Milltown, NJ January 20, 2016

DREAMS COME TRUE FOR SILAS NACITA AT DREAM BOWL IV

A year that begin with disappointment and disillusionment ended with redemption and celebration, as former Baylor running back, Silas Nacita scored on a 9 yard run in double overtime to win the fourth annual Dream Bowl, Monday afternoon in Virginia Beach. The Dream Bowl is a showcase all-star football game for FCS, D-II, and D-III college players to display their talents in front of NFL and CFL scouts.

Already named the game's special teams MVP for his Dream Bowl record setting 60 yard kickoff return, Silas saved the real heroics for the second overtime period. On a 2nd and 4 play from the 9 yard line, on his fourth consecutive running play, Silas was not to be denied. Breaking several tackles, he rumbled in for the touchdown setting off a celebration as his teammates mobbed him in the end zone.

The touchdown run in many ways paralleled Silas' year. Silas's story has been well documented. Homeless in high school, he transferred to Baylor after a year at Cornell, made the team as a walk on, and a year later was ruled ineligible by the NCAA for receiving help during the lowest points of his life. Despite these obstacles, Silas never gave up and his determination and willingness to play football one more time led him to the 2016 Dream Bowl. His arrival was filled with uncertainty as the NFL determined he was not draft eligible meaning he could not practice or play in front of the NFL scouts in attendance. Serving as honorary captain, Silas watched his teammates make their impression on the NFL & CFL scouts hoping for his opportunity. He enjoyed the camaraderie and meeting players from around the country but Silas just wanted to play football again. He received his wish and the dream was alive when event organizer and president of Cutting Edge Sports Management, Neil Malvone, informed Silas that he would be able to participate in the game as the last NFL scout left on Sunday afternoon. Using a borrowed helmet and shoulder pads and without any practice time, Silas led his Crusaders onto the field and once again he was part of a college game day. What happened at the end of the game exemplifies the redemptive nature of sports. Lifting his team to victory on the game's final play, Silas walked off the field to a standing ovation from his teammates, his opponents, and the crowd. A national audience watching in 70 million homes on the American Sports Network saw a true Hollywood ending. A player knocked down but who never game up and in the end he made his dreams come true.

For more information:

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