

PSU FOOTBALL

Four generations of Blue and White domination

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sports editor

Fullback Joe Suhey is a fourth-generation Nittany Lion football player, but he has more than just a tradition to carry. He has to uphold a legacy of excellence.

The first family of Nittany Lions football began when two-way end Bob Higgins stepped onto Penn State's New Beaver Field in 1914. Higgins began what is now a four-generation family tradition of Penn State football.

He was Penn State's second All-American football player and later coached the Lions from 1930 to 1948. The teams he coached had an overall winning percentage of .607.

Higgins was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1954.

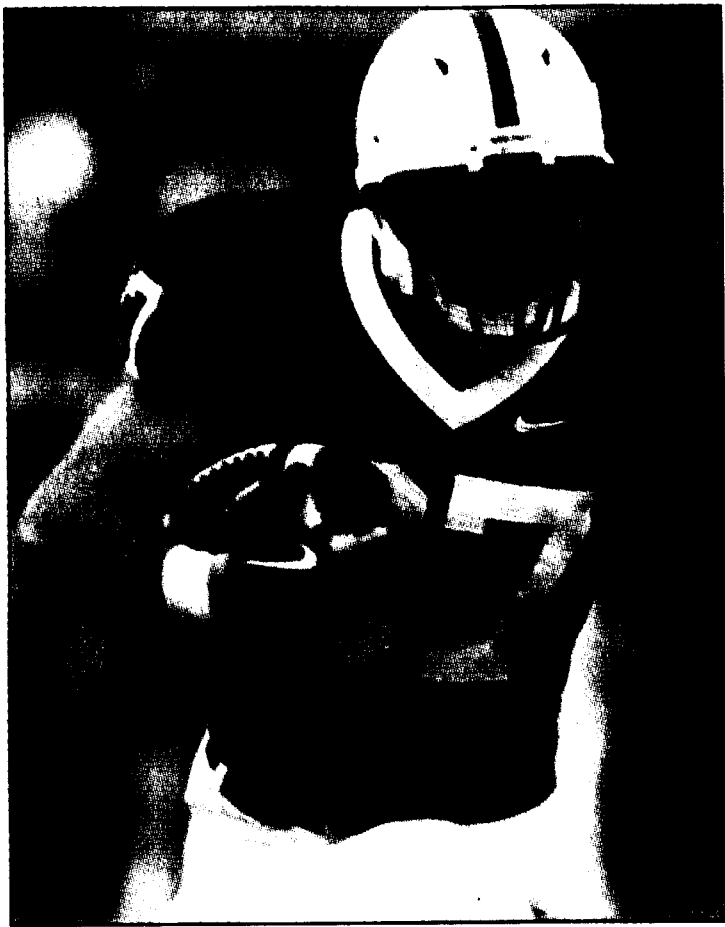
Higgins' son-in-law, Steve Suhey, went on to be an All-American guard in 1947 and was named MVP of the 1948 Cotton Bowl.

Suhey started one of the most famous chants in sports history. After Penn State was invited to play in the 1948 Cotton Bowl Suhey proclaimed, "We are Penn State. There will be no meetings."

He did this because southern universities were going to attempt to keep Penn State's two black players from participating in the 1948 Cotton Bowl. In that period of time it was common for northern teams to disown its black players when facing southern teams.

Suhey and Penn State prevailed in the team's crusade to play its black players in the south and won the game. He was inducted in the College Football Hall of Fame in 1995.

Suhey had three sons, Larry,



Randy Litzinger / Icon SMI

Sophomore Joseph Suhey is the seventh member of the Higgins-Suhey family to don a Blue and White Nittany Lions jersey.

Matt and Paul, who each played at Penn State in the 1970s.

One of them, Matt Suhey, stepped onto Beaver Stadium's football field in 1977.

He went on to play fullback for the Chicago Bears from 1980 to 1989. He was a fan favorite of the famous 1985 Super Champion Chicago Bears.

Paul Suhey's son, Kevin, became the family's first fourth generation football player at Penn State from 2005 to 2007. He did not see any playing time at quarterback.

Matt Suhey's son, Joe, is the

second Higgins-Suhey fourth generation Penn State player.

Joe Suhey was a red-shirt in his freshman year of 2007. In 2008, Suhey saw marginal playing time and got onto the field for 172 total snaps.

This season he has rushed the ball 13 times for 38 yards, and has caught 14 passes for 114 yards.

His first collegiate touchdown continues to elude him, but he's going to need more than just a touchdown to be a good following act to his forefathers.

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