

## Offense

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More glaring, the Lions' second opportunity in the red zone resulted in gaining only five yards after Ramsey dropped another punt and the Lions started at the nine-yard line.

Similar to the first red-zone opportunity, the Lions threw the ball on 3rd-and-short, resulting in an incompletion after a batted ball.

"I thought we had some of the right schemes called in the red zone that we wanted," Jay Paterno said.

"We didn't execute a couple things and then we had the 3rd-and-4, we had a back go the wrong way on the protection, so that killed us."

Running back Evan Royster failed to pick up defensive lineman Justin Staples while Staples and linebacker Nate Bussey, who blew by left tackle Quinn Barham, broke

up the attempted pass play.

Jay Paterno said the team had practiced the play all week, but Royster missed the block, something indicative of the whole team.

"We got to make sure we tighten the ship down and make sure that we all stick together and get after it," Jay Paterno said.

"We're going to evaluate everything, the play calling, all those kind of things."

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## Last Word

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where once again we've got to pick ourselves up, reevaluate ourselves and we've got to go forward."

What lies ahead for the Lions certainly won't be any easier. With games against Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State highlighting the rest of the schedule, the bye week won't be a time for rest.

With several defensive players being thrust into more prominent roles, the Lions can't afford to take time off from preparations heading into the second part of the season.

"We've got to see who's gonna step up and see who's gonna shrink back because this is definitely not where we expected to be as players or where the fans saw us either," senior Stefen Wisniewski said. "We're gonna really need to take a good look at ourselves and decide if we want it or not."

### Day to remember

Offense: Derek Moye

But Moye called his own 80-yard touchdown catch forgettable after the loss, so Illinois kick and punt returner Jack Ramsey is a better choice. Penn State's best field position was the result of Illinois' poor special teams play.

The Fighting Illini did their best to gift-wrap several scoring opportunities for the Nittany Lions, and Ramsey's two fumbles gave Penn

State plenty of scoring opportunities. But drives starting at the Illinois 23-yard line and the Illinois nine-yard line resulted in field goals.

Defense: Khairi Fortt

The true freshman came in for his first start of the season and filled in for senior Bani Gbadyu. Fortt, a native of Stamford, Conn., showed inexperience at points during the game, but his natural athleticism was apparent. He recorded 11 tackles and displayed lateral quickness to keep up with Illinois' shifty backs.

### Day to forget

Offense: Rob Bolden

The freshman completed 8-of-21 passes and threw for just 142 yards. Take away the explosive 80-yard touchdown pass to Moye, and Bolden couldn't help the offense have a succinct drive. Bolden also had an interception returned for a touchdown in the second quarter.

Defense: Defensive line

The front four struggled to put pressure on redshirt freshman Nathan Scheelhaase and didn't record a sack.

Though the Lions lacked depth because of injuries and were without defensive end Eric Latimore who sustained an injury on the first play from scrimmage, no one stepped up.

The Lions surrendered 282 rushing yards, which was the most a team had against Penn State since 2004, when Minnesota's two-headed attack of Marion Barber III and

Laurence Maroney rushed for 288 yards.

### Did you notice?

The "S" zone received a homecoming weekend makeover and formed a blue paw print ... Illinois had no problem attempting a 4th-and-1 from its own 31 during the opening drive ... The 20-point loss was the worst on Homecoming during Paterno's tenure as head coach.

### Extra point

The Lions searched for additional motivation toward the end of the practice week, and it didn't show up in the game. After a players-only meeting held last Monday, the week ended with a video about Penn State football history and tradition. Running back Evan Royster said the video had clips and a motivational speech from a movie.

"I think at some point we need to stop relying on all these other things to get motivated and just kind of motivate ourselves and want to win without having to look at a video," Royster said.

### Quotable

Joe Paterno, when asked about his team being unable to beat the opponent in the trenches: "We got the crap kicked out of us. You're being very polite. On the line of scrimmage? Kicked our rears in. The linebackers? I thought they never saw a pass before."

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## Mink

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Bolden float one up to Brett Brackett in the back right corner of the end zone. That wasn't the worst of it.

On its next drive, after Penn State made one of its seven first downs on the day, Stephon Green rushed for six yards, bringing up 2nd-and-4 at the Illinois 45. Bolden had his next pass batted down at the line of scrimmage. On third down, Bolden checked down to Devon Smith crossing over the middle one yard short of the first down marker. On fourth down, when rolling Bolden out gives you the option to throw or run, Green carries straight into a logjam of bodies for a turnover on downs.

Then, you knew. This is not getting turned around.

Players popped in a videotape of Penn State history Friday after squad meetings that highlighted a slew of its best players such as LaVar Arrington and Jack Ham to bookend a week of practice that started with a players-only meeting Monday.

Stephon Morris titled the video "Penn State swagger."

I polled players on what they saw in those former players that they aren't seeing in themselves.

The reviews are in.

Candid senior right guard Stefen Wisniewski: "They just got a little bit more desire than we have. Desire to just smack somebody, to make a play. With the ball carrier, just a desire to gotta refuse to get tackled. Fighting for everything you got to get in the end zone. For linemen, it's fighting for everything you got to stay on blocks."

"It's just this much on every play. Every guy, this much more. It adds up to be a lot."

Senior linebacker Chris Colasanti, who has played the last two games with a broken hand: "I feel that those guys are no different. We have pride wearing the blue and white. We have heart, and we have the intensity of going out there and playing good defense and offense, and besides those small mistakes, those are the things we have to correct."

Morris: "Lack of intensity. We gotta tackle. We have to tackle. We have to strip the ball out. We just need to help the offense out. Anything we can do just to help the offense, anything."

What a young team needs is guidance, leaders. Penn State has none, including at the top, and cute little motivational videos can't fix a program corroding from the core.

"We're not making any progress," said Paterno, slouched in his chair, legs crossed. "I thought by this stage we would be a pretty good football team. I didn't think we would be great, but I thought we would be pretty good but we're not. We're not getting any better, and that's the discouraging part."

The admission was never clearer, and you've seen what a couple of 11-2 seasons masked. Swagger and 83 years old don't go well together.

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## Loss

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were 0-for-2 Saturday, a disconcerting stat for two reasons. First, because they haven't made the necessary adjustments to score touchdowns, and second, because the offense couldn't move the ball into the red zone. The two chances both came off turnovers deep in Illinois territory. They struggled in short-yardage sit-

uations again Saturday, getting stopped on a key second-quarter 4th-and-inches, and the offensive line hasn't gotten any better.


"I'm not sure we're playing the right people," Paterno said. "We gotta take a good look at the tapes, what some kids can do, maybe we're asking a couple kids to do things they can't handle. I don't know."

His puzzlement at the Lions' struggles spread throughout the postgame interview room as no one


could really pinpoint any reasons aside from the "we stunk" assessment Paterno gave during his press conference. As for how the Lions can get past the disappointing loss to the Illini, senior wide receiver Derek Moye says that won't be tough.

"For a team, I think it's gonna be pretty easy," Moye said. "We got beat pretty bad. I want to forget it as soon as possible."

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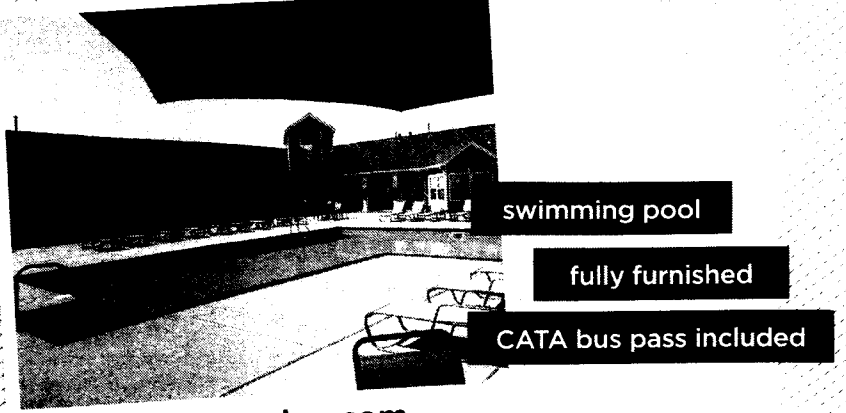
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