



BALTIMORE  
**BRIGADE**  
2017 PLAYOFF GUIDE







# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LOOKING BACK.....	2
NOTES & QUOTES.....	3
SEASON SCHEDULE & STATS.....	5
ROSTERS.....	13
TRANSACTIONS.....	15
GAME RECAPS.....	17
MUST-READ COVERAGE.....	24
COACHING STAFF.....	30
YEAR IN PHOTOS.....	31
TEAM INFORMATION.....	32



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## LOOKING BACK

"Baltimore is a natural location, and I envision some great rivalries between Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia," said Monumental Sports & Entertainment founder and majority owner Ted Leonsis as he announced the company's acquisition of its second Arena Football League team on November 14, 2016.

As the team's first regular season has come to an end, Leonsis' prediction holds true. The Brigade enter the playoffs in their first year of existence behind late-season wins over the Washington Valor and Philadelphia Soul. The Brigade went head-to-head with the Washington Valor four times, with a combined scoring margin of just 13 points. In Week 14, Baltimore knocked the defending champion, league-leading Soul from the ranks of the unbeaten, snapping a 17-game Philadelphia winning streak, just one win short of the league's all-time record. The Brigade are the first expansion franchise to make the playoffs in their inaugural season since the Portland Thunder in 2014 and look to become the first expansion franchise to win a playoff game since the Spokane Shock in 2010.

The Brigade first began to take shape on December 14, 2016, when the team named Arena Football Hall of Famer and seven-time ArenaBowl champion Omarr Smith its first head coach. During his nine-year playing career, he won four ArenaBowl titles and ended his career with 35 interceptions, 88 pass break-ups and eight defensive touchdowns. As an assistant coach, he won three ArenaBowl titles, one with the San Jose SaberCats and two with the Arizona Rattlers.

Training camp approached and the team's roster began to fill with both AFL veterans and new, high-upside faces. Defensive lineman Khreem Smith was one of the first players to join the team, bringing six years of arena football experience and laying the foundation for what would be one of the most explosive pass rushes in the AFL this season. Hometown favorite LaQuan Williams, a former Baltimore Raven and Maryland Terrapin, joined the team at wide receiver and was immediately deemed "a force to be reckoned with" by his new head coach. Quarterback Shane Carden, a rookie out of East Carolina and one of the most prolific college quarterbacks of the last five years, joined the roster soon after and would go on to lead the offense for the majority of the 2017 season and was voted as the midseason favorite to win the league's Rookie of the Year award.

The Brigade played four of their first five games on the road and earned the franchise's first-ever win on April 16, 2017 – a 52-49 victory that featured six scoring plays in the game's final 12 minutes. The team's first home win came on May 27. "I'm really glad that we were able to get a win, at home, for the city of Baltimore," Smith said after the Brigade topped Cleveland, 63-60. Carden scored seven total touchdowns and was named the game's MVP.

On June 23, the Brigade returned home from a two-game road stretch and defeated the Valor, 51-41, behind six touchdowns from Carden and a nine-catch, three-touchdowns performance from veteran wide receiver Reggie Gray.

Just one week later, the Brigade faced their steepest test of the season – the 10-0 Philadelphia Soul. A 41-yard, over-the-wall touchdown catch by wide receiver Paul Browning as time expired in the first half, which found its way to the SportsCenter's Top Plays of the Month, and a 21-0 run between the third and fourth quarters propelled Baltimore past the defending champs.

"It's a huge win for our team and our organization," Smith said postgame. "It's a huge win, it's the biggest win in the Brigade's short history."

Just nine months since the announcement of the franchise, the Baltimore Brigade close the books on their first-ever regular season, and set their sights on history – becoming the third expansion team to win the ArenaBowl in its inaugural season.



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## NOTES & QUOTES

### CARDEN'S ROOKIE CAMPAIGN:

Rookie **QB Shane Carden** wasted no time making a name for himself in the AFL. The former East Carolina Pirate became the first rookie since 2011 to throw for 3,000 yards. His 3,189 yards this season rank 16<sup>th</sup> on the all-time among rookie seasons. Carden threw for 357 yards against the Tampa Bay Storm in Week 5 and 359 yards in Week 11 against Cleveland, becoming the eighth rookie in AFL history to throw for 350+ yards in multiple games.

### GRAY SCORES 15 TOUCHDOWNS, BECOMES 15<sup>TH</sup> WITH 15-HUNDRED POINTS:

**WR Reggie Gray** led the Brigade with 69 receptions and 15 touchdowns – and ranked second with 670 receiving yards. His 90 points scored this season ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the league and made him with 15<sup>th</sup> player in league history to eclipse 1,500 career points. A three-touchdown performance in the Week 18 vaulted him over AFL great Cory Fleming into 12<sup>th</sup> place on the all-time receiving touchdowns list.

### JULIAN TALLIES LEAGUE-BEST BIG PLAY AVERAGE:

Despite an injury-riddled season that held him to just 10 games, **WR Julian Talley** still led the Brigade with 712 receiving yards. His 16.6 yards per reception led the AFL by a yard and a half per catch and made him the first AFL wideout to average more than 16 yards per reception since 2014 (Khalil Paden).

### GETTING AFTER THE PASSER:

The Brigade tied for second in the AFL with 22 total sacks this season, led by a trio of defensive linemen – **Khreem Smith, Robert Hayes** and **Dexter Davis**. Smith ranked third in the league with nine sacks, registering at least one in seven of his nine appearances this season and now ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> on the AFL's all-time sack list. Hayes and Davis each registered a three-sack game, one short of the league's single game high this season.

### SONIE ENTERTAINMENT:

**DB Varmah Sonie** was one of the AFL's most exciting defensive players this season, ranking third in the league in total tackles with 72.5 and registering at least five-or-more tackles in nine of 11 appearances this season. His four interceptions tied for fifth in the league. Sonie finished the season strong, recording season highs in both total tackles (10) and interceptions (2) – as well as scoring his second career touchdown on an interception return in the second quarter.

### EXPANDING BOUNDARIES:

The Brigade become the first expansion franchise to make the playoffs in their inaugural season since the Portland Thunder in 2014 and will look to become the first expansion franchise to win a playoff game since the Spokane Shock in 2010. Spokane was also one of three expansion teams to win an ArenaBowl in their first season. Expansion franchises are 10-22 all-time in the playoffs, including going 4-14 on the road. The last expansion team to win a road game in the playoffs was the 2001 Chicago Rush (at Orlando, 41-26).

### BIG PLAY-OFF REGGIE GRAY:

**WR Reggie Gray** leads all active AFL wideouts in a number of playoff-specific statistical categories. His 79 playoff receptions rank first by 20 catches over Philadelphia's Shaun Kauleinamoku, his 920 playoff receiving yards top Kauleinamoku's 765 and his 23 playoff receiving touchdowns are tied with Joe Hills for the top spot.



## BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



### QUOTABLE:

"I am happy to get our first win, I am happy for our players."

– *Brigade Head Coach Omarr Smith after the team's 52-49 win over Cleveland*

"We are really excited about his performance. He is an impactful player and his play on the field went a long way for us in terms of winning that ball game. We have high expectations for Dexter and we know we can expect performances like this going forward."

– *Brigade Head Coach Omarr Smith after DE Dexter Davis won Arena Football League Defensive Player of the Week in Week 2*

"It was a great atmosphere."

– *Brigade QB Shane Carden's after Baltimore's first-ever home game*

"That's an arena football game at its finest. The game is always going to come down to the last possession most likely. I'm really glad that we were able to get a win, at home, for the city of Baltimore."

– *Brigade Head Coach Omarr Smith after a 63-60 win over Cleveland in Week 8*

"We just try to come out and get better each week. We made the correct adjustments to come out and win a hard-fought game."

– *Brigade Head Coach Omarr Smith after 51-41 win over Washington*

"It's a huge win for our team and our organization. It's a huge win, it's the biggest win in the Brigade's short history."

– *Brigade Head Coach Omarr Smith after the Brigade beat the previously undefeated Philadelphia Soul in Week 14*

"It's the home crowd. Just them having our backs every time we play in this building – it's electric. They get us going."

– *Brigade DB Varmah Sonie after Baltimore's Week 14 win over Philadelphia*



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## 2017 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall Record	Time	Attend
Apr 07, 2017	at Washington Valor	L <a href="#">38-51</a>	0-1-0	2:53	15579
Apr 16, 2017	at Cleveland Gladiators	W <a href="#">52-49</a>	1-1-0	2:47	5758
Apr 29, 2017	at Philadelphia Soul	L <a href="#">34-69</a>	1-2-0	2:46	11833
May 07, 2017	TAMPA BAY STORM	L <a href="#">55-62</a>	1-3-0	2:45	5915
May 13, 2017	at Philadelphia Soul	L <a href="#">56-61</a>	1-4-0	2:55	9857
May 27, 2017	CLEVELAND GLADIATORS	W <a href="#">63-60</a>	2-4-0	3:10	5190
Jun 3 2017	at Tampa Bay Storm	L <a href="#">35-47</a>	2-5-0	2:25	9880
Jun 16, 2017	at Cleveland Gladiators	L <a href="#">48-59</a>	2-6-0	2:45	10877
Jun 23, 2017	WASHINGTON VALOR	W <a href="#">51-41</a>	3-6-0	2:41	6095
Jul 08, 2017	PHILADELPHIA SOUL	W <a href="#">49-42</a>	4-6-0	3:01	5990
Jul 15, 2017	TAMPA BAY STORM	L <a href="#">56-69</a>	4-7-0	2:42	5153
Jul 22, 2017	at Washington Valor	L <a href="#">27-28</a>	4-8-0	2:50	10266
Jul 29, 2017	PHILADELPHIA SOUL	L <a href="#">21-70</a>	4-9-0	2:40	5327
Aug 04, 2017	WASHINGTON VALOR	L <a href="#">35-41</a>	4-10-0	2:36	6089

## SEASON STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	BAL	OPP
<b>SCORING</b>	620	749
Points Per Game	44.3	53.5
Points Off Turnovers	70	134
<b>FIRST DOWNS</b>	230	260
Rushing	25	38
Passing	178	185
Penalty	27	37
<b>RUSHING YARDAGE</b>	167	367
Yards gained rushing	185	390
Yards lost rushing	18	23
Rushing Attempts	82	102
Average Per Rush	2.0	3.6
Average Per Game	11.9	26.2
TDs Rushing	14	19
<b>PASSING YARDAGE</b>	3420	3291
Comp-Att-Int	304-483-18	286-444-10
Average Per Pass	7.1	7.4
Average Per Catch	11.2	11.5
Average Per Game	244.3	235.1
TDs Passing	69	81
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE</b>	3587	3658
Total Plays	585	568
Average Per Play	6.1	6.4
Average Per Game	256.2	261.3
<b>KICK RETURNS: #-Yards</b>	67-1077	62-1031
<b>FG RETURNS: #-Yards</b>	0-0	0-0
<b>INT RETURNS: #-Yards</b>	10-131	18-182
<b>KICK RETURN AVERAGE</b>	16.1	16.6



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



<b>FG RETURN AVERAGE</b>	0.0	0.0
<b>INT RETURN AVERAGE</b>	13.1	10.1
<b>FUMBLES-LOST</b>	22-13	14-10
<b>PENALTIES-Yards</b>	118-753	87-539
Average Per Game	53.8	38.5
<b>KICKOFFS-Yards</b>	89-4873	106-5829
Average Per Kick	54.8	55.0
Net kick average	41.5	43.4
<b>TIME OF POSSESSION/Game</b>	29:28	29:32
<b>3RD-DOWN Conversions</b>	34/88	48/89
3rd-Down Pct	39%	54%
<b>4TH-DOWN Conversions</b>	19/43	14/28
4th-Down Pct	44%	50%
<b>SACKS BY-Yards</b>	22-95	20-115
<b>MISC YARDS</b>	18	-19
<b>TOUCHDOWNS SCORED</b>	89	109
<b>FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS</b>	2-3	1-2
<b>ON-SIDE KICKS</b>	4-15	1-16
<b>RED-ZONE SCORES</b>	(41-54) 76%	(56-65) 86%
<b>RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS</b>	(39-54) 72%	(55-65) 85%
4-point drop-kick FGs	0-0	0-0
<b>PAT-ATTEMPTS</b>	(74-83) 89%	(88-106) 83%
2-point drop-kick PATs	0-0	0-0
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	39759	74050
Games/Avg Per Game	7/5680	7/10579
Neutral Site Games		0/0

<b>Score by quarters</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>Total</b>
Baltimore Brigade	83	208	166	163	620
Opponents	162	249	138	200	749

<b>RUSHING</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Gain</b>	<b>Loss</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Avg/G</b>
CARDEN, Shane	13	33	95	4	91	2.8	8	12	7.0
NIXON, Rory	14	33	52	5	47	1.4	6	9	3.4
COLLINS, Brandon	5	4	20	0	20	5.0	0	7	4.0
BOYD, Shane	7	3	11	1	10	3.3	0	8	1.4
GRAY, Reggie	10	2	2	0	2	1.0	0	2	0.2
TALLEY, Julian	10	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2	0.2
FANCE, Calvin	8	3	2	2	0	0.0	0	2	0.0
THOMPCKINS, Brandon	8	2	1	3	-2	-1.0	0	1	-0.2
WILLIAMS, L.	5	1	0	3	-3	-3.0	0	0	-0.6
Total.....	14	82	185	18	167	2.0	14	12	11.9
Opponents.....	14	102	390	23	367	3.6	19	36	26.2

<b>PASSING</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Cmp-Att-Int</b>	<b>Pct</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Avg/G</b>
CARDEN, Shane	13	109.1	271-423-15	64.1	3169	63	49	243.8
BOYD, Shane	7	91.2	31-53-2	58.5	353	6	27	50.4
CARTWRIGHT, C.	4	0.0	2-7-1	28.6	13	0	7	3.2
TEAM	11	39.6	0-0-0	0.0	-115	0	0	-10.5
Total.....	14	104.2	304-483-18	62.9	3420	69	49	244.3
Opponents.....	14	116.8	286-444-10	64.4	3291	81	47	235.1

<b>RECEIVING</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Avg/G</b>
GRAY, Reggie	10	69	670	9.7	15	32	67.0
THOMPCKINS, Brandon	8	50	623	12.5	9	45	77.9
BROWNING, Paul	12	45	479	10.6	8	42	39.9
TALLEY, Julian	10	43	712	16.6	14	45	71.2
WILLIAMS, Milton	5	23	244	10.6	7	36	48.8
COLLINS, Brandon	5	22	305	13.9	4	42	61.0



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



WILLIAMS, L.	5	19	130	6.8	5	14	26.0
NIXON, Rory	14	14	117	8.4	4	30	8.4
THOMPCKINS, K.	2	7	115	16.4	2	49	57.5
WILSON, Justin	1	4	52	13.0	0	31	52.0
JOSEPH, Ian	14	4	49	12.2	1	18	3.5
MADISON, Colin	5	4	39	9.8	0	17	7.8
Total.....	14	304	3535	11.6	69	49	252.5
Opponents.....	14	286	3386	11.8	81	47	241.9

## FG RETURNS No. Yards Avg TD Long

Total.....	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents.....	0	0	0.0	0	0

## INTERCEPTIONS No. Yards Avg TD Long

VICTORIAN, Josh	5	76	15.2	1	29
SONIE, Varmah	3	9	3.0	1	9
BLACK, Qumain	2	46	23.0	0	33
Total.....	10	131	13.1	2	33
Opponents.....	18	182	10.1	2	40

## KICK RETURNS No. Yards Avg TD Long

THOMPCKINS, Brandon	32	635	19.8	0	54
THOMPCKINS, K.	11	166	15.1	1	54
SONIE, Varmah	8	121	15.1	1	50
TALLEY, Julian	5	42	8.4	0	15
GRAY, Reggie	4	49	12.2	0	19
WILSON, Justin	3	39	13.0	0	17
WOLFE, Trey	1	10	10.0	0	10
TEAM	1	0	0.0	0	0
BROWNING, Paul	1	2	2.0	0	2
COLLINS, Brandon	1	12	12.0	0	12
VICTORIAN, Josh	0	1	0.0	0	1
Total.....	67	1077	16.1	2	54
Opponents.....	62	1031	16.6	3	58

## FUMBLE RETURNS No. Yards Avg TD Long

DAVIS, Dexter	1	44	44.0	1	44
WOLFE, Trey	1	0	0.0	1	0
FANCE, Calvin	1	1	1.0	0	1
BLACK, Qumain	0	15	0.0	0	15
Total.....	3	60	20.0	2	44
Opponents.....	5	98	19.6	4	46

SCORING	PATs								Points
	TD	FGs	Kick	Rush	Rcv	Pass	2PT	Saf	
GRAY, Reggie	15	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	90
TALLEY, Julian	14	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	84
CLARKE, Pat	0	2-3	74-83	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	80
NIXON, Rory	10	0-0	0-0	1-1	0	0-0	0	0	62
THOMPCKINS, Brandon	9	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	54
CARDEN, Shane	8	0-0	0-0	1-1	0	0-3	0	0	50
BROWNING, Paul	8	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	48
WILLIAMS, Milton	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	42
WILLIAMS, L.	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	30
COLLINS, Brandon	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	24
THOMPCKINS, K.	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	18
SONIE, Varmah	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	12
JOSEPH, Ian	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
VICTORIAN, Josh	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
WOLFE, Trey	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
DAVIS, Dexter	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
CARTWRIGHT, C.	0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0	0-0	0	0	2
Total.....	89	2-3	74-83	3-3	0	0-3	0	0	620
Opponents.....	109	1-2	88-106	0-0	2	2-3	0	0	749





# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



TOTAL OFFENSE	GP	Plays	Rush	Pass	Total	Avg/G
CARDEN, Shane	13	456	91	3169	3260	250.8
BOYD, Shane	7	56	10	353	363	51.9
NIXON, Rory	14	33	47	0	47	3.4
COLLINS, Brandon	5	4	20	0	20	4.0
CARTWRIGHT, C.	4	7	0	13	13	3.2
TALLEY, Julian	10	1	2	0	2	0.2
GRAY, Reggie	10	2	2	0	2	0.2
THOMPSON, Brandon	8	2	-2	0	-2	-0.2
WILLIAMS, L.	5	1	-3	0	-3	-0.6
TEAM	11	0	0	-115	-115	-10.5
Total.....	14	565	167	3420	3587	256.2
Opponents.....	14	546	367	3291	3658	261.3

FIELD GOALS	Made-Att	Pct	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	Long	Blkd
CLARKE, Pat	2-3	66.7	0-0	2-2	0-0	0-0	0-1	21	0

KICKOFFS	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB	Retn	Net	YdLn
CLARKE, Pat	89	4873	54.8	29	0			
Total.....	89	4873	54.8	29	0	16.6	41.5	8
Opponents.....	106	5829	55.0	31	9	16.1	43.4	6

2-POINT DK PATS: None. 4-POINT DK FGS: None.

ALL PURPOSE	GP	Rush	Rcv	FG	KR	IR	Total	Avg/G
THOMPSON, Brandon	8	-2	623	0	635	0	1256	157.0
TALLEY, Julian	10	2	712	0	42	0	756	75.6
GRAY, Reggie	10	2	670	0	49	0	721	72.1
BROWNING, Paul	12	0	479	0	2	0	481	40.1
COLLINS, Brandon	5	20	305	0	12	0	337	67.4
THOMPSON, K.	2	0	115	0	166	0	281	140.5
WILLIAMS, Milton	5	0	244	0	0	0	244	48.8
NIXON, Rory	14	47	117	0	0	0	164	11.7
SONIE, Varmah	12	0	0	0	121	9	130	10.8
WILLIAMS, L.	5	-3	130	0	0	0	127	25.4
WILSON, Justin	1	0	52	0	39	0	91	91.0
CARDEN, Shane	13	91	0	0	0	0	91	7.0
VICTORIAN, Josh	14	0	0	0	1	76	77	5.5
JOSEPH, Ian	14	0	49	0	0	0	49	3.5
BLACK, Qumain	9	0	0	0	0	46	46	5.1
MADISON, Colin	5	0	39	0	0	0	39	7.8
BOYD, Shane	7	10	0	0	0	0	10	1.4
WOLFE, Trey	9	0	0	0	10	0	10	1.1
Total.....	14	167	3535	0	1077	131	4910	350.7
Opponents.....	14	367	3386	0	1031	182	4966	354.7



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## DEFENSIVE STATS

DEFENSIVE LEADERS	GP	Tackles			TFL-Yds	Sacks No-Yds	Pass Defense			Qbh	Fumbles		Blkd	
		Solo	Ast	Total			Int-Yds	BU	PD		Rcv-Yds	FF	Kick	Saf
10 SONIE, Varmah	12	70	5	72.5	1.0 - 6	.	3 - 9	19	22	.	.	.	.	.
7 VICTORIAN, Josh	14	53	2	54.0	2.0 - 3	.	5 - 76	13	18	.	.	.	.	.
5 BLACK, Qumain	9	36	8	40.0	.	.	2 - 46	4	6	.	1 - 15	1	.	.
99 HAYES, Robert	14	34	3	35.5	11.0 - 37	8.0 - 31	.	2	2	5	1 - 0	1	.	.
3 WOLFE, Trey	9	32	5	34.5	.	.	.	3	3	1	2 - 0	.	.	.
92 FANCE, Calvin	8	21	3	22.5	.	.	.	2	2	.	1 - 1	.	.	.
11 DAVIS, Dexter	9	21	2	22.0	4.0 - 13	4.0 - 12	.	.	.	2	3 - 44	3	1	.
58 SMITH, Khreem	13	18	4	20.0	9.0 - 47	9.0 - 47	.	1	1	6	.	2	.	.
2 STEPHENS, B.	4	13	1	13.5	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.
8 OBI, KC	6	12	3	13.5	.	.	.	2	2	1	.	.	.	.
19 BROWNING, Paul	12	12	2	13.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	1 - 0	.	.	.
56 JOHNSON, D.	6	5	8	9.0	1.0 - 5	1.5 - 5	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
4 WILLIAMS, L.	5	6	4	8.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
4 MORTON, KJ	4	6	4	8.0	.	.	.	3	3	.	.	.	.	.
15 WILSON, Justin	1	5	1	5.5	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.
81 TALLEY, Julian	10	3	4	5.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
14 THOMPkins, Brandon	8	4	.	4.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
40 MCDANIEL, Antho	4	3	1	3.5	2.0 - 4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15 THOMPkins, K.	2	3	.	3.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
77 JOSEPH, Ian	14	3	.	3.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
67 TAYLOR, Terrance	6	2	1	2.5	.	0.5 - 0	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.
98 POLE, K.	6	2	.	2.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1 GRAY, Reggie	10	2	.	2.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
63 CLARKE, Ben	12	2	.	2.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
17 COLLINS, Brandon	5	2	.	2.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
84 WILLIAMS, Milton	5	1	1	1.5	.	.	.	.	.	.	1 - 0	.	.	.
11 BROWN, Arkeith	1	1	1	1.5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
70 MADISON, Colin	5	1	.	1.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6 CARDEN, Shane	13	1	.	1.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
23 NIXON, Rory	14	1	.	1.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
45 CLARKE, Pat	14	1	.	1.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total.....	14	376	63	407.5	30 - 115	22 - 95	10 - 131	52	62	16	10 - 60	8	1	.
Opponents.....	14	387	80	427.0	26 - 134	20 - 115	18 - 182	46	64	29	13 - 98	14	.	.



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Rushes	7	NIXON, Rory at Philadelphia Soul (May 13, 2017)
Yards Rushing	25	CARDEN, Shane vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
TD Rushes	2	CARDEN, Shane at Washington Valor (Apr 07, 2017) CARDEN, Shane at Philadelphia Soul (May 13, 2017)
Long Rush	12	CARDEN, Shane vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
Pass attempts	44	CARDEN, Shane vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
Pass completions	30	CARDEN, Shane vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
Yards Passing	359	CARDEN, Shane at Cleveland Gladiators (Jun 16, 2017)
TD Passes	7	CARDEN, Shane at Cleveland Gladiators (Jun 16, 2017)
Long Pass	49	CARDEN, Shane at Philadelphia Soul (May 13, 2017)
Receptions	12	GRAY, Reggie at Washington Valor (Apr 07, 2017) BROWNING, Paul vs Tampa Bay Storm (May 07, 2017)
Yards Receiving	149	TALLEY, Julian vs Tampa Bay Storm (May 07, 2017)
TD Receptions	4	GRAY, Reggie vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
Long Reception	49	THOMPCKINS, K. at Philadelphia Soul (May 13, 2017)
Field Goals	1	CLARKE, Pat at Cleveland Gladiators (Apr 16, 2017) CLARKE, Pat vs Washington Valor (Jun 23, 2017)
Long Field Goal	21	CLARKE, Pat vs Washington Valor (Jun 23, 2017)
Long Kickoff Return	54	THOMPCKINS, K. vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017) THOMPCKINS, Brandon vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 08, 2017)
Tackles	10.0	SONIE, Varmah vs Washington Valor (Aug 04, 2017)
Sacks	3.0	DAVIS, Dexter at Cleveland Gladiators (Apr 16, 2017) HAYES, Robert at Washington Valor (Jul 22, 2017)
Tackles For Loss	4.0	HAYES, Robert at Washington Valor (Jul 22, 2017)
Interceptions	2	SONIE, Varmah vs Washington Valor (Aug 04, 2017)

## TEAM GAME HIGHS

Rushes	10	at Philadelphia Soul (May 13, 2017) vs Washington Valor (Jun 23, 2017)
Yards Rushing	35	vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
Yards Per Rush	5.0	vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
TD Rushes	2	at Washington Valor (Apr 07, 2017) at Philadelphia Soul (May 13, 2017) vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017) vs Washington Valor (Jun 23, 2017) vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 08, 2017) vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
Pass attempts	44	vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
Pass completions	30	vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
Yards Passing	350	at Cleveland Gladiators (Jun 16, 2017)
Yards Per Pass	9.9	vs Tampa Bay Storm (May 07, 2017)
TD Passes	7	at Cleveland Gladiators (Jun 16, 2017)
Total Plays	51	vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
Total Offense	353	vs Tampa Bay Storm (May 07, 2017)
Yards Per Play	9.5	at Cleveland Gladiators (Jun 16, 2017)



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



Points	63	vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017)
Sacks By	5	at Cleveland Gladiators (Apr 16, 2017)
		at Washington Valor (Jul 22, 2017)
First Downs	24	vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
Penalties	18	vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017)
Penalty Yards	117	vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017)
Turnovers	5	at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 29, 2017)
Interceptions By	2	vs Washington Valor (Aug 04, 2017)

## OPPONENT INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Rushes	12	BENSON, Mykell, vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 29, 2017)
Yards Rushing	44	BENSON, Mykell, vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 29, 2017)
TD Rushes	3	BENSON, Mykell, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 29, 2017)
		BENSON, Mykell, vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 29, 2017)
Long Rush	36	CORBIN, Will, vs Washington Valor (Jun 23, 2017)
Pass attempts	41	HIPPEARD, Randy, at Tampa Bay Storm (Jun 3 2017)
Pass completions	31	HIPPEARD, Randy, vs Tampa Bay Storm (May 07, 2017)
Yards Passing	310	NELSON, Arvell, vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017)
TD Passes	8	HIPPEARD, Randy, vs Tampa Bay Storm (May 07, 2017)
		RAUDABAUGH, Dan, at Philadelphia Soul (May 13, 2017)
Long Pass	47	NELSON, Arvell, vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017)
		RAUDABAUGH, Dan, vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 08, 2017)
Receptions	13	HILLS, Joe, vs Tampa Bay Storm (May 07, 2017)
Yards Receiving	188	SIMS, Quentin, vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017)
TD Receptions	5	MCDANIEL, Ryan, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 29, 2017)
		SIMS, Quentin, vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017)
Long Reception	47	SIMS, Quentin, vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017)
		REYNOLDS, Dariu, vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 08, 2017)
Field Goals	1	STEVENS, TC, at Washington Valor (Apr 07, 2017)
Long Field Goal	27	STEVENS, TC, at Washington Valor (Apr 07, 2017)
Long Kickoff Return	58	INGS, Kendrick, vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
Tackles	11.0	STEPHENS, Paul, vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
Sacks	2.0	GORDON, James, at Washington Valor (Apr 07, 2017)
		BELL, Beau, vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 08, 2017)
		DANIELS, Sean, vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 29, 2017)
Tackles For Loss	2.0	BELL, Beau, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 29, 2017)
		BELL, Beau, vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 08, 2017)
		DANIELS, Sean, vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 29, 2017)
Interceptions	2	BELTON, Tracy, at Washington Valor (Apr 07, 2017)
		HOLLIS, Dwayne, at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 29, 2017)
		HOLLIS, Dwayne, vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 29, 2017)





# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## OPPONENT TEAM GAME HIGHS

Rushes	13	at Cleveland Gladiators (Jun 16, 2017)
Yards Rushing	50	vs Washington Valor (Jun 23, 2017)
Yards Per Rush	8.3	vs Washington Valor (Jun 23, 2017)
TD Rushes	3	at Washington Valor (Apr 07, 2017) at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 29, 2017) vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 29, 2017)
Pass attempts	42	at Cleveland Gladiators (Apr 16, 2017)
Pass completions	31	vs Tampa Bay Storm (May 07, 2017)
Yards Passing	305	vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017)
Yards Per Pass	10.2	vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
TD Passes	8	vs Tampa Bay Storm (May 07, 2017) at Philadelphia Soul (May 13, 2017)
Total Plays	47	at Cleveland Gladiators (Apr 16, 2017) at Tampa Bay Storm (Jun 3 2017)
Total Offense	324	vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017)
Yards Per Play	8.7	vs Tampa Bay Storm (Jul 15, 2017)
Points	70	vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 29, 2017)
Sacks By	4	at Washington Valor (Apr 07, 2017) at Philadelphia Soul (Apr 29, 2017)
First Downs	25	vs Tampa Bay Storm (May 07, 2017) vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017)
Penalties	12	vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017)
Penalty Yards	75	vs Cleveland Gladiators (May 27, 2017)
Turnovers	3	at Cleveland Gladiators (Apr 16, 2017) vs Philadelphia Soul (Jul 08, 2017) vs Washington Valor (Aug 04, 2017)
Interceptions By	3	at Cleveland Gladiators (Jun 16, 2017)



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## HEAD-TO-HEAD RECORDS

Team vs	BAL	CLE	PHI	TBS	WSH
Baltimore Brigade		<b>2-1</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>0-3</b>	<b>1-3</b>
		<b>-5</b>	<b>-82</b>	<b>-32</b>	<b>-13</b>
Cleveland Gladiators	<b>1-2</b>		<b>0-4</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>3-0</b>
	<b>+5</b>		<b>-61</b>	<b>-35</b>	<b>+72</b>
Philadelphia Soul	<b>3-1</b>	<b>4-0</b>		<b>3-0</b>	<b>3-0</b>
	<b>+82</b>	<b>+61</b>		<b>+38</b>	<b>+46</b>
Tampa Bay Storm	<b>3-0</b>	<b>3-1</b>	<b>0-3</b>		<b>4-0</b>
	<b>+32</b>	<b>+35</b>	<b>-38</b>		<b>+19</b>
Washington Valor	<b>3-1</b>	<b>0-3</b>	<b>0-3</b>	<b>0-4</b>	
	<b>+13</b>	<b>-72</b>	<b>-46</b>	<b>-19</b>	



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## NUMERICAL ROSTER

#	POS	NAME	HT	WT	DOB	EXP	COLLEGE
1	WR	Reggie Gray	5-10	185	4/29/84	7	Western Illinois
4	DB	K.J. Morton	5-10	190	6/21/90	1	Baylor
5	DB	Qumain Black	5-11	190	5/28/92	1	East Central Oklahoma
7	DB	Josh Victorian	5-10	190	7/10/88	2	Louisiana Tech
8	QB	Shane Boyd	6-1	230	9/18/82	7	Kentucky
9	QB	J.J. Raterink	6-2	205	8/4/81	6	Wyoming
10	DB	Varmah Sonie	5-9	180	7/8/90	3	Northern Iowa
11	DB	Arkeith Brown	6-0	200	5/1/86	5	Texas A&M
14	WR	Brandon Thompkins	5-10	195	10/9/87	6	Arkansas State
17	WR	Brandon Collins	6-0	180	4/21/89	2	Texas
19	WR	Paul Browning	6-3	220	8/5/92	1	Colorado State Pueblo
23	FB	Rory Nixon	6-1	305	9/10/91	3	St. Augustine
40	DL	Anthony McDaniel	6-1	275	6/9/92	R	Bowie State
45	K	Pat Clarke	6-3	210	10/22/91	R	Buffalo
55	OL	Kody Afusia	6-3	315	8/11/92	2	Hawaii
56	DL	Derrell Johnson	6-2	260	3/27/90	R	East Carolina
58	DL	Khreem Smith	6-4	265	7/7/79	2	Oklahoma State
63	OL	Ben Clarke	6-3	315	1/22/93	R	Hawaii
70	OL	Colin Madison	6-4	330	6/13/89	6	Temple
74	OL	Antoine McClain	6-5	325	2/6/89	R	Clemson
77	OL	Ian Joseph	6-6	320	8/17/92	1	UC Davis
84	WR	Milton Williams	6-3	215	3/7/94	R	Delaware State
92	DL	Calvin Fance	6-1	255	10/3/87	4	Angelo State
99	DL	Robert Hayes	6-2	270	3/13/92	2	Shepherd

## ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

#	POS	NAME	HT	WT	DOB	EXP	COLLEGE
55	OL	Kody Afusia	6-3	315	8/11/92	2	Hawaii
5	DB	Qumain Black	5-11	190	5/28/92	1	East Central Oklahoma
8	QB	Shane Boyd	6-1	230	9/18/82	7	Kentucky
11	DB	Arkeith Brown	6-0	200	5/1/86	5	Texas A&M
19	WR	Paul Browning	6-3	220	8/5/92	1	Colorado State Pueblo
63	OL	Ben Clarke	6-3	315	1/22/93	R	Hawaii
45	K	Pat Clarke	6-3	210	10/22/91	R	Buffalo
17	WR	Brandon Collins	6-0	180	4/21/89	2	Texas
92	DL	Calvin Fance	6-1	255	10/3/87	4	Angelo State
1	WR	Reggie Gray	5-10	185	4/29/84	7	Western Illinois
99	DL	Robert Hayes	6-2	270	3/13/92	2	Shepherd
56	DL	Derrell Johnson	6-2	260	3/27/90	R	East Carolina
77	OL	Ian Joseph	6-6	320	8/17/92	1	UC Davis
70	OL	Colin Madison	6-4	330	6/13/89	5	Temple
74	OL	Antoine McClain	6-5	325	2/6/89	R	Clemson
40	DL	Anthony McDaniel	6-1	275	6/9/92	R	Bowie State
4	DB	K.J. Morton	5-10	190	6/21/90	1	Baylor
23	FB	Rory Nixon	6-1	305	9/10/91	3	St. Augustine
9	QB	J.J. Raterink	6-2	205	8/4/81	6	Wyoming
10	DB	Varmah Sonie	5-9	180	7/8/90	3	Northern Iowa
58	DL	Khreem Smith	6-4	265	7/7/79	2	Oklahoma State
14	WR	Brandon Thompkins	5-10	195	10/9/87	6	Arkansas State
7	DB	Josh Victorian	5-10	190	7/10/88	2	Louisiana Tech
84	WR	Milton Williams	6-3	215	3/7/94	R	Delaware State



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## FULL-SEASON ROSTER

##	Player	gp/gs	wsh	cle	phi	tbs	phi	cle	tbs	cle	wsh	phi	tbs	wsh	phi	wsh
55	AFUSIA, Kody	14/14	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
5	BLACK, Qumain	9/9	...	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	...	...	...	START	START	...
9	BOYD, Shane	7/1	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START
11	BROWN, Arkeith	1/1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	START
19	BROWNING, Paul	12/11	START	START	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	...	START	...	START
6	CARDEN, Shane	13/12	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	...
9	CARTWRIGHT, C.	4/1	START	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
63	CLARKE, Ben	12/12	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	...	...	START	START
45	CLARKE, Pat	14/-	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
17	COLLINS, B.	5/2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	START	XXX	...	XXX	START
74	DANIELS, Jace	1/-	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	DAVIS, Dexter	9/6	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	...	...	START	START	START	START	START	...	START	...
92	FANCE, Calvin	8/2	...	...	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	...	START	START	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX
1	GRAY, Reggie	10/10	START	START	START	...	...	...	...	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
99	HAYES, Robert	14/14	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
56	JOHNSON, D.	6/4	...	...	...	START	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	START	START	START
26	JONES, Keiron	1/1	...	...	...	...	START	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
77	JOSEPH, Ian	14/11	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	XXX	START	START	XXX	XXX
70	MADISON, Colin	5/5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	START	START	START	START	START
74	McCLAIN, A.	2/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	...	...
40	MCDANIEL, Antho	4/3	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	START	...	...	...	START	START
4	MORTON, KJ	4/4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	START	START	START	START
23	NIXON, Rory	14/14	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
8	OBI, KC	6/6	START	START	START	...	START	START	START	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
98	POLE, K.	6/5	START	START	START	START	START	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
58	SMITH, Khreem	13/13	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	...	START
54	SOMSEL, Jesse	5/-	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...
10	SONIE, Varmah	12/10	START	START	START	XXX	...	...	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
2	STEPHENS, B.	4/4	START	...	START	START	...	START	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
81	TALLEY, Julian	10/8	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	...	...	...	START	...
67	TAYLOR, T.	6/6	...	...	...	...	...	START	START	START	...	START	START	START	...	...
14	THOMPSON, B.	8/4	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	START	XXX
15	THOMPSON, K.	2/1	...	...	...	...	XXX	START	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	VICTORIAN, J.	14/14	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
4	WILLIAMS, L.	5/5	START	START	START	START	START	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
84	WILLIAMS, M.	5/2	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	START	...	...	XXX	START	XXX	...	...
15	WILSON, Justin	1/-	...	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	WOLFE, Trey	9/9	START	START	...	START	START	START	START	...	START	START	START	...	...	...





# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## TRANSACTIONS

DATE	TRANSACTION	POSITION	PLAYER
April 12	Placing on league suspension	DL	Kamal Johnson
April 27	Have been assigned	OL	Jesse Somsel
April 27	Placing on inactive reserve	OL	Jace Daniels
May 5	Have been assigned	WR	Justin Wilson
May 5	Placing on injured reserve	WR	Reggie Gray
May 8	Activating from inactive reserve	OL	Jace Daniels
May 8	Placing on recallable reassignment	WR	Justin Wilson
May 8	Placing on reassignment	OL	Leon Brown
May 11	Have been assigned	OL	Leon Brown
May 11	Have been assigned	DB	Keiron Jones
May 11	Have been assigned	WR	Kendal Thompkins
May 11	Placing on league suspension	OL	Jace Daniels
May 11	Placing on injured reserve	LB	Derrell Johnson
May 11	Placing on inactive reserve	DB	Brandon Stephens
May 17	Placing on recallable reassignment	DB	Keiron Jones
May 17	Have been assigned	OL	Antoine McClain
May 18	Placing on refuse to report	OL	Antoine McClain
May 18	Activating from recallable reassignment	DB	Keiron Jones
May 22	Traded to Cleveland		Future Considerations, Claim Order Position #1
May 22	Traded from Cleveland	QB WR	Shane Boyd Brandon Thompkins
May 22	Placing on league suspension	QB	Chase Cartwright
May 22	Placing on reassignment	DB	Keiron Jones
May 23	Placing on refuse to report	WR	Brandon Thompkins
May 23	Placing on reassignment	DL	Justin Taimatuia
May 25	Have been assigned	DL	Anthony McDaniel
May 25	Have been assigned	DL	Terrance Taylor
May 25	Have been assigned	WR	Milton Williams
May 25	Activating from inactive reserve	DB	Brandon Stephens
May 25	Placing on injured reserve	WR	Laquan Williams
May 25	Placing on recallable reassignment	OL	Leon Brown
May 25	Placing on recallable reassignment	DL	Kalafitoni Pole
May 30	Placing on reassignment as a free agent	OL	Kamal Johnson
June 1	Activating from refuse to report	WR	Brandon Thompkins
June 1	Placing on recallable reassignment	WR	Kendal Thompkins
June 5	Have been assigned	OL	Leon Brown
June 5	Placing on inactive reserve	DB	Trey Wolfe
June 7	Traded to Cleveland	DL	K.C. Obi
June 7	Traded from Cleveland		Completing future considerations
June 8	Traded to Cleveland	DB	Brandon Stephens
June 8	Traded from Cleveland		Claim order position #1
June 8	Placing on other league exempt	DB	Travis Hawkins
June 12	Have been assigned	DB	Jocquel Skinner
June 14	Have been assigned	DB	K.J. Morton
June 14	Activating from inactive reserve	DB	Trey Wolfe
June 14	Placing on inactive reserve	OL	Leon Brown
June 15	Re-activating from injured reserve	WR	Reggie Gray
June 15	Placing on recallable reassignment	DB	Jocquel Skinner
June 20	Have been assigned	OL	Tayo Fabuluje
June 20	Placing on recallable reassignment	DL	Calvin Fance
June 21	Have been assigned	WR	Brandon Collins
June 21	Activating from recallable reassignment	DL	Calvin Fance
June 21	Activating from other league exempt	OL	Antoine McClain
June 21	Placing on injured reserve	DB	Qumain Black
June 21	Placing on refuse to report	OL	Tayo Fabuluje



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



June 21	Placing on refuse to report	OL	Antoine McClain
June 23	Placing on reassignment	OL	Leon Brown
July 6	Have been assigned	OL	Colin Madison
July 6	Traded to Tampa Bay	OL	Jesse Somsel
July 6	Traded from Tampa Bay		Completing future trade considerations (2/24/17)
July 7	Reactivating from injured reserve	DL	Derrell Johnson
July 7	Activating from refuse to report	OL	Antoine McClain
July 7	Placing on injured reserve	WR	Julian Talley
July 7	Placing on reassignment	DL	Anthony McDaniel
July 13	Placing on reassignment	QB	Warren Smith
July 21	Activating from injured reserve	DB	Qumain Black
July 21	Placing on inactive reserve	OL	Ben Clarke
July 27	Have been assigned	DL	Anthony McDaniel
July 27	Placing on recallable reassignment	DB	Trey Wolfe
July 28	Reactivating from injured reserve	WR	Julian Talley
July 28	Activating from inactive reserve	OL	Ben Clarke
July 28	Placing on inactive reserve	DL	Terrance Taylor
July 28	Placing on injured reserve	DB	Trey Wolfe
July 28	Placing on league suspension	DL	Khreem Smith
August 2	Have been assigned	DB	Arkeith Brown
August 2	Have been assigned	QB	JJ Raterink
August 2	Activating from league suspension	DL	Khreem Smith
August 2	Placing on injured reserve	QB	Shane Carden
August 2	Placing on injured reserve	DL	Dexter Davis
August 2	Placing on injured reserve	WR	Julian Talley



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## GAME RECAPS

### WEEK 1:

#### VALOR CAPTURE SEASON-OPENING WIN OVER BRIGADE 51-38

*Washington Hold on to Lead Despite Comeback from Rookie-Led Brigade*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — in franchise debuts for both organizations, the Washington Valor withstood a Baltimore comeback led by Brigade rookie quarterback Shane Carden to capture a 51-38 win over their beltway rival. The Valor opened the game on a 27-0 run, highlighted by the quarterback-wide receiver duo of Erik Meyer and Mike Washington, who connected for three touchdowns through the air.

"It was an exciting game," Meyer said. "The crowd was live. I think they said about 15,000 people, so it was loud in there. They were just as much a part of that win as we were, so it was awesome to be in front of the home crowd- live, loud, it was an exciting win."

Meyer wasted no time getting the Valor on the board early in the first quarter. A 34-yard pass to Washington marked the first scoring play of the 2017 season and gave the Valor a 7-0 lead just over two minutes into the contest. Washington extended their lead to 14 when James Gordon punched in a two-yard run for the team's second score of the night. The Valor closed out a strong first quarter as Meyer found Washington yet again, this time for eight yards. Meyer led the Valor to a 20-0 lead and finished the opening frame 7-8 for 67 yards and two touchdowns.

The Valor carried their momentum into the second quarter, turning a Tracy Belton interception into another touchdown – the third connection of the night between Meyer and Washington, giving the Valor a 27-0 lead with just over 10 minutes remaining in the first half. Rookie quarterback and former East Carolina Pirate Shane Carden entered the game for the Brigade, replacing Chase Cartwright. On his first AFL possession, Carden found veteran wide receiver Reggie Gray for a 27-yard touchdown, cutting the Valor lead to 27-6. Antoine "TT" Toliver answered for the Valor, taking a reverse for a three-yard touchdown and giving Washington a 34-6 lead going into halftime.

Less than a minute into the third quarter, Carden found former Maryland Terrapin and Baltimore Raven Laquan Williams for an 11-yard touchdown to cut the lead to 34-13. Carden proved to be a threat on the ground as well, notching his first of two rushing touchdowns with 8:07 to play in the third quarter, cutting the Valor lead to 34-20. Washington extended their lead to 37-20 with a 27-yard field goal with just under three minutes to play in the third quarter.

The Brigade's comeback continued when Dexter Davis recovered and returned a Valor fumble 44 yards for a touchdown, bringing the score to 37-26, Washington. Toliver hauled in his second touchdown of the night, a 20-yarder from Meyer with 6:03 remaining in the game to give the Valor a 44-26 cushion. Carden tallied his second rushing touchdown of the night with 40 seconds remaining, which was quickly answered by a Bernard Morris seven-yard touchdown for the Valor, extending their lead to 51-32. Williams hauled in his second touchdown of the night with seven seconds remaining to set the 51-38 final score.

The Valor have their first bye week of the season next week, but return to action on Sat., April 22, hosting the Philadelphia Soul at 7 p.m. at the Verizon Center. The Brigade travel to Cleveland next weekend to take on the Gladiators on Sat., April 15 at 7 p.m.

### WEEK 2:

#### BRIGADE EARNS FIRST WIN AGAINST GLADIATORS

*Shane Carden Throws for Six Touchdowns in 52-49 Victory*

**Cleveland, OH** — The Baltimore Brigade won their first game 52-49 against the Cleveland Gladiators. **QB Shane Carden** completed 20-of-31 passes for 159 yards and six touchdowns. **WR Reggie Gray** caught 10 passes for 92 yards and three touchdowns, including a 21-yard score. **DL Dexter Davis** made his presence known defensively, registering three sacks for a loss of 11 yards, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery.

"I am happy to get our first win, I am happy for our players," said Head Coach **Omarr Smith**. "We made it hard on ourselves, made a few mistakes that we were lucky to rebound from but we have to do better."

Baltimore jumped out to a 21-7 lead before Cleveland tied the game at 21 in the third quarter. Both teams traded scores until the fourth quarter when **DB Varmah Sonie** scored on a 50-yard kick return. Carden followed with a touchdown pass to **WR LaQuan Williams** to give the Brigade a 49-35 lead.

"Shane played well for his first start," said Smith. "He made some good throws, had some good decisions."

Gray, who battled flu-like symptoms all week, was named the game's MVP.

"There was a good chance that he wasn't going to play," added Smith. "He made plays when we needed to, he showed courage and determination all weekend."



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## WEEK 4:

### BALTIMORE BRIGADE LOSE TO DEFENDING CHAMPION SOUL *WR Julian Talley Led Receiving Corps with 123 Yards*

**Philadelphia, PA** —The Baltimore Brigade (1-2) lost to the defending champion Philadelphia Soul (3-0) 69-34. The Soul's 21-0 lead in the first quarter proved too great for Baltimore to overcome. In the opening quarter, the Soul found multiple ways to score, including a rushing touchdown from FB Mykel Benson and a 15-yard pass from QB Dan Raudabaugh to WR Ryan McDaniel. This was the first of five touchdowns for McDaniel who was named the game's MVP.

At the start of the second quarter, WR LaQuan Williams found the end zone following a 14-yard pass from QB Shane Carden. The teams traded touchdowns with Brigade WR Julian Talley adding a 34-yard touchdown and FB Rory Nixon scoring on a four-yard pass, bringing the score to 35-21 at the end of the first half. Carden was 6 for 7 for 88 yards and threw for three touchdowns in the second quarter while the Brigade defense kept the pressure, limiting the Soul to 14 points.

The second half started with Philadelphia's McDaniel catching another touchdown pass from Raudabaugh. Baltimore's Talley pulled in his second touchdown of the night while McDaniel closed out the third quarter with an eight-yard pass, giving the Soul a 48-28 advantage over Baltimore.

Things didn't get better in the fourth quarter for the Brigade. Philadelphia scored a pair of touchdowns and DB Dwayne Hollis intercepted the ball for a 40-yard touchdown return. Baltimore WR Paul Browning scored the final touchdown of the game. As a team, Baltimore's defense recorded 23 tackles and six pass breakups.

"I am disappointed in our execution," said Head Coach Omarr Smith. "We still have a lot of work to do and will use this week to continue to improve as we get ready for our home opener."

The Brigade's home opener will take place on May 7 when the Tampa Bay Storm come to Baltimore on May 7. Kickoff is at 1:00 pm at Royal Farms Arena.

**KEY STAT:** WR Ryan McDaniel recorded eight receptions for 123 yards and five touchdowns.

**KEY MOMENT:** Once the Soul opened the game with a 21-0 lead to start the game, Baltimore spent the night playing catch up against the experienced defending champions.

## WEEK 5:

### LATE TOUCHDOWN LIFTS STORM OVER BRIGADE *Carden throws for six touchdowns in Baltimore's home debut*

**BALTIMORE, MD.** — The Baltimore Brigade (1-3) fell, 62-55, to the Tampa Bay Storm (3-1) Sunday afternoon at Royal Farms Arena in what was the team's first-ever home game. Despite a comeback-leading, six-touchdown performance from Brigade rookie QB Shane Carden, the Storm took the win on a tie-breaking touchdown with just five seconds remaining.

"We really wanted to get that win," Carden said. "It was a great atmosphere – we hope to get a ton of these people back next time out."

Tampa Bay QB Randy Hippeard, the game's MVP completed 31/40 passes for 285 yards and eight touchdowns. Carden finished with six touchdowns, the most by an AFL rookie since 2015, on his way to Offensive Player of the Game honors. Carden also tallied 355 passing yards, the most by an AFL rookie since 2012. Baltimore WRs Paul Browning and Julian Talley combined for 17 receptions, 287 yards and six touchdowns.

The Storm got on the board first with 12:57 remaining in the first quarter, when Hippeard, who entered Week 5 leading the AFL in nearly all major passing categories, found WR Joe Hills for a 15-yard touchdown to give Tampa Bay a 7-0 lead. The Brigade answered on their next drive when FB Rory Nixon powered his way into the endzone on a one-yard rush. After a missed PAT, Baltimore trailed 7-6 with 8:26 remaining in the opening frame.

Talley built on last week's 123-yard, two-touchdown performance with what was his best game of the season. Talley crossed the 100-yard threshold in the first half, including scores of six and 34 yards. However, four Hippeard passing touchdowns and a fumble recovered and returned 46 yards for a touchdown gave the Storm a 34-20 lead at halftime.

Two consecutive Brigade touchdowns to start the second half tied the game at 34 with 9:32 left in the third quarter. Hippeard's fifth touchdown of the day gave the Storm a one-score lead, though Baltimore answered just over a minute later when Carden found Julian Talley for a 45-yard, game-tying score with 2:29 left in the third quarter. Browning, however, sparked the Brigade offense in the second half, gathering all three of his touchdowns after halftime on his way to a 12-reception, 138-yard performance. His touchdown with 0:58 seconds remaining tied the game at 55, but Tampa Bay answered with just five seconds left in the game when Hippeard found Brown for both a three-yard touchdown to seal a 62-55 victory.





# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## WEEK 6:

### BRIGADE FALL 61-56 TO UNDEFEATED SOUL

*Talley stays hot as Baltimore comes up short in Philadelphia*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** — The Baltimore Brigade (1-4) dropped a 61-56 decision to the Philadelphia Soul (5-0) in a back-and-forth affair at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia on Saturday night.

Brigade QB Shane Carden threw five touchdowns while WR Julian Talley notched his third-straight game with at least 100 yards receiving and two touchdowns. The game's MVP, Soul QB Dan Raudabaugh finished with 268 yards passing and eight touchdowns.

Talley gathered a 14-yard touchdown pass from Carden on the Brigade's first possession of the game, marking the third consecutive game he has found the end zone. After taking a touchdown lead on their opening possession, DB Josh Victorian intercepted Soul QB Dan Raudabaugh and returned it 20 yards for the touchdown, giving the Brigade a 14-0 lead. The score marked the first interception of Victorian's season and the fourth defensive touchdown of his career. Baltimore led 14-0 after the first quarter, becoming the first team to shut out the Soul in a quarter since 2014.

With just over 11 minutes remaining in the second quarter, Carden scrambled and found newly-signed WR Kendal Thompson for 43-yard touchdown to give the Brigade a 21-7 lead. The Soul scored consecutive touchdowns to knot the game at 21 with just over three minutes remaining in the half. At no point past the 8:06 mark of the second quarter did either team hold a lead greater than one touchdown.

The teams traded scores into the fourth quarter, which was highlighted by a 49-yard strike from Carden to Thompson to give the Brigade a 49-42 lead with 7:33 remaining in the game. Trailing 56-55 with under a minute remaining, Soul DL Sean Daniels recovered and returned a Brigade fumble for a touchdown, giving Philadelphia a 61-56 lead that would stand as the final score.

## WEEK 8:

### BRIGADE USE LATE GOAL LINE STAND TO TOP GLADIATORS, 63-60

*Carden throws for six touchdowns as Baltimore notches first home win*

**BALTIMORE, MD.** — The Baltimore Brigade (2-4) earned their first win in Royal Farms Arena with a 63-60 victory over the Cleveland Gladiators (1-6) on Saturday night. A back-and-forth final quarter that featured six lead changes ended on a last-play goal line stand by the Brigade, sealing the win.

"That's an arena football game at its finest," said Brigade Head Coach Omarr Smith. "The game is always going to come down to the last possession most likely. I'm really glad that we were able to get a win, at home, for the city of Baltimore."

Cleveland took an early lead on their first possession of the game when QB Arvell Nelson found WR Quentin Sims for the first of his five touchdowns, a 15-yarder to put the Gladiators up 6-0. Just five minutes later, the Gladiators extended their lead when Sims found the end zone again, this time from seven yards out. In his first game for the Brigade, WR Milton Williams found the end zone early, putting Baltimore on the board with 1:55 remaining in the opening quarter. Sims notched his third score of the game with 13:10 left in the second quarter. The Gladiators' third missed extra point attempt of the game left the score at 18-7. The Brigade answered, however, as QB Shane Carden and WR Julian Talley connected on a 39-yard touchdown with just under 12 minutes remaining in the half. Talley entered the game with three straight 100-yard, two-touchdown outings. A Carden dive from the one-yard line brought the Brigade within four points, trailing 32-28, at halftime.

Early in the third quarter, Brigade FB Rory Nixon took a short pass and turned it into a 30-yard gain. Only a few plays later, Williams made a highlight reel catch as he managed to haul in Carden's pass for a touchdown while falling over the end zone wall, giving Baltimore their first lead of the game, 34-32. The lead would be short-lived, however, as the Gladiators answered with a 29-yard Quentin Sims touchdown, his fourth of the night.

The fourth quarter featured six lead changes, including Sims fifth touchdown of the night, a 47-yard catch and run that gave the Gladiators a 47-41 lead early in the quarter. Brigade WR Paul Browning answered with a long touchdown catch of his own, a 42-yarder to put Baltimore back on top. Cleveland took a 50-56 lead with 0:47 remaining when they FB Jermaine Richardson punched it in from one yard out. Brigade WR Kendal Thompson returned the ensuing kickoff 54 yards to give Baltimore a 63-60 lead with 0:39 left. Cleveland got the ball inside the Brigade 10-yard line, but Baltimore stuffed the Cleveland offense on consecutive passing plays with under 10 seconds remaining to seal the victory.

**KEY STAT:** The Brigade overcame a steep possession-time deficit in the final frame. Baltimore outscored Cleveland 29-21 in the fourth quarter despite the Gladiators holding the ball for 11:03 of the quarter's 15 minutes.

**KEY MOMENT:** A frantic final minute featured a 54-yard kickoff return by WR Kendal Thompson with 0:39 remaining in the game, giving the Brigade a 63-60 lead. On the following possession, Baltimore held Cleveland out of the end zone, despite two attempts from within the five-yard line with less than 10 seconds remaining in the game.



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## WEEK 9:

### BRIGADE FALL 47-35 TO STORM

*Thompkins eclipses 100 yards in team debut, Carden throws five TDs*

**TAMPA, FL** — The Baltimore Brigade (2-5) fell 47-35 to the Tampa Bay Storm (6-1) Saturday night at Amalie Arena in Tampa, Florida. Storm LB Alvin Ray Jackson took home the game MVP award while Tampa Bay WR Joe Hills and Brigade DB Qumain Black took home Offensive and Defensive Player of the Game awards, respectively.

Tampa Bay QB Randy Hippeard connected with Hills for the game's opening score, giving the Storm a 6-0 lead with 13:08 remaining in the first quarter. The Brigade responded as QB Shane Carden found WR Milton Williams for a 28-yard score. Brigade K Pat Clarke converted on the extra point attempt to give the team a 7-6 lead. Hills recorded his second touchdown of the game, this time a three-yard run, giving the Storm a 12-7 lead with just over five minutes remaining in the opening quarter. With just under a minute left in the first, Tampa Bay took a 20-7 lead on Hippeard's second touchdown throw of the night, a three-yarder to WR Lamark Brown. Carden brought the Brigade back within a touchdown with 9:07 left in the first half, finding FB Rory Nixon for an 11-yard score. With just under a minute left in the half, Hippeard found WR Kendrick Ings for a six-yard touchdown to give the Storm a 27-14 halftime lead.

On the opening kickoff of the second half, the Storm recovered a Brigade fumble off the net and returned it five yards for a touchdown, giving Tampa Bay a 33-14 lead with just 11 seconds into the third quarter. Carden found WR Brandon Thompkins, playing in his first game with the Brigade, and WR Julian Talley for touchdowns to bring the score to 33-28. A four-yard touchdown pass from Hippeard to Ings gave Tampa Bay a 40-28 lead just seconds into the fourth quarter. Hills and Talley each found the end zone one more time before the game ended, sealing a 47-35 final.

## WEEK 11:

### BRIGADE FALL TO GLADIATORS 59-48 IN CLEVELAND

*Carden tosses career-high seven touchdowns*

**CLEVELAND, OH** — The Baltimore Brigade (2-6) dropped a 59-48 decision to the Cleveland Gladiators (3-7) Friday night at Quicken Loans Arena. Despite a career-high seven touchdowns from QB Shane Carden, the Brigade were unable to overcome the performance of Cleveland QB Arvell Nelson, who accounted for nine total touchdowns and took home the game's MVP award.

Cleveland took an early 7-0 lead when Nelson found WR Quentin Sims for a 46-yard touchdown on the second play of the game. The Gladiators extended their lead to 14-0 just minutes later, following a Brigade fumble, when Nelson recorded his second touchdown of the game, a one-yard run. Baltimore got on the board with 4:43 remaining in the first quarter when Carden found FB Rory Nixon for a four-yard touchdown pass. Sims wasted no time finding the end zone for the second time, hauling in a 25-yard pass with 3:35 left in the first, giving Cleveland a 20-7 lead. WR Brandon Thompkins returned the favor for the Brigade, gathering a 31-yard pass from Carden to bring Baltimore within a score. Quarterback play dominated the second quarter as Carden and Nelson each traded a pair of touchdowns over a nine-minute span, including a six-yarder to Brigade WR Julian Talley. With just six seconds left in the half, Nelson scored his second rushing touchdown of the night, giving the Gladiators a 40-28 lead at half.

The Brigade started the second half strong as Carden found Talley for a 39-yard touchdown just over a minute into the third quarter. The touchdown, which brought the score to 40-35, marked the sixth straight week Talley scored two-or-more receiving touchdowns. Three consecutive Gladiators' scores — all Nelson touchdown passes — gave Cleveland a 59-35 lead. With 1:23 left in the third quarter, WR Reggie Gray, playing in his first game since Week 4 due to a collarbone injury, found the end zone on a nine-yard pass from Carden, cutting the Cleveland lead to 59-42. The Brigade scored another touchdown 1:31 left in the contest, but Cleveland held on for the 59-48 win.

**KEY STAT:** Brigade rookie QB Shane Carden became the first rookie since Adam Kennedy (Week 19, 2014 vs. ORL) to throw for seven TDs in a game.

## WEEK 12:

### BRIGADE TOP VALOR IN BALTIMORE

*Carden throws for five touchdowns, runs for another in win over Washington*

**BALTIMORE, MD** — The Baltimore Brigade (3-6) defeated the Washington Valor (1-8), 51-41, Friday night at Royal Farms Arena. Brigade QB Shane Carden took home the game's MVP award for his six-touchdown performance. Baltimore WR Reggie Gray was named Offensive Player of the Game while teammate DB Varmah Sonie's six tackles and three pass break-ups were good for Defensive Player of the Game.

"We just try to come out and get better each week," said Brigade Head Coach Omarr Smith. "We made the correct adjustments to come out and win a hard-fought game."



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



Baltimore wasted little time getting on the scoreboard, as Carden delivered a 17-yard strike to Gray for an opening-drive touchdown. The Valor responded with a score of their own, a 44-yarder that deflected off a Brigade defender before being hauled in by Washington WR Greg Carr. The Brigade struck back with just over a minute remaining in the first quarter, bringing the score to 14-7. The Valor started the second quarter strong, finding their way into the end zone thanks to QB Sean Brackett's second touchdown pass of the night. A botched extra point attempt would leave the Valor down by one, 14-13. Washington and Baltimore traded scores on their ensuing drives, knotting the game at 20-20. After Brigade WR Brandon Collins took a screen pass 34 yards to the Valor one-yard line, the Brigade were able to punch it in when Gray caught his third touchdown of the game, giving Baltimore a 27-20 lead. Both teams managed to find the end zone again before halftime, giving the Brigade a 34-27 lead going into halftime.

Baltimore opened the second half as Carden scored on a one-yard rush up the middle to extend the Brigade lead to 14 points. The first double-digit lead of the game would not last long, however, as Washington scored on the following drive when Sean Brackett completed a 12-yard pass to WR Charles McClain. The Brigade took a two-score, fourth quarter lead when Carden found FB Rory Nixon for a seven-yard touchdown. The Valor countered with a touchdown pass of their own, this time with WR Josh Reese on the receiving end. The following extra point kick cut Baltimore's lead to seven, 48-41. A 21-yard field goal sealed the game for the Brigade with 58 seconds remaining.

**KEY STAT:** The Brigade possessed the ball for a total of 33:24 compared to the Valor's 26:36.

## WEEK 12:

### BRIGADE TOP VALOR IN BALTIMORE

*Carden throws for five touchdowns, runs for another in win over Washington*

**BALTIMORE, MD** — The Baltimore Brigade (3-6) defeated the Washington Valor (1-8), 51-41, Friday night at Royal Farms Arena. Brigade QB Shane Carden took home the game's MVP award for his six-touchdown performance. Baltimore WR Reggie Gray was named Offensive Player of the Game while teammate DB Varmah Sonie's six tackles and three pass break-ups were good for Defensive Player of the Game.

"We just try to come out and get better each week," said Brigade Head Coach Omarr Smith. "We made the correct adjustments to come out and win a hard-fought game."

Baltimore wasted little time getting on the scoreboard, as Carden delivered a 17-yard strike to Gray for an opening-drive touchdown. The Valor responded with a score of their own, a 44-yarder that deflected off a Brigade defender before being hauled in by Washington WR Greg Carr. The Brigade struck back with just over a minute remaining in the first quarter, bringing the score to 14-7. The Valor started the second quarter strong, finding their way into the end zone thanks to QB Sean Brackett's second touchdown pass of the night. A botched extra point attempt would leave the Valor down by one, 14-13. Washington and Baltimore traded scores on their ensuing drives, knotting the game at 20-20. After Brigade WR Brandon Collins took a screen pass 34 yards to the Valor one-yard line, the Brigade were able to punch it in when Gray caught his third touchdown of the game, giving Baltimore a 27-20 lead. Both teams managed to find the end zone again before halftime, giving the Brigade a 34-27 lead going into halftime.

Baltimore opened the second half as Carden scored on a one-yard rush up the middle to extend the Brigade lead to 14 points. The first double-digit lead of the game would not last long, however, as Washington scored on the following drive when Sean Brackett completed a 12-yard pass to WR Charles McClain. The Brigade took a two-score, fourth quarter lead when Carden found FB Rory Nixon for a seven-yard touchdown. The Valor countered with a touchdown pass of their own, this time with WR Josh Reese on the receiving end. The following extra point kick cut Baltimore's lead to seven, 48-41. A 21-yard field goal sealed the game for the Brigade with 58 seconds remaining.

**KEY STAT:** The Brigade possessed the ball for a total of 33:24 compared to the Valor's 26:36.

## WEEK 14:

### BRIGADE HAND SOUL THEIR FIRST LOSS OF THE SEASON

*Carden totals six touchdowns, Baltimore tops Philadelphia, 49-42*

**BALTIMORE, MD** — The Baltimore Brigade (4-6) handed the Philadelphia Soul (10-1) their first loss of the season, 49-42, Saturday night at Royal Farms Arena. Brigade DB and Defensive Player of the Game Varmah Sonie batted away a fourth-down pass on the game-sealing defensive stand with less than five seconds left on the clock. Baltimore QB Shane Carden was named MVP for his performance, completing 20-32 passes for 271 yards and six total touchdowns.

"It's a huge win for our team and our organization," said Brigade Head Coach Omarr Smith. "It's a huge win, it's the biggest win in the Brigade's short history."

Defense dominated the opening quarter as Soul WR Darius Reynolds' 47-yard catch-and-run from QB Dan Raudabaugh stood as the only scoring of the opening frame. Baltimore wasted no time in the second, however, scoring in just two plays when FB Rory Nixon punched it in after WR Brandon Thompkins took a Carden pass 44 yards to the one-yard line. The Soul would answer, scoring on a short pass to WR Shaun Kauleinamoku to regain a seven-point lead, 14-7. The teams traded scores on the ensuing drives. Philadelphia struck once more before the end of the half,



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



again on a Raudabaugh-to-Reynolds connection, giving the Soul a 28-14 lead. Baltimore would respond, as WR Paul Browning came down with a spectacular touchdown catch, falling over the wall, on a 41-yard heave from Carden as time expired. The Brigade trailed 28-21 at half.

The Brigade cashed in on their first drive of the second half as Carden found Thompkins for an 18-yard score, knotting the score at 28 apiece. The tie was short-lived, as Philadelphia FB Mykell Benson took a handoff at the one-yard line into the end zone on the next drive. Carden answered with his third touchdown pass of the night, finding a wide-open WR Brandon Collins for a 42-yard score, bringing the game to a 35-35 tie. After recovering their own kickoff, Baltimore took its first lead of the game, 42-35, thanks to WR Milton Williams's four-yard score by way of Carden. The Brigade struck first in the final quarter on Carden's fifth touchdown pass of the game, establishing their first two-score advantage of the game, a 49-35 lead, with just under six minutes remaining in the game. After a Philadelphia score, Carden was intercepted by Soul DB Dwayne Hollis, giving Philadelphia a chance to tie. The Brigade defense held strong and stopped the Soul's attack just short of the end zone, giving Baltimore a 49-42 victory and handing Philadelphia its first loss of the season.

**KEY MOMENT:** As time expired in the first half, Brigade QB Shane Carden scrambled out of the pocket and found WR Paul Browning, falling over the wall, for a 41-yard touchdown pass, bringing Baltimore back within one score.

## WEEK 15:

### STORM TOP BRIGADE, 69-56, AS OFFENSE AND SPECIAL TEAMS SHINE

*Gray moves up all-time receptions, touchdowns rankings*

**BALTIMORE, MD.** — The Baltimore Brigade (4-7) fell, 69-56, to the Tampa Bay Storm (9-3) Saturday night at Royal Farms Arena. Storm WR Kendrick Ings was named MVP for his four-score performance. Brigade WR Reggie Gray, who scored four touchdowns of his own, moved into 12<sup>th</sup> on the AFL's all-time receiving touchdowns list and 19<sup>th</sup> on the all-time receptions list.

"Tampa is a good team," Brigade Head Coach Omarr Smith said after the game. "We made some mistakes that allowed them to get ahead of us. We didn't make enough plays to win the game."

Hills opened the scoring, hauling in a two-yard pass from QB Randy Hippeard to give Tampa Bay a 6-0 lead. Brigade WR Reggie Gray hauled in a four-yard score to give Baltimore a 7-6 lead, but Tampa Bay responded, taking a 13-7 lead with under a minute left in the quarter. Gray scored his second touchdown of the night with 7:22 left in the first half, giving the Brigade a 14-13 lead. Two Storm kickoff returns, three total touchdowns by Brigade QB Shane Carden and a pair of touchdown passes from Hippeard highlighted a back-and-forth final seven minutes of the first half, after which the Storm led the Brigade, 42-28.

WR Brandon Thompkins caught an 11-yard touchdown pass with 11:38 left in the third quarter to bring the game back within one score, but Ings returned the ensuing kickoff for a touchdown, his second such return of the game. Gray caught his season-high fourth touchdown of the night with 6:34 left in the third quarter, cutting the Tampa Bay advantage to 49-42. Baltimore was unable to tie or take the lead as the teams traded scores for the remainder of the game. Hills caught his third touchdown of the night with 3:08 left to seal the Storm win.

**KEY STAT:** Brigade WR Reggie Gray caught a season-high four touchdown passes, moving into a tie for 12<sup>th</sup> place on the AFL's all-time touchdown list. He also became the 19<sup>th</sup> player in league history to record 750 receptions over the course of a career.

## WEEK 16:

### BRIGADE DROP LOW-SCORING MATCHUP IN D.C.

*Carden throws three touchdowns, Nixon runs for another*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The Baltimore Brigade (4-8) fell, 34-30, to the Washington Valor (2-10) Saturday night at Verizon Center in what was the lowest scoring game of the AFL season. QB Shane Carden accounted for a trio of touchdowns while Valor QB Sean Brackett took home the game's MVP award for his performance.

After a Washington return touchdown on the opening kickoff was negated by a penalty, the Valor wasted no time getting back on the board. Brackett found WR T.T. Toliver for a 45-yard touchdown to give the Valor a 7-0 lead. The Brigade answered with a scoring drive of their own, capped off by a two-yard touchdown run by FB Rory Nixon. A three-yard Brackett touchdown run ended what was a nearly 10-minute scoring drought, giving Washington a 14-7 advantage. Baltimore answered with a touchdown on their next drive, as Carden found WR Milton Williams for an eight-yard score, knotting the score once again. With only 20 seconds remaining in the half, Brackett connected with Toliver for a second time, giving the Valor a seven-point lead at halftime.

Baltimore started the second half quickly, scoring on their second play from scrimmage when Carden found WR Brandon Thompkins for a 36-yard touchdown reception. Both teams would trade scores on their ensuing possessions, but a missed point after attempt by the Brigade left Washington with a one point, 28-27 lead after three quarters. Strong defensive play in the fourth quarter left the score unchanged entering the final minute of play. Brigade K Pat Clarke drilled a 21-yard field goal with 56 seconds remaining in the game, giving Baltimore their first lead of





# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



the night, 30-28. The Valor, however, landed the final strike, as Brackett connected with Toliver for the third time with just four seconds left in the game, giving Washington a 34-30 lead. The Valor intercepted Carden's ensuing Hail Mary attempt to seal the victory.

**KEY STAT:** The 64 total points were the fewest scored in an AFL game this season and the 34 points by the Valor were the fewest by a winning team this season.

## WEEK 17:

### BRIGADE FALL TO SOUL, 70-21

*Thompkins leads receiving corps with 67 yards and a touchdown*

**BALTIMORE, MD** — The Baltimore Brigade (4-9) fell to the Philadelphia Soul (12-1) Saturday afternoon in Baltimore, in what was the Brigade's lowest scoring output of the season. Baltimore's defense allowed a season high 70 points in a one-sided affair.

Philadelphia struck first when FB Mykell Benson took QB Dan Raudabaugh's handoff and punched the ball into the end zone from one yard out, putting the Soul up by seven midway through the opening quarter. This would be the only scoring in what proved to be a defensively sound first quarter. The Soul would go up by two scores in the second quarter, as Raudabaugh connected with WR Ryan McDaniel to give Philadelphia a 14-0 lead. Baltimore fell into a 21-0 hole late in the second quarter when Philadelphia WR Darius Reynolds hauled in a 26-yard touchdown reception. The Brigade would counter though, as QB Shane Carden found WR Brandon Collins for Baltimore's first points of the game. The Soul added another two scores before the end of the half, once with a McDaniel touchdown catch, once with a Benson run after a Baltimore fumble set up the Soul on the two-yard line. This resulted in a 35-7 halftime lead for Philadelphia.

The Soul started where they left off in the second half, scoring an early touchdown thanks to a nine-yard Raudabaugh pass to OL Michael Simons. Philadelphia made two more unanswered trips to the end zone, leaving the score at 56-7 late in the third. Baltimore would rebound with a successful scoring drive, capped off by the first touchdown pass of the season for QB Shane Boyd, who replaced Carden earlier in the game. Entering the fourth quarter, the Brigade found themselves trailing the Soul, 14-56. Philadelphia FB Mykell Benson scored his third touchdown of the game to start the fourth quarter after hauling in an eight-yard pass from QB Luke Collis, giving the Soul a 49-point lead. Baltimore was able to cut into this deficit on their ensuing drive when Boyd connected with WR Brandon Thompkins for a 17-yard score. A Shane Boyd interception stopped Baltimore's final drive, giving the Soul a 70-21 victory over the Brigade.

## WEEK 18:

### BRIGADE FALL, 41-35, TO VALOR IN REGULAR SEASON FINALE

*Baltimore set to take on Philadelphia in the 2017 AFL Playoffs: Semifinal Round*

**BALTIMORE, MD** — The Baltimore Brigade dropped their final game of the season, 41-35, to the Washington Valor Friday night at Royal Farms Arena. Brigade DB Varmah Sonie recorded 10 total tackles and two interceptions, one of which was returned for a touchdown, on his way to being named Defensive Player of the Game.

"It was a tough loss," Brigade QB Shane Boyd said after the game. "You can't question our heart and our effort. We just have to execute a little bit better."

The Valor got on the board first, scoring what would be the only points of the first quarter, when WR T.T. Toliver caught a 16-yard pass from Smith just over four minutes into the game. Washington extended its lead to double digits with 7:41 left in the first half as Smith found WR Josh Reese for a 24-yard touchdown. A pair of Baltimore scores – WR Brandon Collins' touchdown reception and DB Varmah Sonie's nine-yard interception return – tied the game at 14 with just over three minutes left in the half. Each team found the end zone in the final minute of the second quarter, setting the halftime score at 21-21.

A 25-yard touchdown pass to WR Reggie Gray represented the only scoring of the third quarter and gave the Brigade a 28-21 lead. The Valor scored just four seconds into the fourth quarter as WR Charles McClain caught a four-yard pass from Smith. Gray countered with his second score of the night, retaking the Brigade lead with under 12 minutes remaining. Washington, however, scored the final two touchdowns of the game, both by way of the Warren-Smith-to-Roger-Jackson connection. Jackson scored on a 24-yard catch and run with 7:10 left on the clock and on a 13-yard pass with just 39 seconds left to give the Valor the 41-35 lead. A goal-line stand by the Valor as time expired sealed the victory.



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## MUST-READ COVERAGE

### **Late-arriving Brigade reach midseason in middle of AFL pack**

Jonas Shaffer, The Baltimore Sun

June 9, 2017

The Baltimore Brigade reached the midway point of their inaugural Arena Football League season on June 3, absorbing their fifth loss in seven games. That the team could peer below and see two teams still trailing in the standings might have been the league's biggest surprise.

Through two-plus months of play, all of the Brigade's successes and all of their setbacks have been couched with a fair caveat: This team wasn't supposed to see the field this soon.

Omarr Smith, hired in late December to coach a team formed in mid-November, lamented having to put together a roster "in a matter of 21/2 months," when the league's four other squads already had one. Jeff Bowler, vice president of business operations for Monumental Sports & Entertainment, which owns the team, said he and other team officials recommend that potential franchise owners consider a 16-month time frame for launching a team, "at minimum."

So, yes, the Brigade are 2-5, far behind the first-place Philadelphia Soul (7-0) and Tampa Bay Storm (6-1). Still, that's better than the Cleveland Gladiators (2-6) and Washington Valor (1-6), the other MSE-owned expansion team. Smith said he'd use this bye week to study how the Brigade might catch up, not fall back.

"I'm disappointed in where we are as a football team right now," he said. "We're 2-5. That's not where I think we should be. We haven't met my expectations, even though we're a young team. I have higher expectations for myself, our players, our program. My hope is that we have a much better second half of the season than we did the first half."

Injuries and youth have conspired against the Brigade. The team lost wide receivers Reggie Gray (collarbone), a four-time All-Arena selection, and former Raven Laquan Williams (leg) in late April and early May, respectively. Cornerback Varmah Sonie (leg), a first-team All-Arena honoree in 2014 and 2016, also missed time but is healthy now.

Struggles at other positions have meant the league's youngest team can no longer hide its youth. While players like quarterback Shane Carden, offensive lineman Ben Clarke and kicker Patrick Clarke have emerged unexpectedly, Smith said, others have struggled with execution and attention to detail.

"You do have to get over some hiccups at first, just like any start to any program," said wide receiver Paul Browning, who leads the team in catches. "I know the injury bug bit us kind of early as well, but like I said, we are a very competitive team. You see some really good things in the chemistry. That's something that's very important."

Because of the Brigade's rush to the starting line, they have played just twice so far at Royal Farms Arena. There, the team does have some catching up to do. With an announced 11,105 over two games, the Brigade are last in the league in average attendance (5,552.5). Washington is averaging more than twice that, and the three other AFL teams have drawn over 9,500 per game this season.

But on paper, Bowler said the team has so far met the "realistic expectations" officials set before the season. He said the Brigade have had positive growth on ticket sales, and that it will take a full year to establish a "solid foundation" of season-ticket holders.

In the stands, the organic formation of fan groups like the "Brick Squad," a collection of raucous millennial-age supporters who have attended not only the team's home games but also a matchup in Philadelphia, is encouraging. A large crowd is important, Bowler said, but so is an engaged one.

"We know Baltimore: They're very passionate sports fans and they want a winner," he said. "So I think we believe that winning will certainly play a role in our growth to some extent, but I think our mentality will and has always been that we want to put together a high-quality entertainment product that, regardless of what the outcome of the game is, people will have a great time when they come. And they'll want to come back, even if the team loses."

### **Life in Baltimore begins for the Brigade, the city's new arena football team**

Brandon Weigel, The City Paper

May 8, 2017

A few days before the team's inaugural game at the Royal Farms Arena, the Baltimore Brigade, the city's new Arena Football League franchise, held an open house at their new home.

Fans were invited to meet players, check out season ticket plans, walk the field, meet the Baltimore Brigade Dancers, and play games as jock jams blared through the speakers.



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



The team has installed a brand new turf field at Royal Farms Arena—it's got a nice bit of cushion to it. Splayed across the midfield is the Brigade logo: a dark blue pentagon with a large white 'B' inside it and a blue, white, and gray swath of color that looks like a water wave or triangular flag.

At each end of the field hang large rectangular steel frames that look like they were constructed out of discarded foul poles. Two of the poles, separated by 9 feet, are the uprights for field goals. The other panels in the frame are covered with a net that receives kick offs.

While staffers in Brigade gear talk with potential ticket package buyers, people get a chance to mess around on the field throwing passes, racing each other, or, as one man did, pulling together the opening in the facemask of the giant inflatable Brigade helmet, getting down in a three-point stance, and pretending to burst through the face mask like it's a pair of tackle dummies.

It is at this open house that I meet George Frye. He stands out in the crowd of several dozen as the only one wearing a shirt for the Baltimore Mariners, the city's shortly lived arena football team in the lesser-known, now-defunct American Indoor Football Association.

He's a Brigade season ticket holder.

The fast pace of play and the chance to sit right on top of the action are just two things he loves about it.

"I'm gonna be here from start to finish and I'm gonna be supporting the team," says Frye, 62, of Ellicott City. "And I hope to see some of our old fans."

While the AFL certainly has a long track record, dating back to 1987, and has had literal rock star owners in Jon Bon Jovi, Vince Neil, and the band KISS, the Brigade arrive in Baltimore as the league tries to rebuild itself. There are currently only five teams, down from eight last year, following several years of contraction. As recently as 2009, the AFL season was canceled to create a more viable economic model for the league.

But the Brigade have considerable clout in owner Ted Leonsis, who also counts NBA's Washington Wizards, NHL's Washington Capitals, and WNBA's Washington Mystics in his portfolio. He founded an expansion team in D.C., the Valor—part of the league's new strategy is to build up local rivalries.

"I can't wait for the Baltimore fans to witness firsthand the energy, athleticism and skill these players bring to the field," Leonsis writes on his blog. "Their games have been hard-hitting, action-packed and high scoring—the first win in team history was a 52-49 victory against the Cleveland Gladiators."

"It's fast, fun and affordable entertainment."

On Sunday, the team and the city met for the very first time. And while the Brigade lost to the Tampa Bay Storm, 62-55, the announced crowd of 5,915 people getting their first taste of Brigade football seemed to buy in, getting louder and more intense as the game wore on.

Here are some things to know about attending a Brigade game:

Monumental Sports, Leonsis' network for his teams, runs a pretty slick production throughout the game, as evidenced by the numerous well-dressed staffers wearing headsets and carrying clipboards. The pregame intros were big-deal rock concert caliber, including fire and air canons that shot off as players ran through the aforementioned inflatable helmet.

Camera crews were all over the arena, capturing every element of the game from every angle.

There's an in-game "host" introducing different contests or games for fans during the stoppages of play. There's also an in-house DJ, Chris Styles, whose table informs me is "The Party Boy," spinning pump-up jams and getting on the mic to tell people to make noise or raise their hands. Styles mostly spins hip-hop, EDM, and club remixes of just about anything; he's big on Kendrick Lamar's 'Humble' and DMX, at one point remixing 'Party Up' to include the "Cash Me Ousside" girl.

There's also the Blue Crew, a group of younger people who will hold up signs with elements of the Brigade logo or, say, the flame emoji and pump them up and down to the beat of the music. They'll come during a couple breaks in the action to throw t-shirts in the crowd, too.

And there's a family fun area on the arena stage where people can pose for pictures in a photo booth, toss a football, or have their caricature drawn.

All of which is to say there's a lot going on beyond the football being played.

As for the game itself, the field is 50 yards long, but only 80 feet wide—or about a quarter of an NFL field. There's no running game to speak of, it's almost all passing: lots of little quick routes mixed in with some bombs here and there. Oh, and there's a player called "the motion man," a



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



receiver that can start running his route in the backfield before the ball is snapped. Defensive stops are pretty much nil, which is how you arrive at a final score like 62-55.

It's kind of quirky, but it's still football, and this is still Baltimore.

Or as Derrell Johnson Sr., who was there watching his son, Derrell Jr., a Brigade quarterback, put it: "They love football, no matter what it is." (Johnson Jr. is a product of Cardinal Gibbons, by the way).

A great touchdown catch is still a great touchdown catch. A big hit is still a big hit. And as the crowd got more ensconced with what they were seeing, the cheers got louder. Styles wisely played a EDM-ified version of 'Seven Nation Army,' a favorite at M&T Bank Stadium and, well, a sports staple just about everywhere now. The crowd instinctively whipped up an "Ohhhh OH-oh oh-oh oh" chant, and it, too, picked up decibels as the Brigade kept scoring.

As the end of the fourth quarter approached, everyone got a lesson in arena football quirk. Up 55-54 with about a minute left in the game, the Brigade onside kicked. On a normal field, you'd kick the ball away and hope your defense would get a stop. Here, though, the onside kick was really the best way to get the ball back and run out the clock. The best outcome is recovering the ball, obviously, but failing that, the worst possible outcome is your opponent scores on a short field, gets the two-point conversion, and then your team drives down the field to win it.

Well, it didn't quite work out. Tampa recovered, milked the clock, scored a touchdown, and got the two-point conversion.

That didn't seem to matter to the fans, who happily lined up on the field after the game to get autographs from the players sitting at tables with name placards and a stack of posters.

At halftime, when the Brigade was down 34-20, I ran into Frye again. Like all other season ticket holders, he was wearing a gray #17 Brigade jersey with "Founding Fan" on the back.

Sure, the team was down two touchdowns. "But who cares?" he said. "I've got my shirt and I'm having fun."

## **Team to Study Baltimore Arena/Convention Center**

Zach Spedden, Arena Digest

*May 5, 2017*

A team has been selected by the Maryland Stadium Authority to study a new Baltimore arena and its relation to other projects.

Baltimore has spent years discussing the possibility of replacing Royal Farms Arena, the venue that opened in 1962 and became the home of the NBA's Baltimore Bullets the following year. Though regarded as obsolete, Royal Farms Arena has still managed to attract several major acts in recent years and serves as of the city's main indoor venues.

The decision of whether to replace is once again receiving close consideration. Earlier this week, The Maryland Stadium Authority opted to move forward with a study that will assess a new arena along with other projects, including improvements to the nearby Baltimore Convention Center and a new hotel. Proposals have surfaced in the past to combine all three amenities in one major project, and a team of firms will now study what options are feasible to pursue. More from The Baltimore Sun:

The team includes Ayers Saint Gross, a Baltimore design firm; LMN Architects of Seattle; Clark Construction of Bethesda; Populous, a Kansas City firm that designed Oriole Park at Camden Yards; and Perkins Eastman, a New York-based design firm.

The study is not to exceed \$460,000 and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

For years, officials at Visit Baltimore, which oversees the city's convention business, have called on the city and state to improve the convention center, citing the need to compete with bigger facilities in other cities.

The issue was brought into greater focus by the 2013 decision by organizers of Otakon to move their growing anime convention to a larger center in Washington, D.C., after 2016.

Options to be studied include expanding the convention center as part of a separate project, or pursuing a hybrid option that would combine the convention center with the arena and/or hotel. This will account for phase one of the study. Officials could opt to undertake a second round of analysis after this report is complete.



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## **Sonie's Skills Always Measure Up**

Carson Merk, ArenaFootball.com

*April 13, 2017*

When you see Baltimore Brigade defensive back Varmah Sonie on film, there are a few things that will catch your attention. The first is likely to be his athleticism. He covers ground in the blink of an eye, and his leaping ability is showstopping. Quickly following that, would be his football I.Q. It feels like he can anticipate a quarterback's throw before the ball is even snapped. Another noteworthy feature, is his size. This playmaking defensive back must be a tall, hulking specimen to be such a great player, right? Sonie stands 5'9" and 180 pounds, according to his Brigade player bio.

His perceived lack of size is not something that he has only dealt with at the professional level. "I've always been a little guy growing up. I've always been the smallest. That's nothing new to me," explained Sonie. His football stardom isn't a new revelation either. He was named Mr. Football in his native state of Minnesota, as a senior in high school. Varmah shares, "It was a big accomplishment for me, and my family as well, just to be named the best football player in Minnesota high school." He was also a Max Preps first team All American that season, listed on a defense alongside NFL stars Vontaze Burfict, Manti Te'o, and second team defensive back Dre Kirkpatrick. Sonie himself has been signed twice by NFL teams, to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers practice squad and a futures contract with the Cleveland Browns.

Sonie picked off six passes last season, and had a career high of nine interceptions in 2014. Can playmaking like that be taught? "I've been blessed to be able to make a lot of plays in my career. I just want to thank the Lord for that. It just came naturally to me," Sonie answers. When asked if he prefers a big hit or to intercept a pass, he simply said, "I'll take the interception any day."

He brings his big play attitude to the inaugural Brigade defense. He confirms, "Yeah, I try to play with a chip on my shoulder. They see my size. But it's not the size for me — it's the heart. I'm a competitor and I'm going to go out there and compete and do my best every time." He had four tackles in the team's season opening loss, and will look to control the Cleveland Gladiators' attack this Saturday. (7PM, Monumental Sports Network) Cleveland QB Shane Boyd should be cautious if he thinks he can take advantage of Sonie's height. "I might be small, but I can jump really high. If quarterbacks throw it up high, I'm going to go get it. That's where I make up for my height," Varmah explains. With the NBA playoffs also in action this weekend, Sonie declares, "I can dunk a basketball — 360, windmill, anything. You name it." That's no small feat.

## **LaQuan Williams, Brigade ready to begin new era of Baltimore football**

Jonas Shaffer, The Baltimore Sun

*April 6, 2017*

LaQuan Williams is a professional football player and also an aspiring entrepreneur, so it was not without some knowledge of risk and bottom lines that the former Ravens wide receiver appraised the Baltimore Brigade's inaugural season as if it were some essential investment.

"I eat, sleep and drink football," Williams, 28, said Thursday at the Arena Football League expansion team's Baltimore practice facility. "That's all I think about, especially in the season. You only get so many games."

He knows this well. The former Poly and Maryland standout last appeared in an NFL game in 2012, last was on an NFL roster in 2014 and ended a brief stint with the AFL's Los Angeles Kiss last summer. Yet even as his fortunes in the sport seemed to shift and his interests outside it blossomed — he indulged his entrepreneurial spirit on Airbnb and took online classes as he worked toward a master's degree — he felt there were more games ahead.

So he worked out, stayed in shape, hoping there would again be a need in the market for what he thought were obvious goods. Now, more than five years after his first paid job in the sport became almost too good to be true — the hometown Ravens signing the undrafted Williams and then winning Super Bowl XLVII — he is happy to have returned to a Baltimore team.

The pay is not as great, the fans not as plentiful, the venues not as big — the Brigade will open the season Friday against the expansion Washington Valor at Verizon Center — but it is still football.

"To play the game that I love, get paid for it, being able to support my family, it's a blessing," Williams said. "I'm out here just running around, competing with other guys and just [ready to] dominate. It's fun."

Williams' presence on the Brigade makes for a strange reality: He is, for now, the Brigade's most recognizable, well-known player. He is also among their least proven.

After finishing his Ravens career with four catches for 46 yards and a half-dozen kick returns over two seasons, he spent less than a year with the Canadian Football League's Saskatchewan Roughriders in 2015-16. Cut last June, he was assigned midseason to the Kiss, helmed then by current Brigade coach Omarr Smith.

He had four catches for 58 yards and two touchdowns in the team's final two games, the last of which was an early-August loss to the Portland Steel. Two months later, the Kiss folded, one of five teams to leave the AFL in the offseason. In November, the AFL announced that a franchise was coming to Baltimore.



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



Williams by then had learned to accept change in the league. The AFL game was different, with field dimensions (85 feet wide, 50 yards long) nearly half that of those in the NFL (160 feet wide, 100 yards long). It was a step away from traditional gridiron football and into a league that allowed receivers to barrel toward the line of scrimmage before the snap.

"He was very open to accepting the game, and that's something that's very challenging to do from guys that have spent time in the NFL," Smith said. "He came in at the end of the season, learned the nuances and did a pretty good job in the couple of games that he played, so having that experience really works in his favor in terms of coming into this year."

Williams is humble about his NFL pedigree. Brigade quarterback Chase Cartwright praised the receiver's physical assets — "He's a big-bodied guy, runs great routes, got great hands" — but Williams said his preparation would have to separate him, both from his peers at the position and opposing cornerbacks.

It is another job for Williams, but one he loves. At the end of practice Thursday, the Brigade split into two teams for a series of relay races. As his squad's ball neared the final leg of the competitions, Williams ran over, shadowing it from a safe distance. After the final race was won, he mobbed his teammates in a raucous celebration.

When Smith was asked about his team's readiness for its first-ever game, it sounded as if it could double as an assessment of Williams, too.

"I think we're in a decent spot," Smith said, "but we won't know until tomorrow."

## **League of their Own – Introducing the Baltimore Brigade**

Nehal Aggarwal, Baltimore Magazine

*April 2017*

Craving football in the Ravens off-season? You're in luck! This month, the Arena Football League (AFL) kicks off its inaugural season in Charm City with the brand-new Baltimore Brigade. The indoor team has the first of its 14 games on April 7 at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C., followed by its home opener shortly after that at the Royal Farms Arena on May 7.

"The arena is thrilled that the Baltimore Brigade will play at our venue this spring and summer," says Frank Remesch, general manager of the Royal Farms Arena, which also features indoor soccer games played by the Baltimore Blast. "Baltimore has always been a sports town, and we are proud to continue that tradition."

The AFL has many of the same rules as the NFL, but with a smaller field and fewer players (eight on the field at a time per team compared to the NFL's 11, with a roster of 24 compared to the NFL's typical 53). The AFL uses a rebound net, which can keep the ball in play, and sorry boys—no punting allowed (on fourth down, a team may go for a first down, touchdown, or field goal).

In their sleek blue and silver uniforms, the Baltimore Brigade includes seasoned players and rookie talent, with a few athletes hailing from Maryland and even Baltimore. "You have to have great people from top to bottom," says head coach Omarr Smith, a longtime AFL champion. "Building a football team from scratch is a huge challenge and I'm excited about the opportunity."

In a city that treasures its underdog status, the team hopes to gain a loyal following. "Baltimore has a great fan base for all of its sports," says wide receiver LaQuan Williams, who played at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and the University of Maryland before joining the Ravens in 2011 and now the Baltimore Brigade. "I'm excited to see how the town takes to the new team. It's an exciting game and it gives the community something new to cheer for."

## **LaQuan Williams: Baltimore Brigade 'Gives The Fans Something Else To Cheer About'**

Scott Gelman, PressBox

*April 13, 2017*

Former Terps and Ravens wide receiver LaQuan Williams only played two games with the Arena Football League's Los Angeles KISS in 2016, but he didn't hesitate to follow former KISS head coach Omarr Smith to Baltimore when Smith was hired to lead the newly created Baltimore Brigade.

After appearing in 38 games at Maryland and winning a Super Bowl with the Ravens, Williams wanted to be a part of the newest Baltimore sports franchise.

"It's a fun, exciting game," Williams said on Glenn Clark Radio April 7. "... [It] gives the fans something else to cheer about. [We want to] get the wins and get the fans coming out. It will be fun."

Williams established a reputation as a productive wideout after recording 436 yards and three touchdowns in College Park, Md., from 2007-2017. Then, he joined the Ravens as an undrafted free agent and received playing time as a wide receiver and on special teams.

Williams totaled four receptions for 46 yards and 109 yards on five kick returns in 2011 and most notably was on the Ravens' 2012 Super Bowl-winning roster. He appeared in 11 games for the eventual championship team and returned one kickoff for 5 yards. However, he was plagued by a hamstring injury and was inactive throughout the postseason.





# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



After a brief stint with the Patriots, Williams returned to the Ravens in 2014. He was cut and didn't appear in another formal football game until joining the KISS.

Though Williams has NFL experience, he said the high-scoring nature of AFL games keeps the contests more interesting. The field is about a third the size of those in standard NFL stadiums, making it easier for each team to score.

"That's the goal, come out and win every game and put up a good number of touchdowns," Williams said. "... It's not as slow as a usual football game. [There are] a lot more big plays, a lot more touchdowns. Come out, enjoy it and have some fun with it."

A handful of AFL players practice on both sides of the ball in preparation for a potential injury, Williams said, something he anticipates he can do in the future. At Maryland, he occasionally switched from playing receiver to cornerback to help the offense practice. Now with the Brigade, it might not be much different.

"There are one or two swing guys on each team," Williams said. "The last time I played defense was my freshman year of college. I'm absolutely [willing to go hit someone on defense]."

Though the Brigade dropped their first game of the season against the Washington Valor April 7, it was the type of high-scoring game Williams said makes playing in the league desirable. Not even a minute into the third quarter, Williams emerged as a threat, catching an 11-yard score to cut the Valor's lead to three touchdowns.

Because of his collegiate and professional experience, Williams expects to take on a leadership role with some of the younger players on the team. And despite the high scores, he plans to remind his teammates the Brigade should be a team Baltimore fans can easily root for.

"We're in a very professional setting," Williams said. "These guys got it done. [On] short notice, we put everything together. Everyone's been in their playbook."

## **"We're Heads Down; Grind Up." Training Camp Check-in**

BaltimoreBrigade.com

March 30, 2017

Every training camp has its distractions, and when your team was launched just over four months ago, Coach Smith was prepared for his group to experience a fair amount of adversity starting out the franchise's first season in existence. So on Day 1 of training camp, when a late—and somewhat rare for this year—snow storm caused delays to both flights and practices as players and coaches made their way to Baltimore, Smith knew time and focus would be essential.

So, it's a good thing Smith is about discipline. Coaches spend a lot of time with the guys and have kept everyone on tight schedules with very little "free" time.

"Between practices, conditioning, meetings and meals, players see very little of the outside world during camp," Smith said. "Adversity builds on mental toughness, which is crucial throughout the ups and downs of the season. Right now, we're heads down, grind up."

It also helps that his leaders have bought in. Chase Cartwright and Shane Carden, two young quarterbacks new to the league have pleasantly surprised their coaches. Smith praised Cartwright and Carden for their hard work, their ability to pick up the offense, and most impressively showcasing their eagerness to learn—coming in early and staying late to study film.

As impressive as the offense might be, Coach noted that his defense is showing up in a big way.

"We want practices to be hard for the offense and our defense has given them a tough time. We need our offense to catch."

April 7 is coming up quick and Smith is confident on where his team is mentally and physically but knows there's still a lot of work to be done.

"We're reminding these guys that it's a marathon, not a sprint".

And his goals heading into next week?

Keep educating and keep learning; taking care of the ball on offense; strengthening coverage on defense, and identifying a physical bunch that is "flat out football players."



# **BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE**



## **COACHING STAFF**

### **Omarr Smith – Head Coach**

Arena Football Hall of Famer Omarr Smith was the head coach of the LA KISS during the 2016 season where his team earned a home playoff appearance while ending the regular season ranked second in the National Conference. Prior to leading the LA KISS, Smith served as the assistant head coach for the San Jose SaberCats for two seasons and helped lead the team to an ArenaBowl Championship in 2015. He was also a member of the Arizona Rattlers as defensive coordinator for four seasons and was named the AFL's Assistant Coach of the Year in 2013. In 2012 and 2013, the Rattlers won consecutive ArenaBowl Championships with a defense ranked second in points allowed per game every season Smith led the defensive unit. Smith is one of the most successful players and coaches in AFL history, earning a combined seven AFL championships. During his nine-year playing career, he won four ArenaBowl titles (2002, 2003, 2004, 2007), and ended his career with 35 interceptions, 88 pass break-ups and eight defensive touchdowns. As an assistant coach, he won three ArenaBowl titles, one with San Jose and two with Arizona. The Torrance, Calif., native graduated from San Jose State University and is ranked second on the school's list in career interceptions (13).

### **Walt Housman – Lead Assistant Coach**

Housman has over 15 years of coaching experience in the Arena football League. He most recently was on the staff of the L.A. KISS. As the defensive coordinator for the Chicago Rush, he helped the team win the ArenaBowl Championship in 2006. Prior to moving to the coaching ranks, Housman played for the AFL's New York Knights, Denver Dynamite and New Orleans Nights.

### **Virgil Gray – Defensive Backs and Special Teams Coordinator**

Gray has won three ArenaBowl Championships (2012, 2013, 2015) as a player will serve as defensive backs and special teams coordinator. Gray has played for the AFL's Milwaukee Iron, Arizona Rattlers, Pittsburgh Powers and San Jose SaberCats. He was named First Team All-Arena in 2013.

### **James Roe – Offensive Coordinator**

Roe joins the Brigade after an illustrious career in the AFL. He has won three ArenaBowl Championships (2002, 2004, 2007), all with the San Jose SaberCats. He earned All-Ironman Team honors in 2003, 2004, and 2005 and was named Ironman of the Game following San Jose's ArenaBowl win in 2004. Roe spent three years as a member of the Baltimore Ravens.

### **Scott Bailey – Personnel Coordinator**

Bailey brings extensive player personnel experience to the Brigade. He helped the Chicago Rush win the ArenaBowl Championship in 2006. Bailey was later promoted as the team's assistant special teams coach. Bailey was recently on the staff of the L.A. KISS.



# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## YEAR IN PHOTOS







# BALTIMORE BRIGADE PLAYOFF GUIDE



## TEAM INFORMATION

**TEAM COLORS:** Brigade Blue, Brigade Light Blue and Brigade Silver

**HOME ARENA:** Royal Farms Arena

**CAPACITY:** 14,000

**ADDRESS:** 201 W Baltimore St, Baltimore, MD 21201

**TICKETS:** 667-930-0200

**WEB:** <http://www.baltimorebrigade.com/>

All media inquiries and interview requests should be directed to the Brigade communications department:

Ketsia Colimon: 202-527-7535, [kcolimon@monumentalsports.com](mailto:kcolimon@monumentalsports.com)

Jackson Filyo: 202-661-5166, [jfilyo@monumentalsports.com](mailto:jfilyo@monumentalsports.com)

## ABOUT THE BRIGADE

The Baltimore Brigade is owned and operated by Monumental Sports & Entertainment (MSE), which is one of the largest integrated sports and entertainment companies in the country with one of the most diverse partnership groups in all of sports. The company also owns and operates the AFL's Washington Valor, NBA's Washington Wizards, NHL's Washington Capitals, WNBA's Washington Mystics and Verizon Center, the premier sports and entertainment venue in Washington, D.C. MSE also oversees the management of Kettler Capitals Iceplex– the training facility for the Washington Capitals and EagleBank Arena at George Mason University. Monumental Sports Network, a digital platform that covers the region's sports and entertainment news, is also owned by MSE.

## ABOUT THE AFL

The Arena Football League will enter its 30th Anniversary Season in 2017. Since its inception in 1987, the Arena Football League has showcased a fast-paced and exciting game to millions of fans in a myriad of markets across the country. Teams slated for 2017 include: Baltimore, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Tampa Bay and Washington D.C. CBS Sports Network nationally broadcasts AFL games each week during the regular season. ArenaBowl XXX is slated for Saturday, August 26.

## ABOUT MONUMENTAL SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Monumental Sports & Entertainment (MSE), located in Washington, D.C., is one of the largest integrated sports and entertainment companies in the country with one of the most diverse partnership groups in all of sports. MSE owns and operates five professional sports teams: the AFL's Washington Valor, NBA's Washington Wizards, NHL's Washington Capitals, WNBA's Washington Mystics and a soon to be named Baltimore AFL team to debut in 2017. The company is also co-owner of aXiomatic, which has controlling interest in global esports franchise Team Liquid, and owns and operates Verizon Center in Washington, D.C., which is annually ranked as one of the top venues in the world by industry publications Billboard, Pollstar and Venues Today. Monumental Sports & Entertainment also manages Kettler Capitals Iceplex, the state-of-the-art training facility for the Capitals and EagleBank Arena on George Mason University's campus. The District of Columbia and Events DC are building a new sports and entertainment facility in Southeast DC on the St. Elizabeth's East campus. The facility will feature a state-of-the-art training facility for the Washington Wizards and Washington Mystics and will also include a 4,200 seat arena which will become the new home of the Washington Mystics. The facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2018. Monumental Sports & Entertainment also co-owns and operates Monumental Sports Network (MSN) with the NBC Sports Group. MSN is the mid-Atlantic region's top destination for exclusive fan experiences and original sports content across desktop, tablet, mobile and OTT streaming devices. Visit [www.monumentalsports.com](http://www.monumentalsports.com).