

# Students disappointed at loss to Purdue

By Allyson Davis  
Staff Reporter  
amd367@psu.edu

It was another sad day in Happy Valley on Saturday October 9th. Our own Nittany Lions fell to the Purdue Boilermakers in a 20-13 loss. Though it was a loss, you would not have guessed it from seeing all the fans. "Penn State put up a good fight, it was hard to see them lose," said Bobby Barkanic, fellow Penn State student. Coach Joe Paterno voiced his frustrations at the end about the game. "We played hard, but we got licked. I'm not happy about anything, except that these guys fought their hearts out for three weeks. The crowd was great, they deserve better. We played a great football team, but we're Penn State and we are supposed to win these games." This was the second game in Paterno's career that he did not allow the football players to speak to the press following the game.

The first quarter was a constant battle between the teams to prove themselves, back and forth with no touchdowns. Ben Jones, kicker for Purdue, made a 50-yard field goal in the first quarter giving them a 3-0 lead before the second quarter. Halfway through the second quarter, the Boilers turned on the heat with a two-yard touchdown by Brandon Jones giving the Boilers a 10-0 lead.

Our own Zack Mills threw a 37-

yard touchdown pass received by Terrell Golden, which was followed by a field goal kick by Robbie Gould making the score 10-7. Penn State then continued with another field goal by Gould, this one at 45 yards, tying the game 10-10 by halftime. With the crowd all hyped up, the Penn State Blue Band took the field for their halftime show.

The second half opened with Purdue's Taylor Stubblefield making a 40-yard touchdown. Penn State came back with Gould making another field goal to bring the game closer, 17-13. The Lions had two chances to score in the fourth quarter but were unsuccessful. Zack Mills attempted a fake field goal, but came up short and Gould was not able to make a 45-yard field goal attempt. Kicker Ben Jones of Purdue made a field goal with just less than three minutes left in the fourth quarter, giving the Boilers the victory with a 20-13

win. This Purdue win is the first here at Penn State and also makes the Boilers 5-0, which is the first time since 1945.

The team may have lost, but the celebration made that difficult to

and down College Avenue and Beaver Street. Every place you went and saw was packed with fellow Penn Staters, though occasionally, you would see a Boiler fan looming in the crowds.



Photo courtesy of www.gopsusports.com

Terrell Golden catches a 37-yard pass during the Nittany Lion's recent game against the Purdue Boilermakers. The lions lost the game 20-13.

believe. I had the chance to travel to State College the night before to see what all happens the night before a game. For students at University Park, the tailgating starts the night before any game, home or away. Students and fans lined the streets, filled the bars and restaurants, and made numerous purchases up

"There is a lot of pride here at this school. Win or lose the students and fans will always cheer on the Lions," said Michele Davis, Penn State alumni.

Before the game on Saturday afternoon, the fans proved they were ready for another exciting football game. Tailgates were everywhere. Fans cooked out on

grills and enjoyed friendly games of touch football in the fields surrounding Beaver Stadium. "We do this every home game. Tailgating before the game is a requirement here," said Amy Steffan, Penn State fan. Her friend, Amber Weaber, visiting from out of town said, "I've never seen anything like it. It's like one big party and tons of fun."

Not only was it a big game for Penn State, but Saturday October 9th was University Day. Approximately 109,000 people filled Beaver Stadium to watch the Nittany Lions play and enjoy the festivities, proving that State College was the place to be this weekend. Activities were all around the stadium and throughout town. During commercial breaks some intercollegiate teams were mentioned for their achievements including the women's indoor track and field team that claimed their first ever Big Ten Championship and the Lady Lion Basketball team, mentioned for their achievements in their 2003-2004 season. Penn State is known for football so it was nice to see other teams mentioned.

Penn State's loss to Purdue is not the end, but the beginning. After facing three back to back unbeaten and ranked opponents, Penn State has a bye this week. October 23rd is the Homecoming game where Penn State will face Iowa.

**"There is a lot of pride here at this school. Win or lose the students and fans will always cheer on the Lions."**

**-Michele Davis, Penn State Alumni**

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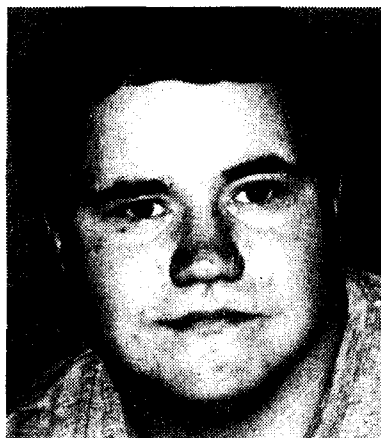
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**Phila. @ Pittsburgh**  
Pittsburgh  
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Oct. 31-Nov. 1

**Green Bay @ Washington**  
Green Bay  
**New England @**

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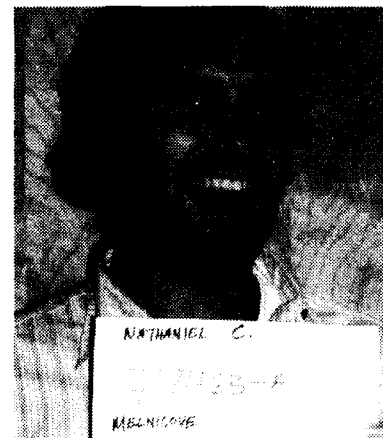
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## Unbeaten Eagles have room for improvement

By Rob Maaddi  
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA - Here's a scary thought for the rest of the NFL: the Philadelphia Eagles aren't playing their best.

The offense isn't clicking inside opponents' territory and the defense is vulnerable against the run. Still, the Eagles are dominating teams, winning their first five games by an average margin of 14.8 points.

Despite a second straight subpar performance from Donovan McNabb and the offense, the Eagles beat Carolina 30-8 on Sunday.

They're 5-0 for the first time since starting 6-0 in 1981. They've trailed for only 7:36 this season, have led after each quarter, and are the only team to win each game by double digits.

But there's room for improvement, especially on offense. The

Eagles have scored only three offensive touchdowns and settled for seven field goals in the last two games.

"Offensively, I've got to do a better job of putting our guys in position," Eagles coach Andy Reid said Monday. "We need to run the ball better. We've got to look at that. That wasn't up to par."

Brian Westbrook finished with 64 yards rushing on 13 carries against the Panthers, but he had just 22 yards before breaking a 42-yard touchdown run on his last carry.

"Brian is not a secret anymore," Reid said. "I think people know who he is and what he can do, so that will be the challenge for the offense to make sure he can be productive each week."

McNabb, off to the best start of his six-year career, was just 14-of-26 for 209 yards, one interception and didn't throw a TD for the first time this season. He has

struggled in the second half of the last two games, completing 11 of 24 passes for 82 yards, two interceptions and no TDs.

Terrell Owens had four catches for 123 yards in the first half against Carolina, but didn't get another reception.

"We're seeing a softer coverage in the second half," Reid said. "I need to go back through and make sure I'm calling the right plays for the guys so they can execute them."

Overall, the offense has scored 130 of the team's 137 points, an average of 26 points per game. Except for the second half of the last two games, McNabb has been outstanding, throwing for 1,377 yards, nine TDs and two interceptions and running for two scores.

Meanwhile, the defense has been better each week, allowing fewer points in every game. They had a shutout for 57 minutes against the Panthers, before giv-

ing up another meaningless score. Of the 63 points scored against the Eagles, 34 have come in the fourth quarter, when the outcome already was decided.

The only defensive negative against Carolina was that the Eagles allowed 158 yards rushing. The defense gave up just 187 yards on the ground in the three previous games combined.

"There's definitely room for improvement," linebacker Dhani Jones said. "As a defense, we're always keying in on the amount of rushing yards that an offense has. I know it was over 100 yards and we're not satisfied with that."

Notes: MLB Mark Simoneau has a sprained foot, but should play against Cleveland on Sunday...The Eagles haven't won five consecutive games by double digits since doing it six straight games in 1951.

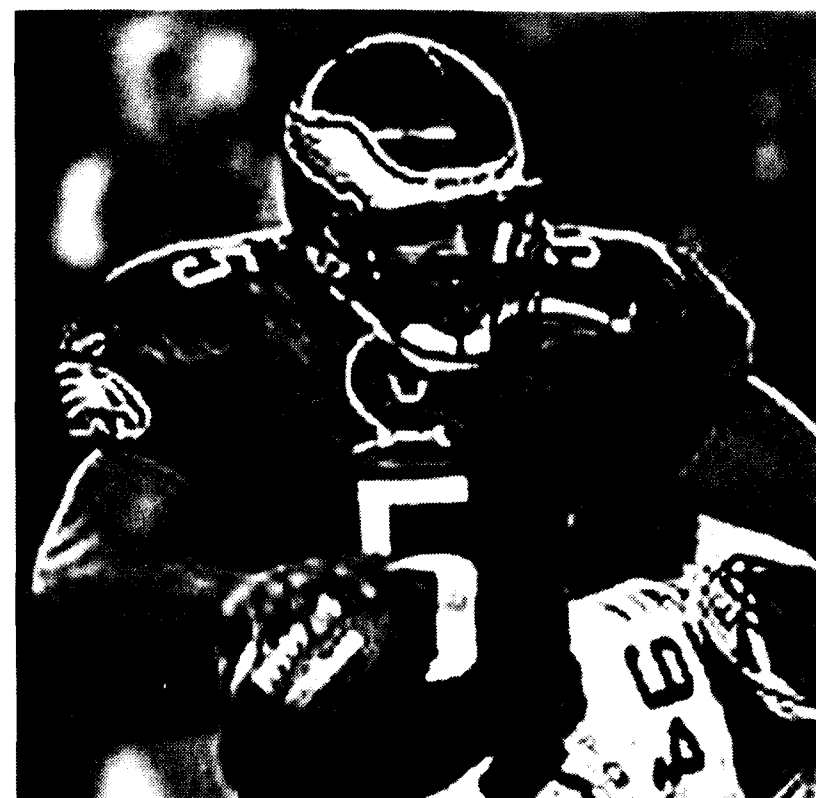


Photo courtesy of www.superbowl.com

Donovan McNabb's performance was subpar in the Eagles recent game against Carolina.