

halftime



## Panther Victory Saves Lions From Graveyard

By JIM KARL  
Sports Editor

A graveyard sits on a hill overlooking Pitt Stadium. It looks almost inviting in the soft autumn sunlight of a late November afternoon—a fitting monument to a disastrous football season for the University of Pittsburgh.

Penn State ruined Pitt's chances to reclaim some semblance of this horrendous year by raking the Panthers, 47-26 Saturday. It was the worst beating inflicted upon Pitt in the 61-game series since 1903, when State won 59-0. Pitt finished up with a 3-7 record, exactly the reverse of State's.

The ironical part of the whole story is that four weeks ago Rip Engle would have felt right at home putting up a "reserve" sign on that graveyard for his Lions.

Maryland had just held State on its three yard line to win a brutal and heartbreaking game, 21-17. The Terps found themselves right in the middle of the Gator Bowl picture. The Lions were all but dead and buried.

At that point in the season State was 4-3, quite a disappointment for a team that had been rated tops in the East and almost that high in the nation by pre-season football experts.

Quite a disappointment for a team that late last summer moved the usually non-committal Engle to remark: "I can't wait to start the season. This team has as much potential as any I've ever coached."

But things have happened in the past three weeks and now nobody, but nobody, is knocking the Lions.

"We knew we had to win big . . . to the victor go the spoils after the Maryland game to stay in the running for a bowl," Galen Hall said amid the tumult and shouting in the State dressing room Saturday.

And win the Lions did. After an easy 20-6 victory over West Virginia, State romped to a 34-14 win over Holy Cross before burying Pitt.

Between congratulating his players and talking with well-wishers Saturday Engle reflected on the ups and downs of the past ten weeks.

"Injuries hurt us early in the year," he said. "You can see how much Galen Hall means to our team after today." (Hall missed the last half of the Miami defeat and the entire game against Army.)

"I'd have to say that with our entire team intact (Don Jonas, Dave Robinson, Bob Hart, etc.) I think we're as good or better than any team I've had at State."

The Ripper, between munches on an apple, acknowledged that the victory had to go down as one of the greatest in his coaching career.

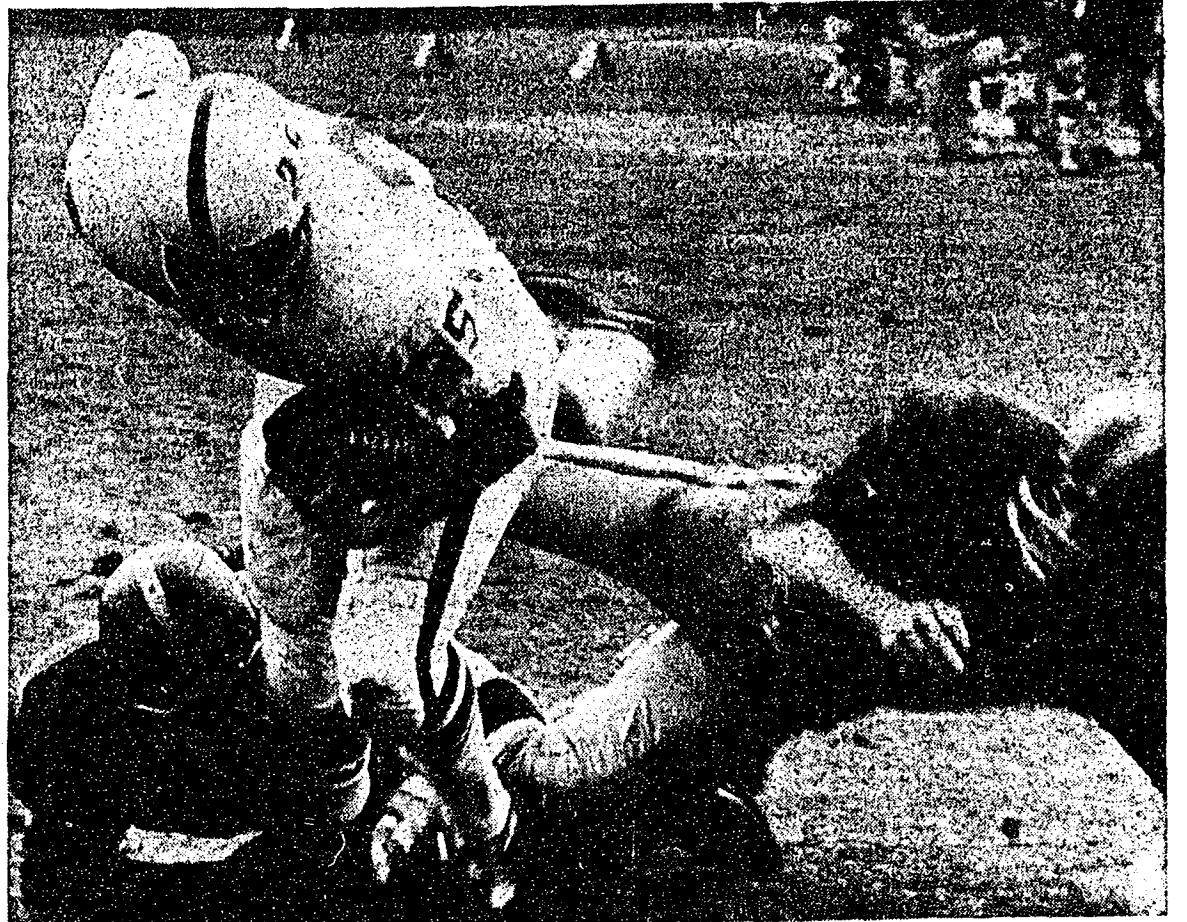
Bill Stein, the chairman for the Gotham Bowl selection committee, tried to keep his composure after the game, but he was so excited that he couldn't help being a little effervescent.

"We'd love to have State, just love to," he said in the dressing room before issuing an official bid to Athletic Director Ernest B. McCoy.

Stein was all smiles until he heard the score of the Virginia.  
(Continued on page thirteen)



RIP ENGLE



TD BOUND: Galen Hall heads for the ground after scoring Penn State's first touchdown in the first period on a six-yard end run. Grabbing

Hall by the shoe is Pitt's Larry Vignali, while Glenn Lehner makes a futile attempt at tackling the Lion quarterback.

# Hall Leads Assault on Pitt

Galen Hall doesn't have the sparkle and glamour of a Richie Lucas or the sullen competitiveness of a Dick Hoak, qualities that characterized the quarterbacks he played with during his three-year varsity career at Penn State.

In fact, Hall lacks most of the characteristics that made Lucas an All-American two years ago and Hoak a highly-sought player in the professional football player draft last year.

So don't look for Hall's name on any professional roster next year. Chances are good that he won't even be drafted by the American Football League, still young and suffering from growing pains.

Because of his lack of height (he's 5-9), Hall would have trouble throwing the drop-back pass in professional football, where monstrous defensive line men would hinder his vision and get a good shot at blocking his passes.

But in college ball the drop-back pass isn't so essential to a team's offense, so Hall has been throwing most of his passes out of rollouts.

And despite the apathy shown him by pro scouts, the coaches of Penn State's opponents this year will tell you that there isn't a more valuable quarterback in college football.

Ask Maryland's Tommy Nugent. Ask West Virginia's Gene Corum. Better yet, ask Pitt's John Michelosen.

The dejected Panther coach signed up for Hall's fan club after watching him direct the Lions to

a 47-26 romp over his much-criticized squad at Pitt Stadium Saturday.

"Hall really surprised me today," Michelosen said after the game. "I've never seen him throw that well before but he was great today. He makes that offense go."

Panther scout Bill Kaliden echoed Michelosen's remarks. "This Hall is the key to your team," he said. "He not only kills you with his running and passing, but he's smart. He knows what play to call at the right time."

Hall was at his best against the Panthers. Behind his passing, running and signal-calling State defeated Pitt in such a convincing manner that after the game the Lions found themselves right back in the post-season bowl picture.

The senior QB completed 11 of 14 passes for 256 yards, threw two touchdown aeriels and scored twice himself.

Rip Engle was so happy after the game that he couldn't stand still long enough to elaborate on any one subject, but he did say that Hall played a "terrific" game, "just like he's played terrific ball for us all year."

Quarterback Coach Joe Paterno went into a little more detail.

"That was as fine a performance as I've ever seen," Paterno said. "It had to be one of the greatest if not the greatest one-

man performance since I've been here (1950)."

In talking about Hall's exploits on the field this year Paterno hit upon a factor that, although little known, makes Hall so valuable to the team.

"With Hall playing it's just like having another coach on the field," Paterno said. "He thinks all the time. He'll come out of a game, get on the field phones and say, 'their linebacker is out too far. Try a 62.' He's going to make a great coach someday."

"He's definitely the greatest play-caller I've ever coached," Paterno said.

Despite Hall's brilliance in directing State's attack, Paterno thinks that the 190-pounder from Williamsburg, Pa., has little chance for any sort of national recognition.

"Hall means as much to our team as any quarterback in the nation means to his team," Paterno said. "He should be an All-American, but the selections are based so highly on how the pros intend to draft their players that Hall doesn't have much of a chance."

Regardless of whether the rest of the country knows it, Hall will be an All-American in the minds of Joe Paterno, Rip Engle, Tommy Nugent and, oh yes, John Michelosen.—Jim Karl

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