

Tate asks his critics for time

By DARLENE HROBAK
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Life hasn't exactly been going according to game plan for the Nittany Lion football team.

The then sixth-ranked squad that reared to a 45-10 opening game victory over Rutgers quickly dropped two games to Texas A&M and Nebraska and just as quickly dropped out of sight in the polls.

Last Saturday's decisive 27-7 victory over Maryland has somewhat eased the agony of defeat, but murmurs can still be heard around the no-so-happy valley speculating as to what's ailing the Lions. And, more often than not, people are coming up with Dayle Tate as the answer.

"Fans will criticize you if you're a great quarterback and have a lousy game," the first year-signal carrier said, "and they'll praise you if you're a lousy quarterback and have a great game."

"The criticism that I have of myself is what really bothers me. If I believe I can do it, if the coaches believe I can do it, then eventually I'm going to do it. It's just taking a little time."

Thus far, Tate has a completion rate of 49.3 percent. He's connected on 36 of 73 passes for 507 yards, has thrown four touchdown passes and three interceptions. The statistics aren't exactly impressive, but they aren't embarrassing either.

"We're a young offensive team and I think everybody's a little bit in need of experience," said split end Tom Donovan, one of the few veterans on offense. "When something goes wrong, everyone usually heaps the abuse on the quarterback. I don't think it's warranted at all."

"I think Dayle's coming along really well. I can see the improvement from week to week."

Tate won the starting quarterback job all the way back in spring practice, which was no small feat considering that for the past two years the name Tate had been almost synonymous with the word injury.

In last year's opening contest against Rutgers, Tate completed one pass for 18 yards, ran one play for six yards and broke his collarbone. Just a year before he had sat out the entire 1977 season with a broken hand.

But so far this season Tate has stayed intact. He even survived the opening contest with Rutgers, completing six of 10 passes for 112 yards. Afterwards, Lion coach Joe Paterno would say Tate had played a good, but not great game.

"It was the first time I had really been in a game since high school," Tate said. "I found it difficult to be consistent and to keep a drive going. There's a lot of game plan experience you have to get familiar with."

Then came Texas A&M and the Aggies' stunning 27-14 upset victory. The entire Penn State squad had contributed to the loss, but it was Tate — who was 13-39-1 on the day — who heard the boos.

A week later the scene was Lincoln, Neb. It was the biggest game of the young season for the Lions, who wanted to convince the nation the loss to Texas A&M had been but a fluke. However, Penn State would reap no glory that day.

Nebraska prevailed in a 42-17 contest that had the Lions led in the face. In the quarterback department Tate completed just seven of 15 passes for 104 yards. Late in the game, Paterno heeded some of the "drop Tate" murmurs and unsuccessfully went to back-up Terry Rakowski to move the sputtering offense.

Reflecting on the losses and the anti-Tate movement that followed, Tate said, "What people say could bother me, but it doesn't. I don't really consider my talent to play football as my self-esteem or self-respect or anything like that. I have been able to separate me and my football."

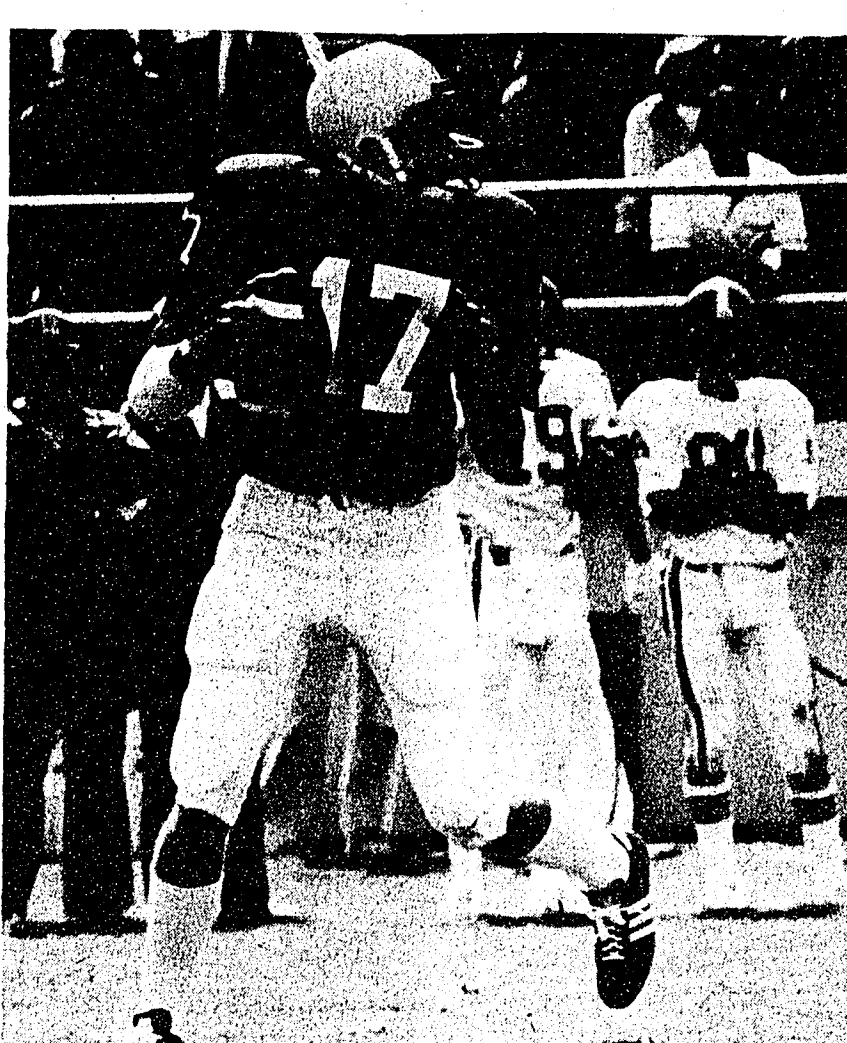
All of which doesn't exactly mean that losing doesn't bother Tate or that he isn't going to give more criticism.

"Their (the fans') criticism is nothing compared to my own criticism. I've been hardest on myself," Tate said. "By now I've gotten things back in perspective. In the first couple of games I kind of felt that I had to do it all, and that's why I couldn't do anything."

"I'm just going to go out and try my best and do what I can. I'm going to try to take it easy and have more tolerance with myself."

Last week's game could be an indication of the direction in which Tate is headed. He helped the Lions to a 27-7 win over Maryland last Saturday.

"I think I played my most consistent game at Maryland," Tate said. "I'm gaining confidence in myself. (Fusina) went through now when he was just beginning. Chuck was really good and right now I'm not as good."



Penn State quarterback Dayle Tate says he has discounted the fan 'criticisms' of his play, and is gaining more confidence in himself after guiding the Lions to a 27-7 victory over Maryland last Saturday.

Paterno's latest move: Rakowsky to split end

By DARLENE HROBAK
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

It's time for another scene from the Joe Paterno juggling show. This week the coach of the Lion football team has moved back-up quarterback Terry Rakowsky to split end.

Last week Paterno juggled nose guard Greg Jones and All-America tackle Bruce Clark in a move designed to strengthen the defensive line. He recently said that he intends for Clark to be the nose guard and Jones to be one of the tackles for the remainder of the season. This week, however, Paterno is shifting the offense.

Rakowsky, a sophomore who's been a quarterback ever since he started playing football at the age of eight, "I played on the punt return and kickoff return teams last year, and I guess the coach thought I had pretty good hands."

Another reason for the switch may be the Lions' depth at quarterback. Dayle Tate is still the No. 1 quarterback, but the talk around campus is that freshman Jeff Hosteler has captured the No. 2 spot with sophomore Frank Rowe a close third.

Paterno may be looking at Rakowsky to strengthen an inexperienced group of receivers. Rakowsky says he's been having good practices and feels the switch will be successful.

"Being a quarterback, I know where the receivers are supposed to go," he said. "I know it's just a matter of learning the patterns."

"I feel I've been catching the ball well. Now it's just a matter of time." "I played on the depth chart this week at wide receiver before the move as Tom Donovan, Tracy Hall and Kip Vergaliga. Paterno hasn't yet announced when Rakowsky will be playing time.

"Right now I'm not unhappy playing wide receiver," Rakowsky said. "It's a whole different kind of game for me. But when I'm actually standing out in the game, I don't know what will happen."

Fieldwomen battle Stroudsburg

By GREG MCKELVEY
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

If the women's field hockey team can avoid taking East Stroudsburg State College too lightly it should have no problems in getting past the Warriors at 3 p.m. today at Lady Lion Field.

Although Penn State travels to Rutgers and Connecticut this weekend for two very important matches, the team must first contend with East Stroudsburg (12-1).

Despite their record, the Warriors are a worthy opponent for third-ranked Penn State (6-1). East Stroudsburg plays a class schedule and lost to national champion West Chester by a slim 2-0 margin earlier this year.

"I would say we are considerably stronger than last year (when the team finished 9-1)," East Stroudsburg coach Jan Garman said. "We have a lot of good offensive players this year. The team overall, though, is about equal in talent."

If there is a standout in the group it is senior sweeper Ellie Williams, who is one of seven seniors on the varsity, and an overall strong player.

Other notable players are senior co-captains Sue Eichler and Terri Snyder, both forwards, and senior Denise Lawver, who was named to link this year from defense to take advantage of her shot.

"The East Stroudsburg game should serve as a tune-up for the weekend forward Brenda Stauffer said. "I doubt that East Stroudsburg will be as tough as we really don't know much about them."



Penn State's Jan Snyder (16) and the rest of the Lady Lions will be dealing with East Stroudsburg at 3 p.m. today at Lady Lion Field before it faces Rutgers and Connecticut in tough weekend matches.

NBC names Avener Olympics announcer

Marshall Avener is going to the Olympics for the third time, but this time he will be commenting rather than competing.

Avener, the women's gymnastics team's assistant coach and two-time Olympic competitor, will be NBC-TV's men's gymnastics commentator at the 1980 Games in Moscow. Avener will sign a contract with NBC on October 18 in New York.

The role went to all that new to the former Penn State gymnast. Avener has been announcing gymnastics events for NBC since last November, and at the Games he will be adding the color commentary to the telecast.

"I'll try to relate to the public in an informative and interesting manner — what they're watching as well as trying to put it into context," Avener said of his duties.

Before he began working for NBC, Avener received some practical experience broadcasting two Penn State gymnastics meets for WPX-TV with Fran Fisher, who Avener "learned a lot from."

Avener's latest assignment for NBC was doing the voice-over for the United States Gymnastics Federation championship which was held last May but will be broadcast in the near future.

In addition to the Games, Avener will be doing things relevant to the Olympics such as interviews with athletes, as well as covering all events leading up to the Olympics.

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Acquires new outlook Mills undergoes changes

Continued from Page 1.
Eastern AIAM meet, placed third at the AIAM National Championships after a wrong turn stole her lead, and finished fourth at the Amateur Athletic Union Championships.

But she had been running on that damaged foot and by racing in all those big meets, Mills faced the possibility of being permanently injured.

Dr. J.A. Whiteside, Penn State's team physician, would not comment on the situation without a written release form signed by Mills.

"That form would have OK'ed Whiteside to reveal treatment and medical advice surrounding Mills' injury. Mills refused to sign and said, 'The whole thing is over, and I'd just like to forget about it and concentrate on this year's team. We have a good shot at nationals.'"

Brooks, however, can't forget about Mills' injury.

"This one question still nagging in my mind — Kathy Mills' injury. It was one of the first times I've ever done something like that when I took her to Philadelphia to get a cortisone shot. Kathy's whole situation has made me think a lot about the whole thing."

White coaching a U.S. Junior team this summer, a similar decision confronted Brooks.

"There was a girl with a blister who wanted to run and asked for a shot. The physicians and I advised her against it," Brooks said. "The girl ran nowhere near her best and I almost lost the meet because of it. But that didn't matter to me anymore."

Returning from her long layoff from running, Mills has re-evaluated her goals and the importance of running in her life.

"I have a whole new attitude about running. It was getting too important. I was setting goals and it was becoming a vicious cycle. I discovered how many great things there are besides running."

"Kathy grew up this year," Brooks said. "She realized there was a lot more she could do besides run — writing... speaking engagements before groups of people. It was a different Kathy Mills because of it. But that didn't matter to me anymore."

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Kathy Mills

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Although Mills' attitude towards the sport has changed, her performances have remained at the same high level of previous years.

Mills easily won her first two cross country races of the year and last week she finished second to world-class competitor Margaret Gross. She said she is running more relaxed and is not bothered by the prospect of upcoming races, a situation that no longer makes her nervous.

"Suppose she would have been in an accident and lost her foot. She may not have been able to handle it (not running)," Brooks said. "But she can."

Brooks said that the physical pain and mental anguish surrounding the injury may have been a blessing in disguise.

Even though an injury may eventually change an athlete's perspective on competition, the question of how far can an athlete be pressured into making his health and well-being for the "good of the team" is still unanswered.

According to Brooks, who is studying running in his doctorate in sociological psychology and its administration in athletes at North Carolina State, those considerations may mean less to future generations.

"We need a clearer picture of the athlete in his society," she said. "Coaching is still fairly dictatorial. The athlete has to have a different kind of rights are still not that important."

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