

MCC wins game, but GCC wins berth in bowl game

By Jim Richards

Special for azcentral sports

Glendale Community College will host the 2012 Valley of the Sun Bowl game, its record-tying fourth consecutive appearance, but it's a revamped Mesa Community College football team that's got to be kicking itself.

With last Saturday's 34-28 upset win over Glendale, Mesa managed to defeat the other three combatants for the bowl game during the regular season, a feat that usually guarantees the bowl berth.

But Glendale (7-3 overall, 6-2 Western States Football League) finished above Mesa (6-4, 5-3) in the standings by virtue of regular-season wins over Arizona Western College and New Mexico Military Institute, two teams Mesa fell to.

Mesa shot out to a 20-7 lead after one quarter and led 27-7 at the half. It held on for the win behind the passing of quarterback Jaymason Lee, who completed 12 of 20 passes for 198 yards and three

touchdowns.

Mesa's Kevin Gill was named the WSFL's Defensive Player of the Week after he made 17 tackles and broke up two passes.

Glendale's Dain McFarland completed 16 of 29 passes for 286 yards and three touchdowns, two to Michael Hall (four receptions, 116 yards). Devontre Burkes rushed 23 times for 130 yards, and Jon Brown carried 14 times for 84 yards.

Glendale was hoping to pull up toward the top 10 in the National Junior College Athletic Association poll, where it might have had a better chance to entice one of the top-ranked teams to play in the bowl game. Instead, the Gauchos dropped four spots to No. 19 this week.

At Scottsdale, Scottsdale Community College quarterback Jordan Gehrke completed 31 of 45 passes for 405 yards and seven touchdowns in Scottsdale's 71-29 win over Phoenix College. Running back Ana Hasix carried 11 times for 186 yards for Scottsdale.

Women's soccer

Second-seeded Paradise Valley Community College defeated 11th-seeded Louisburg College (13-6) 3-0 and seventh-seeded Laramie County (Wyo.) Community College 4-0 and advanced to the semifinals of the NJCAA women's soccer championships in Melbourne, Fla.

Paradise Valley met third-seeded Iowa Western on Friday for a chance to advance to today's 4 p.m. national championship game.

Ali Doller, Jessie DeLeon and Erica Gonzalez scored goals, and goalkeepers Tessa Hamberlin and Rachel Cardwell combined for the shutout in the Louisburg game. Doller scored twice, and Ashley Johnson and DeLeon each scored against Laramie County.

Cross country

Paradise Valley's men finished third

and Mesa finished seventh in the NJCAA Cross Country Championships in Illinois.

Glendale's Joshua Espinoza was the top local finisher, finishing 11th with a time of 26:25. Eduardo Roa paced Mesa in 21st place. Julian Florez led Paradise Valley in 23rd.

The Mesa women placed sixth. Kerry Camberg led Mesa with a seventh-place finish (18:53).

Volleyball

Seventh-seeded Phoenix College opened play Thursday in the NJCAA Division II volleyball championships in Toledo, Ohio. Phoenix opened against No. 10 Kishwaukee (Ill.) College. The quarterfinals were also Thursday with the semifinals played Friday.

If Phoenix College advanced, they would play in today's 4:30 p.m. national championship game.