

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

PSU title hopes crushed by Iowa, again

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sports editor

For the second year in a row, the Iowa Hawkeyes greatly hampered Penn State's goal of a National Title.

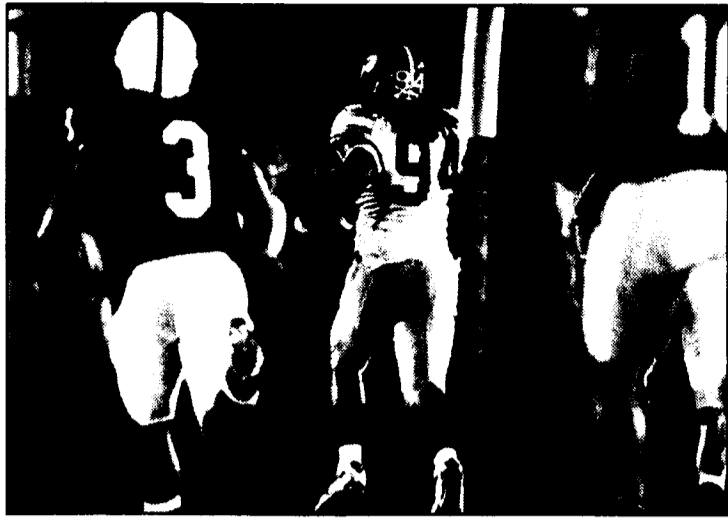
Last year, Iowa was led by Shonne Greene's 117 rushing yards and won on a spine-tin-gling last second field goal.

This year, Iowa's Adam Robinson and Brandon Wegher picked up where Greene left off with 161 combined yards on the ground.

Could the second loss in as many years to Iowa be put on the shoulders of star linebacker Sean Lee, who missed each game due to injury? Or could two equally poor performances from quarterback Darryl Clark be the problem? Or could we look to the coaching staff to find the problem?

There is no doubt that Lee's absence didn't help the Penn State defense stop Iowa's ground-and-pound offensive attack.

There is no doubt that Clark's combined 38 percent career



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Iowa's Adrian Clayborn takes returns a blocked punt 53 yards for a touchdown.

completion and five combined interceptions against Iowa haven't helped their cause.

And there is no doubt that when the coaches make decisions like putting a soaking wet 208 pound safety, Nick Sukay, in to block Iowa's athletic 282 pound defensive lineman, Adrian Clayborn, that disaster will eventually ensue for Penn State's punting team. Clayborn blocked and returned the

ball 53 yards to the end zone to put the Hawkeyes up 11-10, with 12:21 left in the game.

"I thought the kids hung in there, tried to come back, and they kept making mistakes," Penn State head coach Joe Paterno said.

This is true, but the one thing that has hampered the Nittany Lions the most in the team's last two contests against Iowa is the weather.

In a frigid wind tunnel at Iowa on Nov. 8, 2008 and in a soggy Happy Valley last weekend, Penn State's two greatest assets, passing the ball and rushing the passer, were bogged down by weather.

Each contest came down to who wanted the win more, and Iowa made its presence notorious.

What's worse for the Penn State football team is that it had each game's victory within its grasp when the fourth quarter starter.

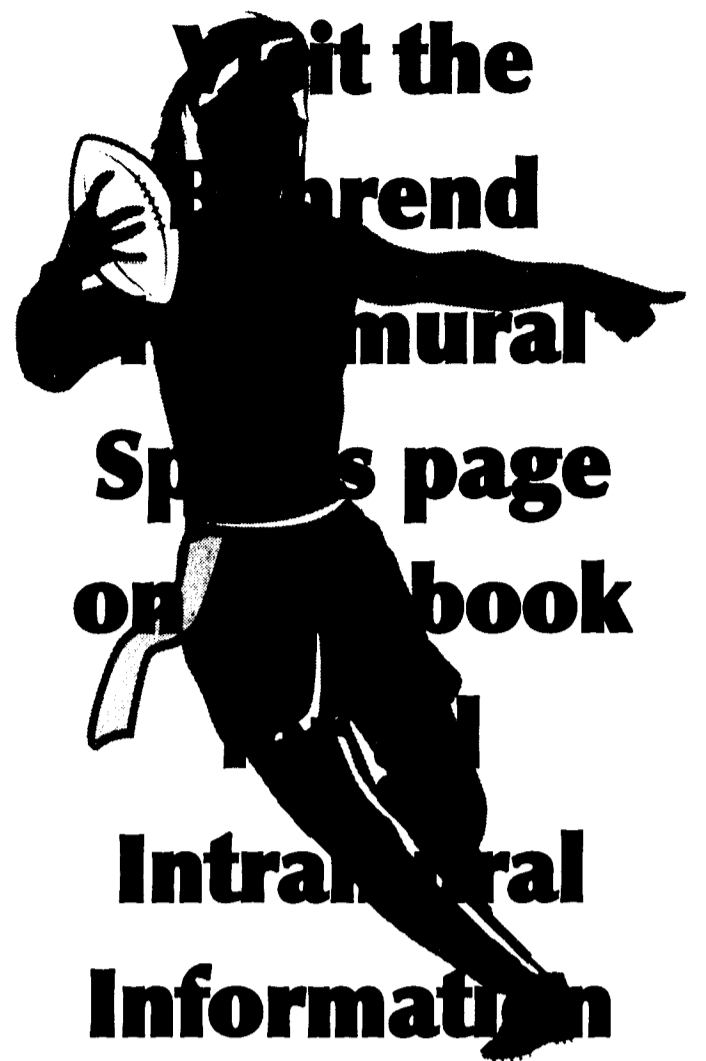
Last season, the Penn State defense allowed 10 points in the fourth quarter to cement an Iowa 24-23 comeback win.

This year the Nittany Lions jumped out to a 10-0 lead in the first quarter, but allowed 21 unanswered points, 16 of which were given up in the fourth quarter.

"It was a team loss. No one person, or one play lost it," Paterno said. "We got licked."

Penn State has lost seven of its last eight games against Iowa.

INTRAMURALS



HARBORCREEK CANDIDATE FORUM

SPONSORED BY SGA AND POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY

WHEN: Wednesday, October 7 @ 7 p.m.

WHERE: McGarvey Commons

WHAT: Candidate forum; candidates for the Board of Supervisors will be present, as well as members of the Board of Education. They will be asked a series of prepared questions, and it will then be open to questions from audience members.

WHY: Harborcreek laws significantly impact our students. Things like sidewalks on Jordan Road, more stores on campus, and education can be addressed here.

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