

Red Sox, Mets prepare for World Series finale

By JOHN NELSON
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Boston Manager John McNamara finally had a chance to get to some sleep last night. New York Mets pitcher Ron Darling got a little extra rest and probably so sleep.

For Darling, who will start Game 7, the rainout means an extra day's rest and an extra night to wonder about the outcome.

The Series' last game now will be played at 8:10 p.m. EST tonight, placing it in direct competition with the NFL's Monday night football game — this week, the New York Giants vs. the Washington Redskins.

McNamara said yesterday he was still undecided about his starting pitcher for Game 7. Dennis "Oil Can" Boyd is scheduled to start, but McNamara said he would confer with his pitching coach before deciding whether to go with Boyd, the loser in Game 3, or perhaps bring back Game 1 and Game 5 winner Bruce Hurst on three days' rest.

"I will consult with Bill Fischer tonight. We have a lot to run by one another and the whole coaching staff will be involved. There's a lot of detail to it, before we can make an announcement," he said at a news conference after the game was called off.

Steelers finally victorious in Pittsburgh

By The Associated Press

The Pittsburgh Steelers won their first home game of the season and the Miami Dolphins, another struggling team, won for the first time on the road in Sunday's NFL action.

Steelers won for the first time in four home games this season and ended a four-game losing streak against the Bengals.

Dolphins 17, Colts 13
Quarterback Dan Marino passed for 243 yards and a touchdown and Miami's John Offerdahl made a game-saving tackle at the Dolphins' 14-yard line in the closing seconds, preserving the victory over the Colts, 6-0.

It was the Dolphins' 13th straight victory over the Colts, the longest current string in the league.

Jets 23, Saints 23
Al Toon, the NFL's leading receiver, caught three touchdown passes from Ken O'Brien as the Jets won a club-record sixth straight game. New York built a 28-6 lead through three quarters and withstood New Orleans' 17-point final period to raise its record to 7-1 in the AFC East.

Chicago 13, Detroit 7
Linebacker Wilber Marshall's one-man sack, strip and 12-yard touchdown fumble return led Chicago over Detroit. Marshall, in one fell swoop, sacked quarterback Eric Hipple, forced a fumble, recovered and returned 12 yards for the Bears' only touchdown early in the first quarter.

Kevin Butler kicked two field goals, including a 27-yarder with 18 seconds remaining in the game.

EAGLES 23, Chargers 7
Philadelphia's defense shut down the explosive San Diego offense and Paul McCadden kicked Gary Anderson kicked three field goals as the

Washington visits the New York Giants in Monday night's game.

Earnest Jackson and Walter Abercrombie ran for more than 100 yards each and Mark Malone returned from a two-week injury layoff to throw two touchdown passes as Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati.

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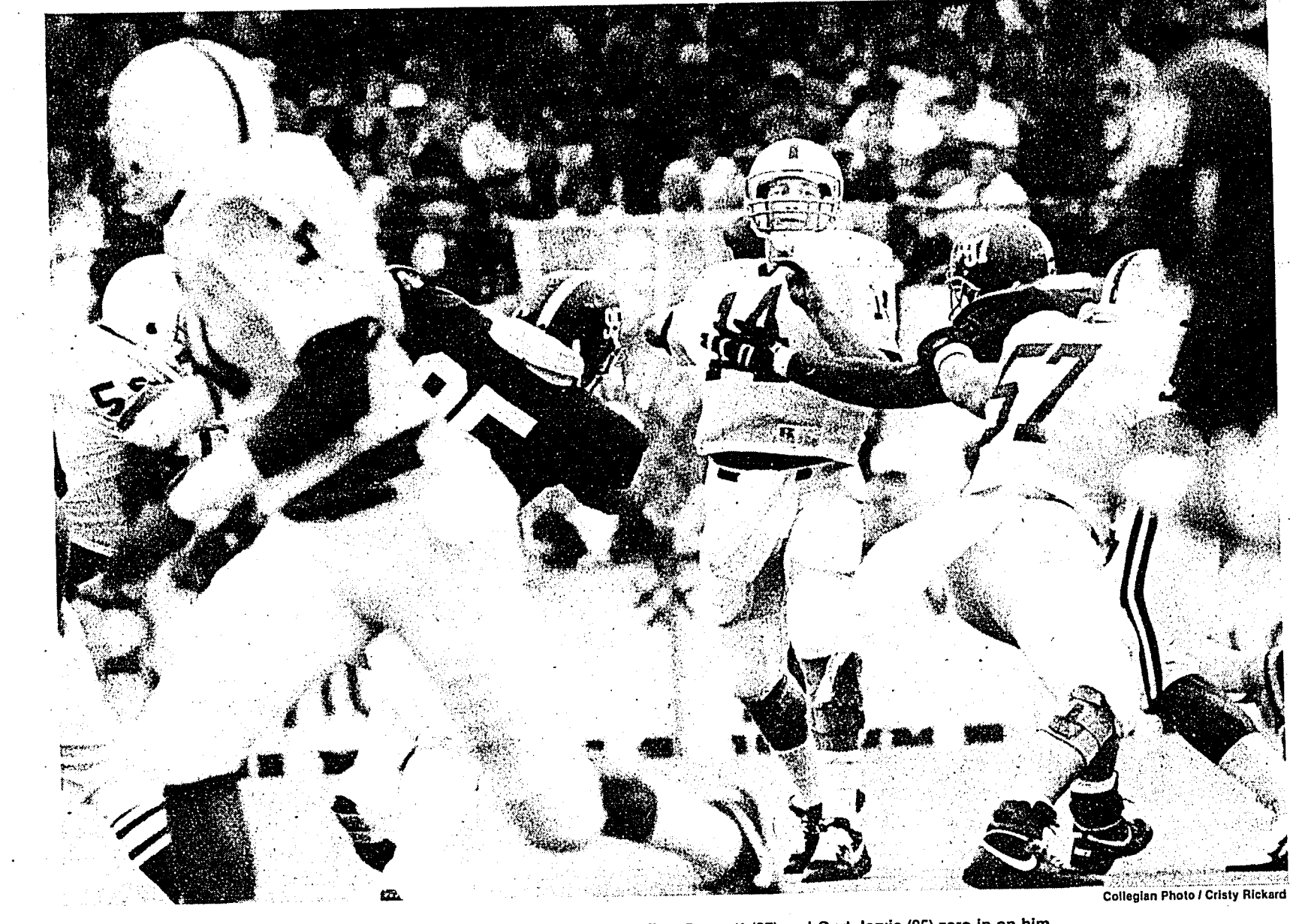
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Penn State quarterback John Shaffer prepares to throw as Alabama's Cornelius Bennett (97) and Curt Jarvis (50) zero in on him.

Lions

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games in attendance, speculation has already focused on a matchup with No. 1 Miami on New Year's Day.

When asked, Paterno seemed eager to play anyone, anywhere, at any time.

"Someone would have to play awfully well to beat us the way we're playing right now," Paterno said. "I don't know how good we are. . . I think in the last 10 or 11 games we've played as well as we can."

Though the offense was the key for Penn State, the defense can't be overlooked. Alabama averaged a paltry 3.4 yards per play and gained just 75 yards after interception. Starting at an 11-point halftime deficit, the Crimson Tide struggled for the three first downs it managed in the second half.

Two of those first downs came in the final five minutes, when the out-come was long decided. Alabama helped seal its fate with five turnovers, as quarterback Mike Shula's drive was intercepted twice and the three of the Tide's five fumbles wound up in the hands of Lions.

Although Penn State's offense posted 14 first-half points, they didn't come easy. And they didn't come at all until Alabama had taken a 3-0 lead on a 41-yard field goal by Van Thiffin.

"It was a huge hole, simply because the linemen stuck to their men and pushed them across," Dozier said. "I cut back, someone picked up the linemen and I went to the end zone."

Eddie Johnson's interception of Shula set the stage for Blair Thomas, who starred on the Lions' next scoring drive. The sophomore gained 53 of the 77 yards, including the final three on a double reverse after Shaffer had handed the ball to Dozier. Thomas said the Tide was caught off guard by the play, which Paterno said went for a touchdown against Alabama four years ago.

The lead was big enough, but the Lions weren't through. Kicker Massimo Manca broke out of a season-long slump at the right time for the Lions. The senior booted field goals of 37, 29 and 42 yards as Penn State washed away the criticism it received for its early-season schedule.

Paterno thought the balance of offense, a strong offensive line and the play of Shaffer were the reasons his club ran all over the Crimson Tide. The Lions ran into the heart of Alabama's line all afternoon, but Paterno said he wasn't trying to exploit any particular weakness.

"We didn't just run right at them," he said. "I think our passing helped us as much in this game as anything we've done. . . I think the offensive line did a super job, but we had a good balance today."

Paterno also talked a good game, this one prior to the opening kickoff. He went down the Alabama schedule, which included victories over Ohio State, Florida and Notre Dame to name three, and showed his players that all of those teams were struggling. In fact, six of the Tide's seven opponents had losing records entering Saturday's action. Only two of Penn State's first six foes were below .500.

"I told the players) not to let the people intimidate you by saying that we haven't played anybody," Paterno said. "I said both teams have something to prove today. . . Let's just look at it that way and let's not think we've got anything more to prove than they do."

Offensive guard Dan Morgan said Paterno's talk was slightly out of character for the veteran coach, who won his 19th game. The total ties him with Howard Jones for 12th place on the all-time victory list for major-college coaches.

"When you play a big game like this he doesn't really need to say much," Morgan said. "He knows that and he really said more today than he usually does."

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Booters earn win, tie this weekend

By STACEY JACOBSON
Collegian Sports Writer

Last Friday night at Jeffrey Field, Penn State soccer fans were treated to a prime example of grace under pressure.

Friday night and ended their game against the University of Connecticut in a 3-1 tie. Their record now stands at 9-4-5.

Friday night's game began as so many other Penn State matches have — beautiful shots but no goals. This streak ended 28 minutes into the first half when Jan Skorpen nailed his 15th goal of the season.

The pressure stemmed from the fact that the Lions had to beat the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame in order to have a chance at an NCAA tournament bid.

The first half ended with the Lions up 1-0.

"Everything was working really well," said midfielder Steve Potter. "The energy was high and when the energy is high and people want to work hard, everything falls in place."

Netwomen down Penn

By ANN GARRETT
Collegian Sports Writer

Victory is what every team strives for, but not many win with the style and consistency of the women's tennis team. Fitted against a strong and experienced Penn State squad, the "young" Lady Lions gave it their all and gave up only one match in front of supportive fans Saturday at the Penn State Tennis Club.

set wins. Caroline Pierce (2-6, 6-1, 6-3) and Christie Ellis (2-6, 6-1, 6-3) both started slow, but picked up No. 4 and No. 3 wins.

Kelly Nelson and Lisa Thomas notched two-set wins at the third and sixth positions, by posting scores of 6-3, 6-4 and 6-2, 6-4, respectively. Thomas, who played her first singles match of the season Saturday after recovering from a sprained ankle, said she was anxious going into the match.

"The 8-1 win ups Penn State's record to 5-0, and was probably its most hard-fought victory of the season. . . We knew that if we were going to win against a team like Penn, every-one would have to play very good tennis," said Head Coach Jan Bortner.

The Lady Lions won four of the contest's five three-set matches, often rebounding after losing the first set. Bortner saw these wins as a positive sign of the progress his team is making.

"They showed a lot of fight, spirit, and most importantly, when we were down, we fought back," Bortner said. "That's the sign of a team playing hard and determined. We probably played as well as we could have played; we looked real sharp."

Penn State's only loss came at No. 1 singles, where Darrell Adams dropped a 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 match. Claudia Karabadian (No. 2) battled back from a 2-6 first set loss to notch 6-2, 6-3

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Offense no problem this time around

By CHRIS RAYMOND
Collegian Sports Writer

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — All through the 1985 season, Head Coach Joe Paterno argued that his Nittany Lions were capable of challenging for a national title, but the specter of Penn State's defense held an explosive Alabama offense to just 44 yards on the ground — 216 total.

Crimson Tide quarterback Mike Shula suffered one of the worst performances of his career completing 16 of 39 passes including one to Penn State cornerback Eddie Johnson and one to safety Ray Ison. When he wasn't mistiring balls, Shula was running from Lion defensive backs and linebackers. He was eventually sacked five times for 32 yards.

Alabama Coach Ray Perkins attributed Shula's misfortune to Penn State's pursuit.

"Mike Shula missed some throws. He didn't have his best day," Perkins said. "But. . . we had trouble protecting the passer. It's tough for him when he has to dodge those bullets."

Sandusky, in turn, credited the success of the Penn State pursuit to the play of the offense.

"We really didn't do anything different from what we've been doing," he said. "We were able to adjust a little bit to what (Alabama) does but I think there were some outstanding individual efforts."

"We kept alternating all those kids up front and I think they had as much to do with it as anything. There were some people who were still fresh and the offense kept the ball (long enough) so when we were out there we were fresh."

"I think rightfully so we were criticized last year. A couple of times we had to move the ball in crucial situations and we didn't get it done."

— Brian Siverling, tight end

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