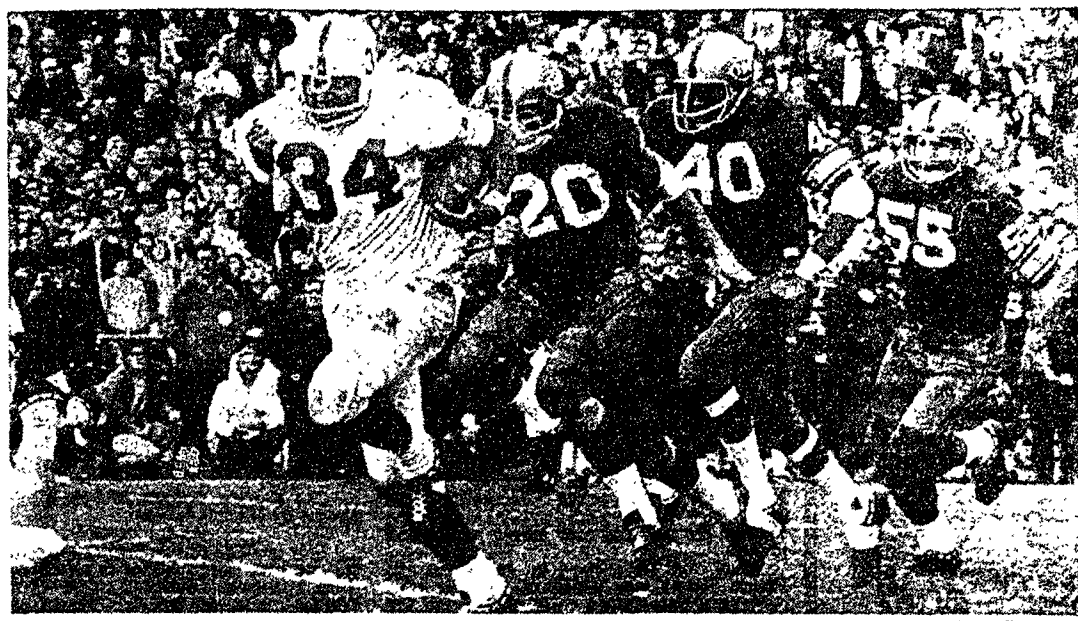


Franco Harris crosses goal with winner.



Harris breaks through line and heads for open ground.

# Lion Rally Stops Syracuse

## Last Quarter Touchdowns Save State's 16th Straight Win, 15-14

By DON McKEE  
Collegian Sports Editor

Sure, it's close to Halloween with the hobgoblins and gremlins, but this supernatural stuff is getting a bit out of hand. First the Miracle Mets, then last Saturday's "once in a lifetime" "you couldn't believe it unless you saw it yourself" football game in Syracuse.

After it was all over, and Penn State had climbed Mt. Everest barehanded in making one of the greatest comebacks in years, one onlooker offered the comment which ties the whole crazy business together.

"Joe Paterno," he said, "must go to the same church as Gil Hodges." That's one way to explain State's 15-14 comeback win, already being labeled the greatest in Nittany Lion history.

### Another Reason

But Paterno had another explanation for his team's gigantic comeback. "I wish somebody would say how great our team is," Paterno said after the game. "The sign of a great football team is when you beat a good football team and don't play well."

"The squad overcame a great deal of adversity," Paterno continued. "At halftime we sat down and discussed things. The defense never gave up and the offense didn't quit after we failed to score after the fumble recovery late in the third quarter."

At that point in the game State's chances of

escaping from Archbold Stadium with its 15 game winning streak intact looked about as promising as a Piper Cub's chances against the Luftwaffe. Not exactly zero, but very close to it.

The Lions were trailing 14-0 and had done absolutely nothing on offense. The only part of State's game that was going well was the booming foot of soph punter Bob Parsons, who kicked so well that it backfired.

In the opening half (when Syracuse looked like Ohio State) Parsons boomed three long punts, trying to make up for the inability of the offense to move the ball. But the Orange came up with a shifty soph called Greg Allen who almost became the next Jimmy Brown.

Allen returned punts 61, 65 and 46 yards to set up one touchdown and keep the Lions in c-cop trouble. "We were over-kicking our coverage," Paterno said. "The punt returns kept us in the hole and the squad was bewildered because our punt coverage had been good in the first four games."

A pass interception by Gary Bliesch had set up the first Orange touchdown. Syracuse drove from the State 25 for the score, Al Newton going over from the one.

A few minutes later Allen took a punt 65 yards to the State eight. Quarterback Randy Zur scored on a keeper and George Jakawenko's second conversion made it 14-0.

Allen almost broke the game completely

out of control at the end of the second quarter by returning a punt 46 yards to the State 29. The Orange drove to the three, where it was fourth and two for a first down, and three yards for oblivion for State. On that fourth down play, Allen tried to sweep around right end and was tripped up, saving the Lions.

### The Turning Point

"That was the big play when we stopped them," Paterno said. "If they score it's all over. That was the turning point."

Late in the third quarter, it looked as if the Lions could finally cash in some of the chips the defense had won. Newton had fumbled on the Syracuse 11 and George Landis recovered. Mike Cooper, who had replaced Chuck Burkhardt at quarterback, tried to take the ball in but Tom Hermanowski stopped him one yard shy on fourth down. The game appeared over at that point.

But once again the defense came up with the plays and inspired the offense to win. Early in the last period, linebacker Jack Ham recovered a fumble on the Syracuse 32.

### Key Third Down

On third and 10, Burkhardt hit split end Greg Edmonds for nine, then got three more for the first down on a keeper. On fourth and six at the 15 a pass interference call on Orange linebacker Richard Kokosky gave State a first down at the Syracuse four. Soph halfback

Lydell Mitchell scored State's first points on the next play.

Paterno ordered a try for a two-point conversion but Burkhardt's flat pass to Harris was stopped on the one. Again a penalty gave State a second chance and again (shades of the Orange Bowl) the Lions collected. The penalty was for holding and Harris smashed over to make in 14-8 with 10:18 left.

The defense held once more and forced Jakawenko to punt quickly. It was a 29-yarder and the Lions had the ball at the Orange 39. Harris gained three yards but the next play elevated him to the ranks of hero halfbacks.

### Famous '37

The play was a 57 counter which calls for junior left guard Bob Holuba to make the block. He made the greatest one of his career, springing Harris loose for a 36 yard touchdown. All of Centre County went slightly insane at this point, as it was 14-14 and sure-footed Mike Reitz stepped in to kick the winner. He did—15-14.

A Neal Smith interception on Syracuse next series snuffed out the last threat to State's winning streak and insured a win that most people thought the Lions could not get.

For that reason it may be Penn State's greatest victory. Greater than the Orange Bowl, because the comeback was so momentous and from so far behind.

## Nelson Wins IM Golf Title

Golf champions were crowned in both the dormitory and independent divisions last weekend. Bob Nelson, a 10th term finance major from Bradford, fired a 82-77-159 to win the independent title by eight strokes.

An eagle on the 18th hole gave John DiGirolamo a 71 for his second round, a 147 total and the dormitory championship. DiGirolamo, a first-terminer from Nativity Heights, represented Pitts-burgh house in the tournament.

DORMITORY		
	1st	2nd
DiGirolamo, Pittsburgh	76	71
Sender, Armstrong	74	75
Schechter, Nativity	75	72
INDEPENDENT		
	1st	2nd
R. L. Nelson	82	77
Mike Ducina	82	85
Phil Douglas	84	84

## TIME

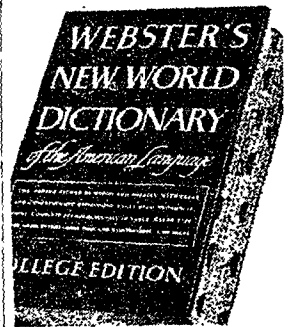
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Two Extras	2.00
ONE EXTRA	1.55
THREE EXTRAS	2.50
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