

Seat belt legislation debated

By KRISTINE SORCHILLA
Collegian Staff Writer

four mandatory seat belt proposals to the General Assembly this year, Wittger said.

Pennsylvania is one of 47 states to propose seat belt legislation, said state Sen. Edward Early, D-Allentown. Early said the legislation will be voted on sometime after the General Assembly reconvenes on Sept. 18.

Proposed seat belt legislation must meet criteria specified by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole, said Rosalyn Kaiser, a spokeswoman for the National Public Safety Association.

Dole's regulations include mandatory seat belt use for drivers and front seat passengers, a minimum \$25 fine for violators and automatic loss of damages in lawsuits for violators who are injured in accidents.

Although Corman's proposal includes mandatory seat belt restraint and loss of damages, it does not meet all criteria set by Dole, Wittger said. Corman's proposal only has a minimum \$20 fine, he said.

While Corman is "100 percent for seat belt usage," he believes air bags should be required in addition to seat belts, Wittger said.

Unless states representing two-thirds of the U.S. population adopt seat belt laws that meet Dole's requirements, the Department of Transportation will require all new cars to be equipped with automatic passenger protection systems, such as air bags or automatic seat belts, as of April 1, 1989, Kaiser said.

Many people are opposed to state-enforced seat belt laws and believe that air bags are sufficient restraints in an accident, Early said. Air bags, however, are neither feasible nor completely safe, he said.

The cost of installing air bags is about \$500 per car, Early said. Also, air bags will inflate during a head-on collision, but not if a car is hit from the side or back or rolls over.

State College Bureau of Police Services traffic specialist Jeff Callan said police are not sure how they would enforce the law, but they will be able to spot violators by checking for the seat belt strap across motorists' bodies.

Although 14 states have passed mandatory seat belt laws since Jan. 1, state legislators have yet to decide if Pennsylvania will be the next state to require motorists to buckle up under penalty of law.

State Rep. Lynn Herman, R-Centre, said he opposes seat belt legislation because "the government shouldn't be telling adults what to do."

An alternative to passing seat belt laws is to educate motorists on safe driving practices, Herman said. If a driver education course that advocates seat belt use was required to receive a driver's license, motorists might develop better and safer driving habits in earlier stages, he said.

Although Herman said he has not polled constituents about the law, letters and comments he received indicate that "people are either strongly in favor or strongly against seat belt laws."

"However, the more and more people hear about (mandatory seat belts), the more and more they're against it," Herman said.

A mandatory seat belt law is needed to protect drivers and passengers, said state Rep. Ruth C. Rudy, D-Centre Hall. However, Rudy said the public also needs to become better educated on use of seat belts.

Although many people believe that such a law would infringe upon their rights, Rudy said many of her constituents said they will follow the law if it is passed.

James Lovette, a spokesman for state Rep. Russell P. Letterman, D-Milburg, said Letterman also is opposed to legislation that would force people to use seat belts. Letterman believes a statewide campaign promoting seat belt use would be more effective, Lovette said.

As head of the state Senate Transportation Committee, Sen. J. Doyle Corman, R-Bellefonte, supports mandatory seat belt legislation, said Lowell Wittger, director of the transportation committee. Corman also introduced one of



Fortune telling
Vice President George Bush reads his fortune from a fortune cookie during a walking tour of Chinatown in San Francisco.

sports

Penn State - Temple Preview

Lions hope to continue learning against Owls

By CHRIS RAYMOND
Collegian Sports Writer

In the past several months, the members of the football team have learned a great many things.

They have learned to make choices, to set goals and to work hard for what they want to achieve.

Now that the Lions have put their schooling to good use with a win against Maryland, Head Coach Joe Paterno hopes that they will remember one last important lesson: learning doesn't stop once you leave the practice field. It's something you should work hard to accomplish all through the season.

Tomorrow afternoon, Paterno's pupils will once again be tested on their understanding of his work ethic when they face Temple at Beaver Stadium. Only this time, the stakes are much higher than they were in the pre-season grading system.

"I don't think we'll win unless we improve and play much better than Temple," Paterno said. "I think Temple's too good."

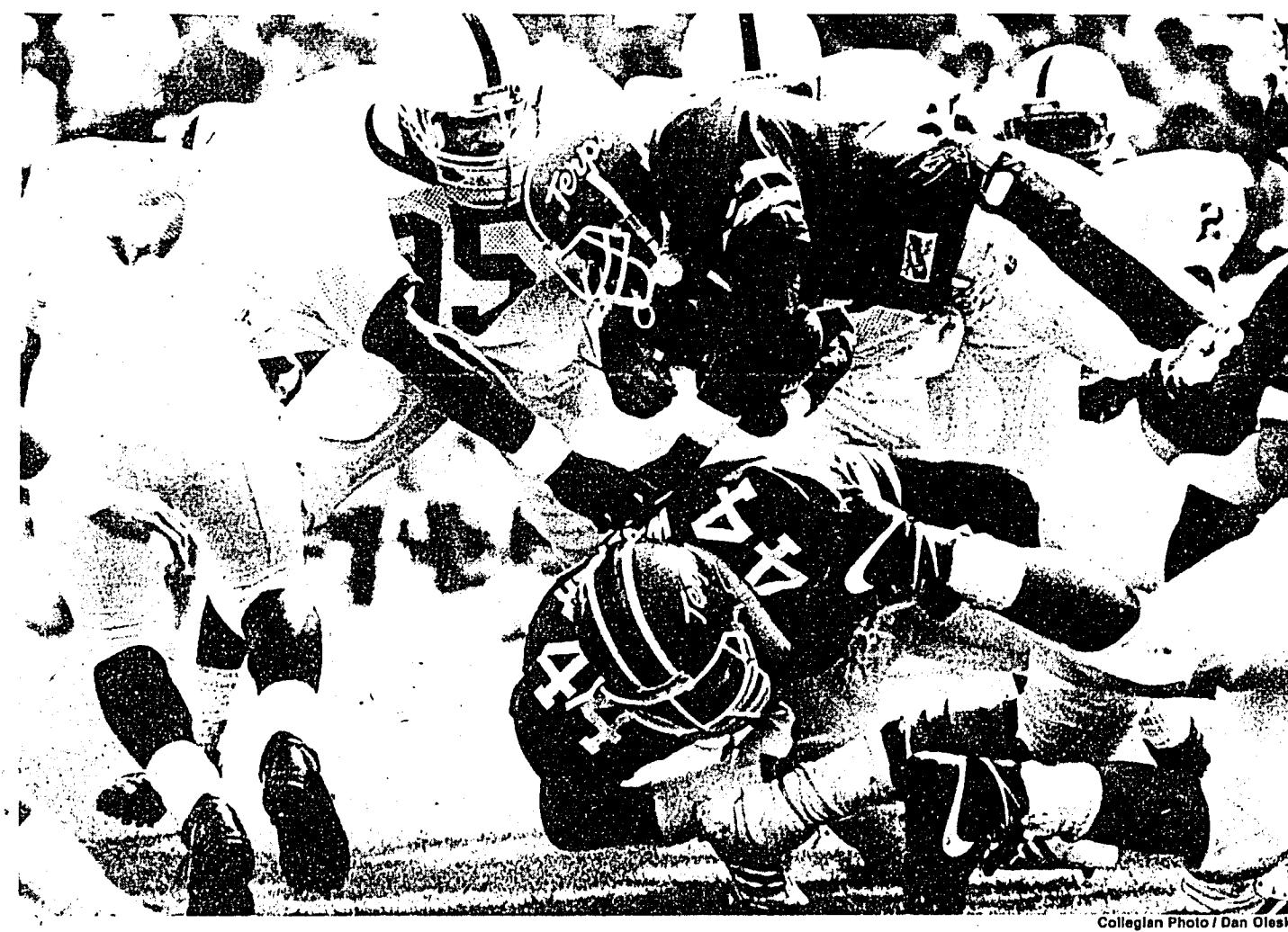
According to Penn State fullback Steve Smith, however, the Owls are just the test the Lions need right now.

"I think that that's what the football team needs to play some good football games," he said.

Without question, Temple matches that description.

Two years ago, when the two teams last met, the Owls were only a 4-7 helterloo. But, as Temple Head Coach Bruce Arians is quick to point out, this year's squad is much better.

"We're much more experienced. We work harder in certain areas," he said. "We're much better on the offensive line of scrimmage and all around. Defensive line-wise we're okay as long as the injuries don't continue to mount and the kicking game is better."



Penn State's Marques Henderson (3) and Rogers Alexander (5) converge on Maryland's Keets Covington (with ball) in last Saturday's game at College Park, Md. The Lion defense will have to cope with Temple's option offense as Penn State hosts the Owls at 12:20 p.m. tomorrow at Beaver Stadium.

10 carries while his counterpart Smith racked up 32 yards on five carries.

Paterno said, however, the downbeat play of the Penn State running game isn't the problem.

"I think we have the people to have a good running game, but our passing game is a little bit erratic," Paterno said. "We dropped passes, overthrew (receivers) and didn't come up with a good catch when we needed it. If we can get that straightened out, I think the running game will take care of itself."

The Penn State offense has been placed in the capable hands of quarterback John Shaffer, who responded well under pressure against Maryland, completing 12 of 25 passes for 167 yards.

Split end Ray Roundtree (four catches for 64 yards) and flanker Mike Timpson (two for 62) provided the greatest threat to the Terrapins secondary.

With continued play, Shaffer and the receiving corps will hopefully open up the Penn State passing game, Paterno said.

"There's a lot of room for improvement but I think they did a good job (versus Maryland) and I think that we're obviously better at that position than we were last year," Paterno said.

"Now that we're going against Temple and they've been practicing every day, I would hope that that would be a springboard — that they'd feel more comfortable in there and with another week of practice, their coordination would be better (and) their timing would be better..."

With the 20-18 victory over Maryland, the Lions advanced at least one letter grade in the minds of many. With more studious efforts, their teacher is confident they will continue to move to the head of the class.

"We have a lot of people that are very close," Paterno said. "We don't have a lot of great players... but we have a lot of quality kids on this squad."

"If we can stay healthy then I think some of these kids are going to play themselves into being better than good and not just five or six — I'm talking maybe 12, 14, 15 kids that you not only have depth, you have quality depth."

"Right now, we have a lot of people who go out and know what they're doing, they hustle and they're good football players but there's a lot of little things they've got to do better to be great."

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TRI-K GOLF SHOP

Lions' offensive unit may be catching up

By MATT HERB
Collegian Sports Writer

Linebacker U. that's what they call it; a school that turns out hulking defensemen with the regularity of a General Motors assembly line and runs the football on offense with equal dedication to power.

With their grind it out, low-scoring style of football, the Lion's earned themselves a reputation as a relic from the past. But times have changed. Today's heroes are the Doug Flutie and Robby Boscos of the world, the players who can rout defenses for 400 or 500 yards per game. Can Penn State's no frills offense keep up with the likes of Air BYU? Will John Shaffer be filling the Beaver Stadium sky with 50 passes per game? Is it possible that the first commandment of Penn State football — "Thou shalt use the pass to set up the run — is not carved in stone after all?"

"We really feel that to be a strong football team you must have a balance," Assistant Coach Frank Rocco said. "I hope we never get ourselves into the position of not being a strong running team. The other parts of the game are simply an extension."

But after the Lions passed for 115 more yards than they gained on the ground at Maryland, the impression that they were evolving into a throwing team became a hard one to shake. Nevertheless, the consensus among the coaches is that Maryland was unique situation.

"You almost have to throw against Maryland," Assistant Coach Bob Phillips said. "They like to keep eight people around the ball, and when teams do that it is more difficult to run."

Sophomore flanker Ray Roundtree, who picked up 64 yards on four catches against Maryland, agreed that the game was not necessarily an indication of things to come from the Lions.

"We'll be a balanced team," he said. "It depends on who we play on whether we pass or run."

It's not only Penn State's offensive philosophy that discourages them from trying to become an air power. "We got some cold windy days out there in Beaver Stadium in November," Phillips said. "and sometimes it's not conducive to throwing as much as it is to running."

It wasn't long ago that observers were wondering if Penn State would

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—Frank Rocco, assistant football coach

Up-and-down Owls seek consistency

By MATT HERB
Collegian Sports Writer

Being a winner is one thing. Being a winner year in and year out is something entirely different. Just ask the Temple Owls.

In the 91 years since Temple fielded its first football team, inconsistency has been the only sure thing. Up one year, down the next, the Owls seem to be riding a never-ending rollercoaster.

After four successive losing seasons, the Owls finally broke through the 500 barrier in 1984, posting a 6-3 record under Head Coach Bruce Arians that included wins over Pitt and West Virginia.

The record probably means nothing in itself — the Owls history is littered with winning seasons followed by disastrous failures the next year. What makes 1985 different is that for once there seems to be a commitment to building a quality football program at Temple.

"They've got a very aggressive president," Penn State Head Coach Joe Paterno said. "They've spent a lot of money on promotion, they've got a good hard-working young coach who knows what he's doing and they've got a good program."

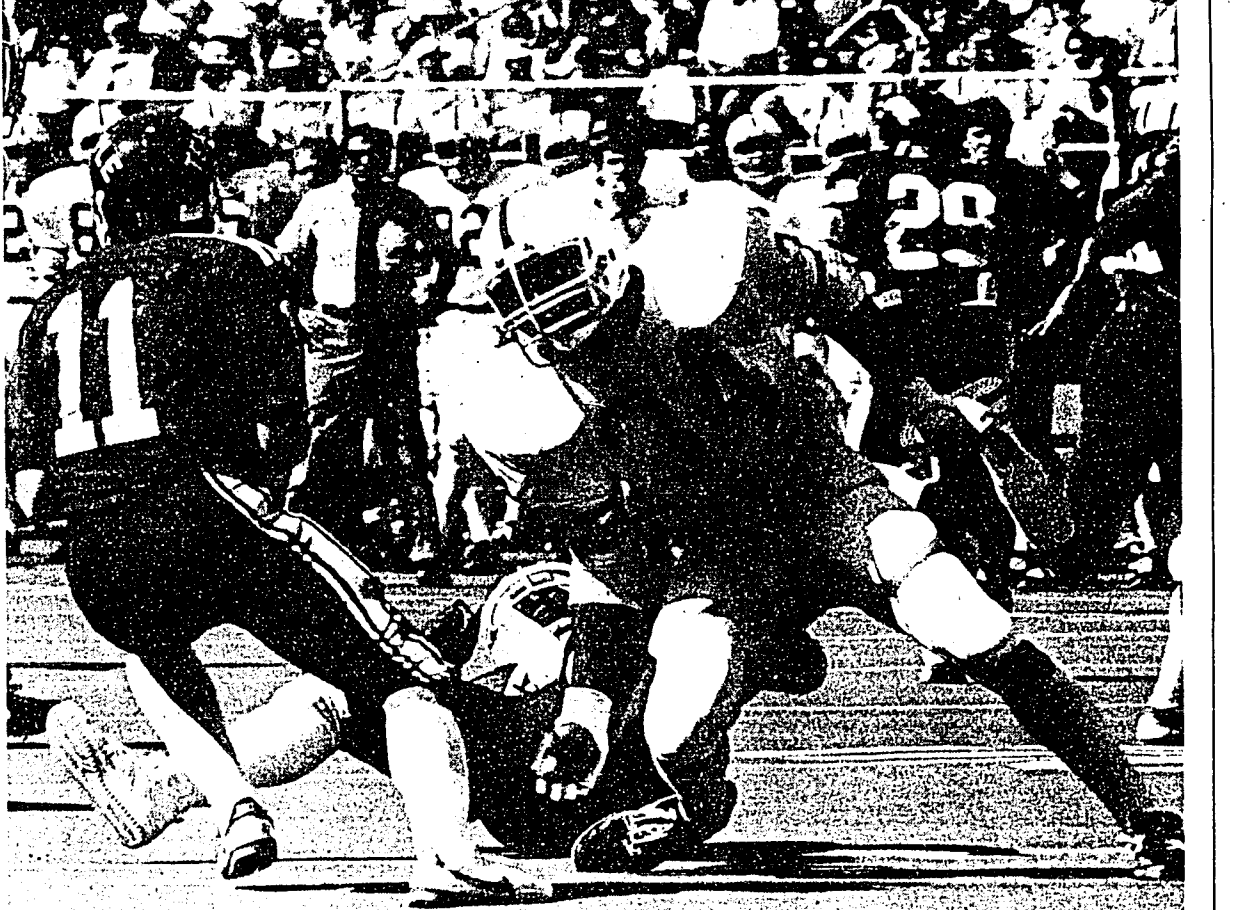
If he makes the Owls sound unbeatable, well, Paterno has never been known to hold back on his praise of the opposing team before an upcoming game. Still there's no denying that the Owls are an improved team since the last time they met Penn State in 1983.

Beyond the record, there are the players. On offense, eight of last season's eleven starters are returning, including Arians' pride and joy, Steve Finkle, a strong blocker who has a legitimate shot at winning All-East honors. Arians goes so far as to say he's all-American material.

If Palmer is to perform up to Arians' highest expectations, he'll be needing some help from fullback Steve Finkle, a strong blocker who has a legitimate shot at winning All-East honors. Arians goes so far as to say he's all-American material.

Defensively, the picture isn't nearly so rosy. As the old cliché goes, when it rains, it pours, and lately the Owl have been sinking in a sea of injuries.

Four of their top eight linebackers weren't available in last week's 29-25 loss to Boston College. All but Lance Chisholm are expected to make the trip to Penn State, but



Penn State's Bob White (24) across in on Temple quarterback Lee Saltz (11) in the Lions' 23-18 victory in 1983 at Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium. The Owls hope to earn their first win of the season when they meet the Lions tomorrow at Beaver Stadium.

whether they'll be at 100 percent remains to be seen.

If that weren't enough, the Owls will miss the services of Steve Finkle, who knows how to run the option, a play that has always sent shivers up the spines of Penn State defenders.

"He's not one of those dominating players," Paterno said of Saltz. "You can walk away from a game and not even know how badly he hurts you, but he runs the option well, he's very careful with the football, he's got a lot of poise, and throws well."

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