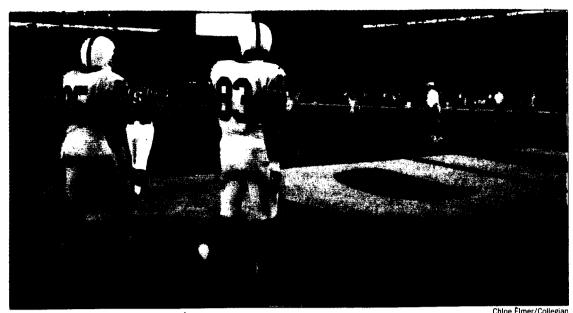
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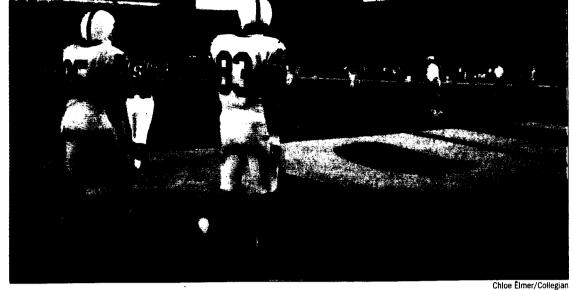


Chloe Elmer/Collegian Joe Paterno (left) greets Alabama coach Nick Saban.

The Nittany Lions traveled to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, losing to the No. 1 Crimson Tide 24-3 in the teams' first meeting since a Lions victory in 1990.



Darlus Hanks (15) outruns the Penn State captains Oille Ogbu (85) and Brett Bracket (83) walk onto the field of Bryant-Denny Stadium. Penn State defense.



Joe Paterno (center) and members of the Nittany Lion football team stand on the sideline. The Lions committed four turnovers Saturday night in the loss to No. 1 Alabama.

Run game

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have to make plays for him," Green said of Bolden. "O-line. they blocked their behinds off today. Just the skill guys, we have to make more plays than what we did [Saturday].

Right guard Stefen Wisniewski thought the offensive line was productive this week. But with a rushing attack slipping in the yardsper-carry category, the failures of the Penn State rushers are due in part to a line still searching for consistency.

Left guards DeOn'tae Pannell and Johnnie Troutman rotated at yards combined in two games this

the position again. Pannell started the game, but Troutman took control of left guard at the end.

The offensive line had the task of going up against a quick Crimson Tide defense. Alabama's blitz packages and pressure from the front-four defensive linemen translated into run stoppage and errant Bolden throws, several of which were low or in and out of defenders' hands or thrown for interceptions.

That is a really tough physical football team we played," Jay Paterno said. "I think they proba-bly out-toughed us a lot in some situations.'

Royster has yet to break 80

season, and the most productive Penn State tailback has been true freshman Silas Redd, who averaged almost six yards a carry in his first two games.

Wisniewski spoke of the rushing attack comparatively and said he thought the Lions ran the ball better against Youngstown, though the combination of Royster. Redd and Green averaged one less yard per carry on Saturday when compared to the Youngstown State

'I know we were moving them at times, opening some holes at Wisniewski said. "We drove the ball well a lot.'

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Bolden

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capitalized right away with a touchdown drive to go up by two scores. The Lions would never get any closer.

Joe Paterno characterized Bolden's performance as "good and bad, which you expect with a tough crowd and tough football team.'

Brett Senior receiver Brackett, the offensive captain, said Bolden had no troubles managing the huddle or the hostile environment. Brackett said the game could be a learning experience for Bolden, who

"He did a great job handling the noise."

Brett Brackett

reciever

made some easily correctible mistakes.

'You've gotta look back on the film and just try to learn from every little thing you can," Brackett said. "I thought he did a great job handling the crowd noise, handling the pressure and all that kind of stuff."

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Lions

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the roster, and its stallion cut up Penn State's front seven for

more than six yards a carry. Rarely was Trent Richardson tackled by one defender, too cool for that, so natural changing direction, knows patience yet wants to get upfield and deliver the blow. He dragged Chris Colasanti into the end zone on his one-yard touchdown run. No back in State College could simulate the combination of speed and

"He doesn't stop running," said Penn State defensive coordinator Tom Bradley. "You see he keeps going, and we gotta knock him back, and we did too much arm tackling and didn't hit him in the mouth.'

Frankly, Alabama's offense worked at its leisure Saturday night, pound Richardson against a defense with no difference

maker, throw the ball to anybody and challenge a passive defensive backfield to tackle in the open

It's got to be a sickening feeling tor Bradley and his detense, a unit that prides itself on fundamentals, positioning, pursuit, tackling, to be outmanned. It wasn't going to hold up over four quarters, not with humidity that felt like a hot rag on your fore-

No satisfaction

The sweat was still dripping off Stephfon Green's face after a shower and change of clothes into his suit, topped off with a gold cross dangling from his neck.

'We got our behinds kicked, and it's unacceptable," he said. "As a whole team, we just need to get back in this film room, and somebody needs to step up. I'm not saying we don't have leaders. but somebody has to step up when we're down and make a play."

Penn State reeked of frustration, and rightfully so, botching up three legitimate scoring drives inside the 30-yard line.

Puzzled by his own coach questioning whether he pro team for what it walked into Saturday night, Green shook his head, insisting this team was ready.

But how so?

State looked a little unsure of itself, unsure if it knew it belonged on the field with the

An offense capable of putting up points had a very raw Tide defense on its heels but folded when the stakes were raised. Not ready. Not yet.

Strangely, it was the youth who clenched their fists and tried to pop the cork for the Nittany Lions. Si Redd tweeted a "Shock the World" hashtag earlier in the week to galvanize a program. Rob Bolden's poise never wavered,

not when Nick Saban, Bobby

midfield during pregame, not when he three Tide defender came bearing down on him, causing him to fling the ball up for grabs in a sea of crimson shirts stuck his nose in to recover both fumbled snaps or when his best scoring chance was being returned 75 yards the other way.

Maybe they don't know any better, weren't aware the formula to knock off the defending champs wasn't a mistake-free, vanilla offense, as it was in Columbus in 2008 and years before.

The satisfaction from Saturday night is knowing there's talent to contend with an SEC power, with an upper-echelon opponent.

What then, is keeping the transition from happening, keeping a team flex its muscles and command a stage of its own?

Green candid speak was refreshing. This is an offense of playmakers leashed from making

And you can look no farther

than the two-minute postgame squabble by the coach with the short temper, the short leash, making his return to a town that loves the game as much as he does and isn't afraid to show it town where fans dress in a houndstooth hat, a white shirt and tie tucked into crimson

slacks. A stadium where the starters are introduced over the loudspeakers and really are presented as the rock stars their state views them as.

"It's all over now"

"We came down here knowing how good they were, and we didn't rise up to it," Paterno said. "I'm not just blaming the kids. I thought our kids didn't play well, and I don't think we did a good job coaching. Period."

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Absent

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position, Moye's hustle temporarily kept the Tide out of the endzone. Moye was also one of Bolden's top targets as his 69 receiving

yards were a game high. Defense: cornerback D'Anton

one of the best wide receivers in college football and Julio Jones didn't completely have his way with Lynn. The junior limited

tacker, making nine stops. But when the cornerback is the leading tackler, there are some concerns with the front seven.

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Offense: running back Evan

The senior who has his sights set on becoming Penn State's all The cornerback was up against time leading rusher, failed to run n't consistently pressure Tide for more than 50 yards for the second consecutive week.

Royster finished the game with nine carries for 32 yards and Jones to four catches for 49 yards caught just two pass out of the ing like crazy for Joe Paterno as off and spoke about his relation-

and was also the Lions' leading backfield for a paltry -6 yards. Defense: Defensive tackle Ollie Ogbu

Bowden and Joe Paterno met at

After making a strong impression in the opening game, the senior recorded just three tackles and was the anchor to a defensive line that couldn't stop Alabama's run game. Ogbu was spelled by Jordan Hill and the defensive line recorded just two sacks and couldquarterback Greg McElroy.

Did you notice?

he jogged off into the tunnel after giving ESPN his analysis at the half ... Gerald Hodges was hurt on the first play of the game and spent most of the night on the sidelines on crutches after sustaining what he called a bone bruise on his left leg. Hodges said his injury will keep him out a few weeks

Extra Point

Former Florida State coach Bobby Bowden was on hand as an invited guest by Alabama. Bowden The Alabama fans were cheer- addressed the media before kick-

ship with Paterno and complimented the job Nick Saban has done as a coach.

The three coaches, who combine for six national championships, met at midfield before kickoff and received a strong applause from the crowd.

Quotable

Joe Paterno when asked why he said he was out coached: "Oh I don't know, I said it. I haven't got the slightest idea. Well tough, get a hearing aid. I'm not in any mood."

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