

NFL

Bills coach finds no extra motivation in opponents

by CHRISTOPHER GORDON
Orchard Park Editor

Buffalo Bills head coach Dick Jauron may have been a National Football League Coach of the Year with this past Sunday's opponent, the Chicago Bears, as well as an All-Pro safety with this week's opponent, the Detroit Lions, but facing two organizations where he spent a combined 12 seasons ranging from player to assistant coach and head coach does not give him extra motivation. Winning is motivation enough.

"There's no extra incentive on my part," said Jauron, who said it was never discussed as a motivational tactic to beat the Chicago Bears.

Jauron knew his team had an uphill battle to climb to beat arguably the league's best team in a stadium in which they had allowed less than 10 points to their opponents in eight consecutive

regular-season games. That statistic increased to nine in the Bills' 40-7 loss to Chicago.

"We're disappointed, but not discouraged," said Jauron, who was the 2001 NFL Coach of the Year with the Bears after guiding them to a 13-3 record.

"They're good on both sides of the ball and special teams," he said, adding that turning the ball over five times alone is a recipe for disaster.

After Bills quarterback J.P. Losman completed a couple of passes and reached the Bears' 40-yard line on their opening drive, Buffalo began a series of disastrous events that seemed to set the tone to their day.

First, a false start call on fourth-and-inches moved the ball back five yards and punter Brian Moorman lined up and bobbled a snap that was intended to be a fake. Chicago fell on the ball inside Bills territory and set the



Dick Jauron

stage for the Bears' dominating performance. Buffalo trailed 27-0 at halftime and 40-0 late before wide receiver Lee Evans scored

Buffalo's lone touchdown with just over a minute remaining.

Jauron said the team must "correct the errors that we've made" and move on to play the Lions.

The Bills coach played for Detroit from 1973 to 1977 after being drafted as a safety in the fourth round from Yale, earning All-Pro status in 1974.

He also served as Detroit's defensive coordinator from 2004 and 2005, finishing as interim head coach for the final five games in 2005.

Bills running back Anthony Thomas was drafted by Jauron from the University of Michigan in 2001 and was NFL Rookie of the Year after rushing for 1,183 yards.

Jauron coached him during his first three seasons in the league and Thomas said the coach's only motivation is making the players on the Bills better.

"That's how the NFL works,"

said Thomas. "We just want to go and win games. You've just got to start faster and minimize mistakes."

Thomas said during the week, Jauron never alluded to beating Chicago and Thomas added that it really does not matter who the opponent is.

With the Bears' game behind them, the Bills now need to focus on Detroit. Thomas said he will have family and friends in attendance. His wife is from the area and Thomas played his college ball in Ann Arbor, which is about 45 minutes away.

The Bills will look to even their record to 3-3 against the 0-5 Lions at 1 p.m. Sunday.

The Lions are looking for their first win after losing a 17-3 fourth quarter lead against Minnesota before dropping a 26-17 decision.

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Predictions: Most feel Lions should be no match for Bills

Everyone in Bills Nation is hoping the winless Detroit Lions will be just what the doctor ordered after Buffalo's 40-7 pounding at the hands of the Chicago Bears this past Sunday.

Turnovers once again killed Buffalo as Chicago used many a short field to keep the Bills in check throughout the contest. Buffalo quarterback J.P. Losman, who had been playing well as of late, threw three interceptions before finally finding Lee Evans late in the fourth quarter for the Bills' lone score. Buffalo also lost two of its three fumbles for the game.

Chicago's defense was stout as well, limiting Willis McGahee, who had been the league's leading rusher, to just 50 yards on 14 carries.

The Bills will take to the road once again this weekend and look to even their record at 3-3 overall against the winless Detroit Lions, who Sunday let a 17-3 lead slip away in the fourth quarter in a 26-17 loss to Minnesota.

I suppose the one positive you can take away from Sunday's abomination is that the Bills did do better than the Seahawks did against the Bears. But fear not, that Bears team appears absolutely unstoppable and I have a feeling that will happen a lot this year in Chicago. Luckily for the Bills, it's on to Detroit, stop number two in Dick Jauron's homecoming tour. Look for the Bills to come out



angry and get a much needed win. — Buffalo 30, Detroit 14. *Ken Bartolotta, Lifestyles Reporter (4-1)*

• Buffalo took a huge step backwards this past weekend, and with them going on the road again Sunday, I don't think they'll have as easy a time getting back on track as some of my co-workers do. The Bills will continue to slide and allow Detroit to pick up its first win of the year. — Detroit 24, Buffalo 16. *Jason Nadolinski, Sports Reporter (3-2)*

• This past Sunday's game against the Chicago Bears was pathetic. I didn't think we would win, but I didn't think we would lose by that much. I was bored as I watched the Bears dominate the game. The Bills were back to last season's tricks and if they keep it up, history will continue to repeat itself. The Bills travel to De-

troit to play the Lions who have a 0-5 record. This gives me hope that the Bills will walk away with a win. — Buffalo 24, Detroit 21. *Jill Schmelzer, Lifestyles Coordinator (3-2)*

• The Bills should rebound from the Chicago loss against the Lions but I have a feeling it won't be good enough. A hungry Detroit team will unfortunately knock off the Bills for their first win of the season. — Detroit 21, Buffalo 20. *Patrick Nagy, Sports Reporter (3-2)*

• Hopefully the Bills will use their 40-7 thumping against Chicago as a look at what this team hopes to become in the next year or two. Chicago is superior to nearly every team and Buffalo just needs to put the game behind. This is a true test in many ways for J.P. Losman, as this is not only a game on the road, but it's a

road game against a team the Bills should beat. Much of his progress should be measured Sunday and the team will bounce back strong. — Buffalo 27, Detroit 14. *Chris Gordon,*

Orchard Park Editor (3-2)

• The Bills may have taken the beating of a lifetime Sunday, but they won't be licking their wounds for very long. As they head to Detroit this weekend, they'll get a much-needed shot in the arm with a win over the Lions. Buffalo's offense will get back to form with Willis McGahee rushing for more than 100 yards and J.P. Losman throwing for more than 200. The defense will keep Jon Kitna in check all day. — Buffalo 20, Detroit 13. *Matt Krueger, Sports Reporter (2-3)*

• So, the Detroit Lions are winless so far this season. To keep it short and sweet, if the Bills don't win, they should all retire. — Buffalo 24, Detroit 3. *Nick Primerano, Ken-Ton Editor (2-3)*

Buffalo In-line Hockey Group Dressel, Rainey, Swan explode in second week

The second week of Buffalo In-line Hockey Group's fall/winter season saw some highlight performances.

Evan Dressel (Amherst) netted five goals for the 535's in a 7-0 shutout over the Hurricanes. Nick Antoniadis (Amherst) had three helpers and Aaron Lambe (Tonawanda) posted the shutout in this junior division game.

In major loop, the Hornet's Justin Swan (Tonawanda) scored five times and had four assists in leading his team to a 12-2 romp over Team X. Adam Rainey (Tonawanda) also had five goals for the Hornets. Calvin Walley (Cheektowaga) had two goals for Team X.

Also in Majors action, the Black Aces rode a four-goal game from John Lyons (Amherst) and two goals and three assists from David Campuzano (Grand Island) to a 8-3 win over the Storm. The wins put both the Hornets and Aces into a first place tie.

Buffalo In-line Hockey Group is the premier youth in-line hockey league in Erie County and plays every Saturday morning in two age groups at the EPIC Center on Wehrle Dr. in Amherst. New players are always welcome. Tryouts for the BIHG tournament teams for all age groups is at 1 p.m. Saturday. You do not need to play in BIHG house to tryout. For more information, call 773-1188 or 689-4090.

Girls Soccer (Continued from page 26)

in the game. Neither team could score in overtime and the game ended in a 2-2 tie. Once again CCA's defense played tight and only allowed nine shots versus CCA's 17.

In the Henrietta contest, CCA's Tom scored early with an assist from freshman Faye-Lynn Noel. In the second half, Henrietta tightened up their game but CCA still managed to score two more goals. Noel had shot in the net with help from sophomore Rebecca De Rose.

Smith closed out the game with a nice shot and an assist from forward Tom. CCA goalie Hoppe recorded the shutout but received a lot of help from the whole team which gave Henrietta only four shots. Senior captains Shannon Firth and Joanna Mroz gave nice efforts as did Jessica Ganze, Katie McAllister and twins Sarah and Rachel Caputi, said Karnath.

CCA goalie Hoppe has 3.5 shutouts for the season.

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