

Had Sugar Bowl scout 'thinking'

Think State was worried?

By GLENN SHEELEY
Collegian Sports Editor
CHESTNUT HILL, Mass. — Even if Boston College's pressbox had come equipped with oxygen tanks, Sugar Bowl scout Monk Simon would have been gasping for air.

The 3-5 Eagles, three-touchdown underdogs to the bowl-bound Nittany Lions, were driving for the go-ahead touchdown late in the third quarter Saturday and Simon was squirming in his seat. Nobody cared to predict his condition had scrambling BC quarterback Gary Marangi not slipped at the 42-yard line on fourth down with Lions Ed O'Neil, Larry Ludwig and Jim Laslavic in hot pursuit. The result was a 22-yard loss which snuffed out the Eagles' momentum, helped Penn State to a hard-fought 45-26 win and a Sugar Bowl bid and took Simon off the critical list.

"I won't say I was worried," Monk said, admitting his breathing was back to normal, "but I was doing a little thinking."

You see, Boston College had this sophomore running back named Mike Esposito. With a reportedly bruised leg, he staggered Penn State's usually stingy defense for 115 yards rushing and bugged coach Joe Paterno all afternoon.

However, the Lions, not up

for tarnishing their Sugar Bowl bid, countered well. Quarterback John Hufnagel pulled in Heisman Trophy votes by completing 13 of 22 passes for 271 yards and two touchdowns, and rushed eight times for 92 yards and two more scores. His performance set a new Lion total offense record (363 yards) and gave him the single season passing yardage mark (1,779) and total offense (1,959).

Not to be outdone by Esposito, PSU tailback John Cappelletti butchered his leg on the opening kickoff but still gutted out 107 yards rushing with two TD's.

Paterno, strangely meeting the press afterwards in the penalty box of the nearby BC hockey rink, admitted it was no easy victory.

"I told Esposito after the game that was the best performance by a sophomore running back that I've seen in 20 years. He reminds me a lot of Roger Kochman," Paterno said.

"BC didn't surprise me," he said. "All we looked at last week were BC-Syracuse films. They blew Syracuse off the field (a 37-0 win). We knew we were going to be in trouble. I thought they played awfully well."

Hufnagel and Cappelletti, who along with fullback Bob Nagle (69 yards) accounted for most of Penn State's 301 yards rushing, also got the good word.

"I really think you saw the Heisman Trophy winner out there today," Paterno said of Hufnagel. "If there's a better football player anywhere, I don't know about him. People get jittery, but I never get jittery with him around."

Cappelletti, who rushed for 100-plus yards for the fifth time this season and passed the 1,000 mark for the year, drew raves, too.

"Boy, he was really running over people out there today," said his coach. "He's getting to be a real tough clutch back."

The Lions moved effortlessly on their initial drive as Nagle, giving Cappy an

early break, got the opener up the middle for 28 yards to the BC 29. Cappelletti took it in from the one and Al Vitello's PAT had everyone thinking it was no contest.

But Marangi hit split end Mel Briggs for an 83-yard pass play when Lion defensive back Buddy Ellis gambled on an interception try and lost. A muffed PAT put PSU up, 7-6.

Penn State was on the move again, the highlight an unbelievable one-handed grab by Gary Hayman at the BC three Hufnagel's keeper on fourth down made it, 14-6. Esposito then had the Eagles flying compiling 31 yards on five carries. On the first play of the second period Marangi saw Briggs shed safety Greff Ducatte's coverage and nailed him for a 14-yard pass. Esposito tried and failed at a halfback conversion pass and the Lions led only, 14-12.

Tight end Bob Rickenbach's 26-yard grab at the BC 22 put Penn State in business and set up Cappelletti's four-yard sprint around left end

for a score. Vitello's PAT gave the Lions a 21-12 lead.

It got tense for Simon and Penn State when Esposito's running and Marangi passes to Briggs and Smith and two off-sides penalties by over-anxious tackle Randy Crowder set BC up deep in PSU territory. Esposito drove off left tackle from the six and Fred Steinfort's extra point tightened it up at 21-19.

The Lions got a little breathing room when Vitello hit on a 48-yard field goal, the longest of his career, which made it 24-19.

Then after Marangi's fateful slip, Hufnagel lofted a pass barely over BC's Burt Stevens and Ned Guillet. The two defenders collided and speedster Jimmy Scott was all but gone for a 77-yard TD play and a 31-19 lead. Only then did Simon sit back on his seat.

"It was crucial for us to get a drive going," Scott said later, "because BC was coming back strong. The guys put their hands up and the ball just cleared. Huff put it right on the money."

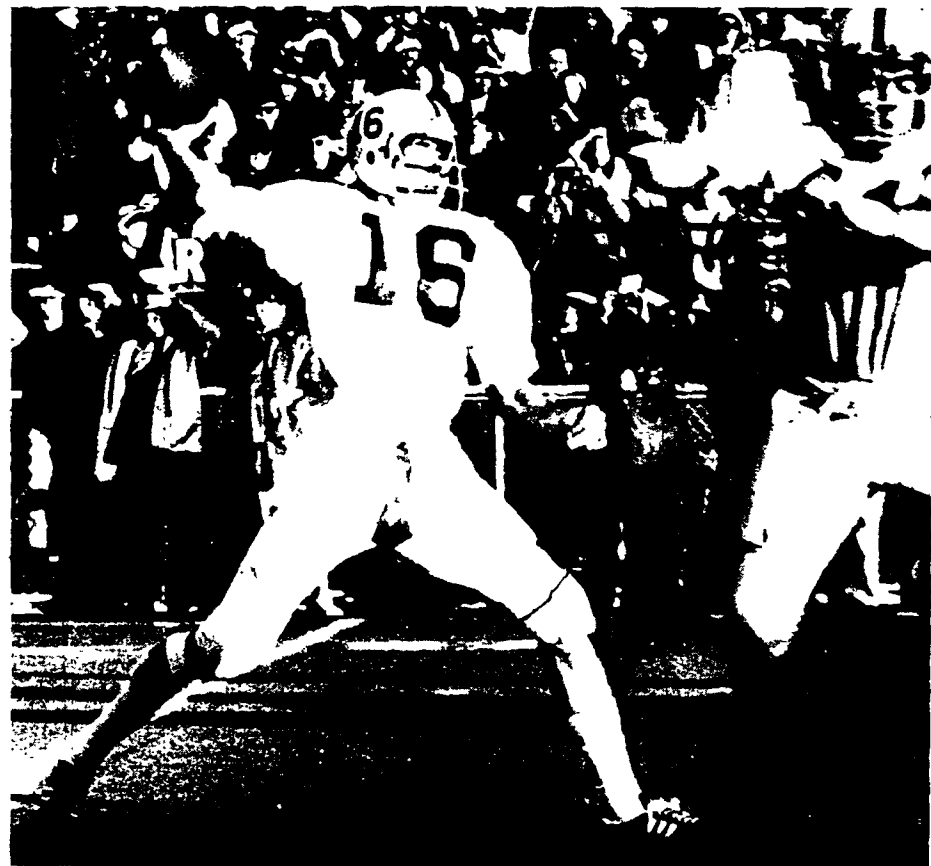


Photo by Joe Rudick

Hufnagel rears back behind Nagle's protection

Penn State-BC statistics

Penn State	14	7	10	14-45
Boston College	6	6	7	7-26
PS-Cappelletti: 1 run (Vitello kick)				
BC-Briggs 83 pass from Marangi (run failed)				
PS-Hufnagel 2 run (Vitello kick)				
BC-Briggs 14 pass from Marangi (pass failed)				
PS-Cappelletti: 2 run (Vitello kick)				
BC-Esposito 6 run (Steinfort kick)				
PS-FG Vitello 48				
PS-Scott 77 pass from Hufnagel (Vitello kick)				
PS-Hufnagel 57 run (Vitello kick)				
PS-Natale 3 pass from Hufnagel (Vitello kick)				
BC-Esposito 48 pass from Marangi (Steinfort kick)				
A-23,119				

Player	Att	Yd	TD
Natale	5	70	1
Hayman	2	53	0
Rickenbach	1	30	0
Cappelletti	3	33	0
Scott	2	85	1

Player	Att	Yd	TD
Esposito	22	115	2
Smith	12	33	0
Marangi	4	0	0
Bennet	3	11	0
Concannon	1	2	0

Pucksters, Terps split

Penn State split with the Maryland hockey club last weekend to bring its record to 2-1. The Lions nipped the Terps in overtime Saturday afternoon 4-3 and dropped the second game by the same score.

Three hundred fans watched the Lions spot Maryland three goals Saturday before defenseman Al "Reds" Davidson sparked the Lion scoring, slamming in a shot from just past the blue line at 3:24 into the final period.

Mark Sturgeon brought Penn State within one when he took a pass from Bill Charles and pushed the puck through a crowd around the goal. Center John Rothgaber took a pass from wing John Hancock with under three minutes to play to tie the game.

The overtime went 6:02

before Rothgaber earned his second goal on a rebound of Davidson's shot.

In yesterday's game penalties proved the downfall of the Lion team. The pucksters were penalized for a total of sixteen minutes including a ten-minute misconduct violation on coach Larry Hendry.

The two teams were tied 3-3 when they began the third period. Sunday Terp Pete Andrews scored on a power-play at 4:17 into the period. The Lion offense was handicapped by six minutes of penalty time after the Maryland goal.

First period scores by Matt Peskin and Mark Sturgeon put the Lions ahead but the Terps outscored their opponents in the second period, 3-2, to reach the final period standoff.

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