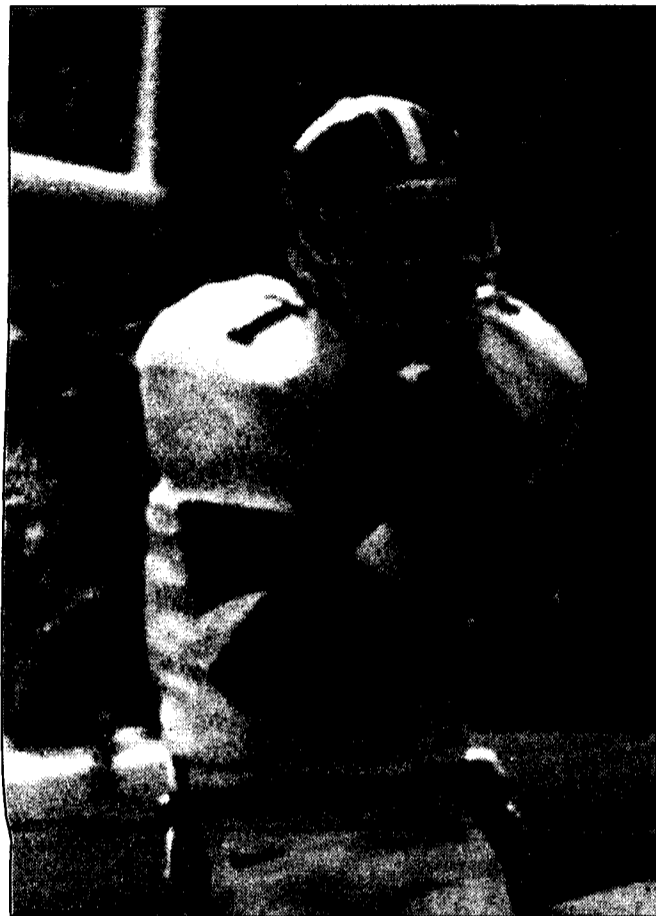


S m o k e T h i s . . .

PSU SNUFFS OUT SMOKER AND MICHIGAN ST. 42-23

Photos and Story By Edward Capozzi
Capital Times Staff Writer



MSU's Lavaile Richardson catches a Jeff Smoker 2nd-half pass narrowing Penn State's lead to 28-10.

Michigan State quarterback Jeff Smoker, a Pennsylvania native who turned down an opportunity to attend Penn State, was snuffed out by the Nittany Lions 42-23 at Beaver Stadium Saturday.

Meanwhile, Penn State quarterback Rashard Casey, playing in his final game for the Lions, threw for 218 yards and rushed for another 38. The Lions scored on their first four possessions and led 28-3 at the half. They went on to score on their first two possessions of



McCoo rushed for 71 yards and caught a 31-yard touchdown pass.

the second half and built their lead to 42-10.

After sacking Smoker six times, the Nittany Lions knocked him out of the game and held on to win 42-23. They sacked backup quarterback Ryan Van Dyke twice for a total of eight for the day.

Several seniors for Penn State, including Casey, had stellar days. Linebacker Justin Kurpeikis, fullback Mike Cerimelli and safety James Boyd all played their last games for Penn State in admirable fashion.

Meanwhile, performances by key juniors offered what we can only hope is a preview of next year. Larry Johnson ran for 94 yards including a 58-yard touch-

down run while Eric McCoo rushed for 71 yards including a 31-yard touchdown reception.

After a 1-4 start, the Lions won four of their last seven to end the season at 5-7. The Lions beat Purdue, Indiana, Illinois and finally Michigan State to salvage what could have been their worst season



Penn State fans look forward to basketball season.

in history. In 1988, the Lions went 5-7 in the only other losing season under Joe Paterno.

Junior Eric McCoo rushed for a total of 692 yards this season, and

classmate Larry Johnson ran for an encouraging 358 yards. Considering what they've done this year, these two tailbacks


should make next season interesting.

The win gives Paterno 322 career wins, one shy of Bear Bryant's all-time career record of 323. He should easily surpass

Bryant next season.

That's all folks!



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