



Photo by Carol McCloskey

Lions reeally came alive

PITTSBURGH — There comes a time in every one's life when you just have to sit back and admit that you were wrong. A time when you push all those alibis aside and look at the facts squarely.

You probably never thought Penn State would rip Pitt 31-10 did you? Never thought you'd see Joe Paterno employing a passing attack on national television, huh?

Thanksgiving night. Three Rivers Stadium. The Burgh, obviously. It made all those disbelievers, including this writer, into believers. Believers in Penn State deserving a Cotton Bowl bid after all. Believers in Paterno's ability to get those 60-some guys psyched up.

So psyched, you actually wondered if that was the same Penn State team that had died against North Carolina State and rode a season long roller coaster. Yep, you were wrong about that team — it did indeed have an offense.

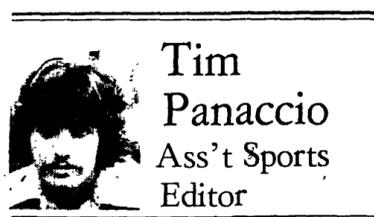
And that offense was shining almost as brightly as those yellow blazers ABC-TV people were sporting. Sure, it took some time to unravel. Paterno threw off his coat, standing on the sidelines in a chilling wind wearing only his tan sweater. It didn't take the Lion's offense that long to get it together once Joe threw out his coat.

Strange sight it was. There on the artificial turf was Chris Bahr kicking four field goals — a Penn State record.

Bahr kicks four field goals. It made you reflect for a moment. Wasn't this the same young man who MISSED four field goals in a loss to Navy and was benched for some time?

There was Jim Eaise fumbling two punts resulting in turnovers then turning himself com-

Buddy Tesner (30) picks off a Bob Medwid pass while Mike Hartenstine (79) goes the other way



Tim Panaccio
Ass't Sports Editor

pletely around, hauling in two Tom Shuman passes for touchdowns.

"After Eaise's second fumble," said Paterno later, "I said, 'Hey Jim, what's the matter?' I looked him right in the eye. He said he was okay."

"I told someone the other day that the biggest thing about this club is that it has poise. It comes back. Jim proved that."

There was fullback Tom Donchez and Jim Cefalo, the most celebrated freshman running back in the country, churning up the yardage, blasting through one hole right after another and making Johnny Majors wish he'd stayed home that night.

Donchez, playing in his last regular season game as a Lion, racked up 86 yards while Cefalo was nearly equal to his task with 76.

But perhaps the most noticeable delight Thanksgiving night was Tom Shuman, the guy who spent most of his time at Penn State handing football's off to other guys and occasionally letting one slip into the air every so many third downs.

Shuman knew he could throw on the Panther defense. He suggested throwing to Paterno. Joe took the hint and decided to let Tom do some playmaking for a change.

The result was a brilliant Shuman evening of 9-17 passing for 165 yards. Now when was the last time you saw a Shuman performance labeled as "brilliant" in this or any other newspaper?

Johnny Majors was rather upset after that game. His players were equally shaken. Pitt had failed to give Penn State a good football game. Instead, it allowed itself to be beaten badly.

Its offensive line let Greg Murphy and Mike Hartenstine become permanent fixtures across the line of scrimmage. Hartenstine and Murphy acted like a couple of Doberman Pinschers protecting the jewelry shop.

Of course there were some strange things. A fumble by Pitt's Allen Webster was recovered by Lion defensive end Tom Williams in the endzone for a touchdown — the second time this year a Penn State player recovered a loose ball for a TD in the endzone.

Gary Burley, one of Majors' "Monster Linebackers" was upset about that fumble. "It knocked a lot of morale out of everyone," said Burley.

"They (Penn State) get more breaks than anyone I have ever seen."

True, it was a big break for Penn State. But the Lions won this game on sheer determination and execution. The "breaks" were inconsequential. Overall, there were a lot of emotions at Three Rivers. Every hit, tackle, run and pass had something onto it.

"This team has played to more potential than any other team we've had and I think it's great we're 8-2 with the type of team we've had," said Paterno after the Ohio win.

"It bothers me to have to make excuses for a team like this. I think our fans are spoiled. They expected more and I think they took away some things we've done."

"Listen, I told people it wouldn't be like last year. I told people it would be up and down and scratch all the way — that's just what we did."

All the way. Up and down. Scratch and claw. Inch by inch. Right into Dallas for the Cotton Bowl matchup with Baylor.

Grapplers stormed in Michigan; must regroup for Invitational

By DAVE MORRIS
Assistant Sports Editor

The Penn State wrestlers battled the weather Sunday night and most of Monday trying to get to Michigan in time for the first meet of the season against Michigan State Monday night. The battle was useless.

Bill Koll's grapplers got there, alright, but then MSU snowed under the Lions, 27-16. The storm continued Tuesday when Michigan tripped the matmen 19-12.

So for the first time in several years Penn State will start the home season with an 0-2 log, not very appropriate for the nation's seventh best team.

"We feel lucky to be here," Koll said when he arrived back in State College. The matmen, making the trip in three cars, got stranded Sunday night and spent their time on the floors of off-the-road restaurants and hotels.

"I'm not trying to alibi but it had to have some effect on them," Koll said. "This is the youngest team I've had since I've been here (11 years). I don't think a couple of beatings

against Michigan and Michigan State will hurt us."

Koll is looking forward to the season, especially the upcoming Penn State Invitational this weekend at Rec Hall. The tourney will feature eight teams, including defending national champion Oklahoma. Other teams are Purdue, Clarion State, Slippery Rock, Wilkes, Lock Haven, and Bloomsburg State.

The Lion boss said his charges would be ready for the opening round Friday night.

"Give us two good nights' sleep and I feel we'll bounce right back," he quipped.

Here is a look at the lineup Koll will use in the tournament:

118—Wayne Packer is one of the few grapplers who looked good in the Michigan blizzard. A junior, Packer returns after "retiring" last season. After the first two meets, the lightweight is 1-0-1.

126—Junior John Fritz, a two-time third place finisher in the nationals has a good shot at the tourney title—if he can bounce back from early setbacks.

"John isn't shooting at all," Koll said. "He looked like a walking zombie. He just went out and made his moves like a machine."

Fritz, known for his takedown ability, drew with Spartan national champ Pat Milkovich Monday and lost 5-4 to Michigan's Jim Brown.

134—Freshman Jimmy Earl is 0-2 so far but Koll has high hopes for the rookie.

142—Dennis Sciabica (jr.) beat out the Nittany Lion (Bob Welsh) for this spot. Sciabica is effective if he can work the figure four.

150—Last year Koll said Al Fisher would get better with experience. The sophomore was pinned against the Spartans and lost again Tuesday. Meanwhile Koll is waiting.

158—Freshman Dave Becker, a PIAA champ from Selingsgrove has been a pleasant surprise for Koll and his assistant, Andy Matter. In his first two varsity contests, Becker has pulled out two last-minute wins.

"In time he's going to become a real good wrestler," Koll said.

167—Jerry Vilecco finished fourth in the nationals last year and Koll

thinks he'll still get better. Jerry is 2-0, with a fall against MSU. In the Penn State tourney last fall, Vilecco lost in the finals to Clarion's Wade Schalles.

177—Senior Dan Brenneman had a good year last season but he's off to a mediocre start. So far he has lost a superior decision and won an 8-6 squeaker.

190—Last season Jerry White was the freshman sensation of the East. White won the 177 title in the invitational and finished the regular season with only one loss. This season White has put himself in the race for the sophomore jinx. He's 0-2, including a 19-6 loss in the MSU meet.

HWT—Lion Rich Boehmer is only marking time until Brad Benson returns from the Cotton Bowl and has to be considered a longshot here.

The first round of the tourney will begin tomorrow at 8 p.m. The semis are Saturday at 2 p.m. and the finals are slated for 7 p.m. Saturday.

Tickets for the event are on sale at the Rec Hall ticket office. Series tickets (all three events) are three bucks for students, six for adults.

No. 1 Sooners keeping watch

Oklahoma has put in its final bid for college football's national championship, but the Sooners will have to wait for a month to see if it stands up.

Oklahoma completed an 11-0 season Saturday by routing Oklahoma State 44-13. That was good enough to earn the Sooners 49 first-place votes and 1,198 of a possible 1,230 points in The Associated Press final regular-season poll of sports writers and broadcasters.

It was the fourth straight week the Sooners have been No. 1. Coach Barry Switzer's troops are ineligible for bowl competition because of recruiting indiscretions and will have to await the final AP poll Jan. 2 before claiming the national title.

Alabama, 11-0, appears to be the only other team with a shot at the championship. The Crimson Tide wound up the regular campaign with a 17-13 triumph over Auburn Friday. They continued No. 2 in the

AP poll with 12 first-place ballots and 1,112 points. Alabama will have one last chance to establish its national championship credentials New Year's night when it faces Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl.

Ohio State, 10-1, held onto third place with 982 points, and Michigan remained fourth with 828. The Buckeyes have a Rose Bowl date with Southern California on Jan. 1.

The Trojans, 9-1-1, tuned up for the Rose Bowl with an impressive 55-24 thumping of Notre Dame. That was good enough to move them up one position to No. 5.

Auburn, 9-2, advanced from seventh to sixth despite losing to Alabama, and Penn State, 9-2, jumped from 10th to seventh after whipping Pitt 31-10.

Nebraska, 8-3, is eighth, Notre Dame, 9-2, is ninth and Maryland, 8-3, is 10th.

Rounding out the top 20 are Texas, Baylor, North Carolina State, Michigan State, Miami of Ohio, Texas A&M, Brigham Young, Florida, Arizona, and Pitt.

Carolina State, Michigan State, Miami of Ohio, Texas A&M, Brigham Young, Florida, Arizona, and Pitt and Wisconsin, tied for 20th.

The Top Twenty teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, season records and total points tabulated on basis of 20-18-16-14-12-10-8-6 etc.

1	Oklahoma (49)	11-0	1,198
2	Alabama (12)	11-0	1,112
3	Ohio State	10-1	922
4	Michigan	10-1	828
5	So. Calif.	9-1-1	781
6	Auburn	9-2-0	544
7	Penn State	9-2-0	502
8	Nebraska	8-3-0	500
9	Notre Dame	9-2-0	369
10	Maryland	8-3-0	258
11	Texas	8-3-0	254
12	Baylor	8-3-0	239
13	No. Car. St.	9-2-0	228
14	Michigan St.	7-3-1	197
15	Miami, O.	9-1-1	154
16	Texas A&M	8-3-0	79
17	Brigham Young	7-3-1	31
18	Florida	8-3-0	28
19	Arizona	9-2-0	20
20	Pitt	7-4-0	18
	(tie) Wisconsin	7-4-0	18

Others receiving votes, listed alphabetically: Boston College, Clemson, Harvard, Houston, Mississippi St., North Carolina, Oklahoma St., Temple, Tennessee, Tulsa, UCLA, Utah St.

Speed ousts power Lion cagers take running start

By RICK STARR
Collegian Sports Writer

The "hinge year" that Penn State was going to have in basketball last season never really got swinging. Despite Lion coach John Bach's efforts to "kick open the door," Penn State pulled in at the end of that campaign with a disappointing 14-12 mark. The door hadn't budged.



Photo by Eric Felack

Randy Meister — 'he has other goals, academic goals'

Saturday Penn State takes off the scrimmage jerseys and starts playing for keeps at the Steel Bowl Tournament in Pittsburgh. The opponent is Oregon, a team that beat UCLA last year.

After three straight winning seasons — and no tournament berths — Bach and the Lions will again be trying to kick the door open on Penn State basketball. But this year they will take a running start at it.

"I think overall we have more speed on the floor," Bach said. "Ron Brown and Jon Marshall were big men with power while they were here, but speed was not their forte. But we will miss their combined power and the brilliance of Ron Brown."

"We're aware of what we lack," Bach continued, "but we've worked damn hard. This is the hardest working team I've ever had here."

"There's a nice feeling surrounding this team, a good athletic feeling. It's a good start. We have that feeling we're more of a team. We have more of that interdependence of one upon the other."

The biggest prospect on the roster is the return of Randy Meister for his senior year. "A good deal of our hopes rest on his shoulders," Bach said of his 6-9½ center.

Meister was hampered most of last season by a bone chip the size of a dime that was removed from his left foot in the off season. Physically, Meister is ready. According to Bach, the rest is up to Meister.

"As I have said in the past," Bach reiterated, "Meister is as good as he wants to be. He's a good tall center, a good athlete. He could be the best center in the East. But Randy has other goals, academic goals, and that's part of our program here. He has other things on his mind. He's not looking for a career in the pros."

"He has had problems with his foot," Bach pointed out. "But that seems not to bother him now, he's executing better."

"Last year Meister had about 10 points and 10 rebounds a game. That's about what your average big college center gets. A great center might get 20 points and 15 rebounds, and an All-America, all-time great might get 20 and 20. Now is Meister a 10 and 10 center, or a 10 and 15, or a 20 and 15? I don't know. As a coaching philosophy, I say your reach should always exceed your grasp ... Meister will go as far as he feels he'll go."

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Football needing political deflation



Jeff Young
Sports Editor

It's unfortunate that the name slips the mind, but it wasn't too long ago that some observant individual likened football, one of man's most popular pastimes, to war, another old favorite. You dig in on one side, the enemy is entrenched across from you. Between you is no man's land, and you struggle to take that ground. With every tiny strip of ground you take, you're a step closer to victory.

Nearby, but far enough away that the war does not ring in their ears, are the decision-makers and the observers — the generals and the press. It's the generals that decide upon the point and the force of the next offensive, while the press must be aware of each movement.

Perhaps it is this metaphor of combat — each man fights his battle, the army fights its battle and every battle until the war's end — that has brought the following, the constant attention, to football. But because football is football and not war, this attention and following may be leading the game onto what more and more resembles a mine field.

See; those decision-makers and observers, along with some other people, aren't really out there in the pits. So it's tough for them to get a good look at who's cleaning up on the enemy.

Case in point: The 1974 Heisman Trophy, which was recently presented to Ohio State's running wizard Archie Griffin in a landslide vote 1,100 better than runnerup Anthony Davis of USC.

Now there's really no point in debating who's the better player. Statistically, Griffin substantially outran Davis (236 carries for 1620 yards to A. D.'s 288 for 1354). But Davis was put to more effective use as a receiver and a kickoff returner.

Another idea being hassled about is the seniority of Davis, which therefore rates him in some circles as more deserving than

junior Griffin. However, while this is not a frequent occurrence in Heisman voting, Griffin is by no means the first junior to win. Doc Blanchard, Doak Walker, Vic Janowicz and Roger Staubach came before him.

But we're wandering in no man's land. In order to really gain some ground, the situations that keep happening must somehow be discontinued. Like the one whereby (as stated in AP and UPI stories) most of the Heisman ballots were entered before this past Saturday, when Davis scored four times against Notre Dame.

It's essentially a problem of politics, and it easily applies to what is now a long-discussed system of determining a national college champ. Too much voting, particularly by the wrong people. At this point, the question has got to be the qualifications of the observers to be anything more than observers and reporters. They may function very effectively as they were originally intended, but can anyone really have a better conception of what's happening in those pits than the soldiers themselves?

When writers ask if Davis will try to prove he's the better man in the Rose Bowl, while Davis is sending Griffin a letter of congratulations, and Griffin answers with "no, he's got too much class for that sort of thing," we should all wonder who really knows the positions on the football field.



Photo by Eric Felack

Jim Ouderkirk — 'our best shooter last year'

Bach concedes the forwards will be the team's vulnerable spot, and has moved 6-4 guard Kevin Burke up front where he will start in Pittsburgh this weekend alongside Dave Angstadt, a 6-8 junior.

"Angstadt is running better," Bach pointed out, "but he needs to get in games. He'll give you everything he's got. Burke is a little undersized, so he'll have to do with technique what others do with power. And he contributes leadership."

The depth at forward is also a chief concern of Bach's. Keenan Preston, a 6-3 senior, was also moved forward this year and will add quickness and ball handling ability, and 6-5 junior Bill Botts has been (the "surprise of the training period," although he has no playing time).

At guard Tommy Doaty has stabilized one of the two jobs, with Jim Ouderkirk the apparent heir to the second.

"Doaty has good speed and is starting to use it," Bach said. "Ouderkirk is the guy that was our best shooter most of last season. He's wiser now, he knows his role better. Jeff Miller is a good freshman and I hope we don't bring him along too fast, but the Rec Hall fans will see him this year. Kevin Cadle helps us with his defense and his team concept."

At the moment, everything is set for this weekend's tip off, with the exception of Chris Erichsen who has not practiced with the team recently due to academic concerns. As Bach admits, Erichsen could help the forward situation.

"He seemed very promising," Bach said. "But he has to come out and establish himself first academically, then athletically."

Bach summed up his expectations this way: "We'll score more this year, but that means we'll give up the ball more. Pointwise, our defense may not be as good, but we'll play with a different tempo this year — this will please a lot of people, of which I may be the most pleased of all."