

Navy Coach Says Penn State Has Strong, Rugged Squad

Penn State's Nittany Lion didn't roar as loud as expected Saturday, but that didn't fool Navy Coach Wayne Hardin. "State has a fine football team and they definitely are going to get better," Hardin said after the game as he watched his battered players peel off their equipment. "They were a rough, tough outfit," he said, "and as the season goes along they'll improve."

However Hardin added words of caution. "State has got a long way to go if it wants to be one of the top teams in the country. It has a lot of work to do," he said.

At least one Navy player wasn't impressed with the Lions' 20-10 win. "They were out of shape out there today," Greg Mather, Navy's right end, said. "The line just didn't seem to have that second effort," he said.

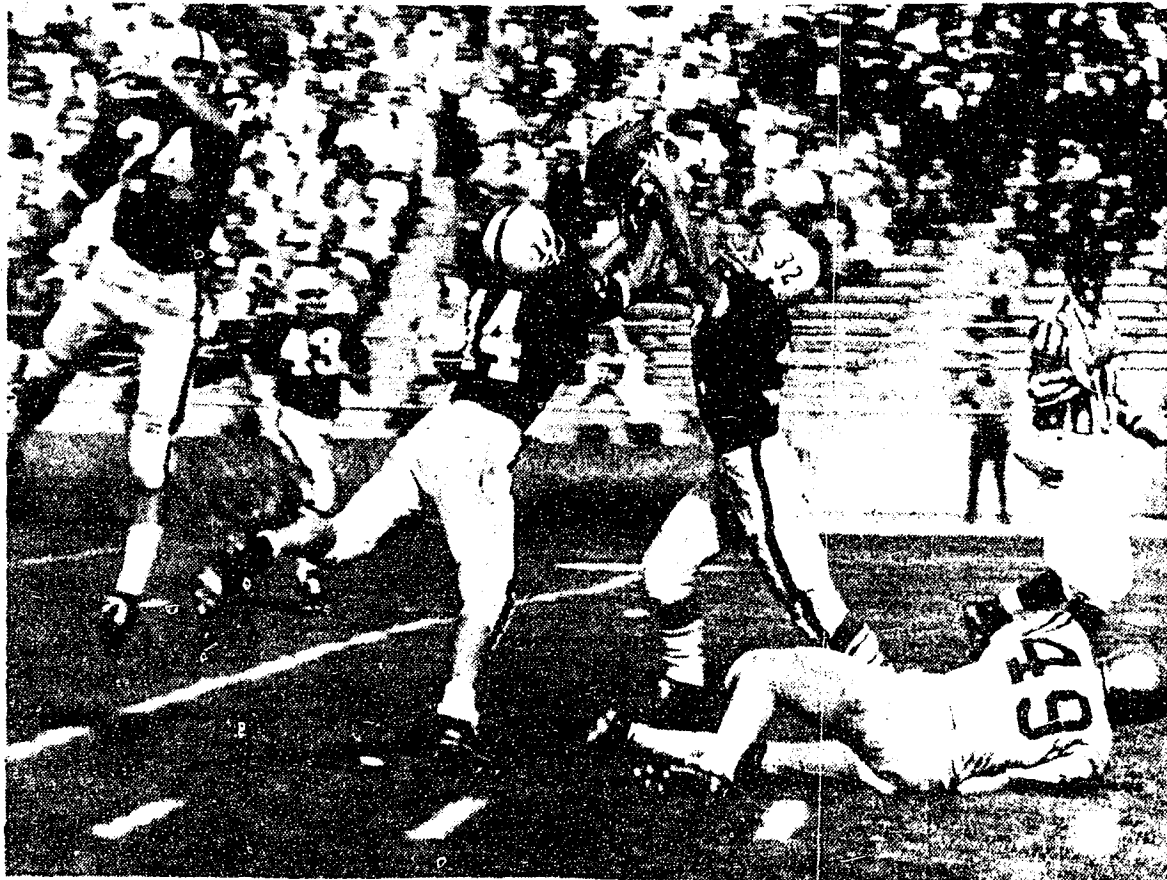
Mather, who set a Naval Academy record with his 45-yard field goal, said that he expected State to perk up when cooler weather hits the Nittany Valley. "It was awful hot," he said in defense of the Lions. (The official game temperature ranged from 82 to 89 degrees.)

An official who worked the game agreed with Mather. "Penn State was definitely slow," he said. "They will be real tough though, when they get some of that 'beef' moving in their line."

He said that State appeared as slow as Pitt did in its first game against Miami. Pitt beat the Hurricanes, 10-7, but for three quarters couldn't mount any type of an offense.

The official commented that the State players weren't carrying out their assignments "all the way."

Although Navy players and the game officials agreed that the heat took its toll on State, Hardin



DON'T FIGHT OVER IT, FELLAS: Don Jonas (14), and Buddie Torris (32) stretch for a pass intended for Navy halfback Bob Teall (49) in the final period at Beaver Stadium Saturday. Pete Liske (24) and Al Gursky (43) move in on the play.

wouldn't buy this reasoning. "They won the game in the fourth quarter, didn't they?" Hardin said. "So they couldn't have been too far out of shape.

"They deserved to win the game and I wish them well," the Navy coach said.

Hardin and the Navy players took the defeat particularly hard because they felt they had a good chance for an upset.

"If we could have moved that ball in the fourth quarter, I think we would have won the game," Hardin said. "We were young and made some mistakes that cost us in the last quarter.

"I was satisfied with our play, but not satisfied with the score," Hardin said. "I was afraid they (State) might run over us, but they didn't. The relative score surprised me. We figured State would score

on us three times and we would have to score four touchdowns. You did score the equivalent of three touchdowns, but we didn't make our quota.

"I felt our three platoon system worked very well," he said. "In fact I think it kept us as close as we were." He added that he felt his whole squad did an "outstanding job" against "a rugged opponent to lead off the season against."

Robinson May Be Out For Season

Fate stepped in where angels fear to tread Saturday afternoon when Dave Robinson, one of the players expected to lead Penn State to its most successful season in years, was helped off the field with a dislocated shoulder.

Robinson, a 6-3, 220-pound junior who anchored State's defensive line at left end and was one of the best blockers on the squad, will be lost for at least six to eight weeks and probably for the whole season.

The injury occurred on the first play from scrimmage in the second half.

"You just can't lose one of the best ends in the East and not be hurt," said end coach J. T. White yesterday.

"Robinson only played four games at end and he was still learning but he was tough defensively and a good blocker," White said.

Robinson was a guard on State's Reddie Unit last year until the Holy Cross game, when he was switched to end. He caught two passes against the Crusaders and was a defensive standout in the Lions' two remaining games against Pitt and Oregon in the Liberty Bowl.

This year Robinson teamed with Mitinger to give State two of the finest ends on any one team in the country.

Rip plans to move Jim Schwab up to the first unit with Cliff Davis, the top candidate to take Schwab's place on the Reddie unit.



Robinson

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