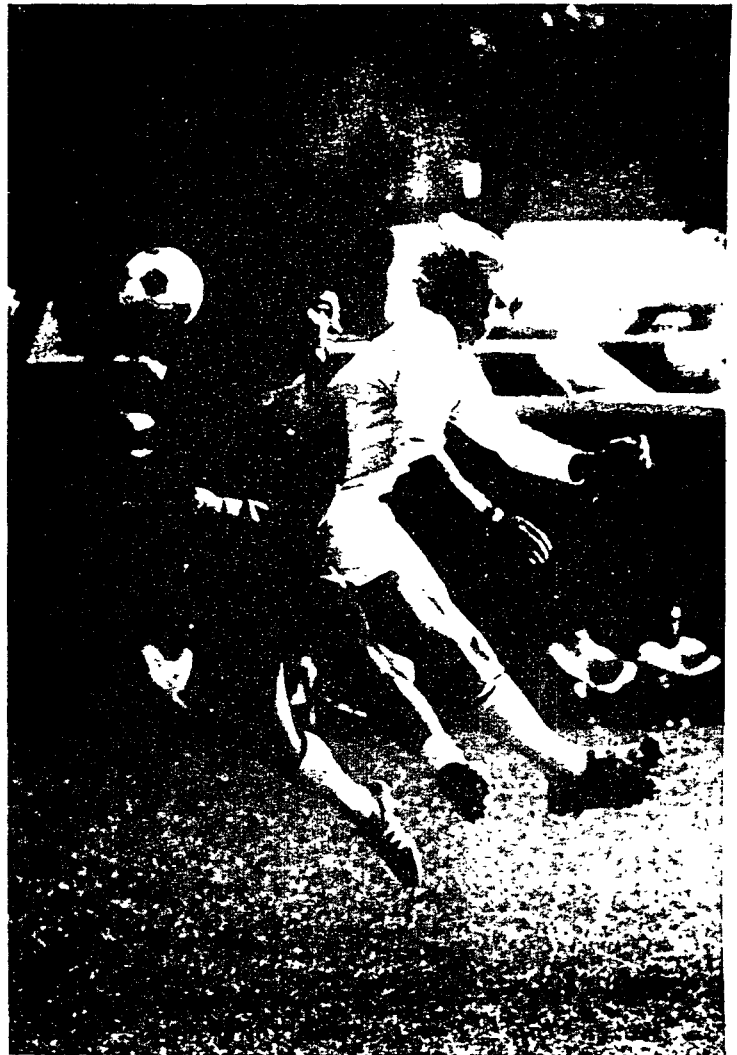


Scott Frazier (in white) battles in the air for position on a 'header.'

The fullbacks: an integral part

By Jeff Young



For all you percentage-minded soccer fans, it should be a good weekend. Four out of four people are expecting Penn State's booters (4-1-1) to win, possibly very easily, over host Shippensburg State College this afternoon. Of course, that's not surprising when the four people happen to play fullback for Penn State.

The four fullbacks — Scott Frazier, Bruce Allen, Bob Viehweger and Dave Boles — have been an integral part of the defense that allowed just twelve goals in 14 games last season, and eight in six contests this year. All four were around last November 4 when the booters edged Shippensburg 2-1 on a last-minute goal by John Marsden, and they echoed each other in recollection of that game with phrases like "they weren't very impressive."

"I remember it was a very frustrating game for us," Viehweger said. "We had a lot of shots, but we just couldn't capitalize.

They didn't impress me, but they did manage to get a goal. The field was wet and Mike Arnold slipped trying to get the ball."

"They didn't do anything but clog up the middle. They had eight or nine men back on defense, standing in front of the goal," Allen added.

Boles, last season's first reserve as a freshman, said that he remembered playing at Penn State's middle line, like an offensive player, most of the game, and not having much trouble.

Looking at this afternoon's meeting, the fourth in a series that Penn State leads 3-0, the comments were again very similar.

The quartet's lone senior, Frazier, provides an example: "They'll probably have 11 men back on defense, and they'll probably play kick-and-run (using long kicks and sprinting after them). If we

stick to our passing game, we should run them off the field."

Allen, who is Frazier's roommate, did make one caution concerning the weather. "It could be a rough game on a wet field," he said.

Viehweger and Boles made some specific comments on the effects of mental attitudes going into the game. Viehweger said, "The thing with Shippensburg is that Penn State is their toughest game, and they'll really be up for us. We've got to get ourselves up, and make sure we don't become lax."

Boles added, "Last year we went into the game too easily. When they get psyched up, it gives them an edge they wouldn't have otherwise."

Fluke goals, wet fields, and mental attitudes aside, Shippensburg's roster shows that the Raiders (3-3-2) are

undergoing a youth movement, with only five seniors on the squad.

One of these seniors, halfback Bruce Brown was a second team All-Conference the last two seasons, and is one of the team's best passers.

Shippensburg's leading scorers are sophomores Bob Deininger and Bill Herrlinger, each with two goals and one assist. The Raiders' top man in the nets, Richard Schell, is also a sophomore with an average of 1.53 goals per game.

Three freshmen dot the Shippensburg defense. Fullbacks Dana Bernecker, David Redlinger, and halfback Todd Young will strive, like the old cliché says, to "beat the percentages."

And unless the field is so wet that the Lions can't stay on their feet, and Shippensburg builds a human wall in front of its goal, its chances are not too good.

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