance by running back AJ Dillon, who racked up 178 yards rushing, 47 of them coming on Boston College's final drive that drained the final 5:26 off the clock after the Panthers had pulled within a touchdown.

"I went into a different zone," Dillon said. "I don't know how to describe that."

Neither, really, could the Panthers (7-5, 4-4). Pitt entered with the sixth-best rush defense in the country and left shaken after the Eagles ran up 264 yards on the ground, the most the Panthers have allowed since the 2018 ACC championship game.

Dillon is a big back," Pitt head coach Pat Narduzzi said. "He fought for yards. We didn't tackle 250 pounds very well. He's a hefty guy."

A fast one too. Dillon's 61-yard sprint to the end zone in the third quarter swung momentum back to the Eagles after Pitt had taken the lead on a 39-yard touchdown run by Vincent Davis. Boston College's defense, which came in next to last in the ACC in points allowed and last in yards allowed, made sure the advantage held up. The Eagles forced four turnovers, produced four sacks and let the Panthers reach the end zone just once.

It also gave Addazio -- now 44-44 at Boston College -- a chance to stump for an eighth season. The Eagles have 62 players who are redshirt sophomores or younger and managed to reach the postseason despite losing quarterback Anthony Brown to a knee injury in mid-October.

"I've got a really good football team," he said. "We've got most everybody coming back. This is going to be one hell of a football team moving forward. And we've got another month to tweak it and turn it and coach it and develop it. That is so exciting. I think this can be something special."

SAME OLD PANTHERS?

Pitt entered the final two weeks of the regular season with a chance to repeat as Coastal Division champions. Instead, the Panthers ended up getting shut out on the road against Virginia Tech then getting pushed around at home by a program that hadn't won in Pittsburgh since 1998.

Kenny Pickett threw for 323 yards for Pitt and Alex Kessman hit four field goals but the offense's inability to finish drives remains an issue. The Panthers averaged just 20.2 points this season, taking some of the shine off a year that included a stirring upset over Central Florida and the emergence of a defense that ranked among the best in the ACC.

"I feel like we underachieved this season, tremendously," senior linebacker Saleem Brightwell said. "I feel like especially with the players we have and the staff, to be 7-5 this year, it's a fall-off from what we should have been. We've just got to come back strong in the bowl game and try to get eight wins this year."

BIG PICTURE

Boston College: The Eagles need to figure out if a change is in order. Addazio has kept the Eagles competitive but they're stuck in neutral in the ACC. Boston College has never finished better than .500 in conference play under Addazio's watch. Yet his slam dance in the mosh pit hinted at how badly he'd like an opportunity to stick around.

"He's a pretty reserved and tame guy most of the time," quarterback Dennis Grosel said. "I know he wanted this one badly. We wanted this one for him also. It was nice to see him let some emotion out."

Pitt: Given a chance to reach the eight-win plateau for the first time since 2016, the Panthers sputtered. The offense having trouble punching it in was hardly surprising. But the way the defense couldn't get stops even though it knew what was coming was a stunner.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
BC	6	7	10	3	26
PITT	0	9	7	3	19

Scoring Summary -----

	BC	PITT
FIRST QUARTER		
BC FG 5:33 Aaron Boucherhi 29 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 40 yards, 3:44	3	0
BC FG 3:00 Aaron Boucherhi 32 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 23 yards, 2:03	6	0
SECOND QUARTER		
PITT FG 14:11 Alex Kessman 23 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 70 yards, 3:49	6	3
BC TD 9:49 Hunter Long 25 Yd pass from Dennis Grosel (Aaron Boucherhi Kick)		
11 plays, 71 yards, 4:22	13	3
PITT FG 6:03 Alex Kessman 35 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 58 yards, 3:46	13	6
PITT FG 0:00 Alex Kessman 48 Yd Field Goal		
6 plays, 51 yards, 0:47	13	9
THIRD QUARTER		
PITT TD 12:22 Vincent Davis 39 Yd Run (Alex Kessman Kick)		
1 play, 39 yards, 0:09	13	16
BC TD 11:31 AJ Dillon 61 Yd Run (Aaron Boucherhi Kick)		
3 plays, 75 yards, 0:51	20	16
BC FG 0:57 Aaron Boucherhi 30 Yd Field Goal		
12 plays, 45 yards, 5:57	23	16
FOURTH QUARTER		
BC FG 9:41 Aaron Boucherhi 22 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 44 yards, 4:23	26	16
PITT FG 5:26 Alex Kessman 43 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 50 yards, 4:15	26	19

Team Stats	BC	PITT
First Downs	20	22
Passes for First	8	16
Rushes for First	12	5
Penalties for First	0	1
Third Down Efficiency	9-21	6-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-2	1-1
Total Yards	387	394
Total Plays	79	65
Avg Gain Per Play	4.9	6.1
Net Yards Rushing	264	71
Rushes	60	24
Yards Per Rush	4.4	3.0
Net Yards Passing	123	323
Comp-Att	9-19	30-41
Yards Per Pass	6.5	7.9
Times Sacked	4	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-30	-12
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	5	3
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	5	4
Penalty Yards	40	19
Fumbles	0	5
Fumbles Lost	0	3
Time of Poss	34:52	25:08

Individual Stats

RUSHING					
BOSTON COLLEGE	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
AJ Dillon	32	178	5.6	1	61
Dennis Grosel	10	51	5.1	0	13
David Bailey	11	25	2.3	0	8
Kobay White	2	8	4.0	0	6
Travis Levy	1	6	6.0	0	6
Zay Flowers	1	3	3.0	0	3
Team	3	-7	-2.3	0	0
PITTSBURGH	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Vincent Davis	5	45	9.0	1	39
A.J. Davis	10	43	4.3	0	9
Shocky Jacques-Louis	1	11	11.0	0	11
Jared Wayne	1	-3	-3.0	0	0
Kenny Pickett	7	-25	-3.6	0	3

PASSING							
BOSTON COLLEGE	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Dennis Grosel	9	19	123	6.5	1	0	75.1
PITTSBURGH	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kenny Pickett	30	40	323	8.1	0	1	44.9
Nick Patti	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.5

RECEIVING					
BOSTON COLLEGE	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Hunter Long	2	36	18.0	1	25
Kobay White	2	32	16.0	0	19
Zay Flowers	2	27	13.5	0	18
AJ Dillon	2	18	9.0	0	20
Korab Idrizi	1	10	10.0	0	10
PITTSBURGH	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jared Wayne	6	100	16.7	0	27
Shocky Jacques-Louis	6	80	13.3	0	29
Maurice Ffrench	9	79	8.8	0	27
Nakia Griffin-Stewart	3	21	7.0	0	12
Will Gragg	1	19	19.0	0	19
A.J. Davis	2	15	7.5	0	19
Aaron Mathews	1	6	6.0	0	6
Rashad Wheeler	1	3	3.0	0	3
Vincent Davis	1	0	0.0	0	0