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24Nov09 - In years past, Navy defensive coordinator Buddy Green found himself always pestering video coordinator John McGuire to hurry up and finish editing the previous game's tape.

Following road games, Green would sit in his office drinking coffee and tip-tapping his toes impatiently wait-ing for McGuire to complete the tedious process of preparing the video the coaching staff uses to evaluate the performance of players.

"I can remember coming in real early on Sunday mornings and constantly asking (McGuire) is the film ready, is the film ready," Green said. "I'm the type that needs to watch the game as soon as possible. It was hard to have to wait hours and hours for the film to get done."

That is no longer a problem for Green and the rest of the coaching staff now that Navy has the DV Sport GameDay editing and data analysis software package. The digital system is the latest, most high-tech tool available to major college football programs and has dramatically improved the speed at which video footage from practice and games can be prepared and viewed.

Now, McGuire and assistant video coordinator Todd Green can have the tape edited and prepared within 15-20 minutes of a game's conclusion. When Navy played at Rice and SMU, Green and other coaches watched digital copies of the tape on their laptops during the long flight home from Texas.

"I had the team defense evaluated for every play before I stepped off the plane. In the past, I had to wait until the next day to do that," Buddy Green said. "Now, when I come in Sunday morning, I'm ready to start on the next opponent."

For eight years, Navy used a video editing system purchased from Webb Electronics. When Niumatalolo took over as head coach, he realized that system had become outdated and wanted to up-grade.

"Technology is always changing and this is the Naval Academy. If there is any institution that should be a leader in technology, it's the Naval Academy," Niumatalolo said. "I knew we were a little bit behind in the video area and that was something I wanted to improve."

Navy's football and men's lacrosse programs partnered on the purchase of a new system. McGuire called approximately 40 schools around the country that were using relatively new digital editing systems to find out which ones were the best.

"I heard great feedback about the DV Sport system. The video coordinators I spoke with were impressed with the speed, efficiency and functionality of it," he said.

McGuire and a student assistant record every Navy football game with two Panasonic P2 HD camcorders. McGuire shoots a sideline angle from high atop the press box while the assistant shoots an end zone angle. Those cameras record onto 16 gigabyte digital cards that can be quickly popped out and inserted into a laptop computer.

Now that Navy has the DV Sport system, Todd Green can begin editing the tape during the game. After each quarter, Green pops the cards containing the sideline and end zone shots into a laptop and divides the video into offense, defense and special teams while marking plays and performing other editing functions.

"By the time the game is over, the replay tape is built and ready to go," Todd Green said. "Every coach is tasked with grading their respective positions. In the past, it took five or six hours to break down the tape the way the coaches need it. Now I can send them all a computer file containing what they need within a half hour after the game."

Navy tapes every practice using four cameras - two for the offensive field and two for the defensive field. Because of the DV Sport system, the practice tapes can be ready for viewing by the time the coaching staff returns to Ricketts Hall.

"This new system has been a tremendous asset because of the speed at which things can be done. It has enabled us to maximize our time in terms of watching video and using it to teach the players," Niumatalolo said. "We don't have much time with these guys because of all the academic and military responsibilities they have. Having a system that enables you to quickly put power points and video clips together, you're able to teach more efficiently."

One of the most amazing aspects of the DV Sport system is the way it catalogues a game tape into various categories such as first down plays, red zone plays and two-minute drill plays. If Buddy Green wants to find out what types of plays an opponent tends to run on third-and-short, he can type that into a computer and get the entire inventory within seconds.

"You can scout your opponent just about any way you want to watch them. You can sort by first down plays, third down conversion plays, plays from the right hash... you name it," Green said. "Just the speed at which you can dial up whatever you want is remarkable. It has saved the coaching staff and the players an awful lot of time."

The DV Sport system has all sorts of tools and applications that help the coaching staff with the teaching process. Offensive line coach Ashley Ingram can use a zoom tool to focus on offensive tackle Matt Malloy and show him how he took the wrong angle on blocking a linebacker. Defensive backs coach Joe Speed can use a diagramming tool to show the secondary players how a zone coverage was improperly executed.

"This system is very user-friendly. There are a lot of guys on the staff who are very computer savvy and there are some who are not, but this system is easy for everyone to use," Niumatalolo said. It has been a great teaching tool. Being able to show players exactly what they did right or wrong is very important."

Coach Green concurred and went as far as to say the new video system has probably helped Navy be more successful on the field.

"I truly think it's one of the greatest developments that has happened with our program. It has greatly enhanced the teaching process. We've been able to utilize the system to do a better job of evaluating our opponents and teaching our players and ultimately that translates to wins and

losses," he said.

According to Niumatalolo and Green, the DV Sport system has also helped Navy with the recruiting process. Highlight tapes of potential recruits can be entered into the system and more easily evaluated by the coaching staff.

"With the old system, we were always passing around DVDs. You get one this week and watch it, then you get another the next week and watch it. That process made it difficult to compare one recruit to another," Green said.

"With this system we are now able to catalogue defensive backs. I can punch a button and get all the defensive back films up on the screen, which makes it much easier for me to evaluate and rank them."

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