

Time to list Fusina with Lion greats

RALEIGH, N.C. — Welcome to the class of the elite, Chuck Fusina.

On a day in which the Penn State football team wavered between looking like the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Bellefonte High School Red Raiders, you, Mr. Fusina, as the Penn State quarterback, took your place here Saturday as one of the top signal-callers in the country and, by far, the finest thrower in Nittany Lion history.

And so it was for the 6-1, 199-pound junior from McKees Rocks, Pa. Penn State fans seem almost to take Fusina for granted.

Of course, they all realize he is one solid quarterback. But, after Saturday's sparkling performance against North Carolina State — a performance in which he set school records for completions (22) and yards (315) — it has been discovered that Lion coach Joe Paterno recruited a prize three years ago.



Pete Dougherty

"Their quarterback (Fusina) threw some passes I've never seen a college quarterback throw," losing coach Bo Rein said. "He'd loop it over a cornerback and in front of a safety."

Fusina has done plenty of looping this season, and needs just 214 yards to break John Hufnagel's single-season record of 2,039. Fusina, with two games to go this year, needs just 418 more to become the all time passing yardage leader, snapping Hufnagel's mark of 3,545 — and he still has a season to go.

But the true value of Fusina was seen with 2:35 to go in the game. Penn State had the ball at its own 17, trailing 17-14.

"Chuck got everybody in the huddle and settled everybody down," fullback Matt Suhey explained.

Then, Chuck proceeded to drive the Lion offense down the field, and 13 plays and a minute and 37 seconds later split end Scott Fitzkee was standing in the endzone with a Fusina-thrown football.

The 11-yard pass to Fitzkee climaxed a masterfully engineered drive by Fusina, who obtained 65 of the 83 yards via the air.

"He needed this game," Paterno said of Fusina. "He just doesn't realize how good he is. He is a superb passer and a tough competitor. And he has a soft personality."

Not too surprisingly, Fusina is uncertain as to the accuracy of Paterno's assessment.

"I don't know if I needed it," the quarterback said, "but I know the team needed it. A game like this turns our whole season."

What makes the winning drive all the more impressive is, because of time limitations, Fusina was forced to call many of his own plays.

"They (the coaches) brought most of the plays in," Fusina said, "but on first downs, I had to call them."

It was on a first down that the completion to Fitzkee came, and, true to Fusina's word, it was a play called by the quarterback.

"I yelled for Scott to do the flag pattern," Fusina said. "I knew the defender had been leaning a little bit, so I had him try to turn the guy on the post."

Fusina, as he did all afternoon and as he has done all season, hit the receiver in the numbers to complete what would seem to be the most pressure-filled sequence in his football career. But Fusina felt differently.

"I didn't feel any pressure," he said. "I have so many things to think about that I think there was less pressure than there usually is."

Whether the pressure was there or not, Fusina performed like Mr. Cool. With his precision execution of the two-minute offense, Fusina has proven himself well-rounded in all aspects, and can be mentioned first now when talking about all-time great Penn State quarterbacks. Are you listening, pro football scouts?



Celebration of the play that saved the Lions' mane: split end Scott Fitzkee realizes he's scored (left), turns upfield to look for possible penalty flags (center), and is mobbed by teammates.

What happened the other 57½ minutes?

By PETE DOUGHERTY
Daily Collegian Sports Writer
RALEIGH, N.C. — Amid the excitement and celebrating in the Penn State lockerroom here Saturday something was lost.

At least it wasn't the football game for the Lions. It well could have been had it not been for the heroics of the Nittany Lion offense in the final two-and-a-half minutes.

However, somehow the first 57½ minutes were forgotten. How could a cliché-freak like Penn State coach Joe Paterno let his players forget a football game is 60 minutes.

Obviously, it is hoped the final 1-24th of the game will be what gets carried over to this Saturday's game with Temple. For during most of the game, Penn State — particularly the defense, and more specifically the line — was bottled up

like Coke will be the day Pepsi goes out of business.

Offensively, the Lions moved the ball with a great deal of success, but were often stopped by failure to make the big play when it was needed or by crucial penalties — many of which were illegal procedure.

"We were a little bit jumpy today," fullback Bob Torrey said in trying to explain the confusion. "I don't know why. It was not just one person, it was the whole team."

But Paterno felt the offense wasn't having any major problems.

"We just never had good field position," he said. "We had it one time, and made a bad play to take us out of field goal range. It was Chuck's (Fusina, quarterback) only bad play of the game (an interception). We had two or three drives over 70 yards."

Overall, the Lions amassed 482 yards,

yet only 21 points. In fact, even an ABC-TV commentator at the Alabama-LSU game later in the day wondered how Fusina could throw for 315 yards and not have his team score more than it did.

On defense, the problem was reversed — but seemed more serious. N.C. State moved the ball with relative ease, but Penn State came up with the big play when it needed it.

What evolves as particularly worrisome is, for the first time this year, the Lion defensive line was being controlled at the line of scrimmage.

"Their offensive line played an excellent game," defensive tackle Matt Millen said. "They contained Bruce (Clark, the other defensive tackle), and they contained myself."

When the defensive line was able to break loose, they were getting fooled — and after a while a bit tired — by the slick ball maneuvering of Wolfpack

quarterback Johnny Evans. And, as a result, N.C. State possessed the ball for almost 14½ minutes longer than did Penn State.

"I'm totally exhausted," Millen said. "It was really hot out there. I don't like playing past the Mason-Dixon line."

Defensive end Bill Banks believed the weariness was not that much of a factor.

"When you're in good condition," he said, "you can come back after a couple of plays."

Whatever the reasons, it was a game that turned out much closer than expected.

On Penn State's opening possession, Fusina was able to drive his team the length of the field, Fusina hitting tight end Mickey Shuler for 13 yards and flanker Jimmy Cefalo for 19 along the way before Cefalo hauled in a 36-yard Fusina aerial for a TD.

After that, both units played true form the rest of the half. N.C. State drove 67 yards to the two on the ensuing possession, but Banks stopped a four-down play as a Wolfpack gamble failed.

The Wolfpack also saw drives stall the Penn State 49-, 35-, and 8-yard in the latter resulting in a 25-yard J Sherrill field goal, but did manage take it in on two short runs that saw a wretched Matt Suhey score for Penn State.

Only a storybook 13-play, 83-yard drive that began with 2:35 remain made the complexion of the game different. But even at that Paterno did define anything as crucial.

"There wasn't a key to the game," said. "It was a good, hard football game between two good teams. Both teams moved the ball well and both played a lot of emotion. We just had the ball last time."

Lions-N.C. State: The game statistics

	Penn State	N.C. State
First Downs	26	28
Rushes-Yardage	38-167	73-396
Passes (att.-comp.-int.)	36-22-2	20-8-1
Passing Yardage	315	87
Total Yardage	482	460
Fumbles-Lost	8-50	3-21
Return Yardage	9	2
Punts-Average	4-42.5	4-36.0
Penn State	0	7
North Carolina State	3	7

First Quarter
PS — Cefalo 36 from Fusina (Bahr kick); 8 plays, 80 yards, 2:57

Second Quarter
NCS — Sherrill 25 field goal; 15 plays, 66 yards, 12:02

Third Quarter
NCS — Brown 7 run (Sherrill kick); 6 plays, 80 yards, 8:59

PS — Suhey 1 run (Bahr kick); 10 plays, 76 yards, 14:59

Fourth Quarter
NCS — Vickers 1 run (Sherrill kick); 13 plays, 77 yards, 4:24

PS — Fitzkee 11 pass from Fusina (Bahr kick); 13 plays, 83 yards, 0:58

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing
Penn State — Geise 12 for 68 yards; Suhey 12 for 60; Torrey 11 for 54; Fusina 3 for minus-2.
N.C. State — Brown 37 for 251 yards; Vickers 20 for 78; Evans 16 for 2; Johnson 5 for 17; Adams 4 for 25.

Passing
Penn State — Fusina 22 of 36 for 315 yards (two intercepted).
N.C. State — Evans 7 of 18 for 68 yards (one intercepted); Johnson 1 of 2 for 19 yards (none intercepted).

Pass Receiving
Penn State — Shuler 8 for 105 yards; Cefalo 5 for 98; Geise 3 for 42; Fitzkee 3 for 40; Bassett 1 for 23; Torrey 1 for 7; Suhey 1 for 0.

N.C. State — Brown 4 for 25 yards; Dawson 2 for 27; R. Hall 2 for 35.

Punting
Penn State — Fitzkee 4 for 43.5 average.
N.C. State — Evans 4 for 36.0 average.

Kickoff Returns
Penn State — Moore 1 for 13 yards.
N.C. State — Stringer 3 for 70 yards; Vickers 1 for 20.

Punt Returns
Penn State — Cefalo 2 for 2 yards.
N.C. State — Millen 1 for 7 yards.

Interception Returns
Penn State — Millen 1 for 7 yards.
N.C. State — Cowher 1 for 2 yards; Carter 1 for 0.

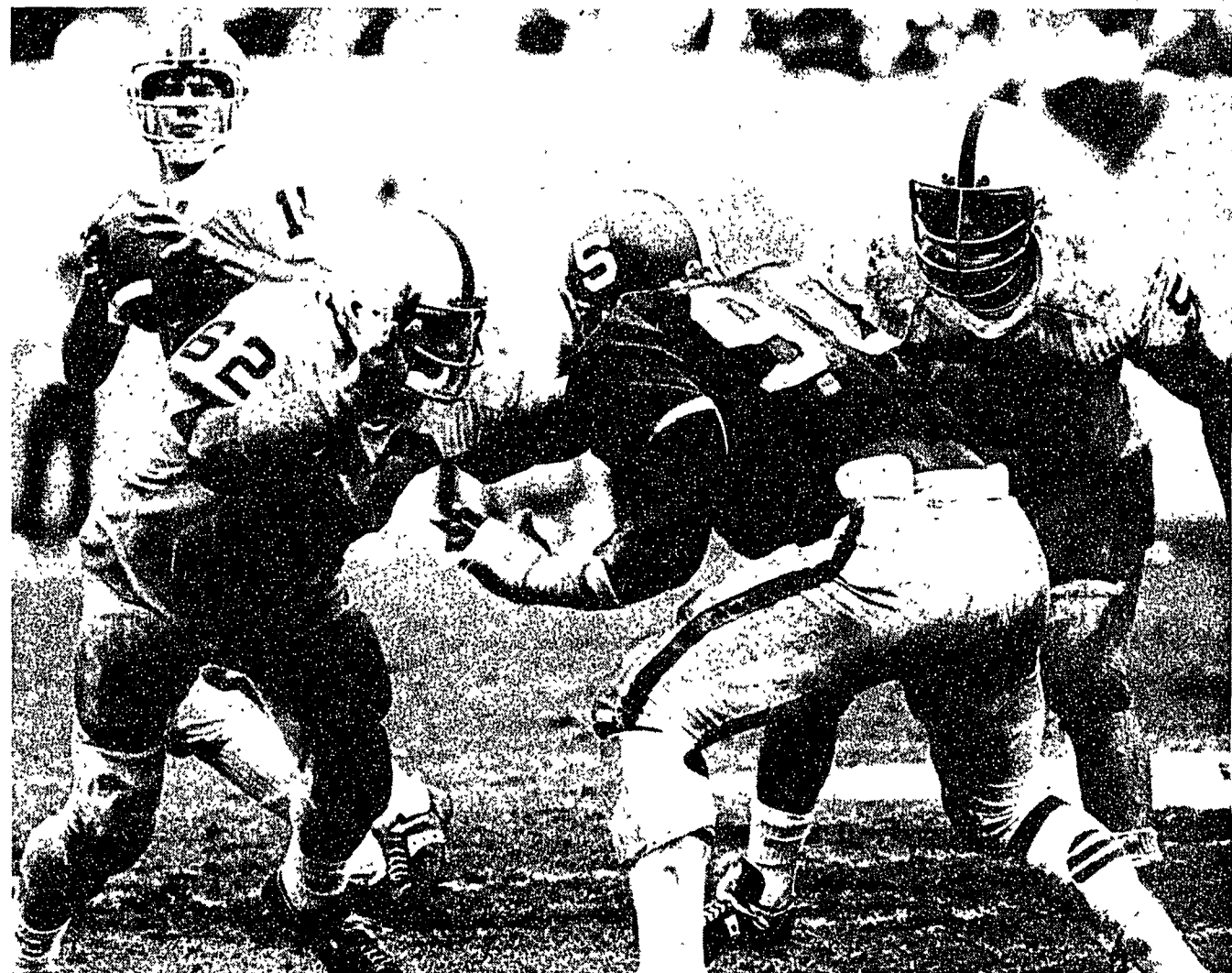
Tackles
Penn State — Banks 3 solos, 14 first hits, 7 assists for 24; Donaldson 1, 7, and 12 for 20; Millen 2, 6, and 4 for 12; R. Hostetler 3, 7, and 2 for 12; Sidler 0, 6, and 4 for 10; DePaso 1, 4, and 5 for 10; Guman 4, 5, and 1 for 10; Hutton 3, 1, and 4 for 8; Clark 2, 2, and 3 for 7; Dimminick 1, 3, and 2 for 6; Kubin 0, 3, and 0 for 3; Edwards 0, 1, and 0 for 1; Bradley 0, 0, and 1 for 1; Harris 0, 0, and 1 for 1; D. Hostetler 0, 1, and 0 for 1; Fitzkee 1, 0, and 0 for 1; Petruccio 0, 1, and 0 for 1; Gladys 0, 0, and 1 for 1.

N.C. State — Wescoe 1 solo, 8 first hits, 6 assists for 15; London 3, 4, and 2 for 9; Cullen 2, 5, and 1 for 8; Prongay 2, 3, and 3 for 8; Wilson 4, 1, and 2 for 7; Cowher 1, 2, and 4 for 7; Stringer 2, 3, and 1 for 6; Jenkins 1, 2, and 2 for 5; Carter 3, 0, and 2 for 5; O'Doherty 0, 1, and 3 for 4; Hannah 1, 0, and 2 for 3; Guplen 0, 2, and 1 for 3; Hall 1, 0, and 2 for 3; Gate 1, 0, and 1 for 2; Sullivan 1, 0, and 0 for 1; Ray 1, 0, and 0 for 1; Hitt 1, 0, and 0 for 1.

Fumbles Recovered
Penn State — Millen 2.
N.C. State — Wilson 1.

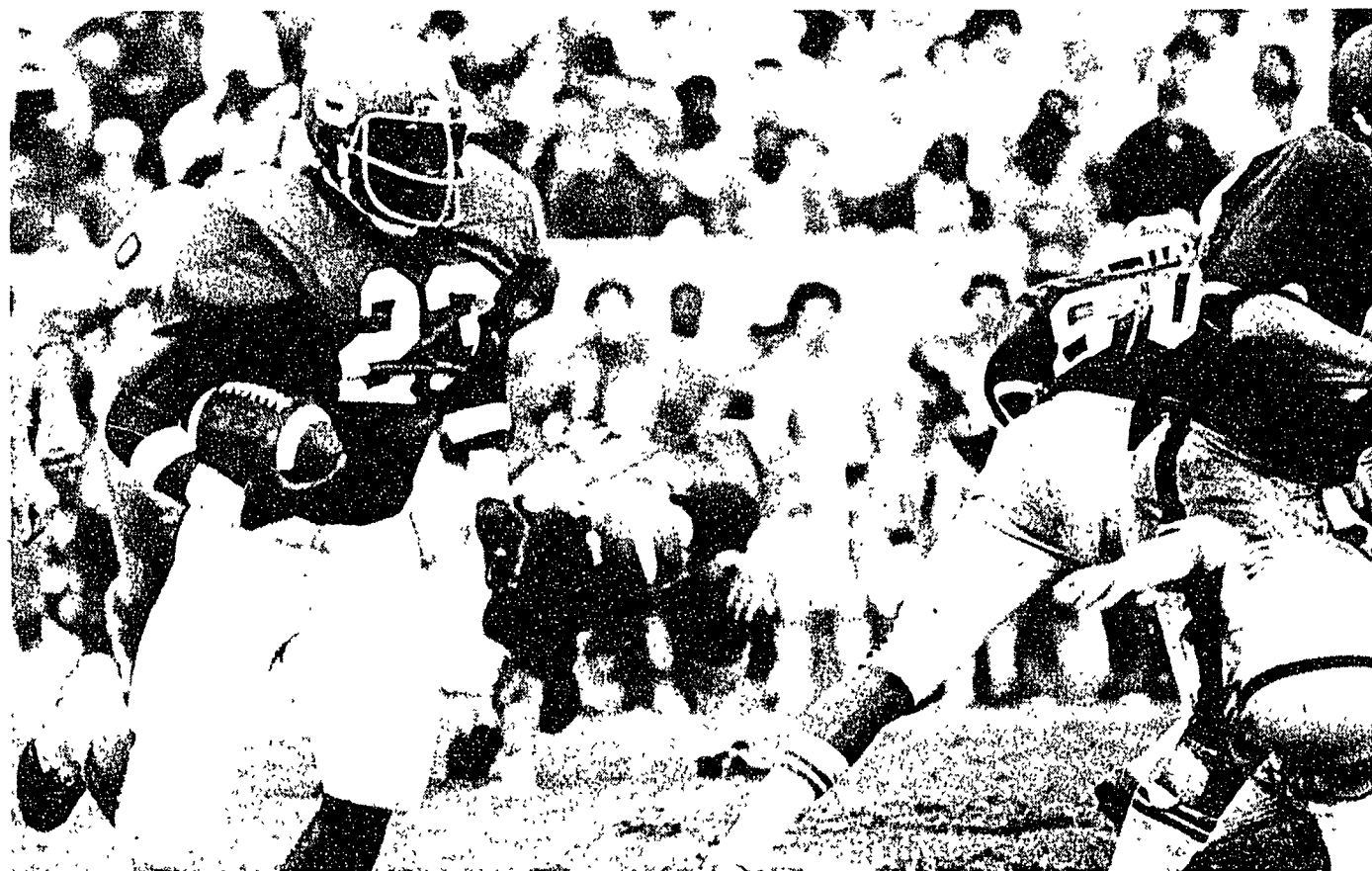
Fumbles Caused
N.C. State — Carter 1.

Passes Knocked Down
Penn State — Millen 1; Diange 1.
N.C. State — Cullen 1.



Offensive guard John Dunn (62) and center Chuck Correal (55) play a chess game with a North Carolina State defensive lineman while blocking. The offensive line gave Fusina time to throw for 315 yards.

Photos by Ken Kasper



Ted Brown, North Carolina State's premier running back, amassed a school record 251 yards in a losing effort.

Brown's heroics dimmed

By PETE DOUGHERTY
Daily Collegian Sports Writer
RALEIGH, N.C. — Ted Brown deserved better fate.

It was indeed unfortunate that the 5-8, 188-pound North Carolina State University running back chose Saturday's game against Penn State to put on the best show of his football career.

All Brown did was set school records for rushing attempts and rushing yardage and break two personal milestones.

But shortly after Brown limped off the field with less than four minutes left in the game, the 44,800 Carter Stadium fans forgot he had gained 251 yards on 37 carries, reached the plateau of 1,000 yards rushing for this season and 3,000 for his career, and had been so elusive that Nittany Lion defenders were grabbing only shirt, which caused Brown to run out of tear-away jerseys with No. 23 on them.

No, Brown's heroics were soon to be forgotten by the remarkable Penn State drive in the final few minutes that handed the Wolfpack a 21-17 defeat. But Brown couldn't be faulted.

"Brown has always been tough for us," Penn State head coach Joe Paterno said. "I said before the game that he was

one of the great backs in the country, and he didn't do anything to change my mind. What did he gain? Four-hundred fifty yards?"

"We counted on using Brown a lot today," N.C. State coach Bo Rein said. "In fact, we were going to put him in the hospital and rest him for three days. I'm joking, of course. We got him out about the right time. He'll be sore for a few days, but he'll be ready again next week."

Not only did N.C. State use Brown a lot, but they also used him effectively. In all, the Wolfpack gained 460 yards as the offensive line burst holes in the Penn State defense for Brown to run through.

But the yardage, records, and milestones meant little to Brown.

"Points is what counts," Brown said. "What good do the records do?"

Still, it was an encouraging loss for N.C. State. Led by quarterback Johnny Evans, the Wolfpack moved the ball down field like it was the team that should be No. 7 in the country instead of the Lions.

"I was really up," Brown said. "It's hard to play a team like Penn State and not get up. I knew we were playing the seventh-ranked team in the nation, and

that always boosts your morale.

"We knew if we beat Penn State we'd have a good chance at a b game," Brown continued. "When I have a goal like that, it makes everybody try harder."

"But I never thought I was going to run the ball that much. But it does matter. You get pounded either way."

However, a good portion of the game saw the nine-point underdogs doing pounding.

"Our offense played very well," F said. "Our offensive coaches did a job of getting them ready. Our plan to spread them out some, but still our basic offense."

It was basic offense that enabled Wolfpack to glide up and down the field covering every square inch of the field except the area most important — end zone.

"If we had been smart enough on first drive," Rein said of an instance where his team gambled on fourth goal from the two and failed to score, get three points . . . well, we didn't know how long we could keep moving the ball on them, so we went for it.

"It took the No. 7 team in the nation to beat us today. I congratulate them.