

Halftime



In the Wake Of a Hurricane

By JIM KARL
Sports Editor

Out of the rubble of Penn State's shocking 25-8 upset at the hands of Miami Friday night emerges one small but perhaps significant consolation.

State's reputation as one of the top football powers in the country has dropped considerably—and so has the pressure that accompanied it.

In other words the Lions no longer have to prove to themselves that they are as good as other people predicted they would be.

They have to prove to other people that they are as good as they know they are.

One battle doesn't win a war and one football game doesn't ruin a season.

Now all State has to do is pick itself up off the floor, dust off its pants, and prove that Miami was just a bad dream.

Despite what the experts say, State has a relatively inexperienced second team. With some of the pressure off, sophomores like Don Caum, Dick Anderson and Gary Wydman may begin playing like the coaches know they can.

MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT. the Lions have a good team, and if a few breaks come their way a lot of people will be denying what they said about State after Friday night's debacle.

As one Lion said shortly after the shocking defeat, "This has happened before. We'll come back, wait and see."

For those with short memories, the Lions were in a similar predicament after two games last year.

After knocking off Boston University, 20-0, State was thoroughly outplayed by Missouri at Beaver Stadium and lost 21-8. The wolves began to howl, and they turned up the volume when State proceeded to lose two out of its next three.

But the Lions did a complete turn-around, won their remaining five games and walloped Oregon in the Liberty Bowl, 41-12.

QUARTERBACK COACH JOE PATERNO, who viewed the Miami game from the press box where he manned the field phones, didn't offer any alibis for the Lions but he didn't show any discouragement either.

"I knew Miami had a good team and they didn't do anything tonight to make me believe otherwise," he said.

"But I know we have a good club too—maybe not a great one—but a good one. People just went too far overboard on us. We have a good club and we're going to prove it."

When Rip Engle was asked after the game if he thought the Lions were overrated, he replied, "I don't think that we're overrated so much, I think that Miami's underrated."

BOB MITINGER, who played a superlative game on defense, said he thought the whole complexion of the game might have changed if left halfback Al Gursky hadn't fumbled on the Miami 34 early in the first quarter.

"In the first quarter when we drove through them before Al fumbled I thought, 'they're not that good,'" Mitinger said. "If we could have scored once or twice in that first quarter it would have been a different story."

State stopped the Hurricanes cold the first time they had the ball. Then the Lions drove all the way from their 26 to the Miami 40 in five plays with the State line rocking Miami back on its heels.

But with first and 10 on the 40 the ball popped out of Gursky's hands as he drove off right guard and Nick Ryder recovered on the 34.

Mild-Mannered Mitinger Makes Mince Meat of Mira

By JIM KARL

It turns out that there's another side to the story of George Mira's Orange Bowl heroics Friday night that gave Miami the impetus for a 25-8 upset over Penn State.

The common version goes something like this: Mira, the sophomore quarterback, team leader and future Hurricane All-American, was kneed in the ribs in the Kentucky-Miami game last week and the injury was slow in healing.

Miami newspapers expressed some doubt that Mira would be able to play against the Lions, but Mira started the game with his ribs heavily taped.

With less than seven minutes gone in the game, Mira ran a keeper, tried to cut inside right end Bob Mitinger, but slipped on the wet grass after picking up short yardage.

The crowd of 45,879 held its breath as Mira lay motionless, then cheered as he struggled to his feet and walked almost bent over double back to the Miami huddle.

He stayed in the game and from the way he directed the Hurricanes, the injury apparently didn't bother him anymore.

Then early in the second quarter, Mitinger, who had been hounding the 176-pounder all night, got a good angle on him and slammed him to the ground from behind. Again Mira rolled in pain before getting to his feet and a rumble of boos floated down from the cavernous stadium. Shouts of "Get No. 86" and "Get that Killer," drifted across the field.

Mitinger continued playing his usual rough defensive game and on the last play of the second quarter he stalked Mira across the field and pounced on him from behind just as he got rid of the ball.

As Miami's "Band of the Hour" marched onto the field the crowd stood and booed State and Mitinger as the Lions went to the dressing room for halftime.

Mira didn't see any action in the second half except to hold for extra points, but Bobby Weaver filled in capably as Miami cut through Penn State defenses like a razor blade through whipped cream.

Then there's the other version, less widely circulated but deserving to be told.

It's related by Mitinger The Villain, a soft-spoken, mild-mannered gentleman when he's not playing football.

"First of all, I didn't rough him up," Mitinger said. "I just tackled him like I'd tackle anybody else."

"The first time he was 'injured' he slipped right under me and I didn't even touch him," he said. "I wasn't even near him and he was rolling all over the ground yelling 'Oh, get off me. I'm hurt. I'm hurt.'"

But Mitinger concedes he didn't let Mira get off so easy the next time he had a chance.

"Every time after that Jim Smith and I really rushed him. One time when I hit him I knew that he was hurt. Even if he hadn't had bruised ribs he would have felt that one."

"I'd call him a ham or an actor," Mitinger said. "He definitely played up to the home crowd. He tried to turn the crowd against us."

"If the quarterback doesn't expect to get hit hard he should get out of the game. Just like everyone else, we're out to get the first



BOB MITINGER

... tracked down at least one Hurricane

team quarterback... legally, that is.

Mitinger said he didn't think he ever hit Mira after the whistle had blown. "If I had they would have called it on me."

The Miami press played up Mitinger's defensive tactics in the papers the following day, but except for a few cases (one writer described him as a 'killer') he said he thought the accounts were impartial and fair.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said about the crowd.

"Their cheerleaders and one whole section of their stands kept shouting, 'savage, savage,' in the second half," he said. "Then this writer comes out and calls me 'killer' in the paper—I just laughed at it all."

"But don't misunderstand me," he hastened to add. "I don't particularly like being called 'killer.'"

Tommy Devine, sportswriter for the Miami News, gave a representative account of the proceedings. "Mira was hurt three times in the first half and it led to a wholly partisan and idiotic reaction by the crowd," Devine wrote.

"They seemed to have the attitude George should be accorded

the same deferential treatment as the 'Sacred Cows' of India and that it was a gross violation of the football code to lay a hand on him or to drop him to the ground.

"Bob Mitinger, Penn State's brilliant end, was the particular target for unfeeling abuse as the result of Mira's injury... It is ridiculous to label Penn State's tactics as 'dirty.'"

Despite his low opinion of Mira as an actor, Mitinger thought he was a good quarterback. "I wasn't in long enough to get a really close look at him but he was a good ball handler and passer and mixed up his plays well," he said.

"But the kid who really impressed me was this Weaver. I thought he did a very good job."

Weaver, supposedly a poor runner and a hesitant passer, completed four out of seven aeriels against State and pulled off some nifty runs.

Many observers labeled Friday night's contest as one of Mitinger's best defensive efforts. The defensive statistics kept in the Orange Bowl press box accredited Mitinger with six tackles and one assist but one Miami scribe said that "whoever was keeping those statistics must have been crazy, Mit-

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Davis Cup Team Downs India, 3-2

NEW DELHI, India (AP)—The United States Davis Cup tennis team won a trip to play Italy in Rome — where Capt. David L. Freed said prospects are "pretty dismal" — by downing India 3-2 yesterday in the interzone finals.

The American team clinched the victory in the fourth singles match, the first of two on yesterday's program, when Whitney Reed, of Alameda, Calif., beat Jaidip Mukerjee, 19, in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

In the fifth match, reduced to a formality, India ace Ramana-nathan Krishnan beat Chuck McKinley of St. Louis in the tourney's best match, 6-4, 4-6, 1-0, 6-3, 6-4.

But Freed was far from optimistic about the upcoming series with the Italian team, Oct. 13-15. The winners will advance to the challenge round against Australia later in December.

Last year, the Italians, led by gangling Nicola Pietrangeli, beat the U.S. but later lost to the Aussies.

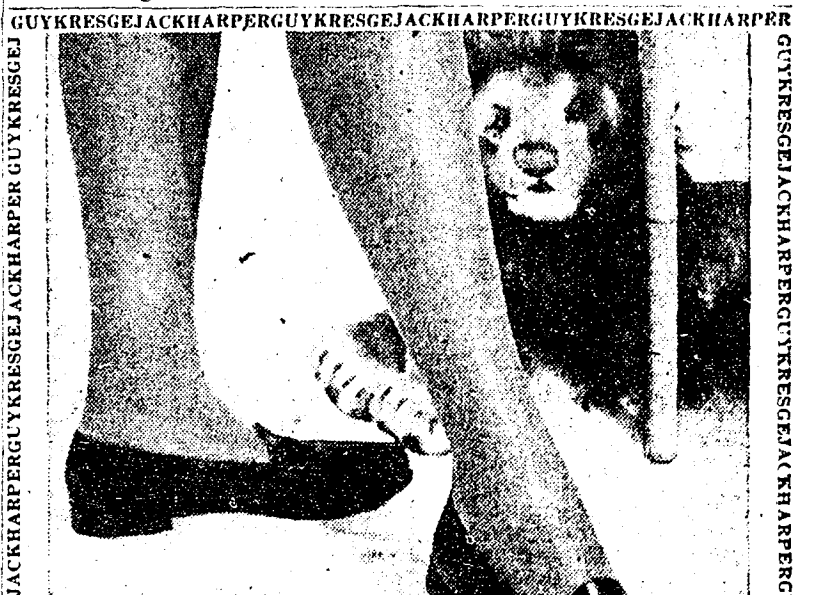
Hemus, Lavagetto Named Coaches for NY Mets

NEW YORK (AP)—Cookie Lavagetto and Solly Hemus, two managers who were fired this season, joined the New York Mets yesterday as coaches under 71-year-old Casey Stengel, who was put out to pasture by the New York Yankees last year. Manager Stengel introduced his new coaches at a news conference called to re-introduce the "Old Professor" after a year's absence.

Lavagetto was let out as manager of the Minnesota Twins and Hemus was released at St. Louis Cardinal manager during the 1961 season. With Stengel on a one-year contract, there have been strong reports that Lavagetto is the heir to the throne in 1963.

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