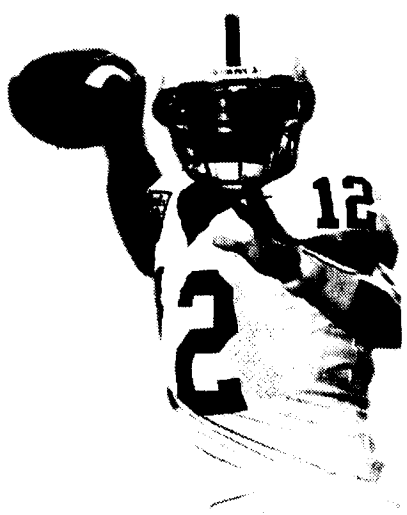


# ORANGE: Basketball double-header

White-out in Florida

Penn College defeats women: 81-66, men 66-62



Penn State Men's Basketball players look to regain the ball as Penn College's Matt Michaels sinks one of two free-throw shots.

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attended Shippensburg before transferring to Penn State and walking on to the football team. He would finish with six catches for 79-yards and one touchdown.

The second half was a defensive struggle with no points allowed in the third quarter. Penn State's defense would record their only points of the second half with a safety in the fourth quarter.

With six minutes left Penn State's all-everything linebacker Paul Posluszny injured his knee trying to leap over a Florida State blocker. Back-up Linebacker Sean Lee entered on the biggest stage of his life and overachieved like the rest of the Nittany Lions recording five tackles.

Florida State struck in the form of a 47-yard Cismesia field goal with four minutes left to tie the game. Penn State was able to march down the field and set up for a 29-yard field goal with 35 seconds left.

With the game on his shoulders, freshmen kicker Kevin Kelly pushed the field goal wide left. This led to the start of three overtimes.

In the first overtime, Cismesia missed a field goal to be followed by another Kelly miss. In the second overtime, Kilmer made another spectacular grab to set up a Scott 2-yard run for a touchdown. Florida State would answer back with a 1-yard run by B.J. Dean to tie the game.

In the third overtime, Cismesia hit the upright as his field goal attempt sailed wide right. Does this sound familiar Florida State fans? That set the stage for Kelly who lined up for a 29-yard field goal to win the game.

Only a freshman and already having missed two possible game winners, it didn't seem possible that Kelly could hit a field goal now.

The entire stadium held its' breath waiting for a reason to erupt and Kelly gave it to them when he kicked his doubters and the ball straight through the uprights for an incredible Penn State victory.

The stadium exploded. It capped a spectacular comeback season for the Nittany Lions.

Was it the greatest Penn State game ever? It wasn't number one vs. number two. It was better. It was a historic match-up of the two most talented coaches in division I college football history.

As far as game play, I give the nod to a triple overtime thriller that was won on the leg of a freshmen kicker rather than a last second interception to seal the game.

Finally, the excitement factor was through the roof. No, it was not the most watched college football game in history but consider that nearly 50 thousand of the over 70 thousand fans at the stadium were Penn State fans.

Then, take a step back and realize it was against Florida State, in Florida. Wow, is all I can say. The place was electric.

Obviously I was not at the 1987 Fiesta Bowl but I have got to believe the excitement for this year's Orange Bowl exceeded it.

The biggest reason this was the greatest Penn State game ever played has nothing to do with any of those reasons. It placed our school back in prominence in the college football world.

The 1987 Fiesta bowl capped off a decade of excellence for Penn State. This year was different.

This year's Orange Bowl may not have been for the national championship but for me it was for more than that. It was for respect.

Greatest game ever? In my

By MEGAN RESSER  
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On Friday night, Jan. 20, the gym in the CUB of Penn State Harrisburg was the site of an exciting double-header of basketball action. Before a crowd of more than 100 people, both the women's and men's Penn State Harrisburg basketball teams took on opposing teams from Penn College. The women's team entered the contest with a 4-2 win/loss record, while the men began their evening with a 5-6 record.

The women from Penn College took an early lead in the women's game, controlling much of the scoring and possession until about halfway through the first half, when Penn State Harrisburg got into a groove and rallied making the score almost even.

With 5 minutes left in the half, the Harrisburg team, led by Brooke Conjar with her 12 first-half points, brought the score to Penn College 26, Penn State Harrisburg 24. This was after they had been down by at least 10 points earlier in the game.

During the second part of the first half, there were many turnovers and the score ended up being Penn College 36, Penn State Harrisburg 25 at half time.

The Penn College team regained their lead with some solid free

throw shooting by several of their players.

That lead did not last long in the second half, however, as Penn State Harrisburg scored 13 points in the first five minutes of the half,



Penn State's Nicole Adams attempts to retrieve a rebound before Amy Fassett.

while Penn College only scored 4 points. Conjar, Nichole Adams, and Kayma Sonii-Ricks of Penn State Harrisburg stepped up on defense and also took control of many offensive and defensive rebounds. Conjar added more valuable points, as did Amanda Mentzer, Krystal Miranda, and Jamie Brindle to help Penn State Harrisburg take the lead for the first time in the game with 11 minutes left.

Katlyn Stupar from Penn College didn't allow that lead to last for long, however, as she scored 6 unanswered points to bring the score to Penn College 60, Penn State Harrisburg 50.

Play continued to go back and forth for the rest of the half, but the Lady Lions were never able to regain the lead.

With only two subs, the Penn State Harrisburg team ran into trouble when several of their players fouled out of the game with only a few minutes left.

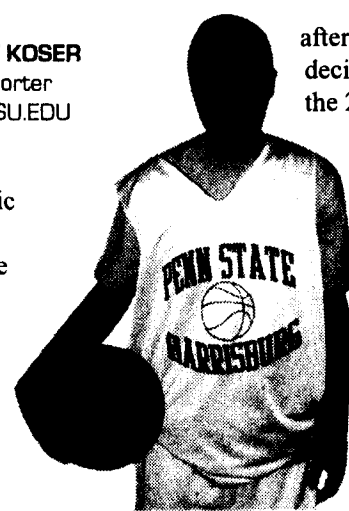
The men's game was also a back-and-forth battle. Mid-way through the first half, the score was Penn

## Featured Athlete

By ANDREW KOSEK  
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The Penn State Harrisburg Athletic Department is proud to announce Brooke Conjar of the women's basketball team as a Spotlight Athlete. Brooke netted a game high 29 points against Penn State Hazleton in a 91-86 victory, Jan. 12.

A graduate of Steelton-Highspire High School in 2003, Brooke admits she initially had no ambition to play college sports. "It never crossed my mind to play after high school, but I attended Millersville University



after graduation and decided to try out," says the 20-year-old junior.

An injury ended her playing days with the Marauders, but after transferring to Penn State Harrisburg she decided to give basketball another shot. When asked about making the Final Four in University Park she said, "Ultimately, it's the team's goal."

To vote for the next Spotlight Athlete to appear in The Capital Times voting boxes will be placed outside The Capital Times office and inside the lobby of the CUB.

College 16, Penn State Harrisburg 10.

Rebounds and lay-ups became crucial in the second part of the first half, and Penn State Harrisburg came up somewhat short in both areas to allow Penn College to take a 33-17 lead at half time.

As the second half started, Penn College maintained this lead for about six minutes until Abe Hitz and Padraic Wood each scored three point shots to bring the score to Penn College 45, Penn State Harrisburg 38.

Nealy Rawlings then dumped in a few points of his own to bring the Lions within two. Unfortunately, this was not quite enough, as Penn College regained a ten-point lead with one minute left.

Penn State Harrisburg did not go down without a fight, however. Rawlings sank two three-point shots, while Hitz added one of his own as the clock slowly wound down. In order for those shots to be taken, Penn State Harrisburg had to make several intentional fouls.

The Penn College team answered

with a solid 70% free throw average, managing to maintain their lead long enough to hold on for the win.

The final score was Penn College 67, Penn State Harrisburg 62.

It should be noted that in addition to Hitz, Wood, and Rawlings, several other players, including Steve Molek, Hasahn Wright, Corey Daniel, Mike Schweigler, and Tim Hurtack, contributed to the team's valiant effort.

The Lady Lions next home game is at 7:00 p.m. on Feb. 15. The men have home games on Jan. 26, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, and Feb. 12.

The next double-header at home will be on Feb. 22, with the women starting at 6:00 p.m. and the men starting at 8:00 p.m.

A full schedule can be found by clicking on the Intercollegiate Athletics link found on PSU Harrisburg's Web page: <http://www.hbg.psu.edu>.

If you haven't already done so, come out and support the Penn State Harrisburg basketball teams!

# Steelers win AFC Championship

Steelers advance to Super Bowl with defeat over Broncos 34 - 17

By EDDIE PELLIS  
AP Sports Writer

DENVER -- Big Ben, The Bus and all those Terrible Towels sure are traveling well this postseason. Next stop, the Super Bowl, the final destination of a Pittsburgh road trip the Denver Broncos were powerless to derail.

Ben Roethlisberger had a brilliant afternoon, throwing for 275 yards and two scores, and Jerome Bettis extended his career one more game, lifting the Steelers to a dominating 34-17 victory in the AFC title game Sunday.

Bettis said, "We're going home!" as the game wore down and he celebrated on the sideline. He is, indeed, back to his hometown of Detroit for Pittsburgh's first appearance in the Super Bowl since 1995.

"I thought we could get there. It's come true," he said. "Detroit, watch out. Here we come!"

Outschemed, outplayed and pushed around all day, the Broncos (14-4) shuffled off to their locker room, heads down, after their first home loss in 10 tries this season.

"They had a great game plan," said Broncos coach Mike Shanahan, now 2-1 in AFC title games. "They played big on the road, very well-coached game, very well-played game."

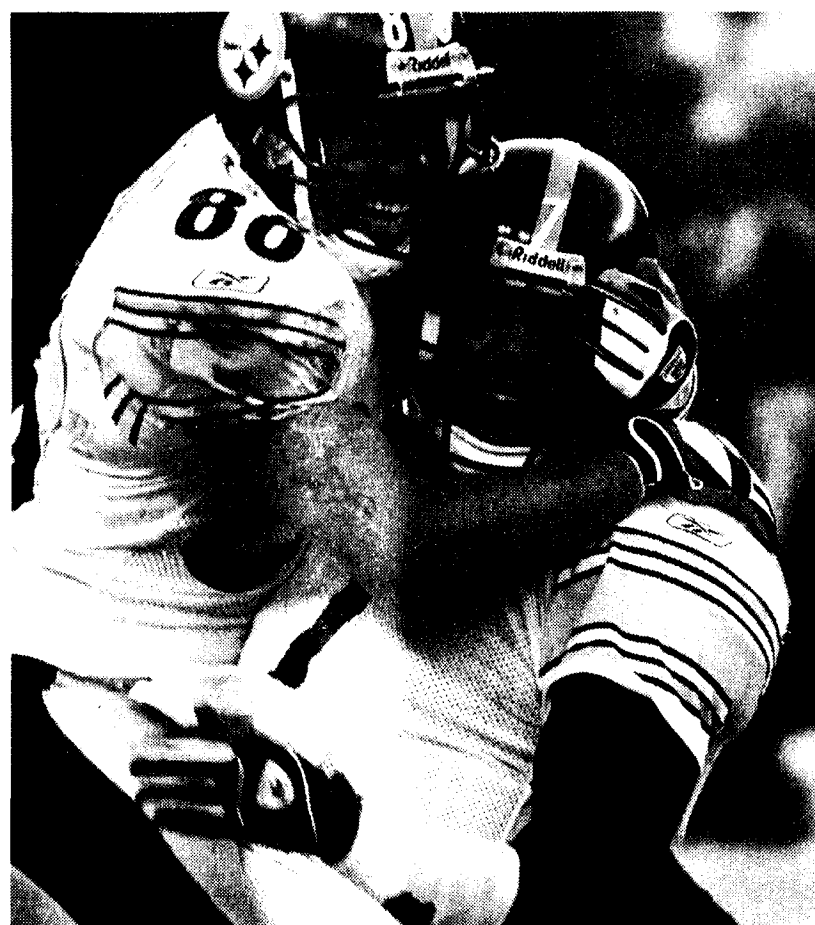
Though Pittsburgh's next game, against either Seattle or Carolina, will be a homecoming for Bettis, the Steelers (14-5) have looked extremely comfortable on the road.

They became the first team to win three away games to make it to the Super Bowl since the 1985 New England Patriots. Some might look at that as a surprise. Anyone who has watched the Steelers over the past decade - and especially the last two months - certainly wouldn't.

They came out passing, not running, much the same way they did when they upset Indianapolis last week. Roethlisberger called pass plays on seven of Pittsburgh's first 11 snaps and threw completions on five of those.

The first drive resulted in a field goal. On Denver's next possession, Pittsburgh's Joey Porter blitzed to force a Jake Plummer fumble. Five plays later, Roethlisberger hit Cedrick Wilson for a touchdown and a 10-0 lead, quieting the Invesco Field crowd much as the Steelers did in Indy last week and Cincinnati the week before.

After a Denver field goal, the Steelers essentially saluted this game



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger celebrates his 4-yard fourth quarter touchdown run with receiver Hines Ward.

with a 14-play, 80-yard drive that ate up nearly 7 1/2 minutes and had the Broncos defense totally off balance and gasping for air. The Steelers converted six of seven third downs in the first half.

Bettis capped it by bulling in from the 3 for a 17-3 lead to put him well on his way to the Super Bowl. Jut-jawed coach Bill Cowher smiled widely for that one, remembering Bettis' near disaster on the goal line last week in Indy.

"This is a great group of guys, how we got here, we're a different team," Cowher said. "We're a focused team, no matter what's

happened, we've stayed together. We've got a resilient group."

The Broncos trailed by two touchdowns, but they had escaped worse predicaments in the past. But there was no Drive, no Fumble, no comeback and no you-know-who on the field this day.

John Elway was on hand, but sitting in a luxury suite, watching the Broncos fall short of the ultimate destination for the seventh straight year since he led them to their second championship.

Plummer, who had played so well in the lead all season, finally faced some comeback pressure and failed miserably. He went 18-for-30 for 223 yards with two lost fumbles and two interceptions.

He threw one pass underhanded, scrambled for his life and, though valiant as always, proved what had been proved many times before that he can't do it by himself.

Trailing by two touchdowns, Jake the Snake lobbed a terrible pass into the flat that was easily intercepted by Ike Taylor. Moments later, Bettis ran it in from 12 yards for an apparent touchdown on third down.

A penalty nullified that, but it only set up Roethlisberger for his best throw of the day - a 17-yard touchdown that barely cleared the fingertips of Al Wilson and Nick Ferguson, before finding Hines Ward tucked neatly in the back of the end zone.

That made it 24-3. Roethlisberger ran to the sideline and celebrated by pretending to fire six-shooters from his hip. Yep, he was on target all day in this one - 24 yards to Heath Miller, 17 more to Wilson, 21 to Ward and 18 to Wilson again.

All after being given ample time against Denver's ill-timed blitz. Midway through the fourth quarter, Denver pulled within 27-

17 and got the ball back at its 20.

But Plummer lost a fumble on fourth-and-10 and that pretty much made it official: The Steelers would be back in the big game, searching for that long elusive fifth world championship - that "One For The Thumb" - to add to the 1970s legacy of Bradshaw, Swann, Stallworth and Harris.

It has been a long road between then and now for the Steelers. Five AFC title games since 1994, all at home, resulted in only one victory, leading many to wonder if the pressure of being a favorite, or doing it in front of the home crowd, was something the Steelers could handle.

Cowher, now in his 14th year, kept his job through it all - the Rooney family cherishes stability over all else.

"It feels great today, I'll tell you that," Steelers owner Dan Rooney said. "The coach already told me we're going to the Super Bowl to win it, not just to be there."

As the clock wound down, Cowher was still going full tilt on the sideline, jabbing his finger at Bettis, preaching ball control and no repeat of last week's fumble in Indy.

Roethlisberger put this one away, diving in on third-and-goal and sending the crowd home.

Except, that is, for the loyal Pittsburgh partisans. They stayed 'til the end, watching Cowher share hugs with Roethlisberger, Joey Porter and especially The Bus.

They blanketed the corners of Invesco with black and gold, waving those Terrible Towels and holding up their Steelers banners. "Next Bus Stop: Detroit," one said.

In all, it looked like a home away from home for the Steelers - pretty much like every stop they've made on their magical ride this postseason.