

## Sporting View

### Loss is tough on young Lions

by John Musser  
Collegian Sports Editor

Losing a football game on the final play is tough. The loss is even tougher when that final play is a short-range field goal attempt that gets stuffed.

Add to this that on the next to last play your best tailback fell just inches short of the goal line, and the loss becomes even more frustrating to take.

This is what happened to the Penn State Nittany Lions and tailback Blair Thomas last Saturday against the Alabama Crimson Tide, who ended up on the short end of a 17-16 stick.

Not that this means that Thomas or the Lions have anything to be ashamed of. Heck, Blair can be darn proud of himself. He carried the ball 35 and rumbled for 160 yards, including 11 consecutive carries for 59 yards on State's final ill-fated drive in which Thomas almost carried his team to victory on his shoulders.

If the Lions would have had more time or another time out available, Thomas most likely would have danced into the endzone. Unfortunately, the Lions were out of TO's and only 13 ticks remained on the clock. Ray Tarasi's field goal attempt on third and goal from the one was blocked by Bama's 6-7 lineman Thomas Rayam.

I'm not going to debate whether JoePa should've handed the ball to Thomas one more time and risked not scoring and having the clock run out. Mr. Paterno is far more knowledgeable than I and hindsight is pretty much worthless as it is anyway.

No, what I want to talk about is Penn State's resident Heisman Trophy candidate and future NFL first round draft pick, Blair Thomas. I'm sure that after getting so close to paydirt without hitting it, Blair probably was down on himself after the game. I'm not worried about him, though. This time next year, some NFL team will be paying Thomas big bucks to do what he did Saturday.

And if he scores that big touchdown, I'm sure he'll get a nice bonus.

The Bama game was a record breaker of sorts for the Lions. Consider:

-That this was the third year in a row that JoePa has lost to the Crimson Tide. Joe had never lost to anyone three times in a row.

-Bama back Siran Stacy was the first opposing back to net 100 yards against the Lions since Pitt's Curvin Richards broke the century mark in game 10 last year.

-And finally, Penn State lost a game in which Blair

Thomas rushed for more than 100 yards. Their record is now 11-1 when Thomas breaks 100.

Speaking of Heisman Trophy candidates, you may want to get a piece of paper and a pencil and write this name down: Willie Hicks.

Hicks is the sophomore quarterback for the Boston College Eagles. Against the West Virginia Mountaineers this past weekend he completed 13 passes for 340 yards, doing a fair imitation of the Mountaineer's Heisman candidate, QB Major Harris, in the process. Although he may not have Harris's savvy or experience, Hicks certainly has the same ability to take a play that's headed for a loss and make it into a great play.

If Mr. Hicks keeps on progressing, he may just do for BC what a former exciting, scrambling signal caller did for the Eagles just a few years ago. His name was Doug Flutie.

Is it just me, or are football (or baseball) games played in domed stadiums morally wrong?

The NBA season, which I believe ended just two weeks ago, is ready to kick off another 82-game regular season. Will Larry Bird have an impact on this season? Or will his only contribution be snazzy sweaters and snappy comments about his teammates?

After missing all but six games of the '88-89 season with bones spurs on his achille's tendons, Bird's comeback was slowed down this summer by a back injury that occurred in practice. At the age of 32, the Birdman is nearing what normally would be called "the end of his prime."

However, considering how many minutes Larry plays per game (around 40) plus all of the "extra" games he has played in the play-offs and NBA Championships, his body has been worn down. In other words, his body has taken more abuse than the average NBA 32 year-old and is now more prone to injury.

Boston Coach Jimmy Rodgers will have to be careful when determining how long he keeps Larry in the game. Keep the big guy in too long and Mr. Rodgers runs the risk of Larry getting a season (perhaps career) ending injury. Give Bird too little PT, and a repeat of last year's disappointing losses may re-occur.

By the way, would the person who stole my basketball please give it back. It may be just a piece of cheese, but its mine and I want it back. Just drop it off at The Collegian office.

### Erie Panthers win home opener in front of 3,041 hockey fans

by Robert Kitchen  
Collegian Staff Writer

The Erie Panthers defeated the Johnstown Chiefs 6-5 in their home opener of the 1989-90 East Coast Hockey League season at the Tullio Covention Center on October 27th. A total of 3,041 fans attended the game.

The Panther trailed 1-3 after the first period. Simon Gagne, a New York Rangers product, scored the only goal in the second period to go into the third period 2-3. The Panthers then tied the game 4-4 and eventually came on top in an exciting 6-5 victory. Martin Bergeron scored the game-winner.

New York prospect and goalie Mike Rosati turned aside 26 shots. The Panthers pelted the Chiefs with 41 shots.

Defenseman Steve Wienke took a stick to the ribs early and had to leave the game. Although no bones were broken, Wienke

will probably sit out a few games to let his sore ribs heal.

The Cats next traveled to War Memorial Coliseum to defeat the Johnstown Chiefs 3-1 to boost their record to 2-0 on the season. Johnstown took an early 1-0 lead, but the Panthers struck back with two goals to end the first period up 2-1. A third goal was made by Erie in the second period and the Panthers held their lead to go on to win 3-1. Bergeron netted the game-winner once again.

Erie's next home game is on Thursday, November 2nd, when the Panthers host Nashville at the Civic Center.

NOTES: Other goal-scorers have been All-Star right winger Doug Stromback, Rob Gador, and Rob and Bill McDougall....The Panther's power play has hit on four of 16 attempts for a 25 percent success rate....The Cats have only allowed one power play goal in 13 short-handed situations.

The Collegian is now accepting applications from students interested in serving as editor for spring of 1990. Interested persons should apply immediately by placing letters of application in The Collegian mailbox. Letters should include information about your past experience as well as an explanation of your personal philosophy of running a student newspaper. Deadline for applications is November 10.

Penn State-Erie The Behrend College

# wpse

am 1450

Presents



## Action

Sunday at 7:45 p.m.

### Cowboys vs. Redskins

Monday at 8:45 p.m.

### 49er's vs. Saints

Hear all the Action on AM-1450, WPSE