

FOOTBALL

## New 'Dae' for Dukes

Redshirt freshman wide receiver to start at quarterback



### Dae'Quan Scott #11

**YEAR:** Redshirt Freshman

**POSITION:** Wide Receiver

**HOMETOWN:** Staunton, Va.

**EDUCATION:** Robert E. Lee High School

**HONORS:** AP/Virginia Preps first-team All-State offensive all purpose back

**STATS:**

- JMU's second-leading receiver this season with 16 catches for 206 yards and a touchdown

- Has returned six punts for an average of 13.2 yards per return

- 47 touchdowns in high school

- Ran for 2,241 yards, threw for 703

- Offensive MVP for West All-Star team in Virginia High School Coaches Association All-Star game

5 feet 9 inches  
190 lbs



DAVID CASTERLINE / THE BREEZE

By THOMAS ESTES  
The Breeze

The Dukes hope the energy coming off Saturday's 30-24 upset over the No. 1 College of William & Mary Tribe will survive the long bus ride to Orono, Maine, where the Dukes will take on the University of Maine this Saturday.

JMU (5-5 overall, 2-5 in the Colonial Athletic Association) snapped its four-game losing streak and looks to finish 6-5 for the second consecutive season with a win over the Black Bears.

Maine (4-6 overall, 3-4 in the CAA) looks to stop the new-look JMU offense that shocked W&M last week.

"A real exciting offensive unit for James Madison," Maine's head coach Jack Cosgrove said. "I think when they have some success, it spurs more success."

That success was due to the emergence of redshirt freshman wide receiver Dae'Quan Scott, who worked solely out of the team's "wildcat" package against the Tribe. JMU head coach Mickey Matthews benched redshirt senior quarterback Drew Dudzik, playing on his senior night, in favor of Scott.

The Dukes beat W&M, 30-24, despite not completing a single pass.

Scott earned the Football Championship Subdivision Football title of Rookie of the Week for his 125 rushing yards and three touchdowns last week. But the first-year player remains inexperienced, particularly under center, and will need the rest of his team to continue to play well in Maine.

"I feel good but I give all my praises to my offensive lineman and wide outs," Scott said. "They blocked their tails off that game."

Scott's role may change next season as true freshman quarterback Jace Edwards and redshirt sophomore quarterback Justin Thorpe are candidates to battle for the starting job. Edwards last played while attending the powerhouse Midland Lee High School in Midland, Texas.

Thorpe, who started five games for the Dukes last year, has missed all of the team's CAA action this year with a knee injury.

But up to this point, Matthews remains mull and will not commit to any of the three until spring practice at the earliest. Matthews named Dudzik the team's starter during last March's training camp.

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VOLLEYBALL

## Team looks to break 10-year title drought



MEREDITH SIZEMORE / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Danielle Erb (left) continued to establish herself as JMU's top contender for CAA Player of the Year by leading the team in kills in both of the weekend's matches.

By MATT O'TOOLE  
The Breeze

The last time JMU volleyball won a Colonial Athletic Association championship was in 2000. That was former head coach Disa Garner's first season.

Ten years later, in head coach Lauren Steinbrecher's first season, the Dukes look to repeat the same pattern and earn an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament.

"It's surreal," sophomore Danielle Erb said. "To finish in eighth place last season and have the turn around this season and be in the position where we are is unbelievable."

JMU, who was picked to finish sixth in the conference at the beginning of the season, will head into this weekend's CAA tournament at the University of Delaware as the No. 2 seed and facing the No. 3-seeded Northeastern University Saturday at 5 p.m.

"We have had the opportunity to play Northeastern twice this year," Steinbrecher said. "They have a really nice right side setter combo player, Brittany Brown. She's a senior leader for them and she terminates great serves and is a great passer"

The Huskies are led by redshirt freshman middle hitter Nichole Kurz and freshman outside hitter Janelle Tucker. Tucker is top among CAA freshman with 307 kills, which is good enough for eighth overall.

This will be JMU's first CAA tournament since 2007, the first year for the Dukes' senior class. They lost in the semifinals that season to host No. 1 Delaware in four sets.

"It's really awesome," senior Lindsay Callahan said. "I feel like it's been way too long since we've been there and I'm really excited for the other girls to make it to the tournament."

Joining the Dukes and Huskies in the tournament are the Delaware Blue

Hens and the Virginia Commonwealth University Rams. Delaware is the lone team in the conference that has a perfect 13-0 record at home.

"Delaware is a very strong team," Steinbrecher said. "They play very good defense and stay aggressive. We were right there with them when we played them but just didn't make key shots."

Led by senior outside hitter Mariel Frey and middle back Kelsie Chegg, VCU has had an interesting season, going 2-13 in non-conference games but flipping the script to go 9-5 in the CAA, gaining the fourth seed. VCU is making its fourth trip in the past five years.

"VCU is a very athletic team," Steinbrecher said. "They play as a team and had a good amount of talent. If we see them we will have to be ready to pursue the ball on every play."

If the Dukes can muster a third win against Northeastern, they will go into the championship game against a team they haven't defeated. The Dukes lost to Delaware on the road in three sets and VCU gave JMU its only home loss this season, losing in four sets.

"I think both times we played we weren't out of it completely," Callahan said. "It wasn't anything they were doing on their side. We would really love to play Delaware at home and take it to them on their home court."

All week the team has been focused, setting their sights on the title game and getting another shot at either Delaware or VCU.

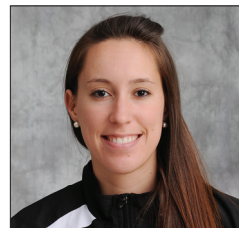
Senior setter Lauren Fanelli, one of four JMU seniors, said getting redemption is what motivates this year's team.

"Our team wants it so bad it will just be a game of who wants it more, and I feel like it will be us," she said.

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### Dukes in the Spotlight

Lindsay Callahan  
CAA Defensive Player of the Week, Volleyball



- Against Northeastern, she set a new career-high with 21 digs, then recorded 10 kills, five digs and five blocks assists against Hofstra.

Josh Roach  
CAA Special Teams Player of the Week, Football



- Blocked a punt against No. 1 William & Mary that was recovered by teammate redshirt junior D.J. Bryant and returned two yards for a touchdown.

Dae'Quan Scott  
The Sports Network/Fathead.com FCS National



- Rushed for 125 yards and three touchdowns on 21 carries against No. 1 William & Mary.