

Defenses hold their own at Blue-White encounter

By GEORGE BERMAN
Daily Collegian Sports Writer
HERSHEY — For Coach Joe Paterno, Saturday's Blue-White football encounter wasn't exactly progress in action.

"We need more depth in the offensive line," Paterno said, "we have to get sharper and we have got to do everything better."

"I think this is an awfully good team," he said, "but it didn't have that good a spring practice. It was a rather ordinary spring."

The game, which saw the White team topple the Blue Team 30-21 before 16,000 at Hersheypark Stadium, was expected to be an offensive extravaganza but in fact was quite the opposite. Aided by muddy conditions, the defense put a clasper on the running game and held its own against the passing of quarterbacks Chuck Fusina (White team) and Tony Capozzoli (Blue team).

"We had some good solid defensive play," Paterno said. "We played good position and our tackling was good. (Bruce) Clark played real good, (Joe) Lally played real well and (sophomore Larry) Kubin made some good plays." Clark, (Blue defense) who was superb while being credited with 12 unassisted tackles, felt the key was a first period goal line stand by his team, after Fusina and the white had already put 14 points on the scoreboard.

"At first nothing went right," Clark said, "but the defense got psyched after the goal line stand. I just wished we would have done it a few more times."

With Clark controlling the left side of the line, the run defense — which was so awesome last season — was as stingy as could be expected. The first team offense (White), with Bob Torrey and Booker Moore in the backfield, could manage but 152 yards on 57 carries, a 2.6 yards per carry average.

Clark felt it was a little bit weird trying to corral Torrey, Moore and the rest of his teammates.

"It was funny to me," Clark said. "You try not to get people hurt and they tell you to try to play your best. That's kind of hard to do."

It took a jarring hit on Moore in the second half for Clark to slow down.

"After I realized it was Booker, I slacked up a little," Clark said. "We need him next year."

Individually, Moore gained but a meager 68 yards on 28 carries; his longest gain of the day was just nine yards. Torrey managed 101 yards on 21 carries (his longest carry being 32 yards).

"We haven't done enough of the running game in practice," Paterno said. "We've been emphasizing pass defense and passing."

Fusina, who was named along with defensive linebacker Paul Suhey as '78

co-captains prior to the game, threw for 264 yards on 17 for 34 passing. He had two passes intercepted.

One of Fusina's errant tosses resulted in the Blue team's first six points of the game. Defensive back Karl McCoy, who received the O'Houra award as the outstanding defensive player in this year's spring practice session, returned an interception 20 yards in the second period to close the White's lead to 17-7.

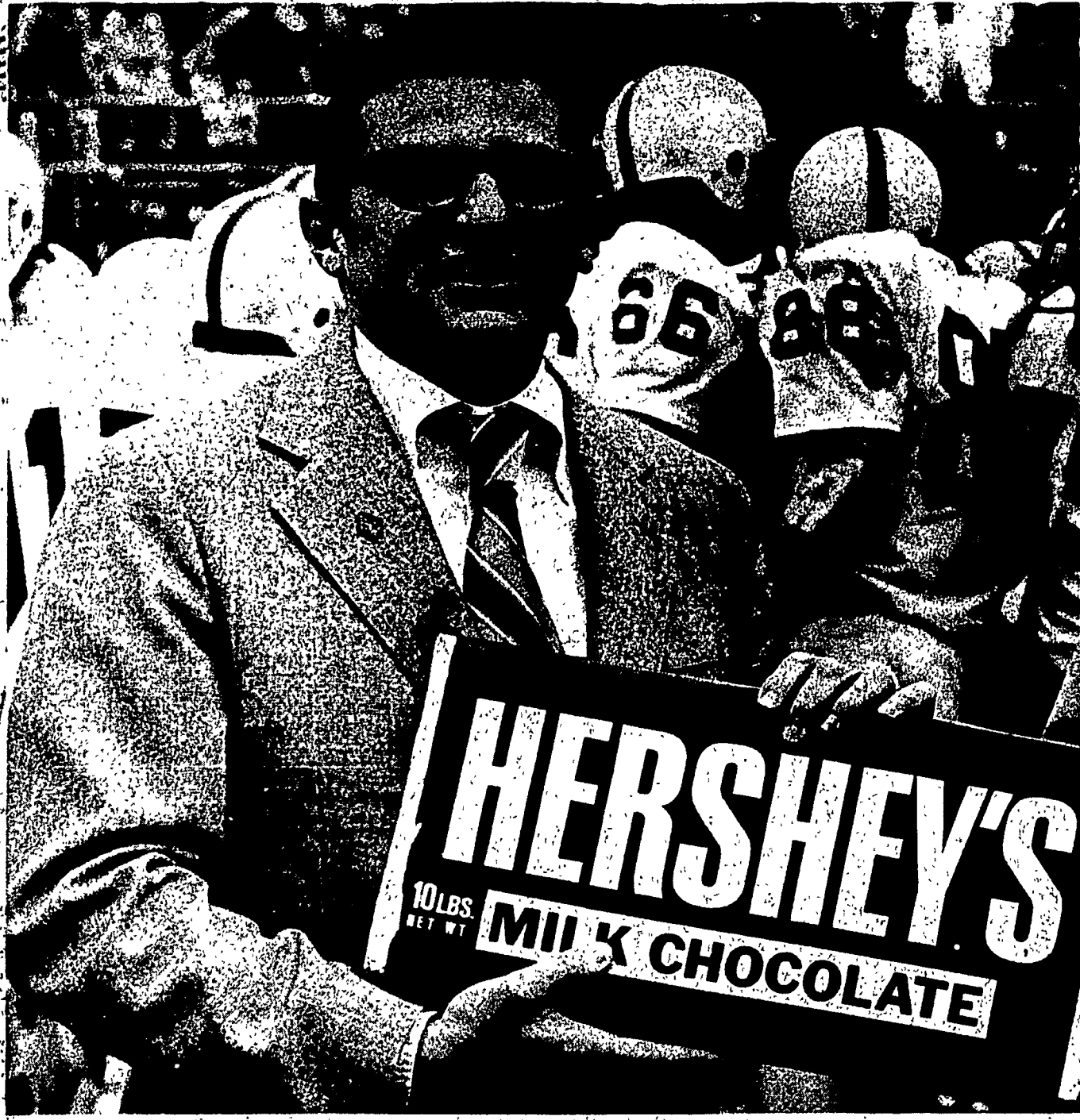
"McCoy has been doing well all spring," Paterno said. "He's getting better all the time and that's a plus."

Fusina's counterpart, Capozzoli, completed 14 of 37 for 149 yards. Capozzoli fired a 31-yard strike to Leo McClelland in the second half and had numerous other balls dropped on him to his credit. Jay McCormick, a State College native and walk-on, relieved Capozzoli late in the game and threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Tracy Hall.

Hall (Blue) led all receivers with seven receptions for 136 yards while Tom Donovan hauled in six for the White.

POINT AFTERS: Those who impressed: Kubin (nine unassisted tackles), defensive back Mike Gilseman (six unassisted tackles), Scott Heltinger on punt returns . . . The Lions experienced an awful lot of trouble on snaps from center . . . Scott Fitzkee boomed four punts for a 43.3 yard average.

Photos by Mark McIntyre and Andy Gumberg



The key to the city in Hershey is a ten pound chocolate bar.

Return of Donovan sparks optimism

Receivers set for 'aerial' show

By GEORGE BERMAN
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

HERSHEY — It's only May and already Lion football fans are licking their chops in anticipation of an "aerial" show the Great Wallenda would have had trouble matching.

Saturday, during the annual Blue-White game, the Lions gave 16,000 Hersheypark fans a preview of the combo which will give enemy defensive backs leg cramps, irregular heartbeats and generally a case of fatigue.

Chuck Fusina, who has to be considered a top preseason candidate for the Heisman trophy, put the ball up 34 times — many of them in the direction of his very favorite receivers Scott Fitzkee and Tom Donovan.

"We have two or three receivers who compare with the best in the country," Fusina said. That's a pretty dandy comment when one considers the crop of fine receivers which will be running their patterns this fall.

For most college teams, the loss of a receiver the caliber of flanker Jimmy Cefalo would have had them pushing the panic button. But for the talent deep Lions, the loss is hardly noticeable. Donovan — who redshirted last season because of an ankle injury — will do just fine, his teammates say.

"I don't think there is any difference (between having Cefalo or Donovan at flanker)," Fitzkee said after Donovan hauled in six passes for 97 yards Saturday. "If Tommy hadn't been injured, he would have played last season. Tommy is just a great receiver."

"He's in the Mickey Shuler class," Fusina said. "If the ball is in his hand, you know he's going to catch it."

Donovan will see his share of Fusina passes heading his way with potential All-American Fitzkee receiving a lot of defensive attention.

The Blue-White game saw Fitzkee cover 104 yards on four catches on the day and he is hardly modest when it comes to rating the Lion corp of receivers.

"I'm prejudiced," Fitzkee said, "but the only way for us to be good is to believe we are. I have to think we're the best."

Fitzkee is another one of those who seems to hang onto anything and everything. At times, it even appears he uses stickum on his hands but he denies it.

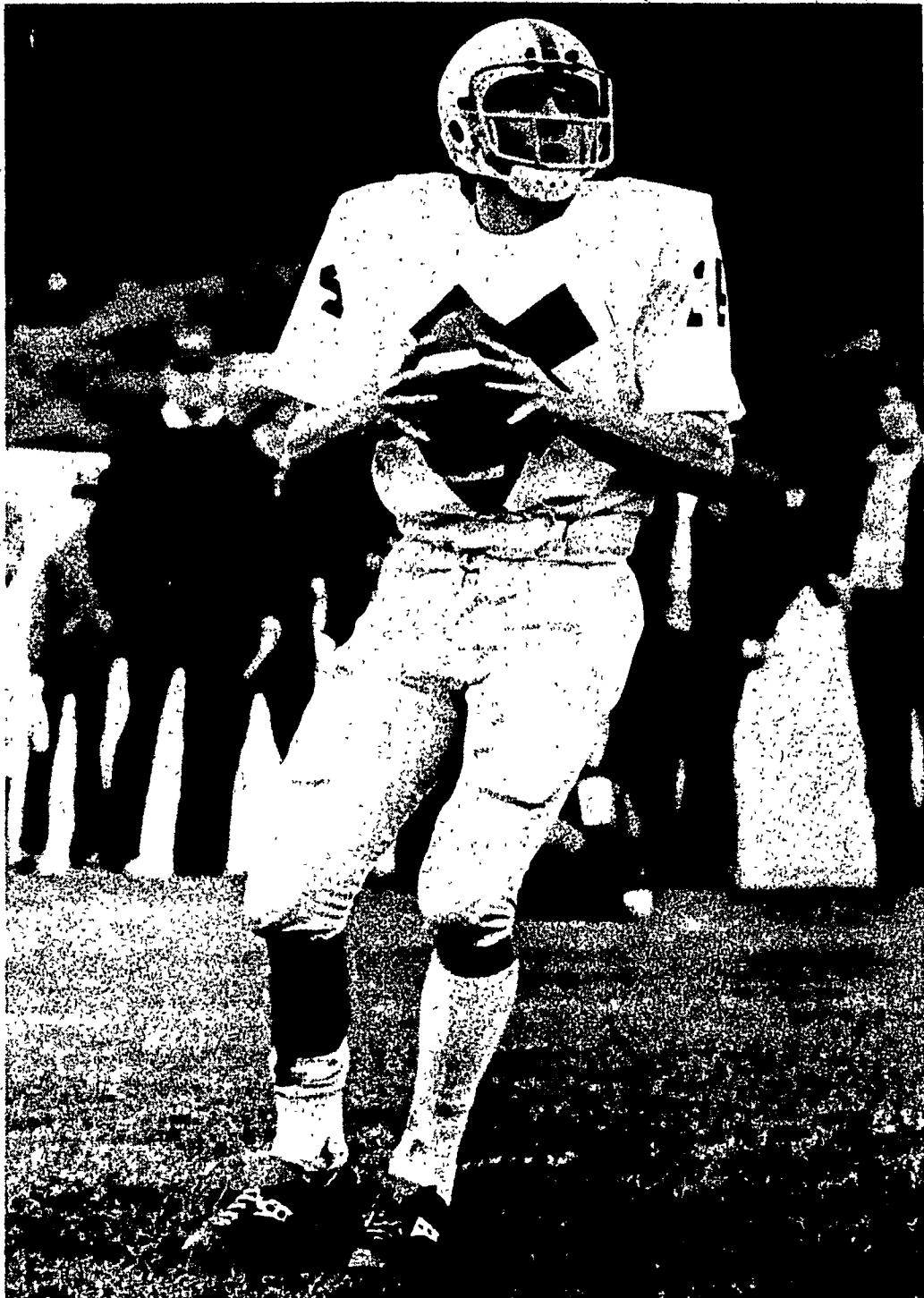
"No, I don't use it," Fitzkee said. "The thing about stickum is that I found I was losing my concentration. I used to use this stuff, it wasn't stickum, but you lose your concentration because you start relying on the ball sticking to your hands."

And when Fitzkee pulls in a Fusina strike, the fun has "only just begun."

"I like to run with the ball," Fitzkee said. "I don't get a chance to do it a lot but when I do I really like to run with it."

Meanwhile the man whose sharp passing makes it all possible for Fitzkee's and Donovan's acrobatics, of course, is the incomparable Fusina.

"He's the best passer I've ever seen," Fitzkee said. "There's not many who are better."



Running back Bob Torrey (above) rushed for 101 yards on 21 attempts, as quarterback Chuck Fusina completed 17 of 34 passes for 264 yards.