

McGloin making case to start

By Audrey Snyder
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A few minutes after Penn State players hoisted Joe Paterno in the air and walked around Beaver Stadium with the 83-year-old coach on their shoulders, the focus inevitably returned to the second biggest story line of the night: the quarterback situation.

Paterno did not say much about who the Lions starting quarterback will be heading into the 10th game of the season, but Matt McGloin's four touchdowns and the spark he provided the offense left the Lions with yet another decision as to who will start next week at No. 8 Ohio State.

"I had gone into the game with the idea that [Rob] Bolden deserved a chance," Paterno said. "You would hate to drop a

kid because he was hurt. But McGloin has practiced well, he's worked hard, he hasn't pouted or griped. He deserved a shot."

McGloin took full advantage of his opportunity and once again fired up his teammates with his actions and words.

The redshirt sophomore challenged his teammates to play better in the second half, and much like he's done in the three games he's helped the team win, he thrived when the pressure was on him.

He led a 49-second touchdown drive at the end of the first half, and while a healthy Bolden stood with his helmet on near the sideline, McGloin showed he's capable of leading the team to victory.

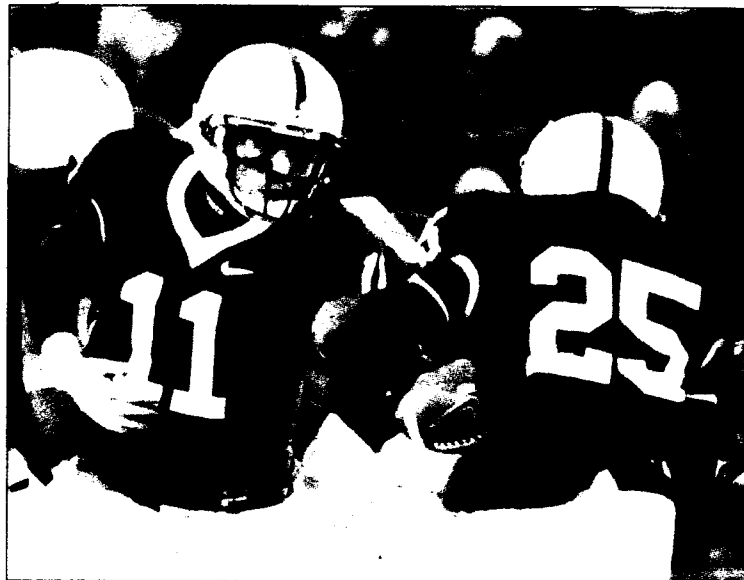
"I think Robert has an excellent future ahead of him as does Matt," offensive coordinator Galen Hall said. "I think we have

two No. 1 quarterbacks and I think the team is getting used to both of them. I don't know who is 1A if there is such a thing."

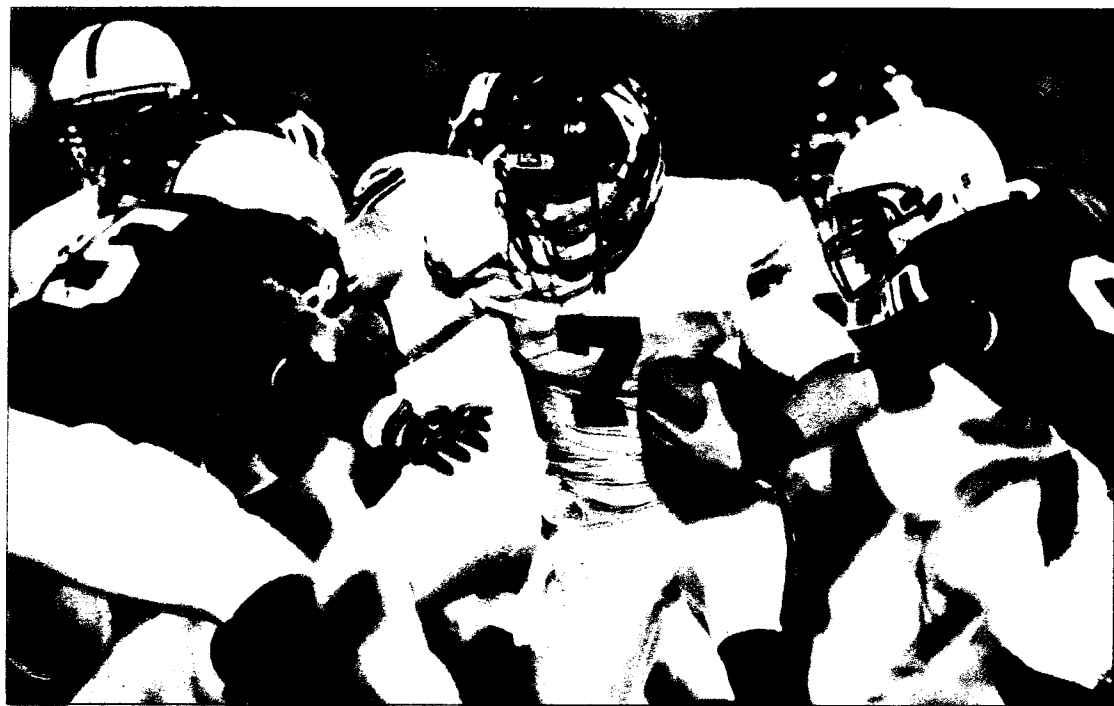
With quarterbacks coach Jay Paterno deflecting questions about the position and saying it's something he won't think about until later in the week, McGloin's success at the position hasn't been short lived.

In the Lions' last three wins against Minnesota, Michigan and Northwestern, the former walk-on threw for 551 yards, seven touchdowns and one interception. The drastic increase in the offense's production has helped the team establish a sense of confidence, something running back Evan Royster said has become contagious.

"It just shows how much he wants to win," Royster said. See **QUARTERBACK**, Page 14.



Katie Silvis/Colegian
Matt McGloin (11) shined for the third-straight week, raising questions as to who should be the Nittany Lions starting quarterback.



Chloe Elmer/Colegian
Penn State's defense rebounded from an awful first half to shutout Northwestern over the last two quarters.

Defense buckles down to stifle Persa, Wildcats

By Brendan Monahan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Linebacker Mike Mauti couldn't understand why the defense played poor in the first half Saturday. Things just didn't click.

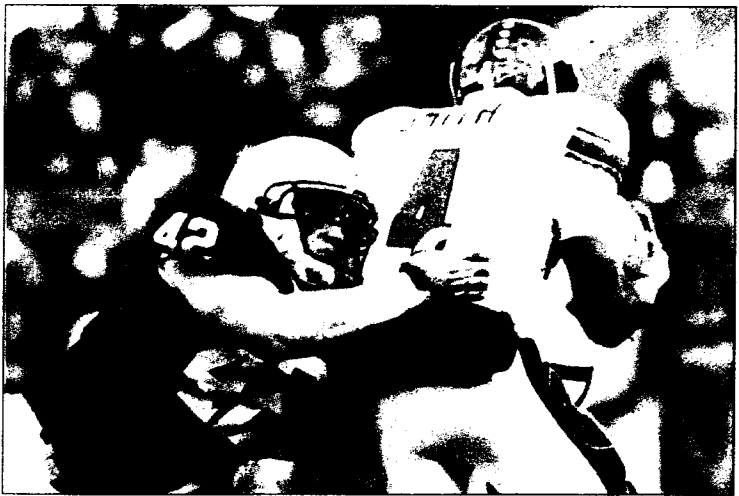
Defensive coordinator Tom Bradley, though, had a more down-to-earth take on the first-half play.

"God, we were like stuck in mud," Bradley said.

Going into the game, Bradley said the defense knew Northwestern would play with an up-tempo pace. The Wildcats offense made checks at the line of scrimmage, something Bradley said his defense was having difficulty adjusting to in the first half.

"We got to start getting better at showing different alignments and then getting out," Bradley said. "And then as soon as you do that, they go in quick and then you get caught."

The Nittany Lions defense allowed 239 yards and three touchdowns in the first half, but after the momentum swing that



Katie Silvis/Colegian
Mike Mauti is emerging as the most valuable player for the defense.

started with Penn State's touchdown drive just before halftime, the defense came out a different unit in the second half.

The Wildcats tallied 130 yards and were held scoreless in the second half. Defensive tackle Devon Still said defenders began fueling off each other making plays in the last two quarters.

"Defensively we always need

to get punched in the face the first half, and we have to really attack and address that," defensive tackle Ollie Ogbu said. "We need to come out all four quarters and be that way."

The Lions know they need to start the game off better. They just haven't figured out how to do that defensively. In order to

See **DEFENSE**, Page 14.

Saturday's win turned out to be vintage Paterno

By Nate Mink

What did those eyes, behind those thick glasses see this

night? Blocking the sun, watching Northwestern run circles around your defense, your offense floundering until a 49-second, 91-yard drive.

Lofted up on the shoulders of Gus Felder and Eric Shrive, the smile impossible to hold back as you were carried toward midfield.

Kissed by your wife, Sue, surrounded by your grandchildren, flanked by Tim Curley and Graham Spanier on stage with tears running down your son's cheek, above your rugged soldiers, among them Leo and Stefan Wisniewski, one of the many father-son tandems you've coached in 45 years.

Father. Son. Brother. Grandfather. Husband. Coach. Those eyes have seen this before.

In 1994 at Illinois, down by the same 21-point margin you were Saturday, with more at stake than than some milestone you say you could care less about.

In 2001, down 27-9 in the third quarter, before a wily first-year starting quarterback playing with nothing to lose in an otherwise forgettable season caught your first Bear.

Saturday, when you didn't panic, your staff didn't panic and your players didn't panic. How you've seen time and again the ship right itself if you keep plugging away. Sixty minutes. Four quarters. Have a little fun out there.

You decided to pull Rob Bolden and bring on Matt McGloin, who withstood an unimpressive first three drives before the 91-yard,

momentum-swinging series in which he went 5-for-6 for 63 yards and a perfectly thrown ball to Brett Brackett in the back of the end zone.

McGloin finished 18-for-29 for 225 and four touchdowns, leading Penn State on five consecutive scoring drives to cap your largest come-from-behind home win ever.

"Unbelievable comeback. Words can't describe how happy I am and how proud I am of Joe and his program," said Bobby Engram, an All-American wide receiver on that undefeated '94 squad. "These young men showed a lot of heart today. For them to come back like that, it was a special way to get No. 400."

But on this night, McGloin wasn't the only quarterback with something to prove. Miffed at the lack of attention you gave him in the recruiting process, Bethlehem native Dan Persa stifled your defense, running hard one week removed from a concussion.

But those eyes — and aren't they better than as recent as January? — calming these days, the fire of an irate coach chasing down officials dying down as you realize nights like Saturday don't come around very often.

"I'd be dishonest if I told you that wasn't a moving night for me. It was," you said, dressed in your blue sweater, your white shirt, tie sticking out at the collar.

Not long before, your eyes met those of your players in the locker room, joined in prayer, thanked this group not for getting you some number but for being a part of a Grand Experiment. For believing.

"He always says keep hustling. Something good will happen," said Tom Bradley, your longest-tenured assistant on staff, 32 years and counting. "That's always been his motto around here. There's not a

See **MINK**, Page 14.

Ohio State, bowl game on tap

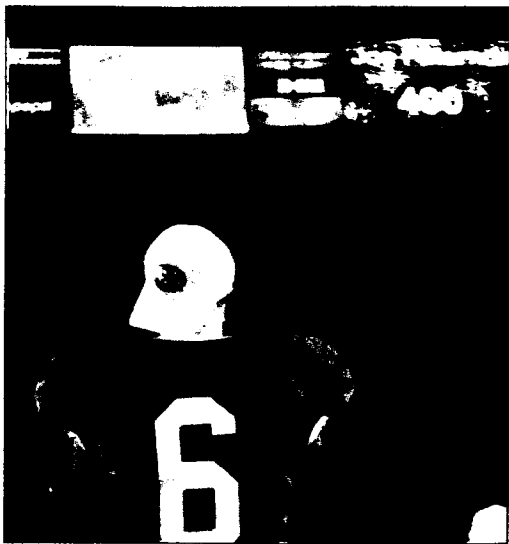
By Audrey Snyder
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When Penn State had a 3-3 record, the Nittany Lions were well aware their bowl hopes were hanging in the balance.

After a few team meetings where the seniors told the rest of the team they didn't want their last game in blue and white to be against Michigan State, the Lions responded.

After reeling off their third-straight win Saturday, and despite most of the excitement focused on Joe Paterno's 400th victory, becoming bowl eligible was more than a side note for Penn State.

"That was definitely one of our main objectives to get to a bowl game," senior co-captain



Katie Silvis/Colegian
JoePa's 400th win earned his team a bowl trip.

Ollie Ogbu said. "Especially me and [Brett] Brackett, we don't want to end our senior year you know, having your last game in

"But I tackle for a fact we have to keep and understand like this is over, this is done. It's imperative

See **MINK**, Page 14.

Report Card: PSU 35, Northwestern 21

POSITION	COMMENTS
Quarterbacks	A- The struggles in the first half cost the QBs a perfect score, but Matt McGloin was practically flawless in the second stanza.
Running backs	A Redd and Royster each rushed for more than 130 yards, and McGloin said it was the rushing attack that opened up the passing game.
Wide receivers	A Nate Cadogan caught a touchdown pass. Brackett hauled in a crucial touchdown on a great grab and Moye was, as usual, reliable.
Offensive line	A- The holes the O-Line created were noticeably larger than three weeks ago. The unit has made remarkable progress since Illinois.
Defensive line	B The unit was atrocious in the first half, but turned it around, eliminating Persa's running room. The Lions recorded four sacks.
Linebackers	A- Mauti was an absolute beast. He recorded 10 solo tackles, three coming for a loss. Colasanti tied for team lead with 11 tackles.
Secondary	B Persa never beat the Lions deep but had a relatively easy time throwing the ball early. Willis played very well again at free safety.
Special teams	B- Fera was great on kickoffs, consistently putting the ball in the end zone, but Wagner came up short on a 51-yard attempt.