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The following is the result of the Oakland University protest of their 4:00 pm game against University of Michigan Flint on October 26th, 2013.

Game protested by Oakland for an In-Game Unknown Roster Violation.

Requested action - Forfeit game.

Protest:

Oakland has protested their 4:00 pm, 10/26/13 game against UM Flint, requesting a forfeit victory because UM Flint had zero players on their eligible roster as per section 5.02.2 of the NCFA Rule Book.

5.02.2 Any team found playing any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** with ZERO players on their eligible roster will AUTOMATICALLY be forced to forfeit any victories achieved while having no eligible roster.

Oakland Club Football Representative Nic Bongers stated, "VISITING TEAM UM-FLINT DOES NOT HAVE AN OFFICIAL ELIGIBLE ROSTER ON THE NCFA WEBSITE. THERE IS NO OFFICIAL CLEARANCE THAT THE PLAYERS ON THE FIELD 10/26/13 VS OU WERE UM-FLINT STUDENTS TAKING 6 CREDITS. ANY ROSTER OF UM-FLINT IS NOT AVAILABLE." Additionally he stated, "NOT HAVING AN ELIGIBLE ROSTER ON THE NCFA SITE KEEPS AN ELIGIBLE TEAM FROM SEEING CRUCIAL DETAILS LIKE ROSTER SIZE, HEIGHT, WEIGHT, ETC. FOR SCOUTING AND GAME PREPARATION PURPOSES. THIS ALSO ALLOWS PLAYERS FROM SEMI-PRO, AND STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS TO ILLEGALLY PLAY ON THE TEAM WITH AN INELIGIBLE ROSTER. OU HEAD COACH AL MANFRONI TALKED TO A REFEREE BEFORE THE GAME STARTED THAT THE GAME SHOULD BE A FORFEIT BECAUSE OF THIS RULE VIOLATION."

Additionally, Nic Bongers added, "We played Flint twice this year, one of our coaches pointed out jerseys of some players that appeared to be a different person than the player of the first contest earlier in the season. There was no official NCFA roster to properly confirm the roster with the player's name and jersey number, or the approximate height and weight descriptions of those players."

Defense:

UM Flint Offensive Line Coach stated, "ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE REFEREES WHO WAS CONTACTED YESTERDAY BY COACH WALTER JACKSON OF UM-FLINT, SAID REFEREE WAS CONTACTED ABOUT THE OAKLAND PETITION YESTERDAY (10/28/13) BUT WAS NEVER NOTIFIED OF ANY ON FIELD PROTEST BY OAKLAND. ALL OF THE UM-FLINT COACHES, MYSELF INCLUDED, NEVER HEARD OF ANY ON FIELD PROTEST EITHER. THIS MEANS THAT THE PROTEST MADE BY OAKLAND HAD TO HAVE BEEN AN OFF FIELD PROTEST. THEREFORE, ANY VIOLATIONS LISTED IN SECTION 15.02.1 OF THE NCFA RULES AND REGULATIONS CANNOT BE USED AS VIOLATIONS AGAINST UM-FLINT, ONLY THE VIOLATIONS LISTED IN SECTION 15.03.1. WITHIN SECTION 15.03.1, THE ONLY VIOLATION IN QUESTION FOR UM-FLINT



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AS THE VISITING TEAM WOULD BE THE "IN-GAME UNKNOWN ROSTER VIOLATION". BEFORE THE GAME HAD STARTED, UM-FLINT HEAD COACH DONALD MATHEWS GAVE A COPY OF UM-FLINT'S CURRENT ROSTER TO THE OAKLAND COACHING STAFF, SO AN "IN-GAME UNKNOWN ROSTER VIOLATION" ISN'T APPLICABLE IN THIS CASE. IN THE CASE OF OUR VIOLATION OF RULE 5.02.2, WE HAVE A COPY OF OUR ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE ROSTER THAT WE PROVIDE TO THE TEAMS WE PLAY BEFORE EACH CONTEST.

UM Flint Club Sports Coordinator Dillon Thorne stated, "After an internal review of the UM-Flint Club Football roster, protested by the Oakland University Club Football team to the NCFA; it is evident UM-Flint did not upload their roster by game time. The club leaves itself no choice, but to accept the forfeit. The Club will work toward properly uploading the roster by the November 1st deadline. I would like to note, the football club at UM-Flint has adhered to all UM-Flint Club Sports policies and guidelines. The club will work toward adhering to all NCFA deadlines in the future. "

Investigation:

It has been determined that Oakland did in fact know that UM Flint did not have an official roster on the NCFA Website prior to the start of the game. This information means that the violation in question was an "In Game Known Roster Violation" rather than the "In Game Unknown Roster Violation" as reported by Oakland. An "In Game Known Roster Violation" requires an "On Field Protest" (NCFA Rule 15.02.1) meaning that it requires that the protesting team notify the Referee at the time of the incident that they are playing the game under protest as per NCFA Rule 15.02.2.2. It is also required that the protesting team files a formal protest form with the NCFA no later than midnight on Tuesday following the game as per NCFA Rule 15.02.2.3.

Oakland did submit their formal protest form to the NCFA on Monday (10/28/13) at 8:57am. While Oakland reported that they informed the Referee that they were playing under protest because UM Flint did not have an official roster. UM Flint has refuted this claim stating neither they nor did the officials have any knowledge of the game being played under protest. The NCFA spoke with the official scheduler (Tim Collick), the referee (Phil Long), the umpire (Dave Dungy), and the Oakland sideline line judge (Terry Decaire), all of whom stated they had no knowledge of Oakland playing the game under protest.

The reason that all "On Field Protests" require that the Referee be notified of a team's intention to play the game under protest, at the time the infraction is discovered, is to allow the offending team the opportunity to correct the situation and thus return to compliance with NCFA rules. Despite the fact that the NCFA's investigation shows that Oakland did NOT inform the Referee that they were playing under protest, UM Flint had ZERO players on their legal NCFA roster, thus would not have been able to correct the situation since none of their players were eligible to compete in the game. That said, the NCFA has decided that this is a valid protest. NCFA Rule 5.02.2 dictates that this protest result in the issue of an automatic forfeit.

Ruling: Protest Granted – The score of this game will be updated to reflect a 2 to 0 victory for Oakland and all player statistics should be disallowed for each team as per rule 5.02.2.2. Additionally, as per rule 5.02.2.1, UM Flint is automatically placed on probation.



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5.02.2.1 Additionally the team is AUTOMATICALLY placed on probation.

5.02.2.2 Player statistics for both teams of a game forfeited due to a participating team having no eligible roster DO NOT count.

Sandy Sanderson
NCFA President