

A Quick Glance At Pro Football

by Bob Hoffman
Sports Writer

Professional football is in its ninth week and divisional titles are definitely at stake. At least two teams of every division are in the heat of the battle.

The American Football Conference has many teams quite capable of representing them in the Super Bowl.

In the Central division a bitter struggle is going on between the Pittsburgh Steelers (4-4) and the Cleveland Browns (4-4). I feel this divisional title surprisingly depends on the outcome of quarterback Mike Phipps. After Cleveland's 26-9 loss to Pittsburgh, Cleveland coach Nick Skorich stated that he will bench both Bill Nelson and Gary Collins in favor of Mike Phipps and Frank Pitts. Phipps could be the inspiration they need.

In the Eastern Division, the battle is between the Miami Dolphins (6-1-1) and the Baltimore Colts (5-2). Both teams have fine defenses but Miami has the better offense. In past games, good opposing teams have been able to run on Baltimore and with Jim Kiick and Larry Csonka running and Bob Griese, throwing Miami should win it.

In the West, we see the Oakland Raiders (5-1-2) against the Kansas City Chiefs (5-2-1). In their last matchup the result was a 20-20 tie. In that game played in Oakland, George Blanda had to come to the rescue and Kansas City was without star running back Ed Podolack. However, next time it might be different. The game will be played in Kansas City and Ed Podolack should be back.

The National Conference also

has its great teams. In the Eastern Division it is between Washington and Dallas. Washington continues to look impressive both on offense and defense, but in last week's tie to Philadelphia, they committed a total of seven turnovers and if not for two Philadelphia missed field goals, Washington would have lost. Dallas on the other hand amazes me. With such great talent they should have a better record than (5-3). Coach Tom Landry is now using Roger Staubach as starting quarterback and I feel you can't count them out.

A three way battle is going on in the Central division between the Minnesota Vikings (6-2), the Detroit Lions (5-2-1) and the Chicago Bears (5-3). Minnesota should come out on top but to go any higher than a divisional championship they must improve offensively.

In the Western Division the San Francisco 49ers appear to be heading for their second straight divisional title. The new Los Angeles Rams are putting up a good fight but don't appear to stand in the 49ers way.

And don't forget the second place teams with the best record in each conference also has a spot in the play-off.

In the football anything can happen on any given day, the teams with the worst record can beat the teams with the best. This season is far from over.

Chuck Crist Leads 1971 PSU Cagers

Chuck Crist, senior forward from Salamanca, N.Y., has been elected captain of the Penn State basketball team.

"Chuck has been given a mandate to lead," said Penn State basketball coach John Bach in announcing the team's selection. "The staff welcomed the team's decision. I'm sure Chuck will be a fine captain."

A 6-2, 190 pounder, Crist was named the team's Most Valuable Player last year. Used sparingly early in the season, he became a

North Carolina Vs. PSU Highlights All U Day

Penn State's football team, the top scoring machine in the country, entertains North Carolina State on Saturday.

A capacity crowd of 50,000 Penn State's fifth straight sellout this season is expected at Beaver Stadium for the 1:30 p.m. kickoff.

It will be the final home game of the season for the Nittany Lions who have an 8-0 record so far this year and a 13-game winning streak. North Carolina State is 2-7 after its upset 13-7 win over Miami (Fla.) last week.

The game is the highlight of All-University Day. Students from Penn State's campuses around the state are invited to University Park for the game and other activities.

Penn State moved to the top of the national scoring leaders after its 63-27 rout of Maryland last week. The Nittany Lions are averaging 44.1 points per game to 43.6 for Oklahoma and 42.1 for Michigan.

"We were pleased with the offense," Paterno says, "and we were particularly pleased that Lydell Mitchell broke all of the rushing and scoring records. Some of these runs were just unbelievable. He has been just tremendous and has to be a top candidate for the Heisman

Trophy. I don't see how there can be a better all-around back in the country."

Mitchell, the Lions' 200-pound senior halfback, broke six school records in just over three quarters of play against Maryland. He now holds the Penn State marks for rushing yardage in a season (1,174) and career (2,541), scoring in a season (126) and career (198) and touchdowns in a season (21) and career (33).

The Salem, N.J. native gained 209 yards and scored five touchdowns in only 24 carries against the Terps. He is averaging 6.6 yards per carry this season with his 1,174 yards in 179 attempts. He also is second on the team in receiving with 10 catches for 119 yards.

The nation's individual scoring leader, Mitchell needs only four touchdowns in the Lions' three remaining games to break the NCAA record of 24 TDs set by Art Luppino of Arizona in 1953.

"The offensive line has been great and we have so many other good backs that the defense can't gang up on me" Mitchell says.

Mitchell's point is a good one. Quarterback John Hufnagel is having an outstanding season. The Lion junior has completed 62.5 per cent of his passes (55 of 88) for 778 yards and six touchdowns. He has been intercepted only twice.

Fullback Franco Harris, who is fourth on Penn State's all-time rushing list, missed last week's game with a minor leg injury and has been bothered by a succession of minor injuries all season. He still has managed to gain 462 yards in 89 carries.

In addition to his passing prowess, Hufnagel gives Penn

State another running threat. He has carried the ball 54 times for 302 yards and three touchdowns.

Sophomore Tom Donchez filled in for Harris last week and gained 80 yards in nine carries. Donchez has been running in the same backfield with Mitchell and Harris when the Lions are in their Power-I formation.

The Lion running backs have been running behind in offensive line led by tackle Davey Joyner, the team's offensive captain and another All-American candidate. Penn State is averaging 470.1 yards per game total offense, including 317.5 yards per contest on the ground.

The defense, led by linebackers John Skorppan and Charlies Zapiec and defensive end Bruce Bannon has allowed just under 10 points per game. The 27 points scored by Maryland were the most given up by the Lions this season.

North Carolina State has been hampered by a rash of injuries to key players this year, but came up with its best game of the season to beat Miami last week.

The Wolfpack is led by a pair of sophomores—quarterback Bruce Shaw and halfback Willie Burden. Shaw has passed effectively in the last several games. Burden is the team rushing leader with 739 yards and is a threat as a receiver.

The N.C. State defense is led by middle guard George Smith and defensive back Van Walker, who had a 71-yard interception return against the Lions two years ago.

Penn State holds a 7-0 edge in the series against North Carolina State. The Lions are 29-2 against Atlantic Coast Conference opposition.

career (198) and rushing attempts in one game (29 against Iowa).

"The records are nice and what other players and coaches say about you is nice to hear, but something else really pleased me," Mitchell says, "Joe (Paterno) is very careful with superlatives and when I read what he said about me it made me feel great. That's something I'll remember all my life."

Asked after the game about Mitchell's chance of winning the Heisman Trophy Paterno responded:

"That comes up every week. I don't want to get into comparisons, but he's got to be as fine a back as there is in the country. I don't know how there could be a better runner, receiver, blocker and he's been a great leader. He's just a great all-around player. Breaking Lenny Moore's records, he's got to go down as one of the great backs in college football history."

Lydell Mitchell: Making History

Lydell Mitchell tried to play it cool, but the feeling of pride was obvious.

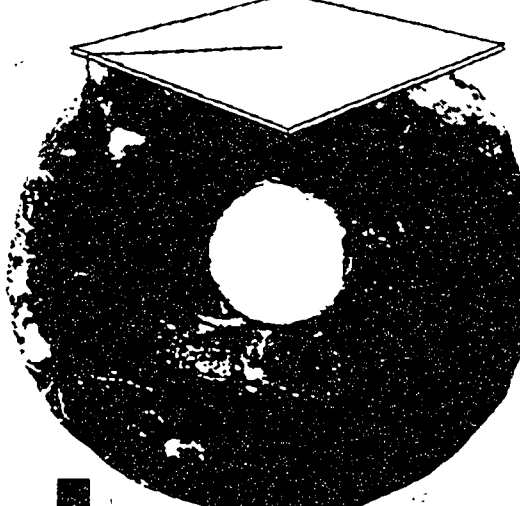
His teammates on the Penn State football team gave him the game ball after last week's 63-27 rout of Maryland. They should have given him the school record book. He had practically rewritten it.

Mitchell, a 200-pound senior from Salem, N.J., carried 24 times for 209 yards and five touchdowns against the Terps, breaking six Penn State records in the process.

"I knew how many yards I needed to break the records. I was thinking about it," Mitchell said. "Then when it happened, I was elated. I tried not to show it, but deep down inside I congratulated myself. I feel like I've accomplished something."

Mitchell now holds the Penn State records for rushing yardage in a season (1,174) and a career (2,541), touchdowns in a season (21) and career (33), points in a season (126) and

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