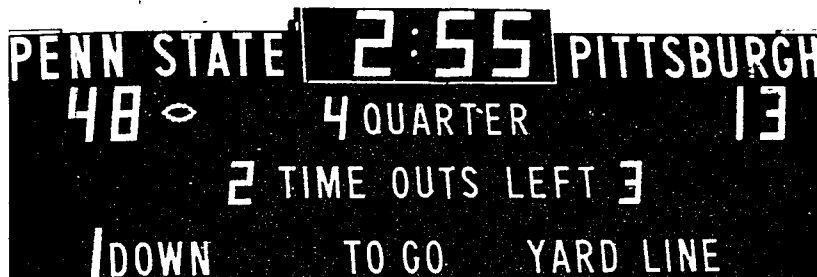


At Univ. Park, Nov. 24

Pitt: how long till Major change?



Pitt's football fortunes hit the bottom last year ...

By RON SIEGEL
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The Pitt News

PITTSBURGH — Pitt football has undergone a Major change in 1973, and while nearly everyone agrees that Pitt soon will be back on the winning track, the question seems to be how long it's going to take.

Following a dismal 1-10 season, the ninth straight losing year, Pitt quit the Big Four and signed the most sought after young coach in collegiate football, Johnny Majors.

A 1956 All-America tailback at Tennessee, Majors took over a quagmired Iowa State football team, and in his fourth season there, took the Cyclones to their first bowl game ever. He made it two in a row last year, and signed with Pitt at the conclusion of the season.

Upon his arrival here, Majors discovered that he had a lot of catching up to do. He quickly set out to beef up the Panthers with the recruitment of several top-notch junior college players, as well as a slew of promising freshman.

Among his top recruits: Carson Long, a placekicker who has kicked 54-yard field goals in high school, and who should improve Pitt's field goal production of last season, when none were successful; Tony Dorsett, perhaps the most sought after running back in the country, who has earned a starting spot as a freshman; and Gary Burley, two-time junior college All-America linebacker, who has also moved into a starting slot.

Pitt lost 18 letterman last season, and has 30 returning. Heading the returnees is defensive end Jim Buckmon, picked by some magazines as a pre-season All-America; defensive tackles Glenn Hyde and Dave Jancisin, both starters; and linebacker Mike Bulino, converted from defensive back, where he starred last season.

The team's strength lies in the defense, which has been bolstered with JC transfers.

The offense lost only quarterback John

Penn State gridders

Two Penn State football players — tailback John Cappelletti and flanker Jimmy Scott — toured military bases on trips sponsored by the National Collegiate Athletic Association last summer. Cappelletti was in Europe and Scott in the Far East.

Charlie Getty, a 260-pound offensive tackle on the Penn State football team, also competes for the Nittany Lion wrestlers. Getty was fifth in the heavyweight division in the 1973 NCAA wrestling championships

Hogan from the backfield, but the battle for the other positions is fierce. Lineman Dave Wannstedt, Dave Blandino, Reynold Stoner, and Mike Carey all will be back, as will receivers Todd Toerper and Les Block.

How well the Panthers do this season apparently will depend on the quarterbacking. Junior Bill Daniels probably will start against Georgia this Saturday; Bob Medwid is still recovering from a spring drill injury. Majors has recruited several top-notch freshman signalcallers, who will be eager to step in if the upperclassmen are unable to do the job.

"I'll sleep a lot easier if we win four games this season," said Majors, but most Pitt fans are expecting more. "We'll be playing with pride and enthusiasm. We won't have any fourth quarter quitters."

Panther followers can only wait until September 15 to see how Major the change in Pitt football will be, and how rapid.



*... but might offer something
to cheer about this year*

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