The Bison men’s soccer team improved its record by two wins in the 2013 campaign as the team finished with a 7-12-1 record. The season got off to a bit of a rocky start as the team dropped its first three contests before picking up a 7-0 victory over Keystone in the Mount Union Invitational. In the win over Keystone, senior Arkangelo James notched his first hat trick of the season and finished the game with eight points, adding two assists. Lamine Balde also added a goal, as did Nick Turner, Adam Gibboney and Jack Waters.

Including the victory over Keystone, the Bison rattled off three wins over the next four games after dropping three straight. The wins also included a 7-0 win over Penn State – New Kensington and a 3-2, overtime victory over Pitt-Greensburg.

In the 7-0 win over Penn State-New Kensington, Balde netted the first hat trick of his career. James added two goals and both Oumar Balde and Yannick Niedworok scored their first career goals.

In the overtime win over Pitt-Greensburg, the Bison got two, second-half goals to erase a 1-0 halftime deficit, but saw the Bobcats notch the equalizer late in the second half. James then scored the game-winning goal on an assist from Gibboney to improve the Bethany record to 3-4 to open the season.

Following the win vs. Pitt-Greensburg, the Bison suffered their second three-game slide of the season, dropping games to Marietta (3-2), Carnegie Mellon (5-0) and Muskingum (2-0) before capturing a victory over Mount Aloysius, 2-1.

In the win over the Mounties, the Bison once again erased a 1-0 halftime deficit. Niedworok scored his second goal of the season, notching the game at 1-1, before James notched the game winner on a penalty kick to give Bethany its fourth win of the season.

The Bison got off to a slow start in conference play as they posted a 0-2-1 record through the first three games, which included a 1-1 tie against Westminster. Following that stretch, Bethany rattled off its longest winning streak of the season, winning three-straight games. The streak included conference wins over Waynesburg (2-1) and Thiel (2-0) and a non-conference win over Penn State-Beaver.

In the team’s first conference victory, a 2-1 win over Waynesburg, James and Balde were at it again, helping the Bison jump out to a 2-0 lead before holding on for the victory. The team then followed that with a 6-0 win over Penn State – Beaver, getting goals from Sanjay Joshi, Ian Shephard and Cody McElhaney, as well as James’ third hat trick of the season.

The Bison then pitched their fourth shutout of the season in their next win, notching a 2-0 victory over Thiel. James and Balde registered goals as Callum Appleby totaled his fourth shutout of his freshman campaign. Following the victories, the Bison closed the season with a three-game slide to finish the year 7-12-1.

At the conclusion of the season, James was named Presidents’ Athletic Conference Player of the Year for the second season in a row, and was also given the nod as a First-Team All Great-Lakes Region honoree by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. Along with those accolades, James was also named a Corvias Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) South Regional First-Team All-Star.

James finished the 2013 season with a career-high 44 points (18 goals, eight assists) and lead the league in both offensive categories. He also finished his career tied for second in school history with 66 career goals and third with 156 points.

Balde also had a great senior season where he set career highs in goals (nine), assists (six) and points (24). He also ranked second in the conference in shots (81), shots per game (4.05), points (24) and was third in goals scored on his way to Second Team All-PAC honors.