

a dean's view



Self Conditioning Vs. Hard Work

By DEAN BILLICK
Assistant Sports Editor

It must have been fairly obvious to TV viewers of the Gator Bowl game that Penn State's Nittany Lions simply wore down Georgia Tech's Rambling Wreck. But behind the obvious was something that could not be seen by the naked eye.

Behind that 30-15 victory was a battle that began brewing weeks before the game and built up steam until kickoff time in sunny Jacksonville, Fla. On one side was Tech coach Bobby Dodd and his coaching philosophy of self-conditioning, and on the other, Lion coach Rip Engle and his philosophy of hard work.

Right after Tech whipped Georgia, 22-7, Dodd gave his boys a Christmas gift. He instructed the players to take home their football fogs and keep themselves in condition, but aside from that said there would be no more football until a couple of days before the Gator Bowl.

Engle had a little different plan for his gridders. Two weeks before the big battle, 46 Lions cut short their Christmas vacation and assembled at Fort Eustis, Va., to start preparations for the game. The Lions scrimmaged every day for a full week, took a brief Christmas vacation and then left for St. Augustine, some 25 miles south of Jacksonville. There Engle worked his gridders hard and even held a closed session that neither the press nor bowl officials could attend.

Meanwhile Tech players enjoyed a long Christmas vacation and didn't arrive at Jacksonville until two days before the game. Dodd conducted two light, brief workouts and then pronounced his team ready.

After the game players and sportswriters alike noted that Tech seemed to lose its zip and that the Engineers' timing was off. Dodd refuted this by saying that "if I had to do it all over again, I would do the same thing." The gentleman-coach attributed the loss to Tech's mishandling of the ball and not to its lack of preparation. "We lost three fumbles, State lost none. We threw for two interceptions, they threw for none. That means we gave them the ball four times scot-free," Dodd said in the locker room following the game.

However, at least one State player thought Tech was out of shape and another felt the Yellow Jackets were a bit cocky. "They were sharp at the beginning but lost it as the game progressed," halfback Dave Hayes said after the game. "I even saw a couple of guy with pot guts," he said.

Hayes said he thought Tech was definitely cocky. "Before the game we heard reports that they felt sure of winning. One of them even asked someone jokingly what the Lambert Trophy stood for." Dave Robinson was of a similar opinion, but he added with a grin, "They weren't cocky at the end."

Roger Kochman, however, didn't feel the loss was due to a lack of work. "I think WE were just in terrific shape," he said. "All that hard work payed off in a victory and that was what counted for us."

Whether Tech was unprepared for the game is something that no one can answer, but one finds it tough to knock Dodd's philosophy of coaching. He's one of the most successful coaches in the country and his bowl teams have won eight games while dropping only two—one of the best bowl records in the nation.

TALKING WITH REPORTERS. Dodd couldn't seem to say enough about Galen Hall. "Hall was the key to that team," Dodd said. "He was the outstanding player by far. We knew he could pass, but we certainly didn't think he could pass that well. He really hurt us."

Dodd saved his finest tribute for Hall until the awards banquet Saturday evening. "To Galen Hall, you are one of the greatest players a Tech team has had the privilege of playing against in my 17 years of coaching," Dodd said after accepting the loser's trophy.

DODD SAID that State compares with Alabama and LSU, two Tech opponents. (Alabama was ranked first in the nation and LSU was third.) The Tech coach admitted that State had the best offense of any team his Engineers faced this season. "They had by far the best offense we faced. They had to. Just look at the score—they

(Continued on page thirteen)

'61 Gator Bowl Produces Many Spectacular Plays

Nearly everyone agrees that Penn State's 30-15 victory over Georgia Tech in the Gator Bowl was the greatest game of that classic's 17-year history, and probably the most exciting game of the holiday weekend.

The game had everything: a 68-yard TD burst by Tech sophomore Joe Auer—the longest run in the Gator Bowl record book, three spectacular touchdown aerials by State's Galen Hall, a field goal by Lion halfback Don Jonas, and a safety awarded to Georgia Tech when an official ruled that Hall intentionally grounded the ball when he was trapped in his own end zone.

But the greatest play of all was a defensive maneuver by State's Dave Robinson, described by Philadelphia Daily News sportswriter Larry Merchant as "possibly the play of the century."

Early in the third quarter Robinson rushed Tech quarterback Stan Gann from his defensive right end post, but found a blocker in his way. That didn't stop Robbie, however. He hurdled the blocker and while still in mid-air, wrapped one arm around Gann's neck and threw him to the ground. Gann subsequently fumbled. Robbie scrambled to his feet, picked up the ball, and started to run the wrong way before he was tackled from behind by a Tech player.

The junior end also played a terrific game on offense, catching four passes for 40 yards. He was swamped by Southern writers in the locker room after the game.

"That big play of mine was a bad one really," he explained. "I should have gone for the blocker, but I decided to jump and before you knew it I had the ball in my hands and we were on our way."

On the next play Hall brought State out of the huddle quickly, called a fast signal, and faked a halfback into the line while Tech's defense was scrambling to get ready.

Meanwhile flanker Junior Powell angled in on Tech's left end, faked a block, and raced downfield. Hall took the ball off his hip as Tech's safetymen started to back peddle. He hesitated a second, then hit Powell, who was standing all by himself on the Tech 15.

Although Robinson and Hall drew the most praise, there were other heroes for State. Pete Liske played a terrific game at his defensive safety spot, intercepting one pass in the end zone and batting down another TD-bound aerial at the last second.

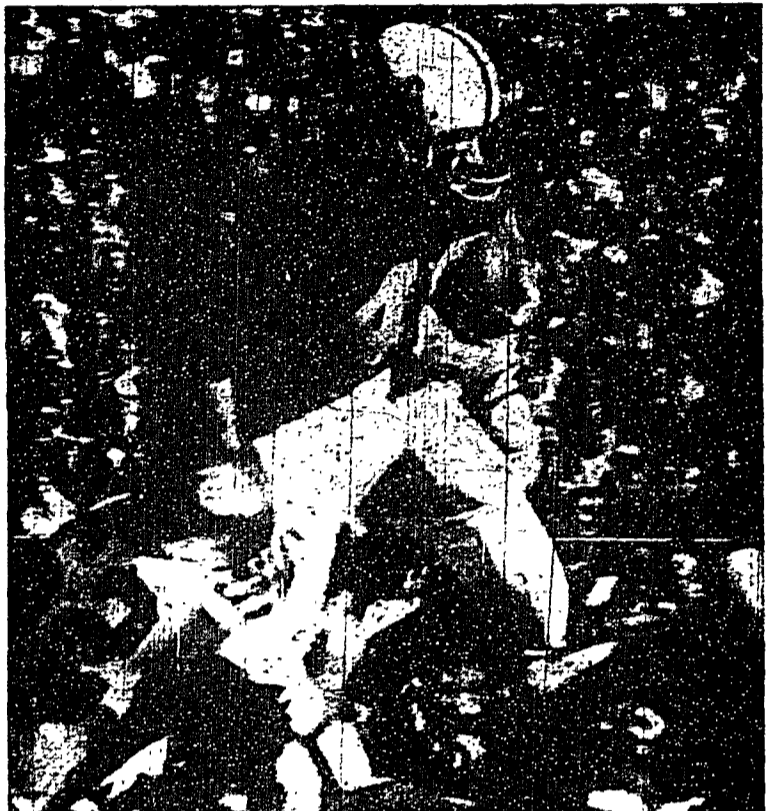
State's line play, with Joe Blasenstein, Jim Smith, Charlie Sieminski, Dick Wilson, Jay Huffman and Bill Saul leading the way, was outstanding. Sophomore end Dick Anderson shone on offense, catching three passes for 40 yards.

All in all it was a most enjoyable day.—Jim Karl

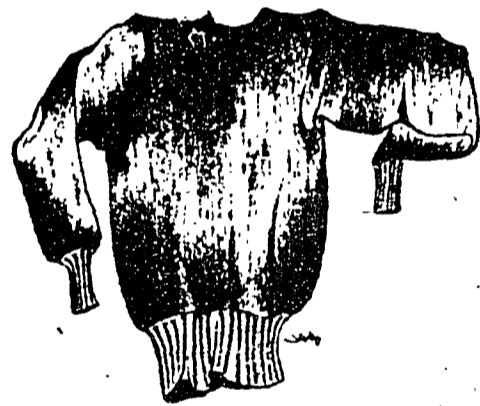
Billick Comes Closest

Dean Billick, Collegian Ass't Sports Editor, came the closest to predicting the outcome of the Penn State-Georgia Tech Gator Bowl Game in a poll of 21 sports writers conducted by the Jacksonville Journal.

Billick forecast a 24-14 victory for State. (The Lions won, 30-15.) Fourteen of the writers predicted Tech would win, with the biggest margin of victory a 17-7 forecast by Paul Cox of the Columbus Ledger.



ROCKET RAMBLES OVER WRECK: Halfback Roger Kochman brushes aside a would be tackler on one of his many excursions through Georgia Tech's famed defense. Kochman did as much as anyone to hurt the Southerners' pride, gaining 76 yards against the Engineers.



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