

# the daily sports

## Three players vie for starting quarterback

By PAUL BOYNTON  
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

The competition is keen, the similarities are many and the differences are few.

The starting quarterback for Penn State will be Frank Rocco, Jeff Hosteller or Todd Blackledge. All three athletes have similar physical builds — big and strong. All three have average speed but have no hesitation to run with the football. And all three players can throw well.

As pre-season practice opens today, one of the three candidates for center-stage have a clear-cut advantage over the others, according to the director, head coach Joe Paterno. The starter will be decided in the two-day drills over the next two weeks.

The quarterback will be the key for the offense that needs to establish consistency in the early part of the season. The Nittany Lions were hampered by an inconsistent offense last year during a disappointing 8-4 season.

Starting quarterback from last year, Dayle Tate, decided not to return to the team after suffering a broken jaw in spring practice. Tate's career at Penn State was marred by various injuries.

The offense could be the key to a successful 1980 season. The defense is expected to be solid.

Rocco, a sophomore, could have a slight advantage over sophomore Hosteller and freshmen redshirt Blackledge because of more playing experience. But Rocco's sparse playing time does not give him that much, if any, advantage over his competitors. Rocco started in the Liberty Bowl win over Tulane last year and also played extensively in a win over Temple.

Rocco, 6 feet 3 inches tall and 204 pounds, said mental toughness and consistency will be the determining factors on who will be the starter.

"Everybody makes mistakes," Rocco

said. "You have to bounce back and do five good things in return. A guy like that will start in any position."

Rocco said there are no hard feelings between himself and his competitors. He said they work together and the competition has made them all better players.

Hosteller, 6 feet 2 1/2 inches tall and 212 pounds, said he thinks Paterno has made a decision as to who the starter will be and merely wants to make sure of that decision during the pre-season.

"He seems to respond to pressure," Paterno said of Hosteller. "He has great all-around athletic ability with a big-league arm."

Blackledge, 6 feet 3 1/2 inches tall and 214 pounds, said the athlete who takes charge and wins the leadership will be the starter.

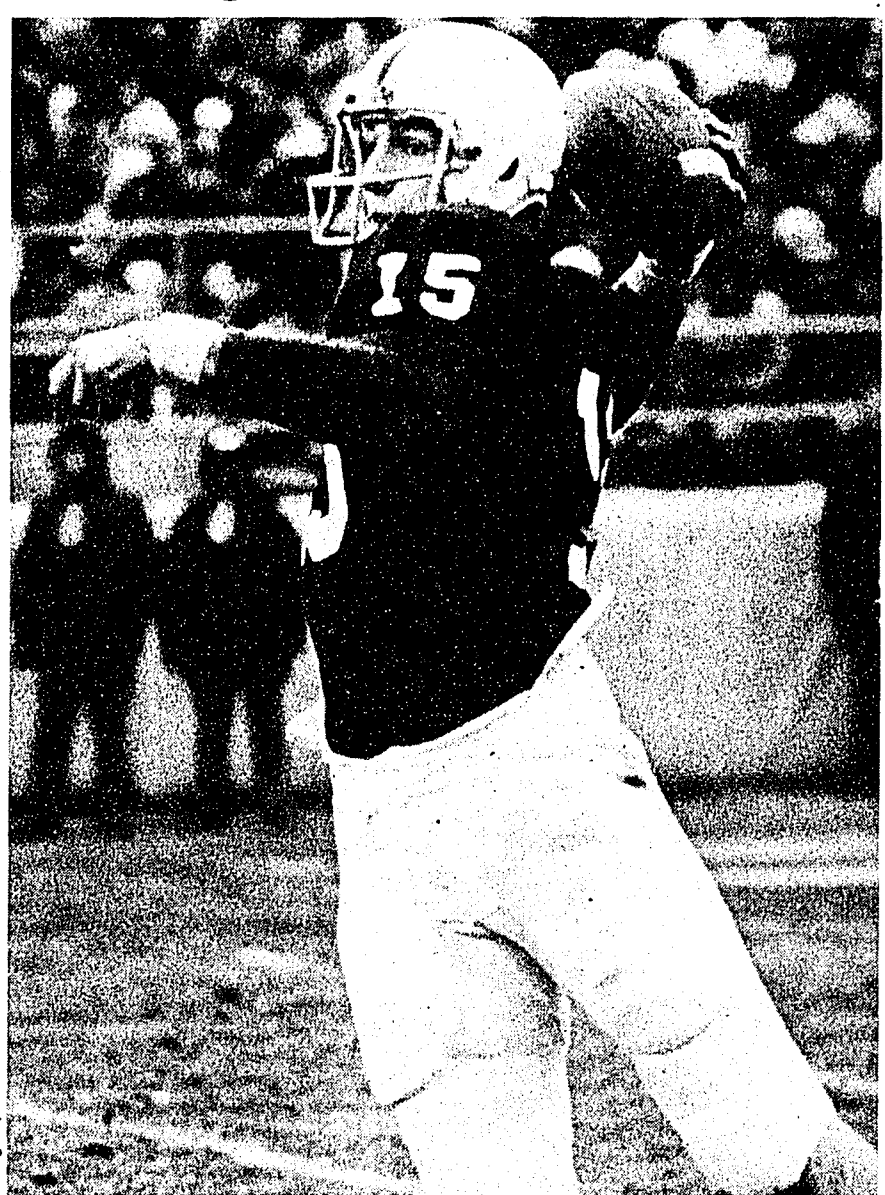
"We had no strong leader on offense last year," Blackledge said. "We had nothing to rally around. That's what we need."

Sophomore tailback Curt Warner, expected to be a starter in the backfield along with fullback Booker Moore, said the team needs a quarterback to take charge.

Center Bob Jagers, an offensive captain, said he has confidence in all three quarterbacks. He said offensive leadership in the early part of the season will have to come from experienced players.

The Nittany Lions have the capability to be a fine offensive squad. The running attack should be potent with Warner, who showed glimpses of greatness last year as a freshman, and Moore, a senior who is the 11th leading rusher in Penn State history with 1,305 yards, running behind an experienced line. The depth at quarterback will allow whoever is playing the position to run also.

The solid running attack will open up the passing game, according to Hosteller.



Jeff Hosteller is one of three players competing for the starting quarterback position at Penn State. When pre-season practice opened today there was no indication from head coach Joe Paterno who the starter will be. Frank Rocco and Todd Blackledge are the other players looking for the opportunity to lead the Nittany Lions into the 1980 season.

## Phillies bomb Mets with weekend offensive deluge

NEW YORK (AP) — Garry Maddox slammed a home run in each game and drove in five runs as the Philadelphia Phillies swept a doubleheader yesterday from the New York Mets 9-4 and 4-1, with Steve Carlton posting his 19th victory in the opener.

Carlton, 19-6, allowed 10 hits but struck out 11 in the first game as Bake McBride hit a two-run homer and Lonnie Smith added a solo shot to the first of Maddox's homers.

Randy Lerch, 4-13, with relief help from Ron Reed, held New York to six hits in the nightcap as the Phillies completed the first five-game sweep over New York at home since 1964 when the Mets were swept by the Cincinnati Reds. The Phillies had 22 hits in the twinbill and a total of 71 in the series.

Maddox put the Phillies in front 2-1 in the fourth inning of the second game when he hit his ninth homer after a single by Manny Trillo off Roy Lee Jackson, 1-4.

## Pirates 5, 2 Expos 0, 4

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Rodney Scott snapped a ninth-inning tie with a two-out, two-run homer after reliever Kent Tekulak gave the Montreal Expos a 4-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Yesterday and a split of their doubleheader.

The Pirates won the opener 5-1 as Rick Rhoden pitched his first complete game since 1978 and Lee Lacy hit a two-run homer.

Scott's winning hit in the second game came after a disputed call at the plate that denied the Expos a run.

## Orioles 1, Yankees 0

BALTIMORE (AP) — Terry Crowley doubled home the only run in the sixth inning and Scott McGregor pitched a six-inning shutout as the Baltimore Orioles defeated the New York Yankees 1-0 yesterday.

The victory ended the five-game series which ends Monday at 2-2 and moved the Orioles within 3 1/2 games of first-place New York in the American League East.

Crowley's two-out double down the first base line off Luis Tiant, 6-7, scored Rich Dauer, who opened the sixth with a disputed ground-rule double.

Baltimore Manager Earl Weaver, who was ejected for arguing in Saturday night's game, contended that Dauer's drive should have been a home run. But third base umpire Steve Palermo ruled that a fan had leaned out and touched the ball before it reached the left field bleachers.

## Stabler sharp in Houston victory

HOUSTON (AP) — If Houston quarterback Ken Stabler's image had started to fade on the New Orleans Saints' memories, they got a refresher course yesterday in a 20-17 Oiler National Football League exhibition victory.

"I really feel confident with the offense, even though it was the second pre-season game," said Stabler, who hit 64 percent of his passes and riddled the Saints with three touchdown passes.

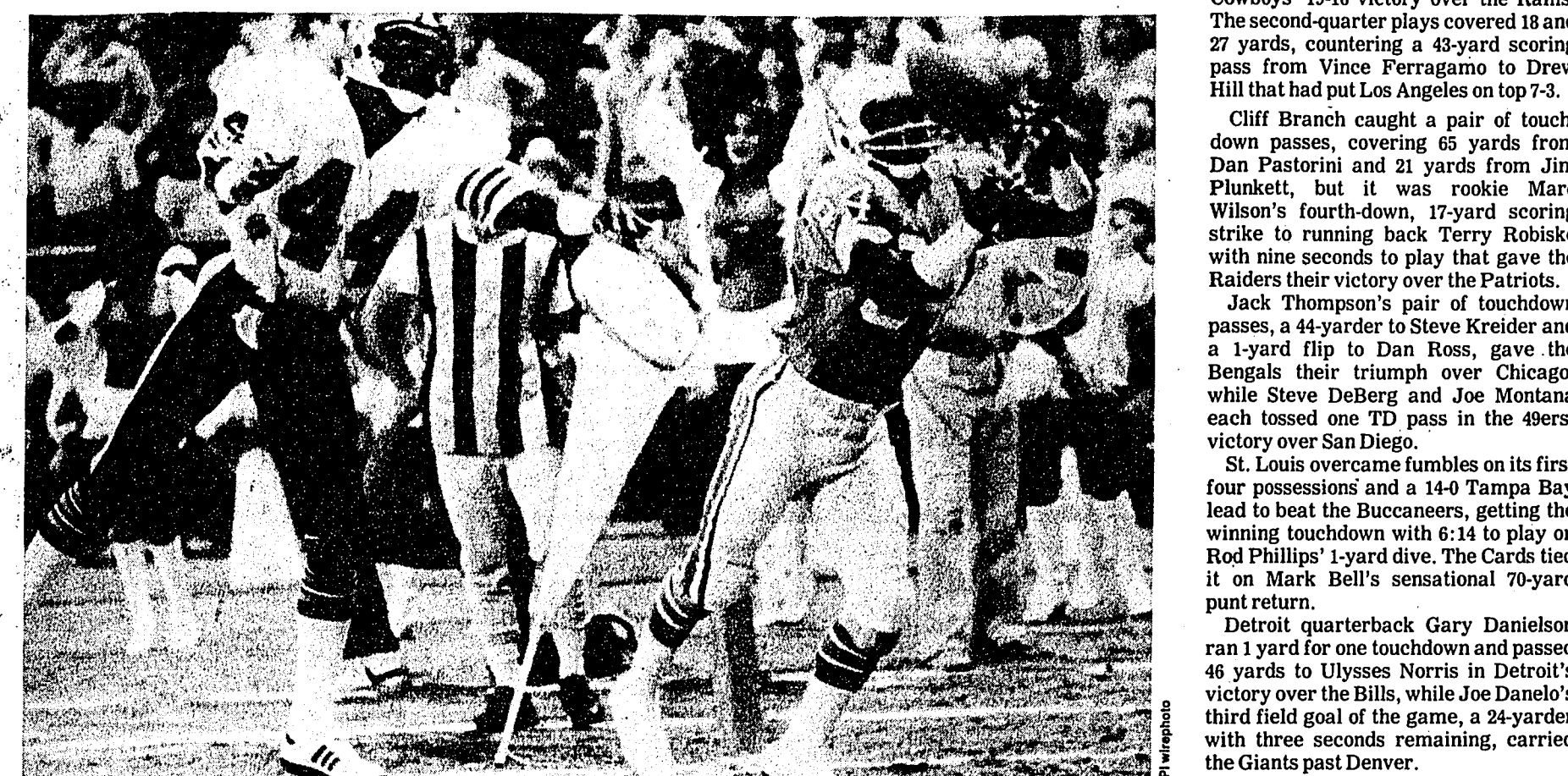
Stabler hit tight end Rich Caster with two of his touchdown aerials and went to Billy Johnson for the third.

While with Oakland last season, Stabler riddled the Saints in a nationally televised game last year. He showed them yesterday that he had not lost his touch since being traded to Houston.

The new Oiler quarterback completed nine of 15 in a losing cause against Tampa Bay last week. But he was much more deadly against the Saints, completing 18 of 28 passes for 217 yards.

The Saints scored twice in the fourth quarter to cut Houston's lead to the three-point final margin.

In Saturday's games, Dallas defeated Los Angeles 19-16, Oakland edged New England 31-29, Cincinnati beat Chicago 21-3, San Francisco slipped past San



Billy "White Shoes" Johnson of Houston snarcs a touchdown pass yesterday against the New Orleans Saints. Johnson, coming back after two knee injuries which have left him inactive for two seasons, hopes to help the Oilers dethrone their division rival — the Super Bowl Champion Pittsburgh Steelers.

## Strange calmly takes Westchester Classic

HARRISON, N.Y. (AP) — Curtis Strange, undulating in the face of pressure applied by golf's most dangerous performer, turned back Tom Watson with a solid, 2-under-par 69 and scored a 2-stroke victory yesterday in the Westchester Classic.

Strange, 25, acquired his second title of the season and third in less than 18 months with a 275 total, 11 strokes under par on the hilly, 6,603-yard Westchester Country Club course.

The victory was worth \$72,000 from the total purse of \$400,000 and stamped Strange as one of the brightest young players on the PGA Tour. It was his fifth consecutive top-10 finish and pushed his winnings to \$282,025 for the year, third behind Watson and Lee Trevino.

Strange, the 1979 national collegiate champ from Wake Forest, scored his first pro victory last fall in Pensacola and won the Houston Open this year in a playoff against Trevino.

Trevino didn't play in this one, but Strange had to contend with golf's biggest winner, the formidable Watson who has won five times in the United States this year.

They started the mild, sunny day in a tie for second and, with eighth holes to go, Strange led Watson by one.

But Watson, who has had some difficulties with his driver all week, promptly took himself out of it. The British Open champion made a bogey on the 11th hole, drove into tree trouble on the 12th, had to play, was short in three and eventually made a double bogey.

That gave Strange the breathing room he needed and he brought it home without major difficulty, avoiding potential trouble with an 8-foot par-saving putt on the 16th.

Veteran Gibby Gilbert came on to take second with a no-bogey 69 and a 275 total. The journeyman Gilbert won \$28,200 and reached the \$100,000 level for the first time in his 13-year career.

Phil Hancock was third at 276 after a 69.

Watson birdied the final hole, after the national television cameras had ended their coverage for the day, and finished with 73.

He was tied for fourth at 277 with Mike Reid and George Cadle, the third round leader. Reid had a 69 and Cadle a 74.

Watson picked up \$16,533 and pushed his leading money-winning total to \$410,258. He also reduced his stroke average for the year to 70.07 and again moved in front of the absent Trevino in the race for the Vardon Trophy, which goes to the man with the low stroke average on the tour. Watson, who has won the prestigious title the last three seasons, came into this tournament with a 70.11 average, behind Trevino, who remains at 70.09.

Mark Lye, Australian David Graham, Mike Sullivan and Reg Maithe tied at 278. Lye shot a closing 68, Graham 69, Sullivan 70 and Maithe 71.

Cadle, leading by one when the day's play started, went three over par on the first four holes and really wasn't a factor in the title chase again.

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