

Blitz buries Stanford

By RAY McALLISTER
Collegian Sports Editor
PALO ALTO, Calif. — Jack Christiansen always comes up to the press box after the games. Stanford Sports Information Director Bob Murphy said Saturday morning, "Sometimes the visiting coach comes up, sometimes he doesn't. But at least Christiansen will be there."

Stanford coach Christiansen, he of the "Stanford will win because hard work and determination will make the difference" remark, must have reconsidered after his team's 20-6 loss here Saturday, however. For when the blitzing had stopped and the fans were filing out and the television cameras were being put away and the Sports Illustrated writer mentally had begun his story—there stood Penn State coach Joe Paterno in the press box.

Alone.

Christiansen, without explanation, was showering in the same building used by the Penn State team.

Afterwards, he retreated to an off-limits officials room. Christiansen later emerged to tell reporters that "we had almost no offense. Instead of going forward, it went backwards and sideways."

He may as well have stayed underground or wherever it was he had been, for he had offered nothing new in the way of insight. Penn State's defense so completely dominated the Stanford offense that the game would have been over at halftime and the Stanford defense not been nearly as successful as its counterpart.

In fact, just about the only semblance of offense in that half came from Lion defensemen Greg Murphy and Doug Allen, who, seemingly forgetting that the "return" and not the "block" was on, roared through with a surprise for Stanford punter Tom Lynn. Allen belted the ball through the end zone for the game's first two points.

Late in the half, Penn State defensive halfback Jimmy Bradley picked off the ball on

the Stanford 10 as it was jarred from running back John Winesberry, thus setting up another score.

And those were virtually the only indications the teams felt it desirable to score points. There even was speculation that Penn State linebackers, particularly Ed O'Neil, were lining up next to Stanford fullback Scott Laidlaw. But the officials never caught it and Stanford quarterback Mike Boryla, who was to be dumped seven times for 40 yards, was sacked time and again.

"The quarterback has to think a little extra when the blitz is on," Bradley explained, "and Boryla seemed to be having a little trouble; it seemed to worry him."

"We had made up our mind to blitz a lot. For instance, we had the '52 blitz super' on two times in the first four plays; we ran the '8 blitz half' a lot.

"Oregon did the same thing and we got it from watching the film of last year's Oregon-Stanford game. Boryla reads

the blitz well, but he's a little shaky acting on it.

Meanwhile, the Penn State offense was having its problems. Tailback John Cappelletti was finding too many Cardinal jerseys when he made his cuts, quarterback Tom Shuman was rifling passes too high and too hard to be pulled in, and the receivers were dropping some of those Shuman did put in their hands.

Chris Bahr was wide right on a 42-yard field goal attempt and fumbles stalled other Nittany Lion drives.

Then came the punt. Lynn seemed to hesitate after the snap and the tie was broken. "He's a four-step punter," Allen said, "and actually we should have blocked a couple. On that particular play, we didn't even have the block on; we were trying to get off a return for field position."

Lynn placed the blame wholly on himself. "All my fault," he said. "I shouldn't have taken that much time. The pass from center was high but that wouldn't have made any difference. I just failed to note the quick rush."

Therein was to lie much of the success of Penn State's defense Saturday; it's rush was overwhelming, there's no other word.

And much of the rush's success was built on what amounted to calculated guesswork. That gaming, as Paterno had indicated last week, would be the key defensively. An outguessing of sorts.

"We'd try to go out when they went in," defensive end Greg Murphy said, "and vice versa. Sometimes it didn't work but most of the time it did. Just ask Boryla."

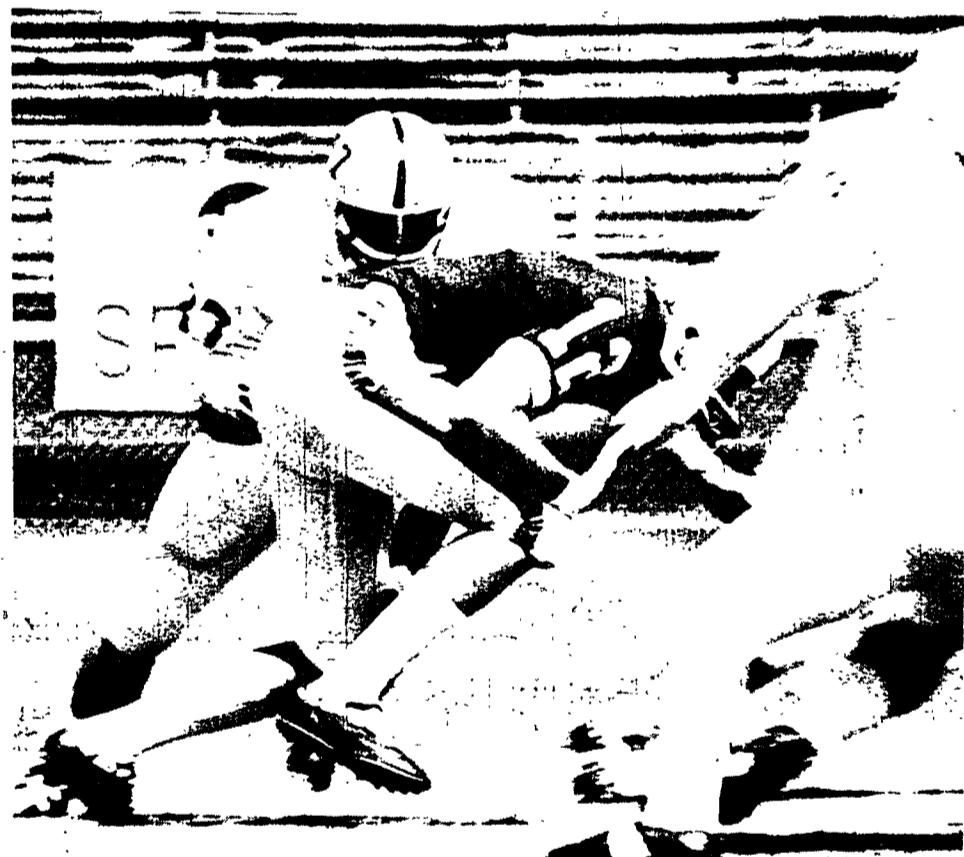
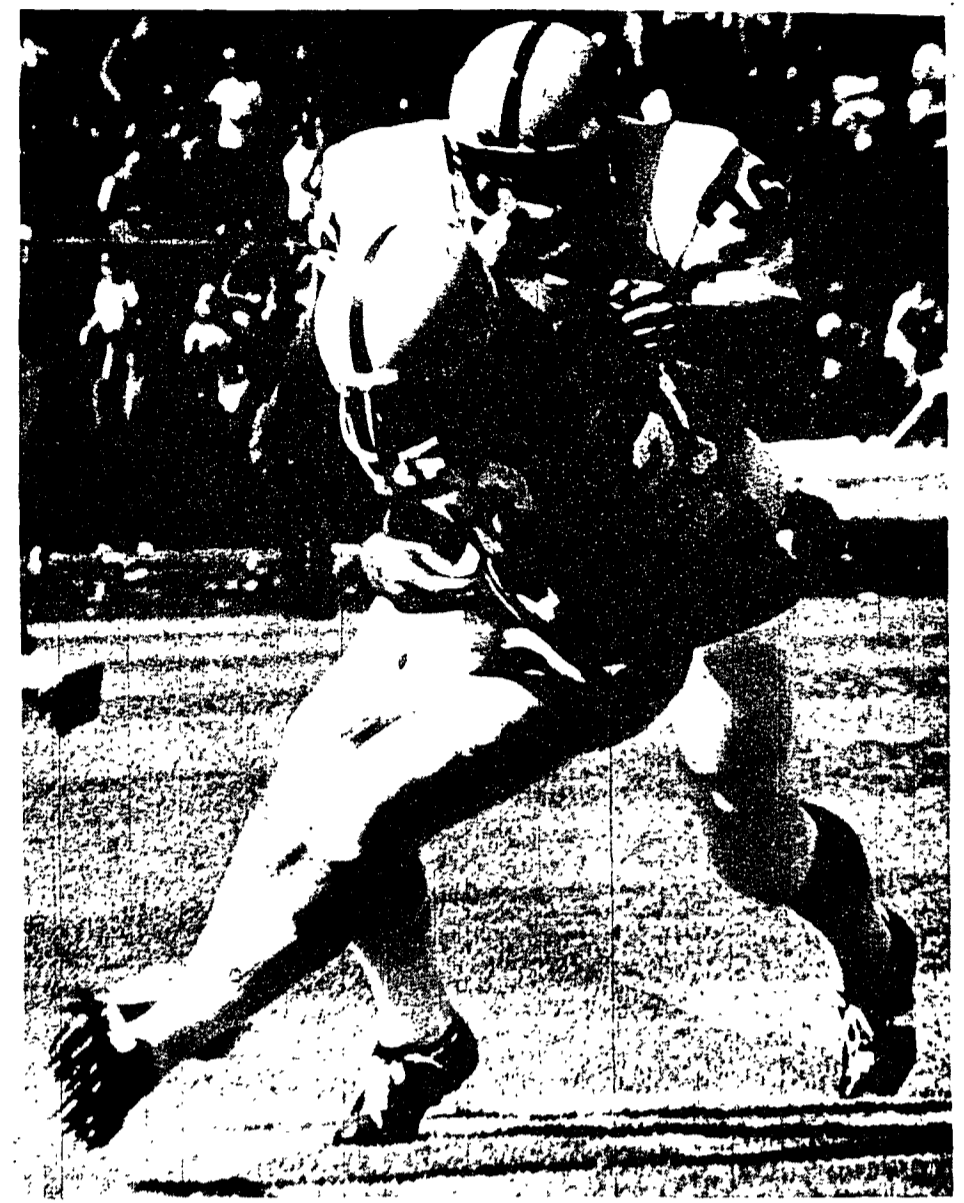
Boryla wasn't the only offensive player having troubles Saturday. Neither offense was going anywhere although Penn State seemed always to have slightly better field position.

The best position, of course was given it by Bradley late in the first half when he took the ball which popped free from Winesberry. "The ball came up and I just took it," laughed Bradley. "I saw Winesberry there but I didn't want him so I just took the ball."

Two plays later, Gary Hayman took a 14-yard pass from quarterback Tom Shuman — after which Shuman nearly did cartwheels of ecstasy returning to the sideline — and command of the game had been established. Dan Natale hauled in a conversion pass for the 10-0 halftime margin.

Cappelletti turned in a third quarter score and soccer player Bahr added a field goal before Boryla ended the shutout by hitting Laidlaw for a score, against Penn State reserves, with three minutes in the game.

"It was a fun," O'Neil grinned afterwards, apparently unaware that Jack Christiansen had not considered it fun enough to go up to the press box to talk about it. "It was a fun game."



—photos by Joe Rudick

Clockwise : Tom Shuman scrambles; Brian Masella brings down John Winesberry; Ed O'Neil decks Mike Boryla; Tom Donchez escorts John Cappelletti; Buddy Ellis drags down Reggie Ishman

