

Penn State Fans Hope for Repitition of 1919 Victory

Pitt Holds 28-18 Lead In Ancient Series

By MARV KRASNANSKY

Many an old grad will let his mind wander back through the years when the Blue and White of Penn State and the Blue and Gold of Pitt meet in the 49th renewal of their ancient series this afternoon in Pitt stadium. The picture will not be too pleasant. The Panthers have dominated play for the past 36 years.

Since 1913, when Pitt won a "fluke" 7-6 decision over the Lions, teams from the Nittany Mountains have been able to win but six contests. During the same span, Pitt has had the upper hand no less than 25 times. The Panthers have won 28 of the 48 games played to date, and have the scoring edge, 587 to 463. Two games ended in scoreless ties.

WIN ONE IN 23

If the current Penn State grid-iron picture looks bleak to some, let them look back to the years from 1913 to 1938, during which time the Lions won but one game in 23 tries. Should these sceptics look closely, they will find too that the circumstances surrounding that solitary bright spot in those lean 26 years are similar to those surrounding today's clash.

That game, played in 1919, was a toss-up, much as today's contest is. Both teams had played six games and lost but one, although Pitt had been tied by a Penn team which was beaten by State, 10-0. The Lions topped Lehigh, 20-7; Pitt had taken the Engineers by a 14-0 count. There wasn't too much difference. The game could have gone either way.

Pitt started fast, taking advantage of a fumble and a poor punt to move to the Penn State five. But a stout big white line held and the Lions took over on downs. At this point quarterback Harry Robb decided to gamble. Robb picked the right spot, for at this point the element in sport that makes a man a "bum" if he's wrong and a hero if he's right was working on his side. He sent fullback Harold Hess into the end zone with instructions to fake a punt and then pass. Hess followed

through and the course of the ball game and Pitt-Penn State grid history was altered.

HIGGINS STARS

Bob Higgins, who retired as Penn State football coach last year, broke from his position at right end as if to streak down field to cover the punt. He checked himself at the 25 and took Hess' pass. Only one man stood between him and the goal line. Ben Cabbage, a tackle, relieved that situation and Hig was off for the distance.

Pitt was stunned and while the Panthers staggered from the blow, Hess, slashing victoriously off tackle and guard, paced a 38-yard drive that resulted in another TD. State led, 14-0, at half-time.

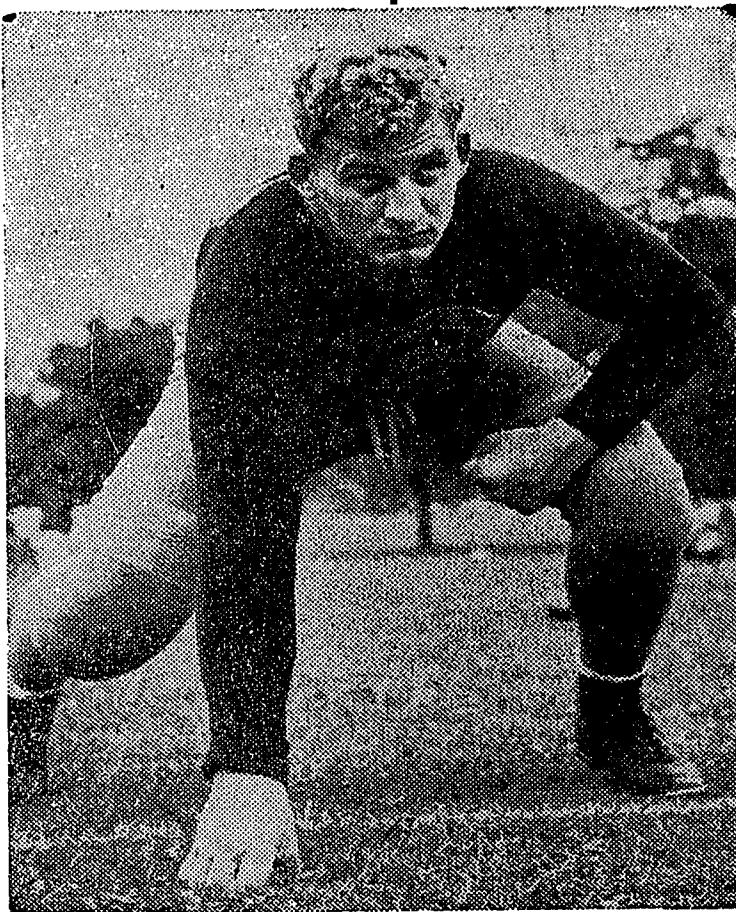
Little Charley "Gang" Way, a 138-pound dynamo, tallied an insurance touchdown on the first play from scrimmage in the second half. The shifty, fleet-footed halfback shot off left tackle, through a maze of Pitt defenders and didn't stop until he crossed the double-marker 47 yards away. Way's romp made the score 20-0 and that's the way it stood despite a desperation drive by the dazed Panthers late in the final period.

ONE LOSS IN 5 YEARS

That defeat was only the second suffered by Pitt over a length of five years. It was during this time that the first great Pitt machines were being assembled by the immortal Pop Warner.

The victory broke a six-game spell Pitt held over State. It was fortunate indeed that the Lions were able to win that

Pitt Tackle Who Upset Lions in '48



NICK BOLKOVAC

one. For the following 16 games, the Blue and White garnered nary a win, although they battled through the mud to scoreless ties in 1920 and '21. Pitt scored 338 points to State's 58 during these years.

Jock Sutherland, the great proponent of the power-laden single wing formation, took over the coaching duties at Pitt in 1924. The Panther machine rumbled into high gear during the 15-year reign of the durable Scott, dropping only 20 games and tying 11. Four times during the Sutherland era the Panthers went to the Rose Bowl.

Pitt de-emphasized football

in 1939, Sutherland departed and State took advantage of the situation to mark up its first win since that memorable November day in 1919. The Lions jumped to an early lead, recovering a fumble and driving 21 yards in three plays for the score. Bill Smaltz plunged for the touchdown, Jim Patrick kicked a 23-yard field goal to make things a bit more comfortable and State walked off the field a 10-0 winner.

The series has been give and take for the past ten years, each team having won five. Pitt recovered its winning stride in 1940, but State rode on top from

1941 to 1943, only to have the Panthers rise up and cop the next three classics, including a 14-7 decision in 1946 that cost the Lions a bowl bid.

BOWL-BOUND

A Cotton Bowl-bound Nittany eleven roared to its biggest victory since 1912 when it registered a 29-0 triumph in the '47 game. A few will forget last year's game when Fran Rogel stormed up and down the field, hitting the Pitt line with the force of a rolling butcher's block, only to have tackle Nick Bolkovac intercept a pass and race 23 yards for the game's only score.

That touchdown broke a 17-game unbeaten string fashioned by the Nittany Lions. It also stunned a crowd of 51,000.

Year	Pitt	Penn State
1898	0	32
1899	4	10
1900	0	12
1901	0	37
1902	0	27
1903	0	59
1904	22	5
1905	0	6
1906	0	6
1907	6	0
1908	6	12
1909	0	5
1910	11	0
1911	0	3
1912	0	28
1913	7	6
1914	13	3
1915	20	0
1916	31	0
1917	23	6
1918	26	6
1919	0	20
1920	0	0
1921	0	0
1922	14	0
1923	20	3
1924	24	3
1925	23	7
1926	24	6
1927	30	0
1928	26	0
1929	20	7
1930	19	12
1931	41	6
1932	9	0
1933	34	7
1934	28	7
1935	26	0
1936	0	10
1937	20	7
1938	7	31
1939	6	14
1940	0	14
1941	14	0
1942	7	0
1943	0	0
1944	14	0
1945	7	0
1946	14	0
1947	0	29
1948	7	0

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