

## Inconsistent Lions hold off Temple

By CHRIS RAYMOND  
Collegian Sports Writer

Just as there are two sides to every coin, there are two halves to every football game.

No one can argue that point any clearer than Head Coach Joe Paterno after watching the football team dominate play in the first half of Saturday's game against Temple. "We went flat in the second," Paterno said.

"We played a great first half," Paterno said afterwards. "I guess you just can't play that well for two halves."

Fortunately for Paterno, the Lions' heads-up play in the first 30 minutes of the game was enough for them to escape by their tails, 27-25, at the finish.

After taking a two touchdown lead into the locker room at halftime, Penn State watched its margin of victory dwindle to just two points when Owl tailback Paul Palmer walked 10 yards into the Lion end zone with 4:43 remaining in the game.

"We said while we were in (the locker room) at halftime, we wanted to put them away, we wanted to score 24 more points and we just weren't able to do that," Lion quarterback John Shaffer said. "We came out, we were a little flat, we had some breakdowns, some overthrown passes, some things that just didn't happen in the first half and that hurt us."

Nonetheless, freshman tailback Blair Thomas singlehandedly delivered Penn State from Temple's grasp with a back-breaking kick return immediately after Palmer's touchdown. After receiving the kick on the Penn State goal line, Thomas scampered 58 yards to the Temple 42 before Owl defensive back Pervis Herder brought him down.

The Lion offense took things from there with 3:43 remaining as running backs Steve Smith and David Dozier moved the ball to the Temple six-yard line before Shaffer fell on it to preserve the win.

"When we started that second half we were walking in and out of the huddle," Paterno said in the post-game interview. "In the first half, we had a lot of snap... then the whole pace changed. I think, of course, Temple sensed that. Temple kept getting stronger and we were lucky." Behind the expert running of Penn State fullback D.J. Dozier (11 rushes for 71 yards in first half) and the precision passing of quarterback



Lion fullback Steve Smith (33) looks for running room amid several Temple defenders. Smith led Penn State rushers with 96 yards on the day as the Lions hung on to a 27-25 victory.

John Shaffer (12 for 22 and 188 yards), the Lions built a 24-10 halftime lead. Dozier, however, was forced to leave the game with an undetermined injury just 50 seconds into the second half. "I'm not sure exactly whether it's

the groin or the hamstring," Paterno said. "The team doctors" will know until they see whether it swells up... We'll probably know Monday (today) or Tuesday."

Following Dozier's exit, Palmer took center stage as the Temple tailback rushed for a career high 206

yards in 30 carries. That performance put him fourth on Penn State's single game rushing list behind Ted Brown (N.C. State), Tony Dorsett (Pitt) and Allen Pinkett (Notre Dame). "Palmer is the best back in the East," Temple Head Coach Bruce

Arians said. "He's outrun Dozier and he's outrun (B.C.'s Troy) Stradford. He's been the best since he stepped on our campus. At the end of the year, he'll be where he was last year — first team All-East."

By contrast, the Penn State offense never got back in gear once halftime drew to a close. Shaffer completed only three of 14 passes for 22 yards and Dozier added just 10 yards on two carries before he left the game.

"At times we lacked concentration and that's something we really have to work on," Shaffer said. "With the schedule that we play you can't play one half of football because our opponents will come back. We were very fortunate because the specialty teams played very, very well today and they got us back into the game an awful lot."

Paterno attributed the Lions' mental lapses to the difficult opposition in their first two games. "We've executed so well in the first two halves (against Maryland and Temple), I don't know if you can maintain that over 60 minutes sometimes with as many things as we're trying to do..." he said. "I think we got a little tired."

"(The players) really played three halves of very emotional football — two halves at Maryland and the first half of this football game," he added. "I really felt we just went flat this game."

Temple's first touchdown came on a 50-yard strike from quarterback Lee Saltz (9 of 22 passes for 153 yards) to wide receiver Willie Marshall (4 catches for 96 yards) with 3:20 remaining in the first quarter. Penn State regained the lead 3:38 later on a four-yard run by Dozier. The Lions then added 10 points in the second quarter on a 43-yard Massimo Manca field goal and an 11-yard touchdown pass from Shaffer to spillend Darrell Giles.

Penn State added a 39-yard Manca field goal at 12:22 in the second quarter. Halfback Lance Hamilton forced the fumble.

Palmer scored both of the Owls' second half touchdowns on runs of 29 and 10 yards.

Temple jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first quarter of the game on a 46-yard field goal by kicker Jim Cooper. The Lions got their first lead in the ball game on a two-yard touchdown run by fullback Tim Manoa.

### PSU/Temple Stats

Team Statistics	PSU	T
First Downs	30	20
Rushes-yards	59-265	44-277
Passing Yardage	220	153
Passes-attempt.	14-22	22-30
Int.	36-15-2	22-9-0
Total offensive yards	485	430
Return Yards	34	12
Fumbles lost	2-1	4-3
Punts (number-avg.)	5-38.4	6-46.7
Penalties-Yards	4-35	3-23
Possession-Time	35:28	24:32

#### Scoring Summary

Temple — Cooper, 46-yard field goal  
PSU — Manoa, 2-yard run (Manca kick)  
Temple — Marshall, 50-yard pass from Saltz (Wright kick)  
PSU — Dozier, 4-yard run (Manca kick)  
PSU — Manca, 43-yard field goal  
PSU — Giles, 11-yard pass from Shaffer (Manca kick)  
Temple — Palmer, 29-yard run (Wright kick)  
PSU — Manca, 39-yard field goal  
Temple — Palmer, 10-yard run

#### Final individual statistics

Rushing — Penn State Smith 13-96, Dozier 13-81, Clark 16-61, Manoa 9-44, Shaffer 8-(17) Totals 99-255. Temple Palmer 20-206, McNair 7-52, Glover 2-20, Pooles 3-11, Slatz 2-(12) Totals 44-277.  
Passing — Penn State Shaffer 15-22-220, Temple Saltz 9-22-153.  
Pass Receiving — Penn State Hamilton 3-45, Dozier 3-35, Roundtree 2-46, Giles 2-29, Clark 2-8, Manoa 1-21, DiMidio 1-21, Silverling 1-15, Glover 1-25, Primus 1-13.  
Punting — Penn State Bruno 5-192-38.4, Temple Shenefelt 6-200-46.7.  
Field Goals — Penn State Manca 3-39, Temple Cooper 1-2.  
Punt Returns — Penn State Thomas 1-24, Coates 1-20, Temple Bongiovanni 2-10.  
Kickoff Returns — Penn State Thomas 4-115, Coates 1-19, Temple McNair 3-54, Garzocykus 1-20, Marshall 2-10, Herdell 1-4.  
Interception Returns — Penn State none, Temple Palkauskas 1-2.

## Owls fumble away game

By MATT HERB  
Collegian Sports Writer

When all was said and done after Saturday's game, Temple's offensive line pushed Penn State up and down the field. It opened gaping holes for tailback Paul Palmer, who rushed for 206 yards. It mauled the Lions' defense, forcing Michael Zordich, Bob White and Tim Johnson out of the game. It protected quarterback Lee Saltz, allowing only one sack. And it lost the game.

For Head Coach Bruce Arians, the defeat was a bitter pill to swallow. Even Palmer's stellar performance couldn't take the sting out of the Owls' second heartbreaking loss in a row.

"I'm disappointed to be 0-2," Arians said. "We played three and one half good quarters today and should have won the football game. A win would have made us 1-1 with a chance to be something special. I'm tired of playing them close."

Palmer's performance ranked high in at least three categories and probably a few more that haven't been discovered yet. For starters, it topped his previous personal best in at least three categories and probably a few more that haven't been discovered yet. For starters, it topped his previous personal best in at least three categories and probably a few more that haven't been discovered yet.

Palmer also passed some of his glory on to fullback Shelley Pooles, but it was the line that cleared out the middle and gave him room on the outside on Temple's sweeps and options. The man who opened a lot of those holes, All-American guard John Ruenstra, was quick to praise Palmer's effort. He added, however, that the reality of the loss hadn't hit him yet.

"Right now my body's just hurting and the adrenaline is still flowing and I haven't thought much about it," he said. "I'm just trying to play the game."

source of frustration for the Owls. "I thought we had them the whole second half right where we wanted them," Arians said, "but we're the nicest team in the world. We'd stop them and we'd give them the ball back on the 20 yard line on two fumbled punts. That's the whole football game. We owned them right there."

Though Palmer's performance may not have meant as much as a win to the Owls, it did give Temple some hope for the future.

"He's a great little player," Arians said. "He's outrun (D.J.) Dozier, he's outrun (BC tailback Troy) Stradford. He's the best back in the East, bar none, and he's proven it. And I think by the end of the season he'll have what he gets every year, he's got it the last two years and that's first team All-East."

But even Arians, who predicted that the Owls would be able to run well against Penn State, couldn't have imagined just how prolific the 5-foot-10, 180-pound junior would be. The statistics tell part of the story, but Palmer's performance ranked high in at least three categories and probably a few more that haven't been discovered yet.

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## Rutgers ties No. 3 Florida

By HERSCHEL NISSENSON  
AP Sports Writer

The nation's longest winning and losing streaks came to an end Saturday but it was the same old story for Notre Dame — another loss for Gerry Faust.

Third-ranked Florida blew a 28-7 lead and settled for a 23-23 tie with Rutgers, snapping the Gators' 10-game winning streak, although they still are unbeaten in 12 games. Meanwhile, Indiana ended a 16-game losing streak by defeating Louisville 41-28.

But there only was more misery for 13th-ranked Notre Dame, which lost to Michigan 20-12 as Jim Harbaugh and Gerald White scored touchdowns and Michigan's defense came up with six sacks.

Harbaugh scored on a 10-yard quarterback draw 1:40 into the second half to put Michigan ahead for the first time 10-9. And after Notre Dame's John Carney tied a school record with his fourth field goal to put the Irish ahead 12-10, Michigan drove 80 yards after the ensuing kickoff — aided by a roughing the passer penalty against Notre Dame tackle Wally Klein — and scored on a 3-yard plunge. Michigan had been the butt of numerous jokes during the summer, including this one:

Q. What did Brigham Young accomplish last season that only five other teams did?  
A. Beat Michigan.  
But, said Coach Bo Schembechler, "This means we're decent. We're not the dog people think we are."  
Harbaugh's touchdown came after Notre Dame's Alonzo Jefferson fumbled the second-half kickoff.

"It was one time the Lord looked down on somebody other than Notre Dame," Schembechler said. "The Wolverines even trumped

Notre Dame's heralded Allen Pinkett, holding him to 94 yards in 22 carries while Michigan's Jamie Morris rushed for 121 on 23 attempts.  
"In the Detroit press, Allen Pinkett was saying, 'I don't know who Jamie Morris is,'" Morris said. "He knows now."

Faust said Michigan "controlled the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball. We aren't going to win when they do that. They had a better rush and an open up better holes. If we can't open holes, our game won't go."

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## Practice makes perfect for freshman Thomas

By MARK ASHENFELTER  
Collegian Sports Writer

For Blair Thomas, the week leading up to Saturday's game against Temple was one filled with several questions and a lot of hard work in practice.

Thomas, a freshman from Philadelphia's Frankford High, saw playing time in the Lions' season-opening win over Maryland, but the results were nothing to write home about.

Although he averaged 24 yards on two kickoff returns, returned a punt for nine yards and had one carry, the highly-touted tailback had a day that could give a freshman nightmares.

His one kickoff return ended in a fumble and led to a quick Maryland touchdown, while his lone play from scrimmage also was fumbled to the Terrapins.

It was a lesson Thomas would not allow himself to forget and he spent last week trying to rectify his problem. "Last week I was a little nervous," Thomas said. "I had to practice all week on tucking the ball under and different things here and there."

But, did thoughts of more fumbles haunt Thomas throughout the week? "I just let that rest," he said. "That was last week's problem."

Thomas did, however, spend a little time wondering if he would see action against Temple.

"It was in the back of my mind a little bit," he said. "In practice we went over the kickoff returns and I was doing pretty good. I picked up all my blocking assignments when the other person received the ball, so I felt comfortable going into this game that I was going to play."

And play he did as Thomas returned four kickoffs for 115 yards, including a 58-yarder that helped the Lions hang on for a 27-25 victory over the Owls. After averaging 19 yards on his first three efforts, Thomas saved his best for last and the timing was

perfect as far as the Lions were concerned. Temple had just executed a seven-play, 72-yard scoring drive and tacked on the two-point conversion to close to within two, 27-25, with 3:43 remaining. Temple Head Coach Bruce Arians ruled against an on-sides kick, believing his defense would hold the Lions and give his offense a final chance to win the game.

Enter Thomas. The 5-10, 181 pounder took the ensuing kickoff several yards deep in the end zone and returned it to the Temple 42 yard line, before being pulled down by the Owls' Pervis Herder. The Lions proceeded to run out the clock and the Owls' hopes of an upset.

"It was a wedge return and I just saw a little crack so I didn't think about anything else," he said. "I just tried to squeeze through there... It broke to the left so I just tried to take it from there."

Besides boosting Thomas' confidence, he said the play had added meaning for him because he grew up just 15 minutes from the Temple campus and had been recruited by Arians.

Lion Head Coach Joe Paterno, who told Thomas that Maryland had stuck a slippery one in" on the two fumbles a week ago, was glad to see his freshman respond so positively this time.

"I think it was great to see Thomas come out of that thing the way he did," Paterno said. "That was obviously a big big play."

While Thomas said he gained confidence with Saturday's performance he hopes he can earn the confidence of his coaches and eventually earn some playing time in the tailback slot. With D.J. Dozier and David Clark injured, Thomas says this week will be an important one for him.

"It (a good game) builds up your confidence going into the next game," he said. "Next week I think I'll feel more confident. I hope I can produce enough this week in practice that I can show them that I can play."

## Reserves come through for defense

By MARK BRENNAN  
Collegian Sports Writer

On most football squads, the second-team players are lucky to get in for 10 or 15 plays in a game.

But for Penn State's second-team defense, it is a different story. In the past two weeks, many of the defense's "reserves" for the Lions have been playing as much as, if not more than, the starters.

In the opening game against Maryland, the second team played nearly one half of the game in the 90-degree heat in College Park, Md. Saturday against Temple, injuries to a number of defensive starters brought several second-team players on the field early in the game.

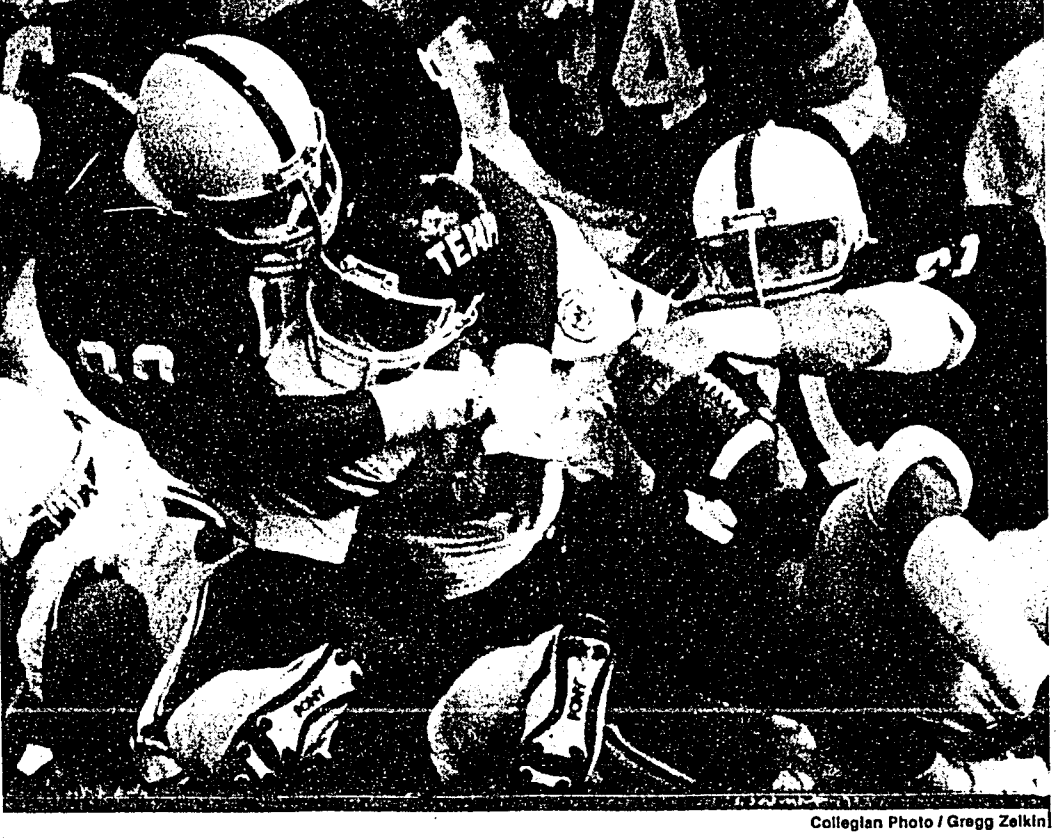
The injury list following the Temple game reads like a who's-who on the Penn State defense. Defensive tackle Mike Russo didn't play at all due to an injured knee. Hero Michael Zordich went down in the first quarter with a bruised leg. Defensive end Bob White went out with an injured knee at the beginning of the second half and tackle Tim Johnson was sent for X-rays on an injured leg in the fourth quarter.

Aoatou Polamalu, who started in place of Russo, said that seeing a lot of action in the Maryland game gave the second team confidence.

"I thought it was a lot easier (against Temple) because everybody had confidence in each other," Polamalu said. "We were ready for it, because we already played against a bigger line."

Barry Buchman, who came in for Zordich, turned in one of the better defensive performances for the Lions.

Buchman finished with six tackles (five unassisted) and made a spectacular diving tackle on Temple tailback Paul Palmer, throwing him for a five-yard loss. Dan Ginnetti, playing for White, also made a spectacular play. In the third quarter, Ginnetti fought off several blocks and threw Temple wide receiver Keith Glover for a five-yard loss on a reverse play. The Owls burned the Lions for 25 yards on the same play at the beginning of the second quarter. Zordich said although he was frustrated watching the game from the sidelines, he had confidence in Buchman and the other second-team players. "I think they did a pretty good job," Zordich said. "I know on a couple of plays they made some mistakes, but they also made some real nice plays. They've been playing well for us, and I think they did a real good job."



Defensive lineman Aoatou Polamalu (99) makes his presence felt as he brings down a Temple ball carrier Saturday at Beaver Stadium. Polamalu was just one of many defensive reserves who came up big in the Lions' 27-25 win over the Owls.

Defensive captain Rogers Alexander agreed with Zordich and said although the reserves may have played more against Maryland, they contributed just as much against Temple.

"We've always had capable backups," Alexander said. "They showed themselves against Maryland. I don't think they played as much today as they did against Maryland, but when they came in, they made their presence felt."

With all of the injuries to the Lions' defense, Temple may have come across as a very physical team. But Zordich did not think the physical play led to the injuries.

"I don't think they were that physical," Zordich said. "They're a tough team, but I don't think most of the injuries were because of that. I thought a game like last week's, with the heat, that more guys would have gone down. But this week, it was just the opposite. I just can't explain it."

Head Coach Joe Paterno said the Temple offense was playing very hard and that may led to the injuries.

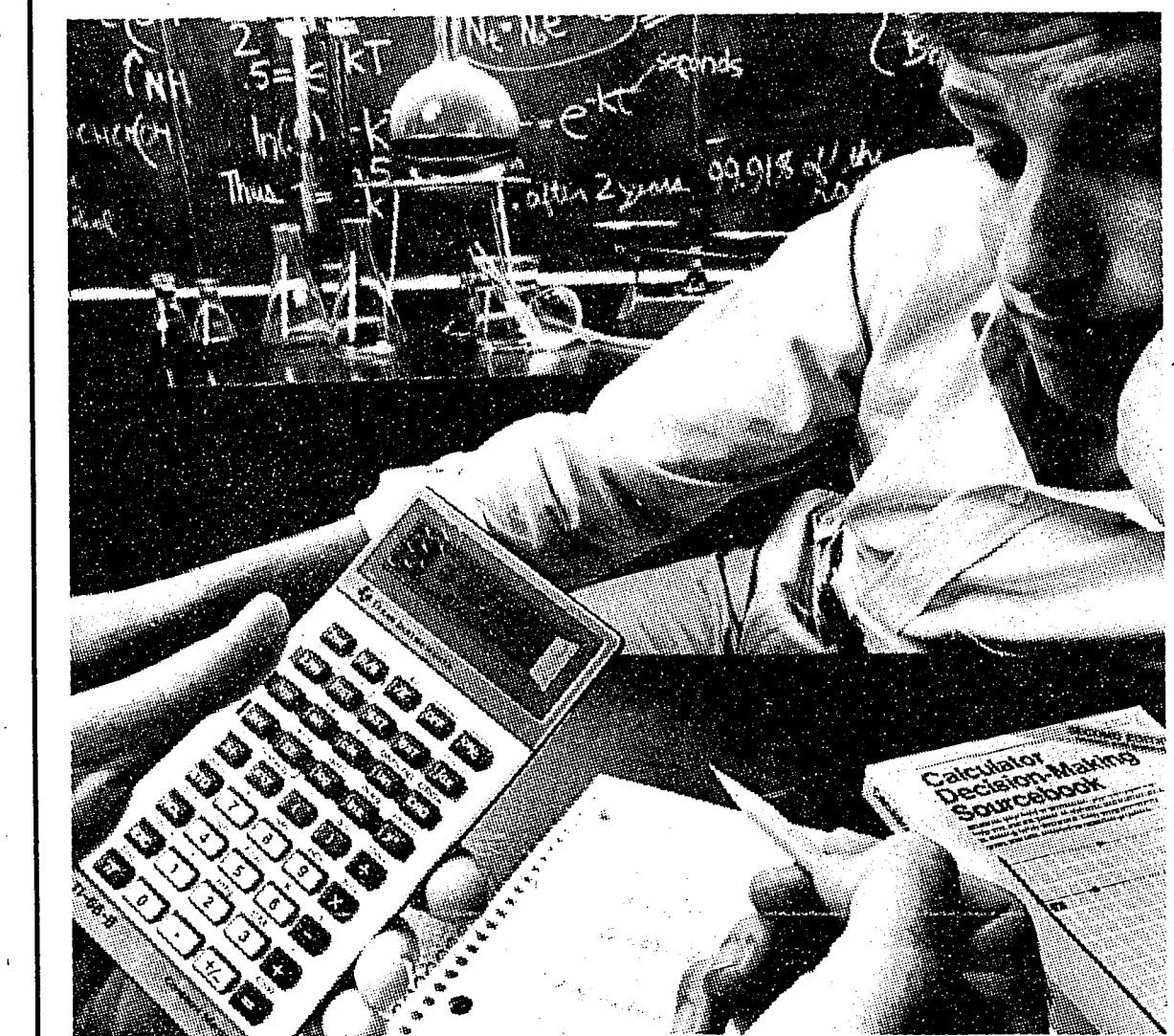
"They were going at each other in there," Paterno said. "That was a tough football team. Probably, the offensive line is the best I've ever seen at Temple."

Paterno's praise for the Temple offense may have been an understatement. The Owls virtually controlled the line of scrimmage in the second half as Palmer exploded for 142 yards on 19 carries.

Palmer finished the day with 206 yards on 30 carries. Paterno said the Lions came out flat in the second half. He felt the team lost some of the spark it had in the first half.

"We were so flattened," Paterno said. "The first half, we were running in and out. Then the whole pace changed, we were walking in and out of the huddle."  
Zordich felt it was a matter of consistency, or a lack of it.

"Our defense was inconsistent," Zordich said. "I thought we did a good job with the turnovers and kind of held our own, but we still have to get better. We are just too inconsistent right now."



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