

YOU HAD ME AT HELLO
SPORTS

Penn State emerges atop Big Ten after topsy-turvy weekend

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press Writer

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Penn State seized control of the Big Ten with its statement-making win over Ohio State. The Buckeyes have to readjust their goals.

While a conference title is still a possibility for Ohio State, a national championship is not.

The loss to Penn State (6-0, 3-0 Big Ten) left the Nittany Lions as the only unbeaten team in the conference and highlighted a weekend chock-full of major twists and turns in the Big Ten.

"This was a huge game for us," Penn State safety Chris Harrell said after Saturday night's 17-10 victory. "We showed the country what we can do."

People noticed, too. Penn State leapfrogged eight spots in The Associated Press Top 25 on Sunday to No. 8, the Nittany Lions' highest ranking since appearing at No. 6 in November 1999.

Also Saturday, Wisconsin fell for the first time this year in a wild loss to Northwestern; two-time defending conference champion Michigan lost to Minnesota; and Iowa extended Purdue's freefall with a win over the Boilermakers.

Ohio State (3-2, 1-1) suffered a double-whammy with the loss to Penn State: they fell back in the Big Ten and eliminated themselves from national title contention.

Michael Robinson and Derrick Williams ran for second-quarter touchdowns and Penn State's defense took over from there in clamping down on the Buckeyes.

The Nittany Lions sealed the win after Tamba Hali sacked Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith and forced a fumble that was recovered by Scott Paxson near midfield late in the fourth quarter.

Instead of talking about a possible Rose Bowl trip, Buckeyes

linebacker Bobby Carpenter now has to answer questions like "How do you salvage your season?"

"Salvage is a term I wouldn't use," said Carpenter, whose squad dropped nine spots in the AP poll to No. 15. "That sounds like you're picking something off the scrap table."

It's not like Ohio State has lost to two patsies — besides the bruising battle with Penn State, they also fell 25-22 last month to Texas.

"We should have won both games," Carpenter said. "We were in them until the end, but we didn't play well enough as a team to win."

Neither did Michigan on Saturday, after its 23-20 home loss to Minnesota dropped the Wolverines out of the poll. The Golden Gophers re-emerged this week at No. 22.

The Wolverines could return to the rankings if they beat resurgent Penn State this Saturday in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"We are going to try to regroup. It's hard, but so what," Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said. "You've got to go fight."

Besides Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin are also 2-1 in the Big Ten, a game behind Penn State. Iowa is unranked, while Wisconsin fell nine spots to No. 23 after losing to Northwestern.

No. 16 Michigan State, which was idle last week, faces Ohio State this Saturday in Columbus, Ohio.

"This loss hurts," Buckeyes tailback Antonio Pittman said after the Penn State game. "But we're not going to dwell on it."

The Nittany Lions became bowl-eligible with the win, and quarterback Robinson isn't shy about which postseason game he prefers.

"We just have to keep working hard and keep our minds focused on our goals," Robinson said. "And the goal is to be in Pasadena."

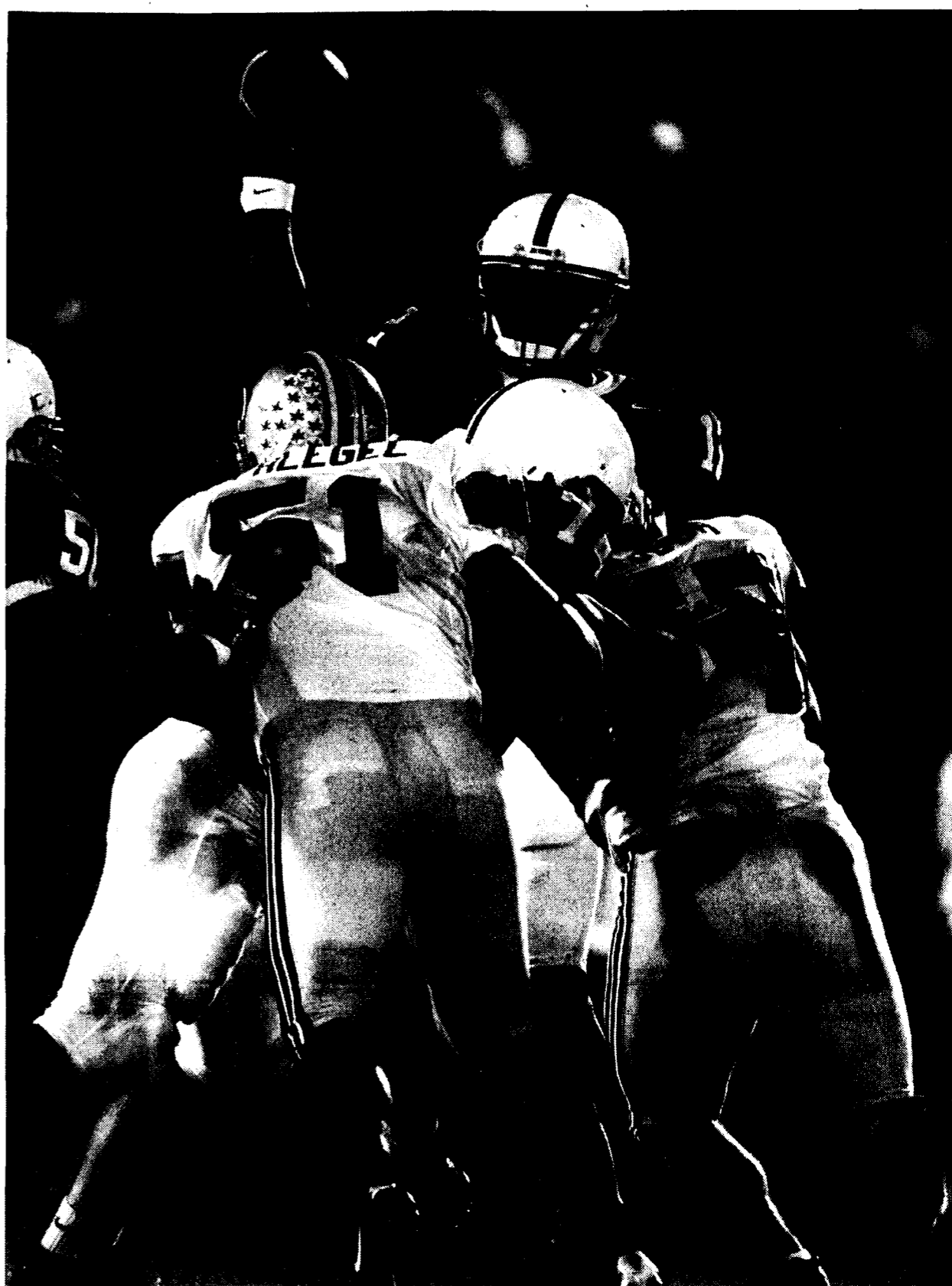


Photo courtesy of AP Sports

Michael Robinson readies himself to throw a pass to an open receiver. The Penn State freshman threw and ran the ball in great form, leading to Penn State's victory.

Bad news bears claw their way to victory

By Amanda Nace
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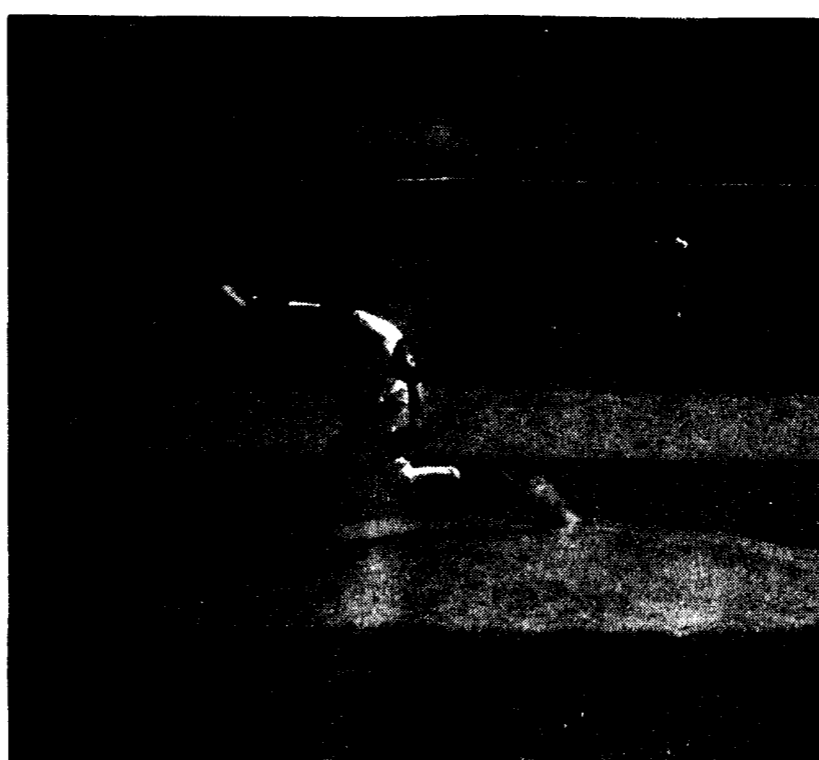
As the sun shone brightly onto their borrowed field at Middletown Area High School, the infamously named 'Bad News Bears' made some good news as they made clear to Penn State McKeesport that they meant business.

In the first game of the double header, McKeesport lead the scoreboard but Penn State Harrisburg was bound and determined. Mel Evans scored a triple, bringing the underdogs on top.

"We had a couple of errors, but we got our heads together," said Evans, a junior at PSH. "A lot of us haven't played for a few years; we're still a young team. We're still getting to know the coach [and] his strategies," he said.

Evans is confident. "We're gonna be good," he said with a smile as he heads back out to the field.

Pitcher Wes Erdman said, "I think we got a good chance at a victory. I know we are definitely going to struggle because I know a lot of the players haven't thrown in a while."



Photos by Amanda Nace/Capital Times

Pitcher Wes Erdman helped keep composure for the rest of his team to come to a victory over McKeesport.

"Wes knows how to pitch," said coach Bob Maschmeyer, speaking of the freshman from Halifax. "For him to keep composure is huge for the rest of us," he said.

Erdman says he just takes it one

pitch at a time.

"We took some beatings early on but since then we got some practice time and some game [time]," said Maschmeyer.

It is apparent in the outcome of the scores that their practice has

finally paid off as they steadily built their confidence on the field.

"You need to bring an attitude to the game," said Maschmeyer. "We are a better team than them, we just need to play like it."

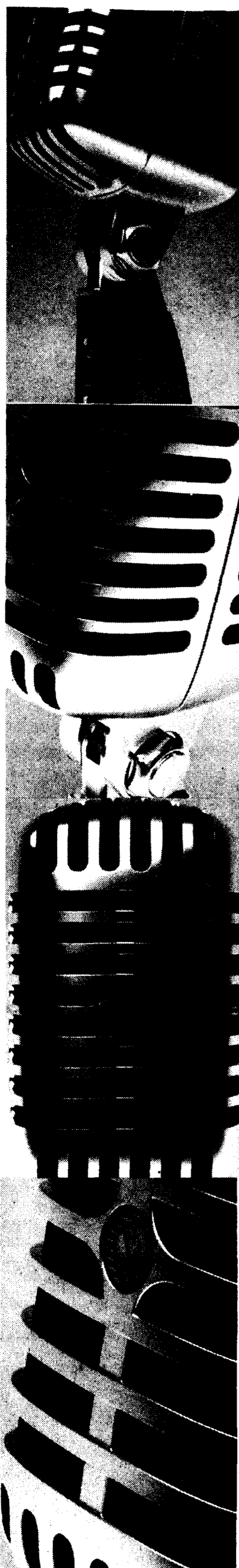
Maschmeyer believed there are three keys to winning the game

of baseball, "heart, desire, and thought process."

"I think the kids were confident coming in," he said. And at the end of the day, their confidence and heart was shown on the scoreboard, toppling McKeesport 5-2 in the first double header, and 3-1 in the second.



A PSH batter looks to his coach which preparing to bat and bring the next scoring run into home.



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WPSH returns!

Next Meeting will be on Wed. Oct. 12 @ 12:30 in the auditorium