

# the daily sports collegian

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## Hurricanes rain on Lions' No. 1 parade

By MIKE POORMAN  
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

MIAMI — At 5:01 p.m. Saturday, the 15-mph winds gusting from the east through the Orange Bowl seemed to get a little stronger, and the dark bundles of clouds, already a bit murky, appeared to get even gloomier. Although the rains had not yet begun, lightning had just struck twice in the past five minutes.

First, Miami flanker Larry Brodsky found a seam in Penn State's defense, stayed put until quarterback Jim Kelly found him across field, sidestepped an overzealous Paul Lankford and then outraced Lion safety Mark Robinson the remaining 80 yards to put Miami ahead 14-0 following a two-point conversion.

"It was just a short out," said Brodsky, Kelly's secondary receiver on the play. "We just fade to the open area. We call it a gray or black coverage."

Moments later, things got even darker.

On Penn State's second play from scrimmage after the kick-off, tailback Curt Warner dove through the line, clutching both the football and the pulled left hamstring that caused him to miss last week's game. He was to miss the rest of this game, too.

"It hadn't bothered me up until that time," said Warner, who left the game with 13 carries for 23 yards. "I wasn't having any problems with it at all."

The problems were with the Miami defense, which held top-ranked Penn State scoreless through the first three quarters and survived an awesome record-setting passing display by Lion quarterback Todd Blackledge to win 17-14.

A national television audience and a sparse and soaked crowd of 32,117 witnessed the loss, which dropped Penn State's record to 6-1 and marked the fifth time this season a No. 1-ranked team has been beaten while on the top.

"They just played a great football game," Penn State coach Joe Paterno said of the Hurricanes, now 5-2. "It would have been tough for anybody to beat them today."

They came off some blocks, made some great tackles, played hard, were alert (and had) good positioning. They never gave us a chance to break one."

Penn State did have numerous scoring chances early in the game but could not capitalize.

One came on a Paul Lankford interception of a Mark Richt pass. Lankford had only Richt and 92 yards of Prescription Turf separating him and six points, but Richt held up Lankford long enough for help to arrive, and Penn State was eventually forced to settle for a 22-yard field goal attempt.

But Lion place-kicker Brian Franco missed that 22-yarder, along with three others in the game. The first was a 31-yarder with the wind in the first quarter, while the next went into it from the 46 and the last was a 23-yarder into a monsoon in the third quarter.

"I wasn't afraid of worried," said Franco, 11 of 12 on 12 or less yard attempts before Saturday's game. "Maybe it was the timing."

Paterno absorbed some of the blame for the second miss, which came right after the teams switched ends after the first quarter, forcing Franco to kick into the wind.

"I was going to call time-out," Paterno said. "I was all set to call time-out, and somebody said

something to me and I lost my concentration. I turned back and looked up, and it was '80."

The clock also worked against the Penn State offense late in the first half, when the Lions were driving following a poor snap on a Miami punt. Blackledge moved the offense 26 yards in 24 seconds to set up a third-and-4 1/2 with six seconds left.

"I was looking for the tight end," Blackledge said. "He slipped coming off the line of scrimmage. He got open later, but I wasn't set to throw. I thought I could take it in, so I ran."

"Looking back at it, I should throw the ball to somebody. Or threw it away. That way we could have gotten three points anyway." The Lions got none.

Miami's field goal attempts were sure things, as the Hurricanes' Dan Miller connected on kicks from 28, 42 and 23 yards.

"I told you they weren't one-dimensional," Paterno said, referring to Miami's reliance on the pass.

Ironically, it was Penn State which was forced to throw the ball. The Miami defense held the Nittany Lions to 69 yards on 38 carries, the first time since Nebraska last year they were held to less than 100 yards rushing.

"We should have been able to run on them," said longtime guard Mike Munchak. "It may have been a combination of us making mistakes and them playing very aggressively. They were shooting holes and stuffing a lot. They had their tackles sliding down and their linebackers filling."

Thus, down 17-0 in the fourth quarter, the Lions practically abandoned the running game and tried to pass their way back. And they almost did.

"We knew we were going to win the football game even going into the fourth quarter," Paterno said. "I don't think anybody thought we weren't going to win the football game. Even with the score 17-0, we thought all we needed were a couple of big plays, which we are capable of getting and have been getting."

Fighting torrents of rain and an emotional, although tired, Miami defense, Blackledge led Penn State to two scores and in the process put together the finest passing day for a Lion quarterback ever. The sophomore from North Canton, Ohio, completed 26 of 41 passes for 358 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions.

Blackledge combined with split end Gregg Garrity three times on the way to an 80-yard scoring drive, which culminated in a 19-yard scoring toss to McCloskey. A two-point conversion pass to Kevin Baugh failed.

"When they were driving down the field, a lot of things went through my mind," said Miami nose guard Tony Chickillo. "I realized what a great team they are and how they were running the two-minute drill picture-perfect and splitting down the middle."

Penn State came right back when Mark Robinson hit Miami's Smokey Roan, forcing the ball to pop loose. Lankford nimbly grabbed it for the recovery. Two plays later the Lions scored on a Jon Williams screen pass to make it 17-12. Blackledge passed to Kenny Jackson for the conversion, pulling the Lions to within a field goal and possible redemption for Franco.

But he never got the chance.

Miami was stopped by Penn State on its next possession, and the Lion offense got the ball back

## QB Kelly credits line, receivers for victory

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promised by Schellenberger that he would play quarterback and quarterback only, a situation making Miami's upset even better.

"That's for sure," Kelly said. "The win two years was a great win, but this was the best one because we knew we could beat them. It was just a matter of who made the most critical errors. We made some errors, but we capitalized on their errors, and I'm just glad we came out winning."

Kelly was 13 of 25 passing for 220 yards, including an 80-yard touchdown toss to Larry Brodsky, which made Brodsky the 'Canes career leader in reception yardage.

"Our receivers ran great patterns," Kelly said. "We kept (Penn State) off-balance. We ran the ball as well as we thought we played."

"And the offensive line played the best game it ever played. I had

## Win keeps Lion playoff hopes alive

By STEVE GRAHAM  
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

The players on Fairleigh Dickinson's soccer team couldn't have picked a better night to bewitch the 12th-ranked Lions at Jeffrey Field than Friday.

On Halloween Eve, the atmosphere was conducive to ghosts and goblins, the air was brisk and cold, and Penn State coach Walt Bahr had a little bit of nervousness in his soul.

But somewhere along the line, the Knights left their recipe for a witch's brew back home in Teaneck, N.J. And Penn State took advantage of the situation, scoring two goals in the first 10 minutes of the game and holding on for a convincing 3-1 victory.

"I was very worried at halftime coming off with only a 2-0 lead," Bahr said, "because we had too many opportunities and didn't score them."

"This one (victory) gives us a little bit of a cushion. I would say our next toughest game is Temple (Nov. 8) away from home, Connecticut. We'll flip a coin for that."

Bahr could also flip a coin on the chances of Lion defender Dan Canter making a free kick. And he'd find that he could almost always call it right because, after all, Canter is a heads-up player.

With only 7:35 gone in the first half, Canter put Penn State on the scoreboard with a beautifully executed free kick that FDU goalie Reinhardt Schornstaedt had no chance on.

Then, just over three minutes later, defender Lon Karbiener hit a crossing ball that midfielder Jeff Maierhofer promptly headed into the left-hand corner of the goal for an early 2-0 Penn State lead.

The two quick goals were enough to knock the Knights off their high horse.

"They didn't seem to have much really going for them in front of the goal," Bahr said of the Knights. "They didn't get many shots away (13), but their buildup



the show by dribbling the ball over half the length of the field on a breakaway and firing a pinpoint shot past Schornstaedt for a 3-0 Penn State lead at 63:24.

About 10 minutes later, FDU midfielder Martin Shkreli spoiled the Lions' hopes of establishing a new Penn State record for most team shutouts in a season.

On a penalty kick, Lion goalkeeper Greg Kenney anticipated that Shkreli would go for the left-hand side of the goal. Instead, Shkreli placed the ball on the right-hand side, and the shutout was gone in a flash.

"I guess that someone (on my team) saw him play before and thought he'd go in that direction," Kenney said.

But what averted Bahr was not the goal but the efforts leading up to it. The Knights were awarded the penalty kick when an official ruled that Lion defender Bill McDonald touched the ball with his hands while covering the goal for Kenney, who had been pulled out of position by an FDU forward.

"I guess I made a wrong decision on coming out on the guy," Kenney said of McDonald being in the position of cover the goal. "The first thing I tried to do was come out and get him as wide as I could and then run back to the net."

"I was very upset with the penalty," said Bahr, who rarely wrinkles his face at any game. "I was upset because I thought Billy McDonald made a good play."

"Billy was down on his knees. I thought he, without question, had made a good soccer play. I've seen it made 100 times before. No one else there, on my team, thought it was a hand ball."

But the goal was only one of a few serious threats on Kenney all night. Basically, the freshman had a quiet night, garnering only eight saves.

"When we get three goals," Kenney said, "you're really going to have a hard time beating us — especially here."



Penn State's Jeff Maierhofer (right) contributed a goal as the men's soccer team turned back Fairleigh Dickinson 3-1 Friday night at Jeffrey Field to keep its hopes for an NCAA playoff bid alive.

was good, and their tackling was good."

The big difference — as had been the case in so many of Penn State's games this season — was the defense.

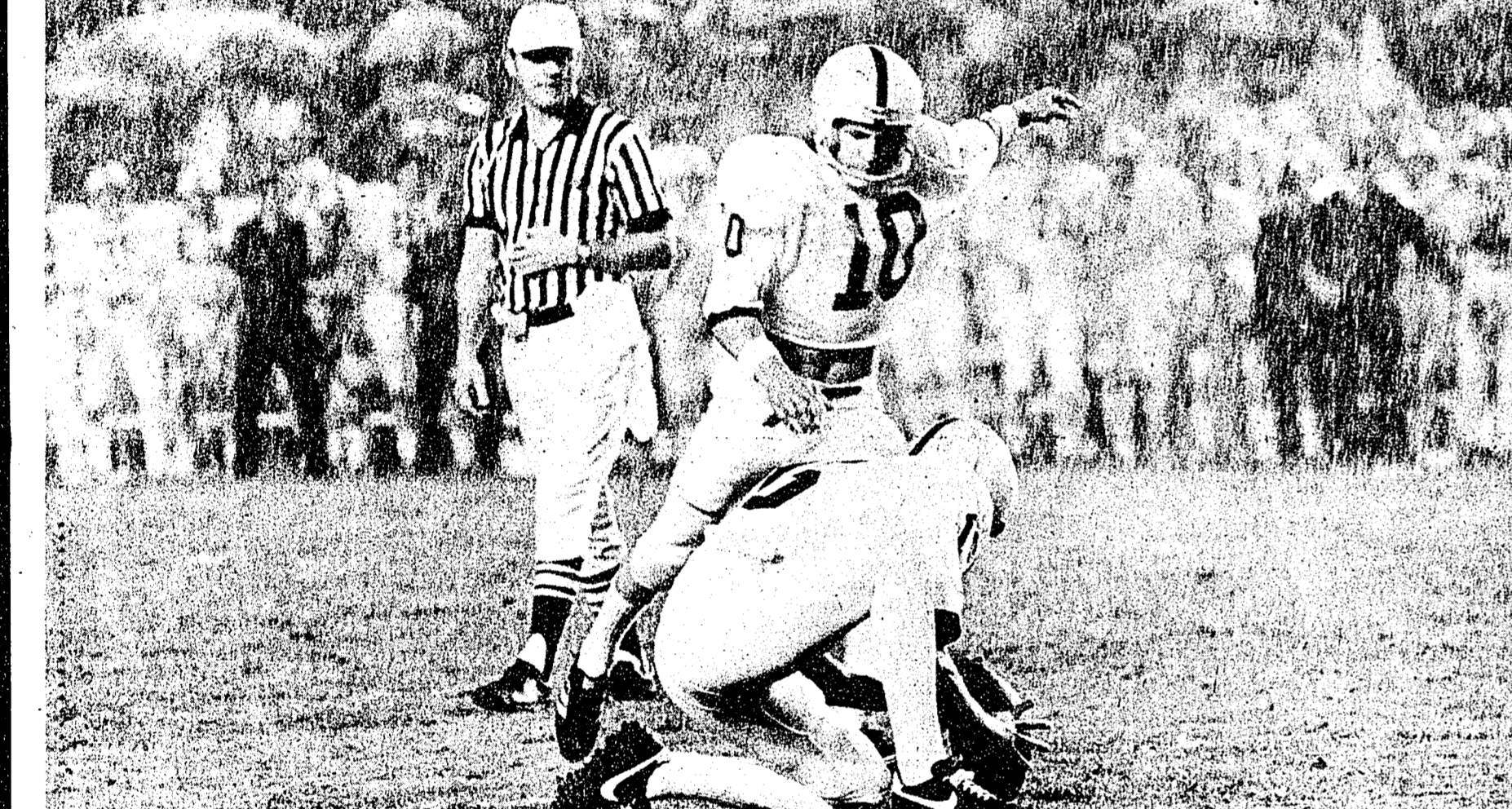
"I thought defensively we played well," Bahr said. "I thought (offensively) we rushed things too much with the ball. We were missing our best midfielder (Duncan MacEwan) with a (foot) injury, and he really is the one who organizes a little better than the couple of

freshmen that we had in there."

Bob Cunningham, who filled in for MacEwan at the starting center midfield spot, got his first real taste this season of a full load of playing time.

At intermission, Cunningham and some of the other Lions retold for the second half's drama, which featured some rough play and a few controversial calls by the officials.

Lion forward Peter Janecvski opened



Penn State place-kicker Brian Franco (left) missed four field goal attempts Saturday, including this 23-yarder in the third quarter, as the Miami Hurricanes, behind the leadership of quarterback Jim Kelly (No. 12, below) upset the top-ranked Lions 17-14 at the Orange Bowl in Miami.

## Miami passes its way to upset win and a place in the national spotlight

By MIKE POORMAN  
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

MIAMI — Coach Howard Schnellenberger was sitting in the small, pale white coaches' dressing quarters Saturday night, putting on his dress shirt. It was a smooth and easy fit, just proving that he went into the University of Miami's biggest football game ever with nothing up his sleeves but his arms.

It didn't matter, for Schnellenberger thought a Miami win was in the cards. Although Penn State was No. 1, its four predecessors had been upset. And despite being ranked only 19th with two losses, Miami was just 10 points away from being undefeated.

"It was like us playing poker with all of Penn State's money," said Schnellenberger.

Saturday's game was a bet Schnellenberger has been waiting to collect on for three years, ever since he came to UM from the Miami Dolphins.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of my assistant coaches and all the people who have supported it through the last 2 1/2 years," he said. "This is a culmination of an awful lot of work by an awful lot of people. I take my hat off to the entire football team — there must have been 44 guys who played their



## Penn State duo shines in loss

Blackledge sets passing marks; Robinson keys defense

By MIKE POORMAN  
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

MIAMI — It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.

It's a bit ironic that Penn State safety Mark Robinson was the last player to leave the Orange Bowl field Saturday after the Lions' loss. He had been the first everywhere else on the field all afternoon.

And equally ironic was the fact that quarterback Todd Blackledge was the last player the media finally stopped badgering after the game. After the past few games, due to the performances of Curt Warner and Jon Williams, the crowd in front of his locker had dwindled to a mere handful.

What wasn't ironic was the way these two played. Despite Penn State's loss, the game was one of the best ever, if not

the best ever, for the two sophomores. It was the age of wisdom; it was the age of foolishness.

Mark Robinson wasn't listed as a starter when the season began. But then Dan Biondi got hurt and Robinson, who was slowed by an injury himself last season, stepped in and never relinquished the safety position.

He leads Penn State in tackles with 44; he made 10 solo tackles and two assists against Miami late in the fourth quarter, when the Lions needed it most. Robinson caused Hurricane Smokey Roan to fumble the ball into the arms of Paul Lankford, setting up an easy score.

"When you stick in there and play, those things (fumble) will happen," Robinson said. "It had to start going our way because the first half things weren't really going our way."

It was the epoch of belief; it was the epoch of incredulity.

Things weren't going Blackledge's way the first half, either. His roommate, teammate and friend, Curt Warner, was out with a pulled hamstring, and the Miami defense was bottling up the run.

For the first time this season, if Penn State was going to win, it had to do it through the air.

"I don't like to get into a situation where we have to throw," Blackledge said. "But I thought we did a pretty good job of it when we had to."

So good that Blackledge not only compiled the best single-game passing statistics of his own career on Saturday, but he compiled the best single game passing really going our way."

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## Lions look toward future

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statistics of any Penn State quarterback or team — ever.

Against a Miami secondary that has yielded an average of 160 yards passing per game, Blackledge threw for 358 yards, while completing 26 of 41 passes. The yardage, number of passes and number of completions are Nittany Lion records, surpassing the accomplishments of Chuck Fusina, John Hufnagel, Pete Liske and Richie Lucas.

It was the season of light; it was

the season of darkness.

Miami's Jim Kelly threw for 180 yards in the first half and although the 'Canes concentrated on the run the second half, Penn State held Kelly to just 50 yards passing over the last two quarters. And the Lions stopped the run as well.

"We started to change our defensive scheme," Robinson said. "They moved me closer to the line. They were running and I was just reading. The linemen and linebackers were taking out all the blocks

and I was more or less free. I was getting free sticks at them."

Blackledge was sticking it to them, too, with a little help from his friends.

Jon Williams tied the record for receptions by a running back, with eight (good for 119 yards) and Gregg Garrity caught six passes for 104 yards, marking the first time two Penn State players each had more than 100 yards receiving in one game.

Mike McCloskey also grabbed six

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