

Capitolizing on Sports



Zeroes Are No. 1

The Zero Squad, [left], battled the cold weather and the Kamikazees, [right] under the watchful eye of mascot, Holly, to capture the Intramural Football title.



By Kevin Spiegel

Dressed in earmuffs, gloves, scarves, and shorts, a "capacity" crowd turned out at the Roberta Bronson Sports Complex for the 1981 Intramural Flag Football Championship. The participants: the Zero Squad from Hershey Medical Center and the Kamikazees from Capitol Campus. The C.C. Reader betting line was Kamikazees plus two, because of the home school advantage.

The finals were shaping up as a rematch between the Zero Squad and the Nightriders. But the Kamikazees shocked the Nightriders, 16-9, in the semi-finals. (This writer was also shocked!) The Kamikazees have a highly talented team with a lot of finesse and quickness, but the Nightriders were bigger and stronger. But in the end, the quickness paid off. As for the Zero Squad, they ran all over their semi-final opponents, the White Dogs, by a score of 21-0.

What would have been the rematch of the year was now labeled an even better game. Could the Kamikazees stop the combination of Marty DeFrancesco

to Mike Watson? Could the Zero Squad contain the arm of Greg DeNunzio?

The Zero Squad drew first blood with a highly concealed 20-yard end around from QB DeFrancesco to RB Watson, who gave it to Mike Baer. Baer galloped in for the first score. The PAT was no good, so it was 6-0, Zero Squad.

Ray Dougherty intercepted a DeNunzio pass, setting up a ten-yard run by William "Willie" Thomier. A twopoint conversion pushed the score to 14-0 in favor of the Underdogs from Hershey.

Just when things looked bleak, the Kamikazees got a break from the men they called the refs. DeNunzio faded back and hit player-coach Marty Snopek streaking down the middle for a 35-yard gain. In addition, a pass interference call in the end zone set up a first-and-goal. DeNunzio then hit Mark Flinkbaugh for the TD. At the half it was 14-7 Zero Squad, but it was now a ballgame.

As the second half began, defense was the name of the game. The Zero Squad was led by #80 Jim Artuso. He singlehandedly stopped potential big gainers by the Kamikazees.

The turning point of the game came with the Kamikazees facing a third-and-a-mile situation. Mark Flinkbaugh broke off right tackle and was gone, but those men who call themselves refs detected a clipping in the line. Therefore the tying touchdown was called back. Just remember that the Kamikazees would have tied the score, but Nooooo! The refs saw a clipping. (By the way, I saw the clip also)

After that break, the Zero Squad had a fourth down and a bunch. Quarterback DeFrancesco faded back and hit his second favorite wide receiver all alone some 50 yards away. His favorite wide receiver had four guys around him, so Baer was all alone. As the saying goes "It was lights out, good night Irene!" Suddenly it was 21-7, instead of 14-14.

You might say at this point, "Oh well, the Kamikazees lost, let's go home." Wrong. They gave it all they had right down to the final whistle. After the ensuing kickoff, DeNunzio and Company needed one play (nine seconds) to get back into the game. DeNunzio hit Snopek flying down the right side for 80

yards and six points.

That was it for the scoring, but the "capacity" crowd saw a great game. Look, the Kamikazees might have lost, but how many teams have a dog named Holly as their mascot to come out to wish the team good luck?

Congratulations to the 1981 Intramural Flag Football champs--the Zero Squad. And to the best Flag Football team at Capitol Campus--the Kamikazees, if only they could change one play and take back that clipping call. (Oh, those refs!)

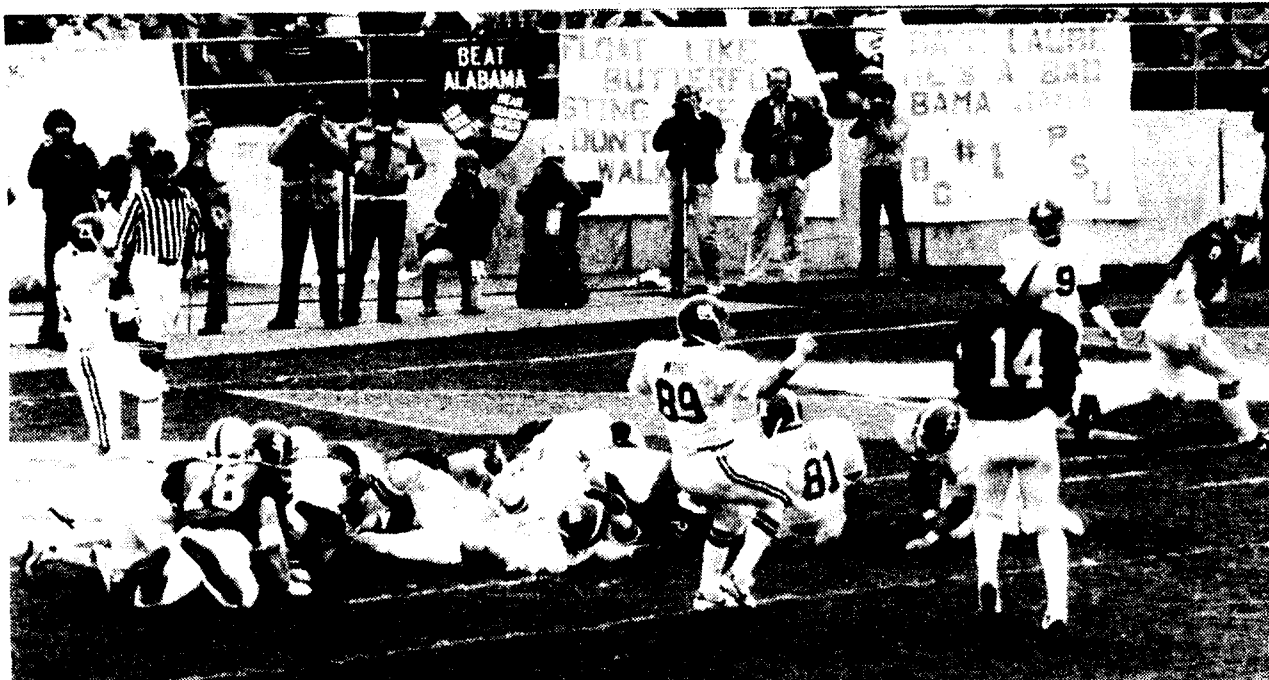
Three Offensive Stars

1. Mike Baer
2. Marty DeFrancesco
3. Marty Snopek

Three Defensive Stars

1. Jim Artuso
2. Dave "the claw" Dell
3. Nate Santaromita

Reader Photos by Darrell Reider



[Above]: Penn State on fourth and one tried desperately for six points, but to no avail. Offensive coach Dick Anderson, [Below], explains to his linemen the upcoming blocking assignments.



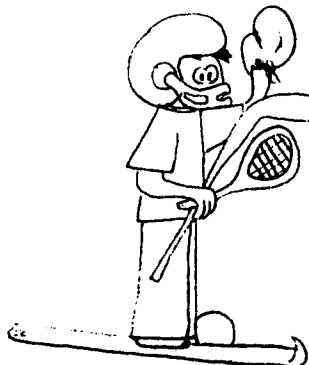
Bama Stagg—ers By Defenseless Lions

By Darrell Reider

"Blue Z dive, off 62, on 3. Break!" was the call last Saturday, with Penn State just one yard away from paydirt, six points, and a chance for a comeback from a 14-3 deficit. Quarterback Todd Blackledge sends tight end Mike McCloskey in motion from left to right, and after a good snap from center hands off the pigskin to the Nittany Lion franchise, Curt Warner. Number 25 moves with the flow, looking for a hole to the end zone, but all he sees is white and red. Seven plays to move three feet. Sounds easy, right? Well 85,133 fans at Beaver Stadium groaned in disbelief after the then #5 Nittany Lions failed, prompting the sudden memories of New Year's Day 1979 once again. Remember the first and goal at the two, four consecutive running plays up the middle into the waiting Tide defense?

What's the problem? Is it the ABC jinx? Choking in the big game? Or is it the big money that creates stars in the eyes of the players, like some kind of dream world? True, Penn State hasn't won on ABC-TV since December 22, 1979 at the Liberty Bowl, when the Lions downed Tulane 9-6. The fault in the Bama game stems from poor coaching by Conservative Joe and Company. After the game, at his press conference, Paterno blamed the loss on himself. "I think we were a poorly coached football team today. And I take the blame for that," Paterno was quoted as saying. "We just did a lousy job of coaching." Former Arkansas coach-turned ABC commentator Frank Broyles suggested regional TV that State "run the option. Please, run the option."

Shades of '79 Sugar Bowl?



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