

# Ellenson's 'Monster' Ruins Lions' Gator Bowl Hopes

By IRA MILLER

Florida unveiled a powerful answer to Army's Chinese Bandits in the Gator Bowl last Saturday.

Only the coolie hats and Chinese music were missing as the Gators' new "Monster" defense almost completely stymied Penn State's powerful offense. The Lions were held to just 139 yards, more than 200 below their regular-season average.

The "Monster" defense was an innovation of Gene Ellenson, who took over the Gators' defensive coaching chores only last month when Jack Green left for a head coaching position at Vanderbilt. "It is actually the old nine-man front," Ellenson said. "The 'Monster' is the fullback serving as linebacker. He will be told by the center, who is calling defenses, which way to head. Jim O'Donnell and Tommy Kelley did a top job as the 'Monsters.' We only had four days to work on this and I was so nervous I couldn't sleep the past two nights."

ELLENSON installed the defense especially for the Gator Bowl, as one of the new wrinkles with which Florida hoped to surprise the Nittanians.

"I think the offense helped by taking a lot of the pressure off," he added. Only twice in the game did Florida give up the ball without making at least one first down.

Florida head coach Ray Graves, who has directed two Gator Bowl champions in three years, said that defense and line play were the game's key factors.

"I'm as proud of them as can be," Graves said. "They wanted this one and they went out there and got it."

"MY ASSISTANT coaches deserve a lot of credit for getting the team ready like they did over the holidays (Florida had eight practices in five days preceding the game, including two workouts Christmas Day)," Graves said. "Coach Ellenson especially did a great job with the defense. We gambled a little, and it paid off." Graves refused to call the game the Gators' best of the year, say-



—Collegian Photos by Den Coleman

**STOPPED SHORT:** Florida quarterback Tom Shannon is held for no gain on State's 7-yard line in the first period of the Gator Bowl, won by the Gators, 17-7. Dave Robinson (left) and Don Caum (right) combine to stop Shannon, who passed for both Florida touchdowns.

ing it would have to rank with their performances against Florida State and Auburn. They beat Florida State, 20-7, and Auburn, 22-3.

Tom Shannon, Florida's brash young quarterback, who five days before the game had predicted that "Penn State will be lucky to stay with us for a half," emerged with the Burkhalter Memorial Trophy as the winning team's most valuable player. A sophomore portside, he completed 7 of 9 passes for 79 yards and both Gator touchdowns.

"THIS IS THE BIGGEST one for me, by far," Shannon said. "I threw real good today because I had great blocking. Penn State has a great ball club. They are the best and strongest team we faced

all season." Frank Lasky, a 260-pound tackle, didn't quite agree with Shannon's estimate of the Nittanians.

"PENN STATE'S good but I think we're better. They would be only a middle-rate team in the SEC," Lasky said.

"We were more ready to play than they were," was the analysis of Larry Libertore, a 138-pound reserve quarterback. He was the MVP of Florida's 13-12 Gator Bowl victory over Baylor in 1960.

ALL THE GATORS agreed that Penn State was the hardest-hitting team they faced this year.

"They are the biggest college team I have ever seen," Larry Travis, a senior guard said. "They hit you a real good first lick."

# Gator Bowl Clippings

Notes copied from the wrinkled cuff of a reporter who still believes Penn State had one of the top five teams in the country despite the Gator Bowl fiasco.

One week before the Gator Bowl, as Florida was drilling for the classic, cocky sophomore quarterback Tom Shannon told defensive coach Gene Ellenson that, "If Penn State is real lucky, they might make a game of it for a half." At the time the prediction looked like the wildest one of the football season, but when Shannon & Co. were finished with State, no one was laughing. Shannon did more than just talk though as he completed 7 of 9 passes for two touchdowns and was named Florida's most valuable player. The 6-0, 170-pound star copped all but four of the votes of the press, radio and TV men who were covering the game. All-American end Dave Robinson won the MVP award for the Lions . . . GB officials are planning to expand the seating capacity to over 60,000 for next year. They plan to enclose the southern end of the stadium into a horseshoe . . . Officials had planned on a rematch of Penn State-Georgia Tech but were snubbed by the Engineers. Tech officials had made a commitment to the GB, but the players voted to go to the Bluebonnet Bowl instead. Besides

losing the game to Missouri, the school made \$20,000 less than if they had appeared in the GB . . . One GB official, who shall remain unnamed, said he felt personally the reason Tech didn't take the GB bid was because they were afraid to play Penn State again. "They took a terrible physical beating last year," the official pointed out. . . . Until this year Lion football teams had been performing on TV just like Perry Mason—they never lost. State won 12 straight games before the magic eye but lost twice this season. "Maybe these players just weren't very good TV actors," was the way Rip Engle summed it up . . . President Eric A. Walker "brought down the house" with his keen wit at the Awards Banquet. "This was my fourth bowl game," he told the Florida fans; "but this is the first time I came out on the short end of the score. As we walked out of the stadium, a vendor was selling Penn State pennants for 50 cents and Florida pennants for 75. Last year we won and I got to sit next to Miss America. This year we lose and I am next to my wife."

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