

Crowder-powered defense Penn State's best offense

By RAY McALLISTER
Assistant Sports Editor
A cliché it had become by now, the line had been used so many times. But the crazy, impossible thing about that line — the defense never rests — was that it was true.
Penn State's defense never did rest yesterday. Hell, it never had time to rest.
Time and time and time

again it was forced to come forth with the clutch, once-in-a-game performance. While the offense bumbled along for some 57 minutes, the defense had to shut off the big play, stop Iowa from scoring, give the offense good field position. The defense, in short, had to do it all.
"The defense played awfully well," Joe Paterno

said in thinking back on the game. "If our defense doesn't play super today we're out 28-0."
Well, it did and the Lions weren't down 28-0. Though the record books show Penn State beat Iowa in the last 36 seconds, that simply was not the case. The defense had won the game, if it was to be won, several times over in the time

which preceded the Hufnagel-to-Natale scoring pass. "We just said we had to hold them," tackle Jim Heller said. "We had no doubt we could hold them."
Perhaps, but holding them practically every series? How easy could that have been? "It's the first time," end Bruce Bannon said, "that I ever played four-point stance right over the tackle. We found out if those guys got you in that position you have a lot of trouble."
"Later they (coaches) had us up a lot because we weren't as quick as Crowder or Heller were. They were pretty mobile — it was a real tough game."

Nothing other than a tough game had been expected by the defensive line. Iowa's offensive line, probably the biggest the Lions will face all year, averaged to 6-3, 245 a man. The line was big, alright, but State handled it easily enough.
"They didn't really impress me a lot," linebacker John Skorupan said. "We made up our minds we were just going to go after them."
"I thought we were pretty successful."
So did Paterno. Battered by reporters' questions on the ineffectiveness of the offense, he said: "I'd rather talk about the defense."
He got the chance and used it, even singling out a few who played exceptionally well.
"Crowder and the linebackers looked real

good," he said. "I was happy with Laslavic. He looked like he's starting to get the feel of playing linebacker."
After moving from defensive end to linebacker, Jim Laslavic had seemed to pick up the feel of that position. But yesterday the game belonged to Randy Crowder.
Crowder played well a week ago against Navy but was overshadowed by Skorupan's super performance. The big tackle this time was in on a dozen tackles, seven of which he handled alone. And he also quite literally intercepted a handoff intended for Iowa back Frank Holmes.
As quarterback Kyle Skogman moved the ball toward Holmes on that second-quarter play, Crowder hit them both and came up with the football.
"I took the handoff," Crowder said. "I thought he might get it off to one of the backs so I had to hit the guy."
"I could have taken the ball," he laughed, "and kept on running."
Crowder has all kinds of quickness. Paterno, in fact, feels he is "close to Reid in quickness." The ties to All-American Mike Reid are closer than that — Reid came from Crowder's hometown and had some bearing on his coming here.
"It makes me feel good if I'm going to be as quick as Reid," Crowder said upon learning of Paterno's analogy.

The only blatantly obvious mistake the defense made all afternoon came late in the fourth quarter, a most inopportune time. Safety Gregg Ducatte and halfback Steve Stillely messed up some signals and Iowa receiver Brian Rollins slipped behind everyone. The resulting 36-yard TD pass put Iowa up 10-7 with only 3:01 to play.
"The guys in our secondary got a little eager on that one," Paterno said. "We nearly intercepted the short pass the play before so this time they came back and faked it."
The whole thing gave the offense a chance to redeem itself, which it did. "They're making my life shorter," Paterno said. "They spend three-fourths of the game

trying to beat themselves and end up beating the other team."
With more than a little help from the defense, of course it had done its job for 60 minutes, not just three. "It felt good holding them off," Skorupan admitted. "It's a little frustrating on the sideline but you know what you have to do"

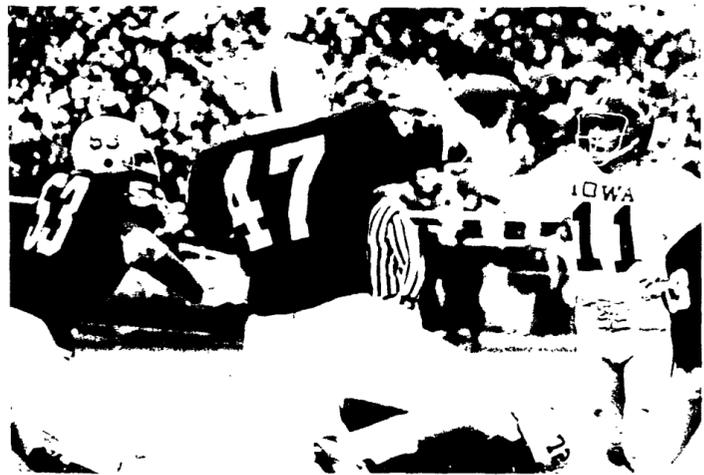


Photo by Randy J. Woodbury

Randy, Jim greet Kyle

RANDY CROWDER (53) and Jim Laslavic (47) put the pressure on Iowa quarterback Kyle Skogman in Saturday's game. The defensive unit, led by Crowder and his 12 tackles (7 unassisted), kept Iowa close until the offense finally got untracked and won 14-10.

Panthers take loss hard

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Despair hung heavy in the Pitt locker room after Northwestern handed the Panthers their fourth straight loss of the college football season.
The players seemed stunned by the 28-22 defeat Saturday, and they hardly spoke as they eased out of their sweaty uniforms and trudged to the shower.
"We've been disappointed before and come back, but this is the worst," said halfback Lou Ceconi. "We were really up for this game."
And then to lose it like that.
"I thought we had the better team. I can't explain it," said quarterback Bob Medwid.
Words also came hard for Coach Carl DePasqua, a stoic through three previous losses to Florida State, UCLA and Air Force.
"I don't know," he said. "Some unbelievable things have been happening out there. They keep wearing us down."
Northwestern's winning touchdown came on a 44-yard sprint by freshman Greg Boykin midway through the final period.
Just 19 seconds before, Pitt

had taken a 22-21 lead on a 62-yard pass from Medwid to Todd Toarper and a two-point conversion pass.
On the ensuing kickoff, however, Northwestern and Steve Craig grabbed a teammate's fumble in mid-air and returned it 25 yards to the Pitt 44, where Boykin ran for the touchdown on his first carry of the game.
"I really feel for Pittsburgh and Carl," said winning Coach Alex Agase, whose club is 1-2.
"They've really been snakebit this year. That play on the kickoff typified it. . . . But we're happy to win."
The Pitt defeat was worsened by the fact that the Panthers had taken a 14-0 first quarter lead on a 16-yard touchdown pass from John Hogan to Rod Huth and a one-yard run by Hogan.
However, the visitors struck back in the second quarter on a 45-yard touchdown pass from Mitch Anderson to Steve Harris and a 40-yard field goal by Doug Skarin.
Skarin also booted another 46-yard field goal in the third quarter and Jim Trimble, who led all rushers with 100 yards, plunged for a touch-

down that concluded a 55-yard drive.
That made the score 21-14 and set the stage for the see-saw fourth quarter.
"It was a tough game and we lost," said DePasqua. "I narrowed it down to one big play and we discussed that after the game with the players. I'm sure that they'll come back. The kids' attitude has been great."
Northwestern didn't throw a single pass in the second half, and instead rushed for almost 200 yards through the Pitt middle.
"We have some positions and areas where we are weak," said DePasqua, whose team still has remaining games with such heavyweights as Notre Dame and Penn State. "We're going to have to get better."

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PSU Top Ten regular	
1 Nebraska 1971	6 Nebraska
2 Oklahoma	7 Purdue
3 Colorado	8 Georgia Tech
4 Alabama	9 Miami (Fla)
5 Penn State	10 SMU
6 Michigan	1965
7 Georgia	1 Alabama
8 Arizona State	2 Michigan State
9 Tennessee	3 Arkansas
10 Stanford	4 UCLA
1970	5 Nebraska
1 Nebraska	6 Missouri
2 Notre Dame	7 Tennessee
3 Texas	8 LSU
4 Tennessee	9 Notre Dame
5 Ohio State	10 USC
6 Arizona State	1964
7 LSU	1 Alabama
8 Stanford	2 Arkansas
9 Michigan	3 Notre Dame
10 Auburn	4 Michigan
1969	5 Texas
1 Texas	6 Nebraska
2 Penn State	7 LSU
3 Ohio State	8 Oregon State
4 Notre Dame	9 Ohio State
5 Missouri	10 USC
6 Arkansas	1963
7 Arkansas	1 Texas
8 Mississippi	2 Navy
9 Michigan	3 Illinois
10 LSU	4 Pitt
1968	5 Auburn
1 Ohio State	6 Nebraska
2 Penn State	7 Mississippi
3 Texas	8 Alabama
4 USC	9 Michigan State
5 Notre Dame	10 Oklahoma
6 Arkansas	1962
7 Kansas	1 USC
8 Georgia	2 Wisconsin
9 Missouri	3 Mississippi
10 Purdue	4 Texas
1967	5 Alabama
1 USC	6 Arkansas
2 Tennessee	7 LSU
3 Oklahoma	8 Oklahoma
4 Indiana	9 Penn State
5 Notre Dame	10 Minnesota
6 Wyoming	1961
7 Oregon State	1 Alabama
8 Alabama	2 Ohio State
9 Purdue	3 Texas
10 Penn State	4 LSU
1966	5 Mississippi
1 Notre Dame	6 Minnesota
2 Michigan State	7 Colorado
3 Alabama	8 Michigan State
4 Georgia	9 Arkansas
5 UCLA	10 Utah State

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— Jorge Luis Borges

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