

# Heisman honors Cappy

## 39th trophy is Penn State's 1st.



Photo by Randy J. Woodbury

By RAY McALLISTER  
Collegian Sports Editor

The right man at the right time, John Cappelletti Tuesday became the first Penn State football player ever to win the Heisman Trophy, awarded annually to the nation's outstanding collegiate player.

In a year with no one player standing clearly above the others, Cappelletti won the 39th trophy by a surprisingly wide margin. The senior tailback's 229 first place votes and 1057 total points more than doubled those of runnerup John Hicks (114 and 524).

Hicks, the Ohio State offensive tackle, thus fell far short in his bid to become the first lineman to win the prestigious trophy. Texas running back Roosevelt Leaks was third, Kansas quarterback David Jaynes fourth and a pair of Hicks' teammates, running back

- Winners of the Heisman Trophy
- 1915 - Jay Berwanger, Chicago
  - 1916 - Larry Kelley, Yale
  - 1917 - Clinton Frank, Yale
  - 1918 - Davey O'Brien, Texas Christian
  - 1919 - Nile Kinnick, Iowa
  - 1920 - Tom Harmon, Michigan
  - 1921 - Bruce Smith, Minnesota
  - 1922 - Frank Sinkwich, Georgia
  - 1923 - Angelo Bertelli, Notre Dame
  - 1924 - Leslie Horvath, Ohio State
  - 1925 - Felix Doy, Blanchard Army
  - 1926 - Glenn Davis, Army
  - 1927 - Johnny Luginbuhl, Notre Dame
  - 1928 - E. Doak Walker, SMU
  - 1929 - Leon Hart, Notre Dame
  - 1930 - Victor Janowicz, Ohio State
  - 1931 - Richard Kazmaier, Princeton
  - 1932 - Billy Vessels, Oklahoma
  - 1933 - John Lattner, Notre Dame
  - 1934 - Alan Ameche, Wisconsin
  - 1935 - Howard Cassady, Ohio State
  - 1936 - Paul Hornung, Notre Dame
  - 1937 - John David Crow, Texas A & M
  - 1938 - Pete Dawkins, Army
  - 1939 - Billy Cannon, LSU
  - 1940 - Joe Bellino, Navy
  - 1941 - Ernie Davis, Syracuse
  - 1942 - Terry Baker, Oregon State
  - 1943 - Roger Staubach, Navy
  - 1944 - John Huarte, Notre Dame
  - 1945 - Mike Garrett, USC
  - 1946 - Steve Spurrier, Florida
  - 1947 - Gale Sayers, Chicago
  - 1948 - O. J. Simpson, USC
  - 1949 - Steve Owens, Oklahoma
  - 1950 - Jim Plunkett, Stanford
  - 1951 - Pat Sullivan, Auburn
  - 1952 - Johnny Rodgers, Nebraska
  - 1953 - John Cappelletti, Penn State

## The price of the trophy

By RAY McALLISTER  
Collegian Sports Editor

He sat there, listening to the questions he had heard a hundred times before, offering the answers he had given a hundred times before, accepting the congratulations, smiling the smiles, shaking the hands. It goes with the territory, in other words. Winning the Heisman Trophy has its price.

The past two days have been hectic, all right. Reporters, photographers, celebrities, well-wishers — well-wishers by the roomful. So for the time being, John Cappelletti intends to stay holed up until he takes off for a Kodak All-America weekend in San Francisco tomorrow.

But Cappelletti, who motors through and around opposing defenders as a man bicycling through a traffic jam, is nearly as smooth off the field. The pressures are there, but he handles them.

"Nothing's really any different," he says. "I'm not going to try to adjust; I don't feel that much different." But it has to make a difference, of course.

Ever since Sports Illustrated came out a few weeks back and said that Cappelletti had to be the favorite, there's been a difference. Cappy fit the criteria — he was a senior, a back, from a well-known school with a well-known coach — the 38 previous years of voting had laid down. And the magazine's survey indicated voters weren't about to change their habits. And a strong Cappelletti performance in each of his last four games were pretty impressive credentials.

So now he's brought the first Heisman ever to Penn State which isn't the type of thing that will hurt the school in recruiting and the national polls. Additionally, he's brought a

little more respect to Eastern football and to this year's Orange Bowl, which lost a whole bunch of glamour when LSU was upset last weekend by Tulane.

Tuesday he exchanged quips with Bob Hope — quips good enough to have Hope say: "Hey, save the one-liners for our show." Hope's show featured a teamful of All-Americans, and Cappy also found his way onto the Today show yesterday morning.

"But I still haven't seen the people I'd like to share this with," he said yesterday, "my family, the people up here." Cappy does indeed intend to share the Heisman Trophy — almost literally. With trophy replicas for his teammates, for instance. And with words of praise for everyone who was connected with his winning. Even for Hope, who wasn't connected with his winning. "He's a pretty nice guy. I was just holding my own against him."

Across the nation, Cappelletti more than held his own in the balloting, winning three of the five regions in which the 819 sports writers and broadcasters voted. He finished third in the Midwest and fifth in the Southwest.

Cappy's victory margin no doubt was boosted by Ohio State's threesome of John Hicks, Archie Griffin and Randy Gradishar which finished second, fifth and sixth and likely split the votes which might have gone against Cappelletti. Collectively, the three, pulled 1132 points, 75 more than Cappelletti.

"It was a little bit of a surprise to win," Cappy says, "but I really was surprised to win by this much. It's funny but I wasn't real excited until Tuesday morning about the whole thing."

Now that he's got it, the Heisman could mean a lot, particularly when it comes to signing up with the pros. "I'm sure it'll make a difference," Cappy says, "but I'll leave that to whoever is working on my contract. I'm sure he'll be able to get something for it."

Officially, Cappelletti won't receive the Heisman until a Dec. 13 banquet at the New York Hilton. By then he'll very likely be a consensus All-America — Monday his selection to the Associated Press team made it four for four on those teams and on that day the Football News named him college football's player of the year. He also stands as the favorite for the Maxwell Award.

All that is a long way from the Italian Ice stand he has operated in Upper Darby for the past two summers, the stand which prompted the "Ice Man for Heisman" line circulating in past weeks, as well as such atrocities as "the Heisman cometh to the Ice Man" when the award was presented. Cappelletti just smiles as he thinks back.

"I don't think I'll have time to go back," he said, "what with pro ball and all. There are too many other things to do now."

### Game-by-game to the Heisman

1972	A	Yds.	Avg.	Avg. Game	TD
Tennessee (21-28, L)	22	74	3.4	74.0	0
Navy (21-10, W)	17	65	3.8	69.5	2
Iowa (14-10, W)	22	96	4.4	78.3	1
Illinois (35-17, W)	21	124	5.9	89.8	1
Army (45-0, W)	16	61	3.8	84.0	2
Syracuse (27-9, W)	24	162	6.8	97.0	1
West Virginia (28-19, W)	34	154	4.5	105.1	0
Maryland (46-16, W)	22	68	3.1	100.5	3
N.C. State (37-22, W)	22	129	5.9	103.7	0
Boston College (45-26, W)	22	107	4.9	104.0	2
Pittsburgh (49-27, W)	11	77	7.0	101.5	0
Oklahoma (0-14, L)	Did not play because of illness				
Totals (11 games)	233	1117	4.8	101.5	12
1973	A	Yds.	Avg.	Avg. Game	TD
Stanford (20-6, W)	26	76	2.9	76.0	1
Navy (39-0, W)	23	104	4.5	90.0	1
Iowa (27-8, W)	22	87	3.9	89.0	1
Air Force (19-9, W)	34	187	5.5	113.5	2
Army (54-3, W)	17	151	8.9	121.0	0
Syracuse (49-6, W)	Appeared for 3 plays, did not carry				
West Virginia (62-14, W)	24	130	5.4	105.0	4
Maryland (42-22, W)	37	202	5.5	117.1	0
N.C. State (35-29, W)	41	220	5.4	128.6	3
Ohio U. (49-10, W)	25	204	8.2	136.1	4
Pittsburgh (35-13, W)	37	161	4.4	138.4	1
Totals (11 games)	286	1522	5.3	138.4	17
Career Totals (22 games)	519	2639	5.1	120.0	29



Photo by Randy J. Woodbury

Archie Griffin and linebacker Randy Gradishar, were fifth and sixth.

Arizona State and Southern Cal were the only other schools having more than one representative in the Downtown Athletic Club balloting. The Sun Devils placed running back Woody Green and quarterback Danny White eighth and ninth while the Trojans had flanker Lynn Swann and tailback Anthony Davis 12th and 13th.

Pitt tailback Tony Dorsett made a strong showing for a freshman, placing 11th, but undeniably was hurt by Cappelletti's strong support in the East. Dorsett's finish was the highest by a freshman since 1944 when Army's Doc Blanchard was third.

Cappelletti's 2-1 margin over Hicks likely could be attributed to the Ohio State threesome drawing votes from each other. It was only the second time a school had placed three in the top six of a Heisman balloting, the other being Army's effort of 1944 when it placed Glenn Davis, Blanchard and Arnold Tucker.

Penn State coach Joe Paterno previously had done his share for Cappelletti, particularly after the Pitt game. Trailing 13-3 at halftime, Penn State used Cappelletti's ground game to power to a 35-13 win. Cappelletti, who outgained Dorsett 161 yards to 77, again was labeled by Paterno as "unequivocally the best football player I have ever been around."

"He showed his value to this football team," Paterno continued after that game. "John Hicks could not have won this football game for us. Cappelletti did."

Cappelletti also took the Heisman in what had been considered a relatively weak year. But his statistics alone would seem to refute that contention. The 215-pound defensive-back-turned-tailback glided over and frequently through opponents for 1522 yards and 17 touchdowns on 286 carries. He set several durability marks, including carries per game (41), season and career (519

in only two seasons).

He became the only Penn State back to twice rush for over 1000 yards in a season. He was second only to Lydell Mitchell on the career rushing list with 2639 yards and established a career yards-per-game mark of 120, nearly 25 more than Mitchell's old record.

In a year of exciting underclassmen and heralded linemen, Cappelletti came from far back among the early-season Heisman candidates. Finishing the year with four strong games, Cappelletti thus captured the 17-inch hunk of bronze which had eluded such Penn State candidates as John Hufnagel, Mitchell, Mike Reid and Ted Kwalick in recent years. Quarterback Richie Lucas, who had been runnerup to LSU QB Billy Cannon in 1959, had come closest for the Nittany Lions.

"Any of the 14 who received votes were good athletes to win the trophy," said Cappelletti who was in New York for the filming of Bob Hope's show with the Associated Press All-America team. The program will be telecast at 9 p.m. Sunday on NBC-TV.

"I don't want to make too big a deal of it," Cappelletti added. "It's an honor, like each All-America team is an honor. But this probably is the biggest honor. Obviously I'm glad I won but this is really for the team."

"I wouldn't have been disappointed if some other good player had won it. I've spent the last two days with the other guys and there wasn't much difference between myself and them."

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	1st	2nd	3rd	Pts.
1. John Cappelletti, Penn State	229	142	86	1057
2. John Hicks, Ohio State	114	64	54	524
3. Roosevelt Leaks, Texas	74	80	100	482
4. David Jaynes, Kansas	65	68	63	394
5. Archie Griffin, Ohio State	45	63	65	326
6. Randy Gradishar, Ohio State	47	53	35	282
7. Lucious Selmon, Oklahoma	39	52	29	250
8. Woody Green, Arizona State	31	55	44	247
9. Danny White, Arizona State	32	22	26	166
10. Kermit Johnson, UCLA	24	15	20	122
11. Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh	15	20	30	115
12. Lynn Swann, USC	16	24	12	108
13. Anthony Davis, USC	5	28	33	104
14. Conredge Holloway, Tennessee	16	14	22	98

**EAST**  
1. Cappelletti, 2. Hicks, 3. Leaks, 4. Dorsett, 5. Griffin, 6. Gradishar, 7. Jaynes

**SOUTH**  
1. Cappelletti, 2. Leaks, 3. Jaynes, 4. Hicks, 5. Holloway, 6. Griffin, 7. Gradishar

**MIDWEST**  
1. Hicks, 2. Jaynes, 3. Cappelletti, 4. Griffin, 5. Gradishar, 6. Selmon, 7. Leaks

**SOUTHWEST**  
1. Leaks, 2. White, 3. Green, 4. Selmon, 5. Cappelletti, 6. Jaynes, 7. Davis

**FAR WEST**  
1. Cappelletti, 2. Johnson, 3. Swann, 4. Green, 5. White, 6. Hicks, 7. Leaks

Hicks' showing was the third second-place position nailed down by an interior lineman in Heisman balloting (Minnesota guard Tom Brown in 1960 and Iowa defensive tackle Alex Karras in 1957 were the previous two). Only two ends — Yale's Larry Kelly in 1936 and Notre Dame's Leon Hart in 1949 — have won the trophy. Closely following the announcement of Cappelletti's victory was another saying he would play in Honolulu's Hula Bowl-Jan 5. Additionally, Cappelletti's teammate, co-captain Mark Markovich, was honored as one of the National Football Foundation's Scholar-athletes for 1973. And former Lion coach Rip Engle and Harry "Lighthorse" Wilson, a past Penn State All-America, both were inducted into the Foundation's Hall of Fame.

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AP wirephoto

## Cappelletti's travels

By RICK STARR  
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It hasn't always been ice bags for John Cappelletti.

It used to be hot water bottles taped to his knee after "getting a helmet." And he used to say things like "one fumble I just ran by and on the other one I just wasn't concentrating."

The whole experience must seem like a thousand-mile journey that began against Air Force more than two years ago in the Lion secondary. Then last year it was to the offensive backfield after the Mitchell-Harris act left town and a series of fumbles that brought boos and groans by his mere presence on the field.

Even Paterno, who knew he had one of his best athletes ever at tailback, must have wondered. Cappelletti did — so much so that he almost decided to quit the team at that point.

The Penn State student body called him "Fumbleletti" — and he may be close to the record for fumbles by a Heisman winner — but now they've shortened it to Cappy and more than a few went to the Ohio game three weeks ago solely to see his tough, smooth style of running.

Tuesday morning he won the Heisman award which is given to the player sports writers vote the best in the country.

The change, from hot water bottles to ice, from Fumbleletti to Heisman winner will be total with a victory New Year's Day in Miami. Then the varsity journey, which started in George Welsh's backfield in spring practice in 1971, will yield to the prospect of an even longer and more rewarding pro career.

Welsh, now head coach at Navy, knew he had a good one in the 6-2, 205 freshman even though he realized that with Harris and Mitchell in business Cappy would be on the bench every time Penn State was this side of 50 points. Just before the '71 Blue-White game Welsh said his future tailbacks "all have size and speed and tremendous athletic ability."

In the Air Force game that fall, Cappy saw his first extensive action — on defense. Paterno wanted some height in his secondary so he brought on two youngsters, Cappelletti and a defensive back by the name of Ed O'Neil.

Cappy had the pressure job that day returning punts and he picked up 65-yards. He also took Air Force out of the game with a crucial interception late in the fourth quarter.

His junior season the problems began. Gaining only mediocre success at tailback he began to have second thoughts.

"After the Iowa game last year I was really confused and I felt I just didn't

have it any more," he said. "I felt maybe tailback wasn't my position. It was the lowest point I ever had in college. I had thoughts about going and seeing coach Paterno."

But the following week against Illinois Cappy ran over the defense for 124 yards and was refreshed.

"That game turned me around," he said. "I learned a lesson — that if you stick with something longer than you think you can, things will work out for you."

The 100-yard games then began to come week after week but when the Lions needed him most, against the physically menacing Oklahoma Sooners in the Sugar Bowl, he was in bed at his New Orleans hotel tackled by the flu. Penn State was completely smothered on the ground that night and shut out by the Sooner defense.

At the start of the current season, just before the trip to Stanford, Cappelletti said he was approaching this season with a new attitude combining confidence and experience.

The rest of the story is simple. More yardage, more publicity, a perfect season record, the ice packs, the national TV games, the All-America teams and now the Heisman. Soon it will be the pros.

But the plot in its essence is not that he fumbled, but that he hung on.