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George Horstne



Wm. "Big Dip" Hollenback



Hugo C. Geisler



Rip Cagle



Samuel D. Newton



Tom Bradley



Sam G. Gayle



Tom Bradley



Pop Golden



Bill O'Neil



Daniel Reed



Jack Hollenback



James Franklin



Tom Farnell



Dick Harlow



Tom Farnell



Woody Lion

Great Players

in

PENN STATE Football

by

BRIAN KELLY



Great Players

In

Penn State Football

Penn State's great record... many, many great players

This book is written for those of us who love Penn State Football. Those of us who enjoy the teams coming out every week in the fall know that it was because seventeen PSU coaches and many great players over the years brought us all the victories and the excitement. We know how they did it--discipline, conditioning and an honor in winning. PSU was never a *losing is OK* team. Look at the record. The Nitany Lions have a winning way. PSU fans need this book on their bookshelves.

The book first tells the story about Penn States pilot football game in 1881 to the founding of Penn State football in 1887 and then their first football game with a real coach who was paid by the college in 1892. As we rapidly move through the football ages, we meet the great immortal Penn State players by working through the seasons with their great coaches-- Hugo Bezdek, Bob Higgins, Rip Engle, and Joe Paterno. We find another great coach at the end of the journey, not yet an immortal. Coach James Franklin seems to be on the right path for the future.

In this book, I tell lots of great stories about lots of great players in Penn State Football. It takes the reader through stories about Penn State's teams through the 17 coaches over the years. There are 130 seasons worth of great games (1280 games) played by the best football players in the nation for Penn State. The book stops frequently in time and tells a nice tale about a great player such as John Cappelletti, Franco Harris, Chuck Fusina, Jack Ham, Jimmy Cefalo, Todd Blackledge, Lydell Mitchell, Paul Posluszny, LaVar Arrington, Franco Harris, Curt Warner, Kerry Collins, and many others. You will not be able to put this book down.

Brian Kelly



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Great Players in Penn State Football

Editor: Brian P. Kelly
Author Brian W. Kelly

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Penn State Season Records from 1887 through 2017

Year	Coach	Record	Champs	Year	Coach	Record	Champs	Bowl col 2
1887	No coach	2-0		1952	Rip Engle	7-2-1		
1888	No coach	0-2-1		1953	Rip Engle	6-3		
1889	No coach	2.2		1954	Rip Engle	7-2		
1890	No coach	2-2		1955	Rip Engle	5-4		
1891	No coach	6-2		1956	Rip Engle	6-2		
1892	George Hoskins	5-1		1957	Rip Engle	6-3		
1893	George Hoskins	4-1		1958	Rip Engle	6-3-1		
1894	George Hoskins	6-0-1		1959	Rip Engle	9-2		Won Liberty
1895	George Hoskins	2-2-3		1960	Rip Engle	7-3		Won Liberty
1896	Samuel B. Newton	3-4		1961	Rip Engle	8-3		Won Gator
1897	Samuel B. Newton	3-6		1962	Rip Engle	9-2		Won Gator
1898	Samuel B. Newton	6-4		1963	Rip Engle	7-3		
1899	Sam B. Boyle	4-6-1		1964	Rip Engle	6-4		
1900	WM Pop Golden	4-6-1		1965	Rip Engle	5-5		
1901	WM Pop Golden	5-3		1966	Joe Paterno	5-5		
1902	WM Pop Golden	7-3		1967	Joe Paterno	8-2-1		Tied Gator
1903	Daniel A. Reed	5-3		1968	Joe Paterno	11-0		Won Orange
1904	Tom Fennell	6-4		1969	Joe Paterno	11-0		Won Orange
1905	Tom Fennell	8-3		1970	Joe Paterno	7-3		
1906	Tom Fennell	8-1-1		1971	Joe Paterno	11-1		Won Cotton
1907	Tom Fennell	6-4		1972	Joe Paterno	10-2		Lost Sugar
1908	Tom Fennell	5-5		1973	Joe Paterno	12-0		Won Orange
1909	Wm. Hollenback	5-0-2		1974	Joe Paterno	10-2		Won Cotton
1910	Jack Hollenback	5-2-1		1975	Joe Paterno	9-3		Lost Sugar
1911	Wm. Hollenback	8-0-1		1976	Joe Paterno	7-5		Lost Gator
1912	Wm. Hollenback	8-0		1977	Joe Paterno	11-1		Won Fiesta
1913	Wm. Hollenback	2-6		1978	Joe Paterno	11-1		Lost Sugar
1914	Wm. Hollenback	5-3-1		1979	Joe Paterno	8-4		Won Liberty
1915	Dick Harlow	7-2		1980	Joe Paterno	10-2		Won Fiesta
1916	Dick Harlow	8-2		1981	Joe Paterno	10-2		Won Fiesta
1917	Dick Harlow	5-4		1982	Joe Paterno	11-1	Champs	Won Sugar
1918	Hugo F. Bezdek	1-2-1		1983	Joe Paterno	8-4-1		Won Aloha
1919	Hugo F. Bezdek	7-1		1984	Joe Paterno	6-5		
1920	Hugo F. Bezdek	7-0-2		1985	Joe Paterno	11-1		Lost Orange
1921	Hugo F. Bezdek	8-0		1986	Joe Paterno	12-0	Champs	Won Fiesta
1922	Hugo F. Bezdek	8-1-1	L. Rose	1987	Joe Paterno	8-4		Lost Citrus
1923	Hugo F. Bezdek	6-4-1		1988	Joe Paterno	5-6		Won Fiesta
1924	Hugo F. Bezdek	6-3	Champs	1989	Joe Paterno	8-3		Won Holiday
1925	Hugo F. Bezdek	4-4-1		1990	Joe Paterno	9-3		Lost Champs
1926	Hugo F. Bezdek	5-4		1991	Joe Paterno	11-2		Won Fiesta
1927	Hugo F. Bezdek	6-2-1		1992	Joe Paterno	7-5		Lost Champs
1928	Hugo F. Bezdek	3-5-1		1993	Joe Paterno	10-2		Won Citrus
1929	Hugo F. Bezdek	6-3-0	Champs	1994	Joe Paterno	12-0		Won Rose
1930	Bob Higgins	3-4-2	Champs	1995	Joe Paterno	9-3		Won Outback
1931	Bob Higgins	2-8		1996	Joe Paterno	11-2		Won Fiesta
1932	Bob Higgins	2-5		1997	Joe Paterno	9-3		Lost Citrus.
1933	Bob Higgins	3-3-1		1998	Joe Paterno	9-3		Won Outback
1934	Bob Higgins	4-4		1999	Joe Paterno	10-3		Won Alamo
1935	Bob Higgins	4-4		2000	Joe Paterno	5-7		

1936	Bob Higgins	3-5		2001	Joe Paterno	5-6		
1937	Bob Higgins	5-3		2002	Joe Paterno	9-4		Lost Cap "1"
1938	Bob Higgins	3-4-1		2003	Joe Paterno	3-9		
1939	Bob Higgins	5-1-2		2004	Joe Paterno	4-7		
1940	Bob Higgins	6-1-1		2005	Joe Paterno	11-1		Won Orange
1941	Bob Higgins	7-2		2006	Joe Paterno	9-4		Won Outback
1942	Bob Higgins	6-1-1		2007	Joe Paterno	9-4		Won Alamo
1943	Bob Higgins	5-3-1	Champs	2008	Joe Paterno	11-2		Lost Rose
1944	Bob Higgins	6-3		2009	Joe Paterno	11-2		Won Cap "1"
1945	Bob Higgins	5-3		2010	Joe Paterno	7-6		
1946	Bob Higgins	6-2	Champs	2011	Joe Paterno	8-1		
1947	Bob Higgins	9-0 T Cottn	Champs	2011	Tom Bradley	1-3		Lost TickC
1948	Bob Higgins	7-1-1		2012	Bill O'Brien	8-4		Ineligible
1949	Joe Bedenk	5-4	Champs	2013	Bill O'Brien	7-5		Ineligible
1950	Rip Engle	5-3-1		2014	James Franklin	7-6		Lost Pinstripe
1951	Rip Engle	7-2-1		2015	James Franklin	7-6		Lost FTaxS
Total: 856 Wins		382 L	42 Ties	2016	James Franklin	11-3		Lost Rose

Total Wins 867

Total Losses 385

Total Ties 42 * Prior to Overtime Rules

Stats from 1887 * Through August 2017



Dedication

*This book is dedicated to my beautiful wife, Patricia, and
our three wonderful children—
Brian, Michael, and Kathleen.
Additionally, I recognize the great help from two furry
friends, Angel Ben, and Buddy Kelly.*

Acknowledgments:

I appreciate all the help that I received in putting this book together, along with the 105 other books from the past.

My printed acknowledgments were once so large that book readers needed to navigate too many pages to get to page one of the text. To permit me more flexibility, I put my acknowledgment list online at www.letsqopublish.com. The list of acknowledgments continues to grow. Believe it or not, it once cost about a dollar more to print each book.

Thank you all on the big list in the sky and God bless you all for your help.

Please check out www.letsqopublish.com to read the latest version of my heartfelt acknowledgments updated for this book. Thank you all!

In this book, I received some extra special help from many avid Penn State supporters including Bruce Ikeda, Dennis Grimes, Gerry Rodski, Wily Ky Eyely, Angel Irene McKeown Kelly, Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Sr., Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Jr., Ann Flannery, Angel James Flannery Sr., Mary Daniels, Bill Daniels, Robert Garry Daniels, Angel Sarah Janice Daniels, Angel Punkie Daniels, Joe Kelly and Diane Kelly.

References

I learned how to write creatively in Grade School at St. Boniface. I even enjoyed reading some of my own stuff.

At Meyers High School and King's College and Wilkes-University, I learned how to research, write bibliographies and footnote every non-original thought I might have had. I learned to hate *ibid*, and *op. cit.*, and I hated assuring that I had all citations written down in the proper sequence. Having to pay attention to details took my desire to write creatively and diminished it with busy work.

I know it is necessary for the world to stop plagiarism so authors and publishers can get paid properly, but for an honest writer, it sure is annoying. I wrote many proposals while with IBM and whenever I needed to cite something, I cited it in place, because my readers, IT Managers, could care less about tracing the vagaries of citations. I always hated to use stilted footnotes, or produce a lengthy, perfectly formatted bibliography. I bet most bibliographies are flawed because even the experts on such drivel do not like the tedium.

I wrote 103 books before this book and several hundred articles published by many magazines and newspapers and I only cite when an idea is not mine or when I am quoting, and again, I choose to cite in place, and the reader does not have to trace strange numbers through strange footnotes and back to bibliography elements that may not be readily accessible or available.

Yet, I would be kidding you, if in a book about the great moments in Notre Dame Football, I tried to bluff my way into trying to make you think that I knew everything before I began to write anything in this book. I spent as much time researching as writing. I might even call myself an expert of sorts now for all the facts that I have uncovered.

Without any pain on your part you can read this book from cover to cover to enjoy the stories about the many great moments in Notre Dame Football.

It took me about two months to write this book. If I were to have made sure a thought that I had was not a thought somebody else ever had, this book never would have been completed or the citations pages would exceed the prose.

I used PSU Season summaries from whatever source I could to get the scores of all the games. I verified facts when possible. There are many web sites that have great information and facts. Ironically most internet stories are the same exact stories. While I was writing the book, I wrote down a bunch of Internet references that I show you below and when you finish reading this book, you may click and enjoy them.

My favorite source has been the Penn State Student Magazine called the Collegian, which has been published almost from day one under various names by the university.

<http://www.collegian.psu.edu/>

About

July 1, 2013

"The dual mission of Collegian Inc. is to publish a quality campus newspaper and to provide a rewarding educational experience for the student staff members."

While I was writing this book, because I was not sure that my citations within the text would be enough, and I was not producing a bibliography, I copied URLs into some of the book text of areas from the Internet in those cases in which I had read articles or had downloaded material and had brought articles or pieces of articles into this book. Hopefully, this will satisfy any request for additional information. If there is anything which needs a specific citation, I would be pleased to change the text.

Preface:

This book is all about the great players who at one time or another were part of Penn State's football team. Along the way to today, we study the formation of the original PSU "test" team and then the founding of the Penn State Football Program--its struggles; its greatness; and its long-lasting impact on American life.

As a Pennsylvanian, it was easy for me to be a Penn State fan all my life. I began to pay attention to Penn State football back in the days of Coach Rip Engle, when I was coached by my older brother Ed (RIP) about what was happening to the Nittany Lions during the takeover of the program by the up and coming brash and youthful, one and only Joe Paterno.

Supporters who love Penn State Football, will read this book and get an immediate burst of emotions such as warmth and love for their favorite team. You will love this book as it delivers what it promises – an expose of the great players in PSU football history.

Despite some big troubles in recent years, no matter what; Penn State as an entity will survive and continue, grow and get better. James Franklin's 2016 team has begun the comeback. It must come back and it will. Its greatness transcends its human caretakers who have helped move the program forward—and sometimes the opposite. Go Lions!

James Franklin is now the head coach of the Nittany Lions. Franklin is a great coach and we all wish him well. Joe Paterno had been Penn State everything for 46 years plus another 15 years as an assistant coach before that. Looking at the records of coaches before and after Paterno, the one affectionately referred to as JoePa for many years is clearly in a league by himself. If you take Paterno's record and superimpose it upon any great NCAA program, Penn State will dominate. It is simply impressive.

Season after season from pre-teen to my current age status, I rooted for the Nittany Lions to be National Champions. They had five undefeated seasons along the way in which they were not declared the champs. To the faithful such as us, they were the champs in

those years. Who knows why they were not selected? In 1982 and 1986, PSU teams won the big one—the National Championship. They earned it many times over.

This book walks you through the whole PSU journey and we even go back 6 years further. Why? Even before PSU's first official game, the Lions had played an unofficial game in which they were victorious in 1881. We tell you about it early in the book. Then, we look at the players on the early teams who struggled to win games without coaches for guidance. This period began in 1887. Think about the struggle of playing on a college football team without even having a coach who would schedule the next year's games.

Most writers who are intrigued as I about great football players figure out the greatest player and then slot him at # 1 on their list and then they find their next best guy and slot him at #2, and so on and so on. I am not going to do that in this book. I promise you will like it anyway.

Anybody who was playing football for Penn State in 1887 as far as I am concerned was great. The same goes for the tough guys who played for first coach George Hoskins, including George himself. So, when I find a good one for sure, and there are many in PSU football. there will be a mention of him in this book as a great player. Instead of a top fifty from one to fifty or a top 100 players from 1 to100, I get to present to you the great PSU players from the ages as we roll the ages forward to today.

The great players are listed within the football seasons in which they played--from season 1 in 1887 to season 131 in 2017. In other words, the seasons are examined chronologically and the players are highlighted within the seasons in which they played. I sure hope you enjoy this unique approach.

Few of the PSU seventeen coaches took the team for more than five years but they still produced powerful teams with powerful players. Eventually, coaches likeHugo Bezdek, Bob Higgins, Rip Engle and finally Joe Paterno came along and together they put lots of years in their tenure and they coached the great players of the day while putting PSU on the football map.

Penn State is a long-time football power

One hundred thirty-one years is a long time to be playing football. The Penn State Nittany Lions formal university football team was established in 1887. This great and storied football powerhouse represents the Pennsylvania State University in college football. The moniker *Nittany Lions* comes from the notion of the Nittany Mountain Lions, which were once thought to have roamed Mount Nittany, the famous local landmark.

Today, the Penn State football team competes in the Big Ten Conference, in the NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision. Coach Joe Paterno worked on the arrangements for PSU to join the Big Ten in 1993 after playing as an independent college football team from its founding through the 1992 season.

Your author would like you to know that when football season closes in the second week of January each year, there is now a great football item—this book—that is available all 52 weeks of the year and in fact all 365 days each year. It does not rely on the stadium gates being open.

It is now available for you to add to your Penn State football experience and your book collection. Once you get this book, it is yours forever unless, of course you give it away to one of the many who will be in awe, and who will accept it gladly.

The book opens with its first story which occurred shortly after the very beginning of college football as a sport in America. It then moves on to the players and their great seasons—all the way to Coach James Franklin's last game. It tells a story about the football seasons and the great notable players from the first game to today.

You are going to love this book because it is the perfect read for anybody who loves Penn State and Penn State Football and wants to know more about the most revered great athletes to have competed in one of the finest football programs of all time.

Few sports books are a must-read but Brian Kelly's *Great Players in Penn State Football* will quickly appear at the top of Americas most enjoyable must-read books about sports. Enjoy!

Who is Brian W. Kelly?

Brian W. Kelly is one of the leading authors in America with this, his 106th published book. Brian is an outspoken and eloquent expert on a variety of topics and he has also written several hundred articles on topics of interest to Americans.

Most of his early works involved high technology. Later, Brian wrote a number of patriotic books and most recently he has been writing human interest books such as The Wine Diet and Thank you, IBM. His books are always well received. This is Brian Kelly's 106th book and it is also his seventh book about college football in America.

Brian's books are highlighted at www.letsGOPublish.com, the company that publishes his many books. They are for sale at Amazon and Kindle, Barnes & Noble and all fine booksellers. A reasonably comprehensive list of Kelly's books can be found at amazon.com/author/brianwkelly. Some books available in quantities of 20 to 1000 for domestic resellers at www.bookhawkers.com

The best!

Sincerely,

Brian P. Kelly, Editor in Chief
I am Brian Kelly's eldest son.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction to Penn State Football	1
Chapter 2 Penn State's 1 st Football Team	5
Chapter 3 No Coach PSU Football Era 1881 - 1891	15
Chapter 4 First Coach—George “Doc” Hoskins, 1892-1895	23
Chapter 5 Coach Sam Newton Era 1896-1899	31
Chapter 6 Coach Pop Golden Era 1900-1903.....	39
Chapter 7 Coach Tom Fennell Era 1904-1908.....	47
Chapter 8 Coaches Hollenback Era 1909-1914.....	53
Chapter 9 The Dick Harlow Era 1915-1917	63
Chapter 10 Coach Hugo Bezdek Era 1918-1929	67
Chapter 11 Coach Bob Higgins Era 1930-1949	79
Chapter 12 Coach Rip Engle Era 1950-1965.....	95
Chapter 13 Coach Joe Paterno Era 1966 to 1980	111
Chapter 14 Coach Joe Paterno Era 1981 to 1995	143
Chapter 15 Coach Joe Paterno Era 1996 to 2011	181
Chapter 16 Coach Bill O'Brien Era 2012 to 2013	225
Chapter 17 Coach James Franklin Era 2014 to 2016 +.....	233
LETS GO PUBLISH! Books by Brian W. Kelly	244
(Sold at www.bookhawkers.com ; Amazon.com , and Kindle.).....	244

About the Author



Brian Kelly retired as an Assistant Professor in the Business Information Technology (BIT) Program at Marywood University, where he also served as the IBM i and Midrange Systems Technical Advisor to the IT Faculty. Kelly designed, developed, and taught many college and professional courses. He continues as a contributing technical editor to a number of technical industry magazines, including "The Four Hundred" and "Four Hundred Guru," published by IT Jungle.

Kelly is a former IBM Senior Systems Engineer. His specialty was problem solving for customers as well as implementing advanced operating systems and software on his client's machines. Brian is the author of 106 books and hundreds of magazine articles. He has been a frequent speaker at conferences throughout the United States.

Brian was a candidate for the US Congress from Pennsylvania in 2010 and he ran for Mayor in his home town in 2015. He loves Penn State Football and has been a fan all his life.

Brian played different sports at various levels and coached many teams. His favorite sport is football and he loves Penn State.

Chapter 1 Introduction to Penn State Football

PSU football celebrates 131 Years in 2017!

This book celebrates Penn State Football; its founding; its struggles; its greatness; and its long-lasting impact on American life. People like me, who love Penn State, will love this book.

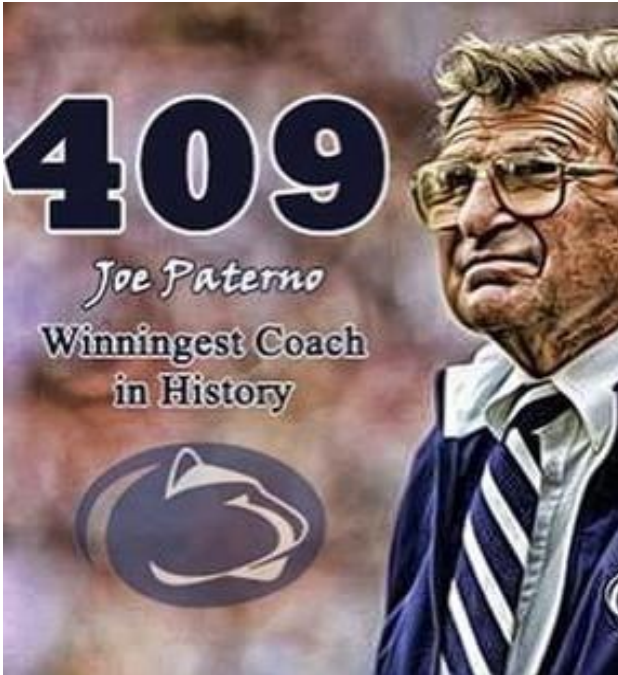


We begin the rest of the Penn State football story in Chapter 2 with the founding of the PSU football program in 1881/1887.

You will find the great players presented to you in this book using a format that is based on a historical chronology. Within this framework, we discuss the great players in Penn State Football while reporting lightly on the season in which they played. There is no attempt to define the greatest player as there are so many great players who made PSU the football power that it is. That would be almost impossible.

Moreover, though we do a good job of highlighting Penn State greats. No book can claim to be able to capture them all, as it would be a never-ending story, but we sure try.

We Are... Penn State!



“We Are...Penn State!” These words are what you hear loud and proud during the whole game. As one side of Beaver Stadium exclaims “WE ARE,” the other side responds “PENN STATE!” Some say that this chant, which has become the emblem that embodies Penn State, began in 1948 when the Penn State football team was set to play against the

Southern Methodist University at the Cotton Bowl.

Before game day, SMU wanted to meet with PSU to protest having Penn State’s black players play in the game. In response to this request, Penn State Guard and Team Captain Steve Suhey came to the defense of his teammates proclaiming, “We are Penn State. There will be no meetings.” Today, the slogan is everywhere in the Penn State community as a sign of strength and pride.

Penn State: A great football legacy

Established in 1887, the Nittany Lions football teams have achieved numerous on-field successes; the most notable of which include four consensus national championships (in 1911, 1912, 1982 and 1986);

four Big Ten Conference Championships (in 1994, 2005 and 2008, and 2016); and 46 appearances in college bowl games, with a postseason bowl record of 29–15–2. You cannot get much better than that.

The team is also #8 all-time in total-wins, one game behind Oklahoma and Alabama. The Nittany Lions play their home games at Beaver Stadium, which is located on-campus in University Park, Pennsylvania. With an official seating capacity of 106,572, Beaver Stadium is worth talking about all by itself. It is a fitting playing venue for a great football program, and a great university. The team is currently coached by James Franklin

Summary of PSU football:

Penn State's intercollegiate football team was established at a time that American Football was just being shaped. The first official PSU football game was played in 1887 but unofficially, the students had managed to slip in an intercollegiate game of their own in 1881. Football became a permanent part of Penn State life in 1887; but the student players had no coaches. They relied on team captains. The desire to play football helped make all the seasons successful.

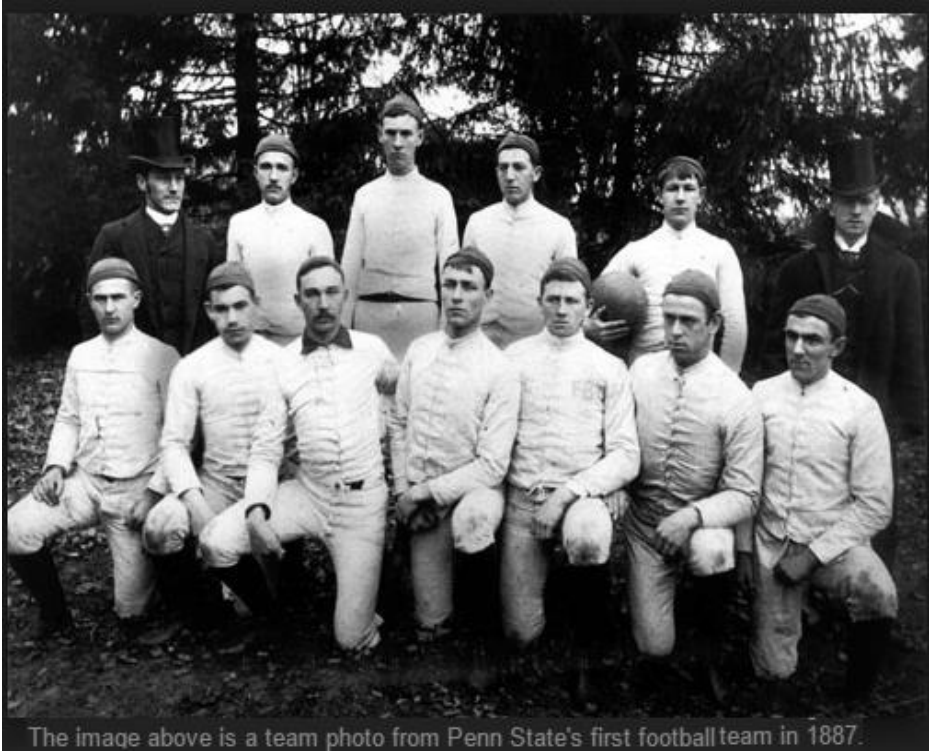
The first of seventeen Penn State football coaches was George Hoskins, who was hired in 1892. Having been undefeated in its first unofficial season (2-0), the Penn State team soon became a collegiate powerhouse and football became a part of campus life.

The team made numerous bowl appearances and came to national prominence in the 1950s and 1960s under Coach Rip Engle. Joe Paterno took over as coach in 1966, and guided the Nittany Lions to the most wins by any coach in Division I history, as well as the most bowl appearances, and most bowl wins.

Under Coach Paterno, the squad won two consensus national championships, in 1982 and 1986, three Big Ten titles, and completed five undefeated seasons. Penn State competed as an independent before joining the Big Ten in 1993. On November 22, 2008, Penn State became the sixth Division I program to win 800 games. Four Penn State coaches -- Dick Harlow, Hugo Bezdek, Bob Higgins, and Joe Paterno -- are in the Football Hall of Fame.

Our thanks to PSU Sports for all the great facts.

Chapter 2 Penn State's 1st Football Team



1887: Nearly 33 years from the PSU founding

The great Penn State players from the first team are shown above.

Penn State played its first unofficial football game November 12, 1881 against Lewisburg University in Lewisburg, PA. There apparently are no public pictures from this game. It would be nice.

The Nittany Lions were not yet the Nittany Lions yet they played like they were. Penn State won the makeshift game with rules that were partly American football, partly rugby, and partly soccer as the rules were being incrementally formed. The score was W (9-0).

It was six years later in September (1887) that the School administration had given its approval under President George Atherton. With the top brass's OK; a group of Penn State freshmen

organized its first official football team. The architects were freshman George "Lucy" Linsz along with classmate Charles Hildebrand.

Just a month later the storied Penn State tradition began putting notches in its history. Penn State played its first official game November 12, 1887 against Bucknell (formerly Lewisburg) at Lewisburg winning, 54-0. The rules had improved somewhat since 1881 but they were still not the rules of which we are familiar today.

To make it a season and not a shot-in-the dark on-time game as in 1881, Penn State engaged again just one week later, on November 19). A mascot-less Penn State played its first home game using a makeshift field on the Old Main Lawn. Penn State won the game 24-0 over "rival" Bucknell. Penn State finished its first competitive football season with a 2-0 record. Wins have been the big story in the Penn State football adventure from 1887 onward, and if I may be so bold, unofficially the wins began in 1881.

The notion of college football was just beginning as other Eastern teams such as Harvard and Princeton were also just getting it going. Notre Dame also had its first game in 1887. In 1881, there was a desire to play the evolving game of American football and so the students did it themselves in much the way teams play sandlot football today.

Penn State Students organized a football team without administration support and as noted they scheduled and played a game against a close-by school that at the time was known as the University of Lewisburg (renamed Bucknell University in 1896). The "kids" had to do some research just to know the rules and Penn State learned quite well as it defeated Lewisburg 9-0, in a cold, sleet-like drizzle.

As time moved on from this first encounter with football, there were no more formal games until September 1887 when George "Lucy" Linsz arrived on campus as a freshman and, with the help of a fellow freshman Charles Hildebrand, he managed to get approval from President George Atherton to organize the first official football team for Penn State College. There was no coach and would be no coach for this team until 1894.

As hard as it is to believe back in the fall 1887, Penn State chose Pink and Black as the team colors. They changed the colors to blue and white the following year.



Penn State of course won its first game W (54-0) at Bucknell on the Lewisburg campus. It was the Penn State's first official game. A week later, with no field to speak of, Penn State hosted a home game on the Old Main Lawn. Team Captain and quarterback Lucy Linsz scored three second-half touchdowns to lead Penn State to a 24-0 win over Bucknell. And thus ended Penn State's first football season. Linsz therefore is the first great player in the Penn State Football tradition.

From the lawn to the field to the stadium

Beaver Stadium, the home of the Nittany Lions, is one of the nation's premier football venues. An expansion and renovation prior to the 2001 season added more than 12,000 seats, increasing the stadium's capacity to 106,572 and easing the waiting list for season ticket requests from Penn State fans.

When you graduate more than 13,500 students per year university-wide, all of whom love Penn State, is it possible that a stadium holding as many as 500,000 might be insufficient? There are a lot of students and each year, the alumni pool increases by about 13,500. PSU's stadium must be big enough to fit huge crowds

In early 2016, while I was writing this book, Penn State expected to award over 13,500 diplomas to students University-wide who are completing over 500 associate, over 11,000 baccalaureates, over 1,500 master's, over 200 law, over 275 doctoral and about 150 medical degrees, bringing the University's total number of graduates to an estimated total of more than 775,000.

At University Park alone, about 9,000 students are expected to be awarded baccalaureate degrees. Approximately 1000 master's degree students are expected to graduate, as are approximately 300 doctoral degree candidates.

Penn State is a fine academic institution and having so many smart people on campus bolsters the opportunity to have a smart football team. PSU football players love playing at Beaver Stadium almost as much as the opposition hates the deafening roar of the eternally optimistic average Penn State fan with a Saturday football ticket.

Beaver Stadium – A great football venue

Beaver Stadium is the second-largest stadium in the nation and the third largest in the world. Renovations and expansions over the years have added rest rooms and concession facilities, new scoreboards with instant-replay capability, and improved handicap access and pedestrian circulation patterns. The most noticeable recent changes are 60 enclosed skyboxes in a three-level structure above the East stands and an 11,500-seat upper deck in the South end zone.

Beaver Stadium has more than doubled in size since it was relocated from its former site northeast of Rec Hall on the west side of campus to the east end of the campus in 1960. The addition of a 10,033-seat upper deck in the north end zone in 1991 and portable seats on the

north end zone concourse increased the stadium's capacity to 93,967.

In 1980, an expansion raised the capacity to 83,770. Lights were added in 1984. In 1985, the addition of walkways around the tops of the end zones and entry ramps at the four corners resulted in lowering the capacity to 83,370.



Penn State dedicated the newly moved and expanded Beaver Stadium with a 20-0 win over Boston University on Sept. 17, 1960. Nittany Lion halfback Eddie Caye scored the stadium's first touchdown at 10:45 of the first quarter.



Early Beaver Stadium

Built in a horseshoe configuration seating 46,284 in 1960, the stadium now towers 110 rows on the east side, 100 rows on the west, 60 in the lower end zones, 35 in the north upper deck, 20 in the club seating level and 25 in the south upper deck. Most reasonably large cities cannot hold the capacity of Beaver Stadium.

Working from the 1960 move and expansion forward, additions of over 2,000 seats in 1969 and more than 9,000 in 1972 increased the capacity to 57,538. Expanded bleachers in the south end zone in 1976 raised the capacity to 60,203.

A uniquely engineered expansion during the winter, spring and summer of 1978 added more than 16,000 seats, bringing the growing capacity to 76,639. To make this happen, the stadium was cut into sections, raised eight feet by hydraulic jacks and precast concrete seating forms inserted within the inner circle of the stadium, where a running track previously had been located. I bet that one kept the architects and engineers busy figuring out that one.

Before Beaver Stadium, PSU was playing football. Penn State's first permanent home for football was Beaver Field, which stood between

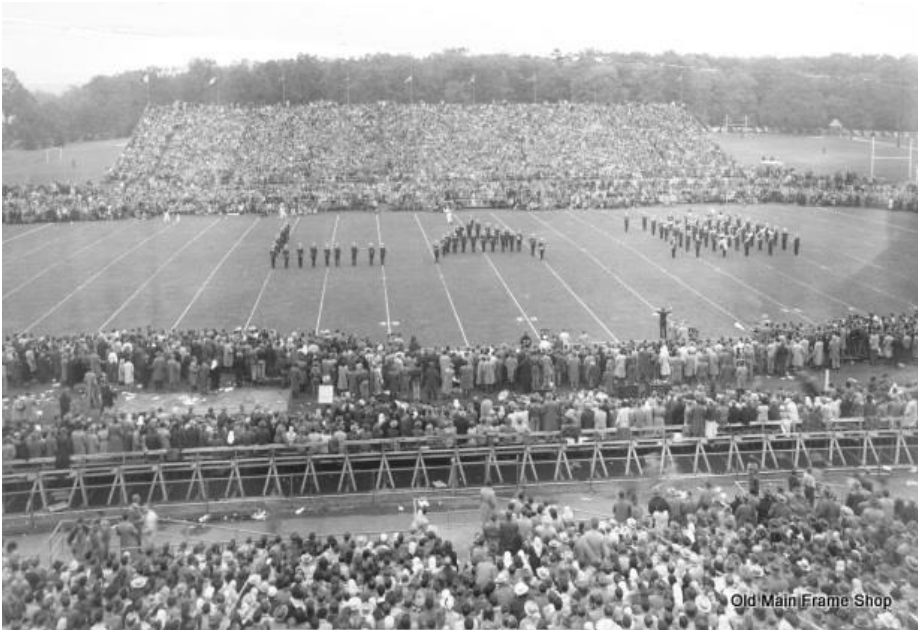
the present-day Osmond and Frear laboratories in center campus. Before that, games were played on the Old Main lawn. How about that for scrapping it out?



The first game at 500-seat Beaver Field was played on Nov. 6, 1893 against Western University of Pittsburgh (later to become the University of Pittsburgh). The 32-0 Penn State victory was delayed two days because of bad weather and played on a Monday afternoon.

New Beaver Field, located near Rec Hall, was dedicated in 1909 with a 31-0 win over Grove City. Originally constructed of wood, the stadium was converted to steel in 1936. The area also contained facilities for baseball, lacrosse, soccer and track.

New Beaver Field was the Lions' home through the 1959 season, after which the 30,000-seat stadium was dismantled and moved in 700 pieces one mile to the east side of campus. The old stadium was reassembled with 16,000 additional seats to form Beaver Stadium.



New Beaver Field

The stadium was and is still named in honor of James A. Beaver. Mr. Beaver was a lawyer in nearby Bellefonte at the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted in the Union Army as a second lieutenant and rose to the rank of brigadier general prior to his discharge in 1864. Beaver, who died in 1914, served as a superior court judge, governor of Pennsylvania and president of the University's Board of Trustees. He is credited with being among the most influential leaders in the development of the University at the turn of the century.

Though the field officially holds just under 107,000, the game gatekeepers have been able to cheat a bit in permitting more than the stadium's capacity in to see special games. Well, not exactly! Beaver Stadium's official attendance figures include the press box, suites, bands, ushers and other stadium personnel. Here are the top ten games according to attendance.

Top 10 Beaver Stadium Crowds

#	Attend.	Date	Outcome
1.	110,753	Sept. 14, 2002	Penn State 40, Nebraska 7
2.	110,134	Oct. 27, 2007	Ohio State 37, Penn State 17
3.	110,078	Sept. 8, 2007	Penn State 31, Notre Dame 10
4.	110,033	Nov. 7, 2009	Ohio State 24, Penn State 7
5.	110,017	Oct. 18, 2008	Penn State 46, Michigan 17
6.	110,007	Oct. 14, 2006	Michigan 17, Penn State 10
7.	109,865	Nov. 5, 2005	Penn State 35, Wisconsin 14
8.	109,845	Nov. 22, 2008	Penn State 33, Northwestern 7
9.	109,839	Oct. 8, 2005	Penn State 17, Ohio State 10
10.	109,754	Oct. 13, 2007	Penn State 38, Wisconsin 7

New Facilities' Master Plan

As of February, 2017, the plans for a modification of twenty campus buildings in a huge master plan to revamp facilities, including Beaver Stadium, were still unavailable. But, something big is almost definitely coming.

The most notable revelation to date is that the Beaver Stadium renovations should reduce the arena's 107,000-person capacity in favor of greater fan comfort. However, AD Barbour detailed, the reduction won't be "anything monumental."

"Beaver Stadium is about our fans," she added. "Gene Smith from Ohio State already said it: the capacity race is already over. It's about the fan experience. Our treads right now are 24 inches, and the standard today is 33. Even if we were to go all bench, which we're not, we're talking about reducing capacities, because we want to take those and make them a little bit more comfortable for our fans."

A little comfort would go a long way.

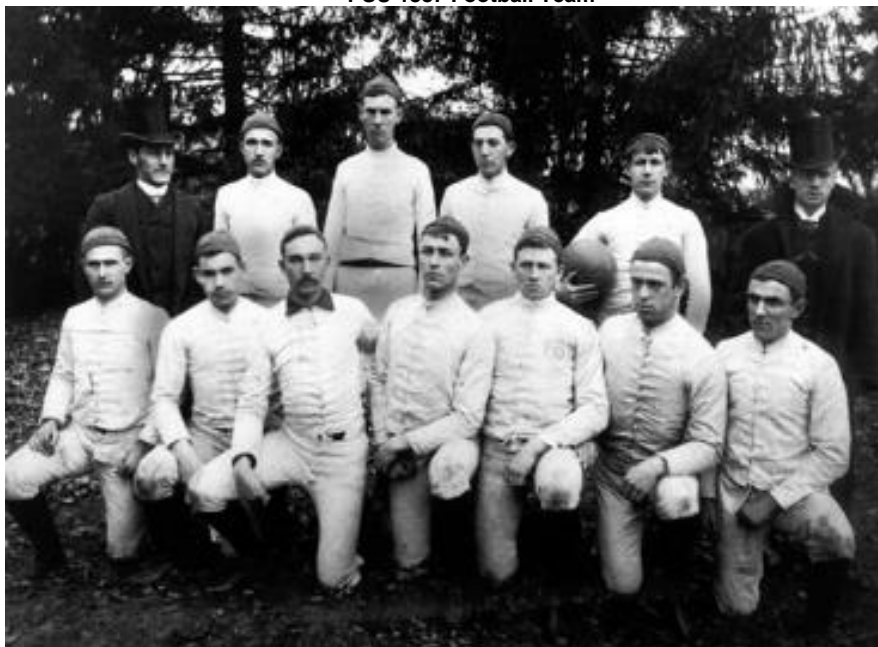
I think it will be exciting when it is revealed.

Chapter 3 No Coach PSU Football Era 1881 - 1891

Six No Coach Years

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>
1881	Unofficial	1-0
1887	No Coach	2-0
1888	No Coach	0-2-1
1889	No Coach	2-2
1890	No Coach	2-2
1891	No Coach	6-2

PSU 1887 Football Team



The above picture is the same as that from the prior chapter. I am very pleased to re-present it here. This was the first batch of great Penn State Players. The guys all dressed up on the edges more than likely were trainers and/or physicians, ready to go into action if need be.

1887: PSU's first year of football—No coach

Penn State's official football program began in 1887 with a two-game season, both games against Bucknell. The first was played at Bucknell's Lewisburg campus and the second was played at the Old Main Lawn at Penn State's main campus.

Though PSU likes to have its official and unofficial football notions kept separate, the fact is the first game was played against the University of Lewisburg at Lewisburg in 1881. No, it was not official but it was played and played well by PSU. Additionally, the 1881 team in retrospect, has taken credit for the blue and white uniforms, not the pink and black worn by the 1987 team. Ivan P. McCreary made a difference

In 1881, this all got started because a determined student, Ivan P. McCreary decided to set up the game, put a team together, and manage the Penn State boys to victory. Since Walter Camp had not yet formed all of the real rules of American football, the 1881 lads played by a mixture of rules that were part rugby and what at the time was known as American football.

McCreary did not play in the game, but he did umpire (The term used at the time for football officials.) At the end of the game as the story goes, he sent a telegraph 50 miles away to Penn State friends that read "we have met the enemy and they are ours, nine to nothing."

Over time as documents were found that chronicled the day, such as the 1882 edition of the University of Lewisburg Mirror, more information was gleaned about the game. "The State College Team was well uniformed and disciplined whereas our boys ... were up to their dodges."

When the official 1887 team was formed they had a copy and so they studied the American Football Rulebook. This had been written by the great Walter Camp in 1886 and refined for the 1887 season. The official PSU team was not taught by any other team or organization and so they gained their knowledge of the game from Camp's writings. They had a lot of mettle for sure.

Camp's rule book from 1887 is still available in a reprint. Walter Camp is known as the Father of American Football. He described in this booklet, the transition of rugby to American Football showing the rules dating to 1876 and the then the current Rules for the 1887 season.

Penn State had a great team but who would have supposed otherwise. They won both games in 1887, one at Lewisburg, 54-0, and the other on the Old Main Lawn on the State College campus, 24-0. The old main lawn was just that, a huge lawn in front of the main building. Thus, from the outset Penn State fielded great teams that gave lickings rather than take them. The 1887 team was one of 13 Penn State teams over the years that were undefeated.

In 1887, football as we know it was not completely defined. Association football, rugby, and even soccer was having a major influence at the time on the college football rules and game play. For its first five years, the soon to be "Nittany Lions," football team had no coach. In fact, the whole idea of Penn State football was so tentative that there was a five-year gap from when the first unofficial season occurred until football was "resumed" in 1887. Once PSU's President made it official, the count to 130 successful seasons began.

Great Player: George H. Lucy Linsz, QB 1887-1889

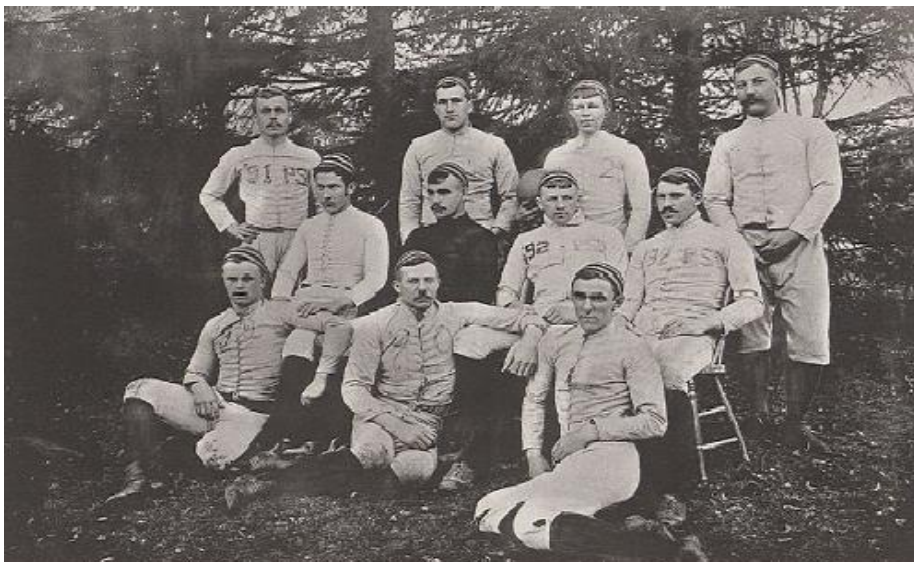
The 1887 Penn State Nittany Lions football started the right way as the school's first undefeated team. At 2-0 for the season in the very first season, this PSU season was also the only one ever in which the team was unscored-upon. Facts are sketchy but we do know that the quarterback of this team was George H. "Lucy" Linsz (1887-1889). Lucy Linsz played for three years (but only 1887 at quarterback). For clarity in spelling, Lucy changed his last name from Linsz to Lins, probably during World War I. In 1887 Penn State's school colors were dark pink and black.

1888: Penn State Football No Coach

Record 0-2-1; without a coach, Penn State sported its own uniforms of blue and white. In muddy terrain, it was reasonably easy to tell the players from the ground until they were completely coated with mud. In stark contrast to the 1887 team, the 1888 team is the only winless team in Penn State history. Harry Leyden (1887–1889) played quarterback in 1888, and both he and the team would do a much better job in 1889.

The season scores are as follows: October 31, Dickinson at home -- Old Main Lawn T (6-6); November 7, Dickinson away at Carlyle PA (0-16). Late November Lehigh at home -- Old Main Lawn L (0-30).

Great Players: 1888: PSU Football Team is shown below



Penn State 1888 Football Team

1889: Penn State Football No Coach

With no coach working in the off-season, it was tough getting scheduled games in those first five years. Penn State played

Swarthmore in its first game of the 1889 season on the lawn and got back on the winning side on September 27 with a win W (20-6) at home – Old Main Lawn. The next two games were losses at Lafayette L (0-26) on November 9 and at Lehigh L (0-106) on November 11. Yes, Lehigh scored 106 points that game. Showing some resilience, Penn State came back on November 25 at home and beat Bucknell W (12-0).

Since the records are very shallow until about 1910 to 1920, in most cases, I will show a team picture as representative of the great Penn State Players of that particular era.

Great Players: 1889: Football Team shown below



1890: Penn State Football No Coach

Penn State played four different teams this year and produced a 2-2 record just as in 1889. They lost on October 10 at University of Pennsylvania L (0–20) and came back just two days later on October 12 and lost at Franklin & Marshall in Lancaster, PA L (0–10).

These were both football games though they were losses. On November 15, Penn State played the Altoona Athletic Association

on the Old Main Lawn at State College, PA and won big W (68-0). They capped off the season at the Bellefonte Academy in Bellefonte, PA and came away with a win W (23-0)

Great Players: 1890: Football Team shown below



PSU 1890 Football Team

1891: Penn State Football No Coach

1891: Still with no head coach, for its fifth season, the team was able to schedule an eight-game season starting with a win on October 2 at Lafayette W (14-4). Then the next day it was off to Lehigh on October 3 where Penn State lost in a battle of the to-be Nittany Lions against the Mountain Hawks. L (2-24). Even in defeat, PSU was playing much tougher than in their prior three seasons.

PSU traveled for a nice win at Swarthmore on October 17 and won 44-0. On October 24, it was at Franklin for a win W (26-6). Then it was off to Gettysburg on October 27 for a nice win W (18-0). Bucknell began to toughen up and got back on Penn State's schedule for 1891. Penn State lost in a close battle on November 7 L (10-12). After a trip to Dickinson on November 26, Penn State came back with a win as Dickinson forfeited. The next game was a big win at Haverford on December 5, W (58-0).

Penn State was getting so much more mature as a football team that the university thought maybe it was time for a coach. The administration hired George Hoskins as its first football coach.

Back in those days, it was often very tough to get a game so colleges would agree to play prep schools and sometimes even high schools to keep their edge.

Great Players: 1891: Football Team shown below



Chapter 4 First Coach—George “Doc” Hoskins, 1892-1895

Coach # 1

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>
1892	George Hoskins	5-1
1893	George Hoskins	4-1
1894	George Hoskins	6-0-1
1895	George Hoskins	2-2-3

Finally, PSU had coaches and scheduled games

Great Players: 1892: Football Team shown below



Penn State was now established both within the institution and outside with other universities as an independent football school, ready to play a full season and ready to be successful. The University upped the ante in 1892 by reaching into its finances to hire its first football coach.

Picture below shows the disorganization of the game of American football at the time



1894 American Football Game

1892: George "Doc" Hoskins PSU Coach #1

The 1892 team record was a very respectable 5-1 for the season. They began slowly with a first game loss at the University of Pennsylvania, a very tough opponent at the time L (0-20).

George Hoskins was hired in 1892 as Pennsylvania State University's first head football coach. He resigned at the end of the 1895 season to become head coach at Bucknell and served a trainer for the Cincinnati Reds Baseball organization.

Hoskins was a great coach for Penn State. His .760 winning percentage ranks highest in school history, surpassing notable coaches such as Joe Paterno, Hugo Bezdek, and Rip Engle

Though a student athlete himself, (he played center), Hoskins was the first head coach of PSU. Thus, Penn State's 1892 football season was its first with a formal head coach. George "Doc" Hoskins was at the helm. He did a fine job in his four years and really gave football a big boost as a coach at Penn State. But, Hoskins created some controversy, which we will see soon.

Great Player: George Hoskins, C 1892-1894

George "Doc" Hoskins served as Penn State's first head coach, while also a player for the Nittany Lions. A three-year letterman at center, he had been the athletic trainer at Vermont before being appointed Penn State's first director of physical training and first instructor of physical education. His duties included coaching the football team to a PSU # 1-win percentage with a record of 17-4-4.

1892 Football Facts / Tradition

This was the first Penn State football championship team. They were crowned in 1892 having won The Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Football Association trophy, edging out Bucknell with a 4-1 league record.

Bucknell quickly became Penn State's first "football rivalry". During this rivalry, games were often heated and hotly contested. The final game between Penn State and Bucknell was played October 2, 1948, Penn State winning 35-0 at what was called, "New Beaver Field." Penn State finished with a 28-10 record against "rival" Bucknell. World War II was tough on a lot of once successful college football programs and many schools completely dropped the sport during and some after the war was over.

Bucknell continues to compete in football in the Division 1 -- Football Championship Subdivision of the NCAA. Over the years, PSU, with all its campuses, has grown to be about 25 X the size of Bucknell's student enrollment of 3600.

1893: PSU Season Coach Doc Hoskins:

The 1893 Penn State Nittany Lions football team represented the Pennsylvania State University. The team was coached by George Hoskins in his second year as head coach. FYI, the school did not adopt the Nittany Lion as its mascot until 1907, and Penn State did not become a university until 1953. Nonetheless, we sometimes intentionally refer to the team as the Nittany Lions, and we refer to

the institution as PSU. As long as we all know the facts, we will continue to do so as there are few fact checkers from the 1890's around today to get upset with either reference.

The 1893 football team would be the first to play on Beaver Field, Penn State football's first permanent home.

Great Players: 1893: Football Team shown below



Penn State 1893 Football Team with 1st Coach Hoskins with a hat

Undefeated seasons were tough to come by as all teams were in their infancy but some had more money to spend on their programs. PSU began the season at Virginia and came back home with a nice W (6-0). Playing again at U of P in Philadelphia, PSU found this well-oiled machine still just a bit much and were defeated L (6-18).

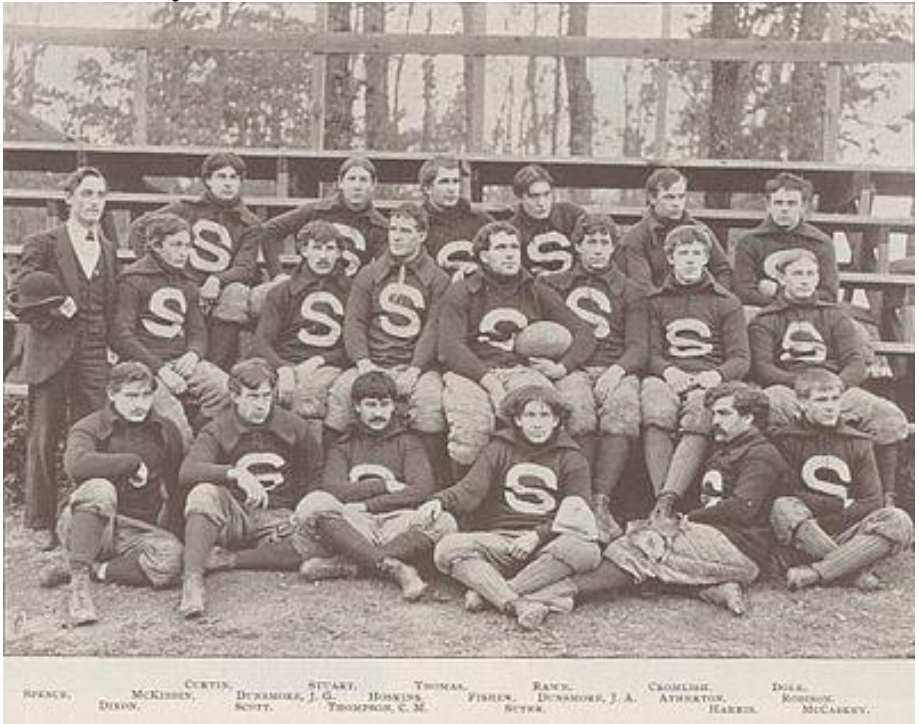
Penn State had just built its 500-seat stadium named Beaver Field and Pittsburgh came to Beaver Field for the first time and the first game on the new home field. The Nittany Lions prevailed W (32-0). Then it was a game at Bucknell in a high scoring win W (36-18)

followed by the Pittsburgh Athletic Club, a tough bunch of independents from the left side of Pennsylvania for a close on W (12-0).

1894: PSU Season Coach Doc Hoskins:

The 1894 Penn State Nittany Lions football team represented the Pennsylvania State University in the college football season. The team was coached by George Hoskins for the third year and for the second year, PSU played its home games on Beaver Field in University Park, Pennsylvania.

Great Players: 1894: Football Team shown below



This was a very successful season for Hoskins and Penn State, gaining a 6-0-1. Penn State was undefeated and untied just once in a close match at Navy on November 10 at Annapolis. The team got rolling quickly on October 13 against Gettysburg at beaver Field with a really big win W (60-0). Penn State football was in graduate

school for sure as they played and beat the once impregnable Lafayette at home on October 20, W (72-0).

The Navy tie came next (6-6 at Navy. Then, with a 2-0-1 record, Penn State rolled through its next four games, which were all away. The margins of victory were not big but the determination to win was well established for Penn State teams. First at Bucknell W (12-6); Then, Washington & Jefferson W (6-0), followed by Oberlin of Pittsburgh on November 29, right after Thanksgiving W (14-0). Ohio W (9-6), and the last game against the Pittsburgh Athletic Club

1895: PSU Season Coach Doc Hoskins:

Considering the team played just seven games, which was a typical season in 1895, having played three ties, Penn State's record looks a lot worse than it actually was. 2-2-3. The 1895 Penn State Nittany Lions football team represented the Pennsylvania State University in college football and this year, the team tied or lost the close games compared with 1894 when in all cases, they won or tied. The team was coached for the fourth and last year by George Hoskins.

The season started well at home on September 25 with a W (26-0) v Gettysburg. Penn State then travelled to upstate NY to play Cornell at Ithaca and came away with a tie T (0-0). Off to Bucknell for a W (16-0) and it looked like a normal successful year for Coach Hoskins.

Then, on November 9, Penn State traveled to the University of Pennsylvania and played a game at Franklin Field, which had just been dedicated for the Penn Relays in April, 1895. Penn State had never beaten Penn at the time and this time, they had a really tough time in defeat L (4-35).

Being down a bit from their first loss in two years, the worst that could happen happened when the Nittany Lions traveled to Pittsburgh to play the Athletic club and for the first time were defeated L (10-11) by the slimmest of margins. Penn State came back from these two losses and scored two ties at Washington & Jefferson T (6-6) and Western Reserve at Cleveland T (8-8).

George Hoskins somehow had some eligibility left as a player. Since many colleges and universities were trying to save a buck on their football programs, many for years had no coaches, and then when they decided to pay for a professional coach, they often picked one of the more seasoned members of the team to coach or they lured another student/coach from another institution to coach at their school.

George Hoskins, we might say was stolen by Pitt as many student coaches were stolen during this early time period in college football. Though a well-respected coach at Penn State, as you will read in the next chapter, when Sam Newton brought his Penn State team to Pittsburgh in 1896, there was a major brawl and coach / player Hoskins was right in the middle of it. He wore out his welcome at Penn State and Hoskins coached just one year at Pitt before he left and went to Bucknell.

Great Players: 1895: Football Team shown below



C. M. Thompson. Beers. J. Thompson. Fulton. Mechesney. Palmer. Hoskins.
Sellers. Thomas. McCaskey. Walker. Brown. Heckel.
J. A. Dunsmore. Scott. Murray. Randolph. J. G. Dunsmore.
McKibbin. Curtin.

Chapter 5 — Coach Sam Newton Era 1896-1899

Coach #2 Sam Newton
Coach #3 Sam Boyle

Penn State faced some tough years

1896	Sam Newton	3-4
1897	Sam Newton	3-6
1898	Sam Newton	6-4
1899	Sam Boyle	4-6-1

1896: PSU Season Coach Samuel Newton:

The 1896 Penn State Nittany Lions football team represented the Pennsylvania State University in the 1896 college football season. The team was coached by in his first year by Samuel Newton and it played its home games on Beaver Field in University Park, Pennsylvania.

Samuel B. Newton



Newton pictured in *La Vie* 1900, Penn State

Sam Newton's gang started off the season with a nice win against Gettysburg W (40-0). This was followed by a trip to Pittsburgh that will be forever remembered in the annals of Penn State Football.

When George Hoskins faced Penn State on October 3, 1896 as a player / coach for Pitt at Beaver Field, he was clearly the enemy. They say from this game on, he was an enemy without any sense of fair play.

The football game became the biggest brawl ever at Beaver Field, and to those watching who covered the game as reporters for the Student Newspaper *Free Lance*, the brawl was instigated as a result of

Hoskins' dirty play. Mr. Hoskins impressed none of his one-time admirers that day on Beaver Field. Despite the brawling, Penn State defeated Western PA 10-4 in what was literally a tough game.

Great Players: 1896 Football Team shown below



According to *Free Lance*, the fore-runner to the *Collegian* Student Newspaper, while playing center and coaching for Western University of Pittsburgh (now Pitt) at Beaver Field where he had coached the prior four years, " he gave such an exhibition of unmanly defiance of all fair rules which degrades the game as to make it a lasting example of the "antis" who hold up to public opinion. This "did more injury to the prestige of the game of football than its promoter can repair."

The four years of great coaching and mentoring that Hoskins had done for Penn State had turned sour. It seems that forgiveness would take a while to bring his good work back into good graces.

For all of his bad points in this game he had a great record at Penn State and today teams would be trying to coach him into coaching

but his behavior was a big negative. Penn State went through a chilly period trying to get its program back on track after Hoskins' tenure. Reports from that era indicate that the folks at Penn State did not think things were ok in the coaching ranks until as they say, a "Pop and a Mother" came aboard.

We will get there soon enough in this book but it was William "Pop" Golden who compiled a 16-12-1 record as the head coach from 1900 to 1902 while also serving as trainer. Pop Golden did more than coach and help condition athletes, however.

Following the 1902 season, Golden took the job as Penn State's first Athletic Director and he continued to stay with the football staff as an assistant coach until 1909. Golden presided over the "golden" years of Penn State's unprecedented growth in athletics—most notably football. He started the first training table and he helped raise additional funds by working with alumni and others to turn sports into a profit-maker for the university. He also did recruiting for Penn State.

The 1902 season was his best as a coach and it also featured the best individual performance ever by a Penn State back. Andy Smith scored five touchdowns, and kicked two extra points in a 55-0 rout of Susquehanna. Smith was then stolen by the University of Pennsylvania.

On October 10, in another home game at Beaver Field, Penn State defeated Dickinson W (8-0). SO far, nobody was missing Hoskins but that would quickly change when Penn State went on the road for the last four games of the season.

On October 24, PSU went to Princeton and were soundly defeated L (0-39). The Ivy League back then was tough. Even Bucknell on October 31, had its way with the Newton's team L (0-10). Then, as expected, Penn played tough again at Franklin Field and beat Penn State L (0-27). Penn State had lost three in a row and had one game left against the Carlisle Indians. They were beaten again this time by a wide margin (5-48). Sam Newton's first season, which started with major promise did not end well.

1897: PSU Season Coach Samuel Newton:

The 1897 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Samuel Newton and played its home games at Beaver Field in University Park, Pennsylvania.

Samuel Newton was in his second year when the 1897 Penn State Nittany Lions football team experienced its second losing season in a row.

Great Players: 1897 Football Team shown below



After a win in the opening game W 32-0 against Gettysburg, the Penn State team went to sleep, losing five away games in a row to Lafayette L (0-24), Princeton, (L (0-34), Penn L (0-24), Navy L (0-4), and Cornell L (0-45). Penn State came back and won games 7 and 8 by defeating Bucknell W 27-4) and Bloomsburg Normal W (10-0. Penn State finished the season with a loss L (0-6) against Dickinson.

It was a dismal season and there was not much good in the season and so we tell the story with a minimum of words.

1898: PSU Season Coach Samuel Newton:

The 1898 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Samuel Newton in his third and last year as head coach. The team made a great comeback from 1897 with a ten-game schedule, the most in history, and a positive win-loss record at 6-4.

Things started well on September 24 to begin the season against Gettysburg at home on Beaver Field... a rare home game. Penn State clipped a win W (47-0). Then came an early season encounter against a team that Penn State had never defeated, the University of Pennsylvania, at Franklin Field, the best of the best at the time, and though there was hope, it quickly disappeared as Penn defeated Penn State L (0-40).

Tough as they always had been Lafayette, played their best against Penn State on October 8, but lost to the PS team from University Park, W (5-0).

Susquehanna marched into Beaver Field on October 20 and went down quickly W (45-6). Navy, always tough away at Annapolis defeated PSU at Worden Field in Annapolis, MD L (11-16)

PSU then lost to Princeton away L 0-5, and on October 29, the team traveled to Pittsburgh to play the Duquesne Athletic Club, but lost L (5-18) On November 5, PSU redeemed itself against Bucknell away W (16-0). Then, on November 19 at Washington & Jefferson, PSU won again W (11-6). On Nov. 25 v. Dickinson, Penn State had regained its form and won W 34-0.

1899: PSU Season Coach Sam Boyle

The 1899 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Sam Boyle and played its home games on Beaver Field in University Park, Pennsylvania. PSU had few home games in their small field but this year, there were three.

The first game against Mansfield was played at home (38-0). This was followed by Gettysburg, which were defeated W (40-0). Then, the really tough games began such as PSU's first game against Army,

which, because of the nature of the cadets, very infrequently played away. On October 7, PSU defeated Army W (6-0).

No games were easy. On October 13, Penn State played to a T (0-0) tie against Washington & Jefferson, and the first loss came at Princeton L (0-12). Navy always tough hosted the team in Annapolis and beat Penn State L (0-6). Then it was Dickinson, a more local team at home W (15-0).

Great Players: 1898 Football Team shown below



Great Player: “Brute” Randolph, G, 1898

No picture available

“Brute” Randolph was named as the first Penn State player for the All-America team, when selected by Walter Camp for the 1898 third team.



<<< Coach Sam Boyle (left)

It had been a reasonably good season until November with multiple losses starting on November 4 v Bucknell L (0-5). This was followed on Nov. 11 by a tough Yale team at Yale L (0-42). It seemed like PSU would never be able to beat Penn and on Nov. 17 at the continually upgraded Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA, PSU could not dig out a win (L 0-47)

On November 25 at the Duquesne Athletic Club in Pittsburgh, PA, the non-collegians were pleased to put it to the collegians L (5-64).

Winning was very important for Penn State but as good a team as PSU could field there were a lot of other good and a few even better teams, even some that were not constrained by college rules. Some wanted to win more or use better players to win games of the day.

Great Player Earl Hewitt, QB, 1899

No picture available

Star quarterback Earl Hewitt ran back a punt 65 yards for the only touchdown, then makes a game-saving tackle on the Penn State six-yard line late in the game as Penn State upsets Army, 6-0, in the first meeting of the two teams at West Point. Penn State would not beat Army again for 60 years.

Great Players: 1899 Football Team shown below



1899 Penn State football team coached by Sam Boyle

Chapter 6 Coach Pop Golden Era 1900-1903

Coach # 4 Pop Golden

Coach # 5 Daniel A. Reed

Penn State faced some tough years

1900	Pop Golden	4-6-1
1901	Pop Golden	5-3
1902	Pop Golden	7-3
1903	Daniel A. Reed	5-3

1900: PSU Season Coach Pop Golden

The 1900 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Pop Golden in his first year as head coach. Penn State continued to play its home games at Beaver Field in University Park, Pennsylvania.

Pop Golden won his first game with Penn State on September 23 with a win W (17-0) over Susquehanna at Beaver Field. The team then went to Pittsburgh and won W (12-0) on September 30.

The following week, October 6, at Army in West Point, NY, Penn State tied T (0-0) in a scoreless match.

Next came the Ivy League. First at Princeton; the Tigers defeated PSU handily L 0-26) and on October 17, the Penn Quakers defeated Penn State at Franklin Field L (5-17).

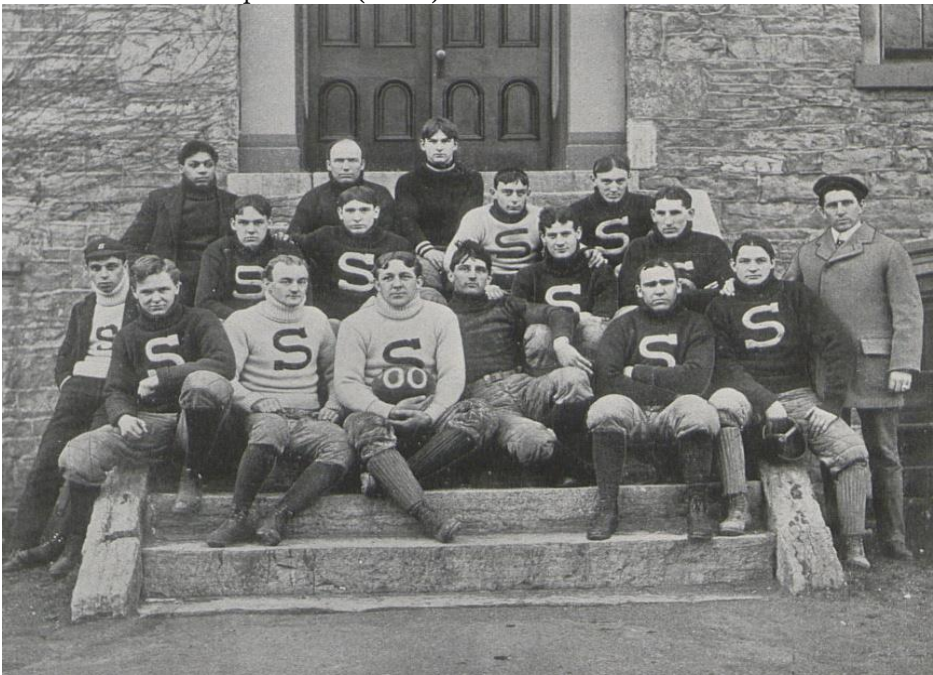
On October 20, PUS lost to Dickinson L (0-18). Next was Duquesne Athletic Club at Pittsburgh, L (0-29); and then Penn State came back against Bucknell at Williamsport on November 3 W (6-0).



Then, on November 10, Navy defeated Penn State at Annapolis L (0-44).

Gettysburg then played Penn State at Beaver Stadium W (44-0). On November 29, PSU wrapped up its first season under Pop Golden at Buffalo L (0-10). Season results were 4-6-1.

Pop Golden (above)



Great Players: 1900 Football Team shown prior page

1901: PSU Season Coach Pop Golden

The 1901 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Pop Golden in his second year as head coach. The team played three less games but had a much better record than in 1900, finishing at 5-3.

The season began on September 22 when Susquehanna came to Beaver Field and Penn State won their season opener W (17-0). The in-state Pittsburgh rivalry was next played at Pittsburgh on September 29. Penn State won another nice game W (37-0).

Still no luck at Penn, Penn State lost to the Quakers, L (6-23) and then to Yale at New Haven L (0-22). On October 26, it was the Middies of Navy at Annapolis for a nice PSU Win W (11-6). The Homestead Athletic Club at Pittsburgh resulted in the third loss of the season L (0-39). On November 16, PSU played Lehigh at Williamsport W (38-0). The final game of the season was at home against Dickinson. PSU captured the W (12-0).

Great Players: 1901 Football Team shown below



1902: PSU Season Coach Pop Golden

In 1902, the Penn State Nittany Lions football team were coached for the third and final year by Pop Golden. This was Golden's finest year as the team finished the ten-game season with a very nice 7-3 record. He remained as PSU AD.

The season began at home on September 20, against Dickinson Seminary at Beaver Field for a W (27-0). Pittsburgh came to town to play PSU at home and lost W (27-0). Still no luck with the University of PS as the Nittany Lions traveled again to Franklin Field and were defeated L (0-17).

On October 11, Villanova came to Beaver Stadium. PSU prevailed against the Wildcats (32-0). On October 18, Penn State traveled to Connecticut and were defeated by Yale L (0-11). The next week Penn State beat Susquehanna at home for a big win W (55-0). On November 1, PSU beat Navy at Annapolis W (6-0) and the following week at home beat Gettysburg W (37-0). On November 22, PSU played Dickinson in Carlyle and won W (23-0). In its first game against the Steelton YMCA at Steelton, PA, Penn State lost a really close game L (5-6).



Great Players: 1902 team shown above

Great Player: Andy Smith, RB, 1902

Andy Smith scored five touchdowns, and kicked two extra points in a 55-0 rout of Susquehanna. Smith was then stolen by the University of Pennsylvania.



Andy Smith, Great Running back, 1902

The 1902 season was Pop Golden's best as a coach and it also featured the best individual performance ever by a Penn State back – Andy Smith.

1903: PSU Season Coach Daniel A. Reed



1903 Coach Daniel A. Reed

The 1903 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Daniel A. Reed in his first and only season as varsity football head coach. The team had a winning season at (5-3)

Penn State through 1903 had good fortune in its opening day games, which almost always to this point had doubled as home openers. This was no different with Dickinson Seminary being defeated on September 19 W 60-0). Allegheny was the next home game on October 3 W 24-5).

Bad fortune was staring Penn State in the face as it made its annual trek to the University of Pennsylvania on October 10 and were defeated again L (0-39.) Yale was the next week at New Haven CT L (0-27). Penn State then went to Pittsburgh and soundly won the game W (59-0).

On October 31, PSU trekked to Annapolis to play Navy and won the game W (17-0). Dickinson gave PSU trouble on November 14 and beat Penn State L (0-6). On November 26, Daniel A Reed's team finished the season with a win W (22-0) against Washington & Jefferson in Pittsburgh, PA.

Great Players: 1903 Football Team shown below



Great Player: Carl Forkum, RB, 1903

(Picture below)

Great Player Irish McIlveen, RB 1903

(No picture available)



Carl Forkum, Great PSU Football Player

In the first game at Pitt, Carl Forkum scored 39 points on 5 TDs and 9-of-10 PATs and Irish McIlveen scored two touchdowns — one on a 56-yard run — as Penn State clobbered Pitt, 59-0, in what would be the biggest margin of victory in the series for 65 years. McIlveen was a great all-around athlete and later starred as a professional baseball player.

Chapter 7 Coach Tom Fennell Era 1904-1908

Coach # 6

Penn State faced some tough years

1904	Tom Fennell	6-4
1905	Tom Fennell	5-3
1906	Tom Fennell	8-1-1
1907	Tom Fennell	6-4
1908	Tom Fennell	5-5

1904: PSU Season Coach Tom Fennell

Tom Fennell



Fennell pictured in *La Vie 1908*, Penn State yearbook

The 1904 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Tom Fennell in his first season. The team continued to play its home games on Beaver Field in University Park, Pennsylvania. Fennell was coach for five years in total. This year his record was good for a first-year PSU coach at 6-4.

Great Players: 1904 Football Team shown below



1905: PSU Season Coach Tom Fennell

The 1905 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Tom Fennell. Soon, in 1907, we will be able to honestly refer to Penn State as the Nittany Lions. In fact, we use PSU all the time but in fact the official university status was not granted until 1953. When we say, PSU, think Penn State. For the record, PSU did not adopt the Nittany Lion as its mascot until 1907. We have two more years to wait until Fennell's fourth year.

The season began comparatively early this year on September 16 when Penn State won its home opener at Beaver Field against Lebanon Valley W (23-0). PSU had a fine 8-3 season

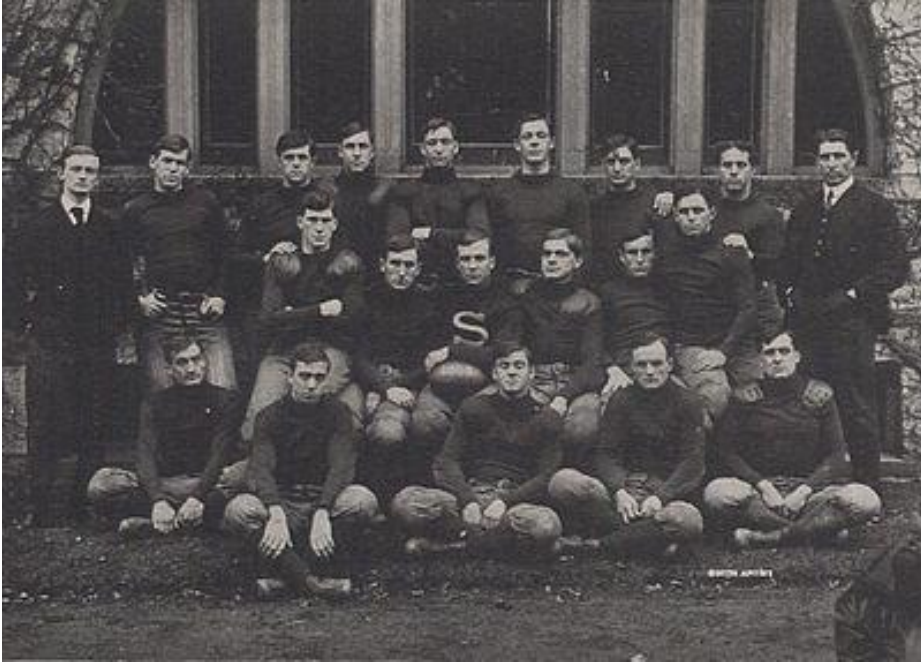
Great Players: 1905 Football Team shown below



1906: PSU Season Coach Tom Fennell

The 1906 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Tom Fennell for the third year. The team had a great record 8-1-1, with a tie T (0-0) tie against Gettysburg and an away loss at Yale L (0-10).

Great Players: 1906 Football Team shown below



Great Player: Bull McCleary, K&RB, 1906-1907

No Picture available

PSU won one of its biggest games ever with a 4-0 victory over the Carlisle Indians before 4,000 fans at Williamsport as freshman “Bull” McCleary kicks a 35-yard field goal for the game’s only points.

In his sophomore year, Penn State sets a team scoring record with a 75-0 win over Lebanon Valley at Beaver Field. Sophomore “Bull” McCleary scores five touchdowns in the game, setting a season scoring record of 13 touchdowns (which remained the record until broken by Charlie Pittman in 1968)

Great Player: William Thomas "Mother" Dunn, LB & C, 1906

No picture available



Dunn played both linebacker and center for Penn State. He was captain of the 1906 team and that year, he became the first player outside of the Ivy League to ever be selected as an All-American by Walter Camp.

He was also the first great linebacker in the history of Penn State's football program. As we all know, PSU eventually gained the nickname "Linebacker U" for its history of excellent play at the linebacker position.

Dunn (left) was recently featured on the official 2011 Nittany Lion football schedule poster as part of the celebration of 125 years of Penn State football.

1907: PSU Season Coach Tom Fennell

The 1907 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Tom Fennell in his fourth year. This was the first year when Penn State adopted the Nittany Lion as its official mascot. The team finished with a respectable 6-4 record.

1908: PSU Season Coach Tom Fennell

The 1908 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Tom Fennell in his fifth and last season as the head coach of Penn State. Fennell resigned after this season from Penn State and from football. He had the makings of a great coach!

Chapter 8—Coaches Hollenback Era 1909-1914

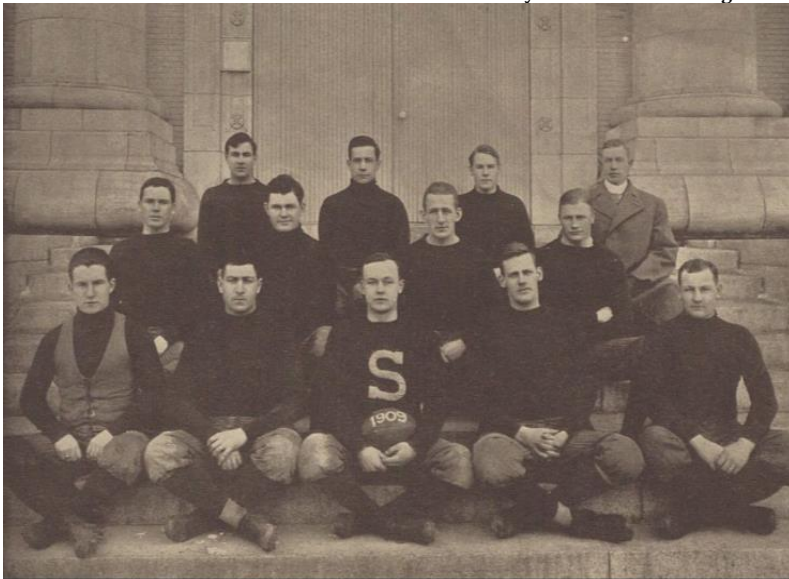
Coach # 7 Bill Hollenback

Coach # 8 Jack Hollenback

1909	Bill Hollenback	5-0-2
1910	Jack Hollenback	5-2-1
1911	Bill Hollenback	8-0-1
1912	Bill Hollenback	8-0
1913	Bill Hollenback	2-6
1914	Bill Hollenback	5-3-1

1909: PSU Season Coach Bill Hollenback

PSU Football Team 1909 Coached by Bill Hollenback -Right



The Hollenback brothers coached the Penn State Nittany Lions football teams from 1909 to 1914. In Bill's five seasons, he compiled a 28-9-4 record and a .732 winning percentage. Jack Hollenback's team was 5-2-1 with an expected loss v never PSU-beaten Penn and a tough game at Thanksgiving v Pittsburgh. Jack Hollenback could have coached anywhere.

Bill Hollenback's 1911 and 1912 teams were declared national champions. The University was not a university back then and for its own reasons fails to claim these championships. I think they should.

Bill Hollenback's first team after Fennell's 5-5 season was also undefeated with two ties and no recognition but, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, he got no credit for this. He followed a 5-5 coach and went undefeated. Think about how good this guy was in 1909!

The 1909 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bill Hollenback and for the first time ever played its home games in the New Beaver Field in University Park, Pennsylvania.

The 1909 season went down as one of the most dangerous in the history of college football. The third annual survey by the Chicago Tribune at season's end showed that 10 college players had been killed and 38 seriously injured in 1909, up from six fatalities and 14 maimings in 1908. The nation was beginning to examine changes to college football to make it safer.

American football rules 1909

American football rules were continually evolving and were much different in 1909 than the sports rules a century or even fifty years later. Many of the present standard notions such as a 100-yard field; four downs to gain ten yards; and the 6-point touchdown) would not be adopted until 1912.

Field goals were drop kicks and they were worth four points until 1909, when their value was reduced by one point to 3 points each. Touchdowns stayed at 5 points until 1912. The rules changes about field goals came about because players and spectators felt that two field kick goals should not be of greater value than a touchdown (five points) from which a goal is scored.

Since 1912, a touchdown has been worth six points which accommodates the latter thinking. Until 1909, anybody on the team could receive a forward pass. This changed by declaring various line

positions as ineligible. Wikipedia offers a nice summary of the 1909 rules of consequence. The rules in 1909 were:

- Field 110 yards in length
- Kickoff made from midfield
- Three downs to gain ten yards
- Touchdown worth 5 points
- Field goal worth 3 points
- Game time based on agreement of the teams, not to exceed two 45 minute halves
- Forward pass legal, but subject to various penalties

The game of American football was evolving as were the institutions that chose to participate.

1910: PSU Season Coach Jack Hollenback

The 1910 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Jack Hollenback, (picture below) Bill's older brother. Bill had taken a year to test the water outside Pennsylvania.



The Nittany Lions, for the second year, played its home games in New Beaver Field in University Park, Pennsylvania. The team record was very good at 5-2-1. Penn State was operating as an independent school; had no conference affiliations, and had no restrictions on what teams it played.

The Nittany Lions were 5-2-1 in a season which saw admission charged for the first time when Penn State met Bucknell on Nov. 12 at Beaver Field. A Pennsylvania graduate in dentistry, Hollenback also coached at Franklin & Marshall (1908-09) and at the Pennsylvania Military College (Widener) in 1911 before opening a dental practice in Philipsburg, Pa. Brother Bill also had a dentistry degree but opted for football over dentistry. Jack later joined his brother briefly in the coal brokerage business in Philadelphia.

Great Players: 1910 Football Team shown below



1911: PSU Season Coach Bill Hollenback

The 1911 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bill Hollenback, who had succeeded his brother Jack who had succeeded his brother Bill a year earlier. Jack stepped down so his brother could come back to Penn State as its coach after a one-year trek to Missouri. In 1909, Hollenback had an undefeated season with two ties (5-0-2). This year his team produced another undefeated record with just one tie. The team was recognized retroactively as a co-national champion by the National Championship Foundation.



Penn State students met the wagons returning the football team from the Lemont train station after Penn State beat powerhouse Pennsylvania for the first time, 22-6, on October 28, 1911 in Philadelphia.

Something happened to Penn in 1911 though they were still a tough team. Penn had a one loss-season in 1910 but had a tough time with a lot of teams, including Penn State. Nonetheless, it was a great victory defeating the elusive Penn after well over twenty-years of attempts. PSU was having a wonderful year with Bill Hollenback as coach.

1912: PSU Season Coach Bill Hollenback

The 1912 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached for the third time in total by Bill Hollenback in his second consecutive year. He had a knack in building a great team and coaching the team to victories. He was the reason for such bug success again for the Nittany Lions for the 1912 college football season.

Bill Hollenback brought to State College, the second of Penn State's retrospective national championships. Like the Bill Hollenback teams of 1909 and 1911, this team was also undefeated but they were also untied. In fact, this group of players were so good that they were scored upon once (6 points by Cornell). Just the year before the touchdown was worth just five points.

Great Player: Pete Mantle (QB-RB) 1912

Penn state was led by players Shorty Miller and Pete Mantle. With so many players with M in the last name, that team was known as the "M" Squad and they hammered out a perfect 8-0 season. At just five feet five inches tall, Shorty Miller was one heck of a football player and a great running back. He was quick and fast and because he had those "little legs," he could stop on a dime, cut and go the other way. He was tough to tackle.

Though short even for the roaring tens, he was also the team's QB and the safety on defense. Miller was a leader. He even returned punts for the Nittany Lions. With his left hand as a unique attribute, Miller threw for a school record nine touchdowns in 1912, a record that stood for over 50 years.

Pete Mantle was the other guy in the backfield and he was big and tough and even tougher to stop. Miller credits him with being the best passer on the team as he could really throw a ball. Mantle was the first PSU player to be inducted into the College hall of Fame. He ran for over 700 yards in this championship season.

Though reasonably close in geography, PSU and OSU had not played each other. The Big Bill Hollenback team of 1912 is known for playing the first of a series of games against eventual rival Ohio State. There is some irony here as Ohio State has always been considered a tough team. Yet, in this Bill Hollenback game, the vaunted Ohioans walked off the field with seven minutes left because Penn State was getting away with unnecessary roughness. The Buckeyes forfeited because of the brutal play of the Nittany Lions once the real score was 37-0. The official score because of the forfeit is 1-0, but the game ball lists the score as 37-0. How about those apples?

Not really trying to be unfair here but facts are facts. The game play of the 1912 team was legendary and tough. Other teams of the era were opting not to play Penn State because of things like shoestring tackles that would put players out of football for a long time, and

literally smash-mouth football. PSU gave no team a break during this period but it did hurt their scheduling of subsequent games.

This extremely successful consensus NCF National Championship season began with a win, in the middle there were wins, and at the end, there were more wins. That's all there was—Penn State wins, and plenty of them!

The PSU record was 8-0. It was that simple.

Great Player J. Lester "Pete" Mauthe 1909-1912



Mauthe was a four-year letterman as a fullback for the Nittany Lions in 1909-1912. During his playing years Penn State amassed a record of 26-2-4 including a stellar record of 8-0-1 in 1911. His senior year in 1912 he was elected captain and led Penn State to an 8-0 perfect season. In addition to being the team's fullback, Mauthe was also the team's punter and place kicker.

After graduation, he became the head football coach at Gettysburg College where he coached one season for a 3-6-1 record. He later went on to become a successful CEO at a Youngstown steel company and served on the board of trustees at Youngtown State University and Penn State. In 1957 he was elected into the College Football Hall of Fame.

1913: PSU Season Coach Bill Hollenback

The 1913 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by the previously undefeated coach Bill Hollenback. The team was coached by "Big Bill" Hollenback. Following a 26-game unbeaten streak for coach Hollenback (not the program, which had losses in 1910), the Nittany Lions closed out the 1913 season with six straight losses.

Hollenback was 26-0-3 going into this season. How could this be? All the losses were close but something was in the wind. Something seemed to happen to the moxie of Bill Hollenback, though, once again, the losses were mostly close. In 1914, he was 5-3-1, a big improvement but, something seemed to be wrong.

Great Player: “Shorty” Miller RB 1913



Shorty” Miller sets the game rushing record that lasts 68 years with 250 yards, including five touchdowns on runs of 23, 55, 47, 37 and 40 yards as Penn State beats Carnegie Tech, 49-0, at Beaver Field in the 1913 season-opener.

A little bit about the Notre Dame game

On November 8, 1913, the Chicago Tribune wrote: "The game was the hardest fought and the most brilliantly played or ever seen at Penn State. With the exception of five minutes each at the close of the first half and the opening of the second half, Penn State outplayed the visitors."

That is how a sportswriter saw the first ever Penn State-Notre Dame game in 1913. In that first game, a stocky, rugged captain by the name of Knute Rockne scored one touchdown to lead the Notre Dame Fighting Irish to a 14-7 win over Penn State in State College. No matter how many times PSU and ND have played over the years, it has been a respectable rivalry.

1914: PSU Season Coach Bill Hollenback

The 1914 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bill Hollenback in his fifth and last season with Penn State. Hollenback played a tough season. The games he was supposed to win, he won and the games that were supposed to be tough, his PSU team lost. Record: 5-3-1.

This season was a lot better than the prior one but perhaps because the home games were more like almost definite wins and the away games were battles. No team expected to get let off the hook easy by a Bill Hollenback coached team. Perhaps the aura of getting whooped by a Hollenback team did not set well with the better teams and when they played Penn State they were better prepared.

Great Players: 1914 Football Team shown below



Harlow, Coach Kratt Thomas Higgins Lord, Mgr.
Welty Morris Clark Miller James
Barron Tobin, Capt. Wood Lamb

Chapter 9 The Dick Harlow Era 1915-1917

Coach # 9

1915	Dick Harlow	7-2
1916	Dick Harlow	8-2
1917	Dick Harlow	5-4

The World War I Years

The 1915 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by first year coach Dick Harlow who took over for the retired Bill Hollenback.



1915: PSU Season Coach Dick Harlow

Dick Harlow



Harlow as Penn State boxing coach in 1920

Dick Harlow was a tackle on the great PSU teams of 1910 and 1911. The Nittany Lions continued to play home games in New Beaver Field in University Park, PA. Stadium capacity was 30,000, which was nice sized at the time.

Great Player: Bob Higgins, E, 1914-1917



Sophomore end Bob Higgins (left) becomes the first Penn State underclassman to earn first-team All-American honors when picked by International News Service. Higgins play was interrupted during the war.

In 1917, End Bob Higgins took a flat-pass near his own goal line from Bill Hess on a fake punt and officially ran 92 yards for a touchdown for the longest pass play in Penn State history (historians say it should have been recorded as 95 yards). The surprise play helped Penn State down Pitt, 20-0, to finish with its best

season since 1912, but Penn State would not beat Pitt again for 20 years. Higgins was a three-time All-American, graduating in 1920

1916: PSU Season Coach Dick Harlow

The 1916 PSU team finished at 8-2, playing its home games in New Beaver Field. Not a bad season at all for second year coach Dick Harlow.

1917: PSU Season Coach Dick Harlow

The 1917 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Dick Harlow in his third and last season. After two 2-loss seasons, this season was also on the winning side but there were two more losses and one less game played. The Nittany Lions finished at 5-4. Dick Harlow, a fine coach left Penn State after the 1917 season.

Great Player: Harry Robb, RB, 1917

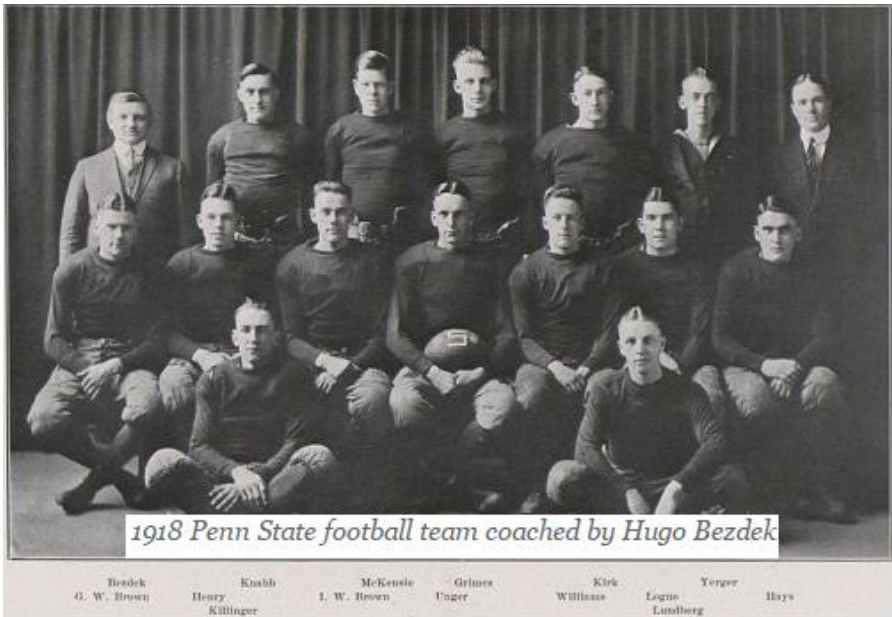
No picture available

Junior Harry Robb sets a record — that has never been broken — for most touchdowns in a game with six in an 80-0 rout of Gettysburg at Beaver Field. PSU shattered the game scoring record. One week later PSU breaks its one-week old team scoring record with a 99-0 win over St. Bonaventure at Beaver Field. Nine players scored touchdowns, including three by Harry Robb. On November 17, Robb was at it again as he tied “Bull” McCleary’s season record for touchdowns with 13 by scoring three TDs as Penn State plays Maryland for first time and wins, 57-0, at Beaver Field.

Chapter 10 Coach Hugo Bezdek Era 1918-1929

Coach # 10

1918	Hugo Bezdek	1-2-1
1919	Hugo Bezdek	7-1
1920	Hugo Bezdek	7-0-2
1921	Hugo Bezdek	8-0-2
1922	Hugo Bezdek	6-4-1
1923	Hugo Bezdek	6-2-1
1924	Hugo Bezdek	6-3-1
1925	Hugo Bezdek	4-4-1
1926	Hugo Bezdek	5-4-1
1927	Hugo Bezdek	6-2-1
1928	Hugo Bezdek	3-5-1
1929	Hugo Bezdek	6-3



1918: PSU Season Coach Hugo Bezdek

The 1918 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Hugo Bezdek in his first year. Looking back, for sure, Bezdek's first season was a strange season as it was going on during the heated battles of the war. There were just four games and a losing season 1-2-1. It was the worst season in ten years, and one of the worst all-

time. Penn State had a tough time getting its season started and when started, it did not do well. World War I was finally coming to an end.



1918 was a disruptive season for many college programs as the final battles of World War I were being fought. Things were tough across the country. In July 1918, Dick Harlow, a fine coach asked to be relieved of his contract as head coach to enter the military service. He said he would return but everybody knew what the priority was at the time.

There was bad news for the team and the university and the family of Levi Lamb, a lineman on the 1912-1914 teams. On July 18, 1918 Lamb was killed near Soissons, France, while leading his army platoon against a German stronghold. He is one of two former players to die in World War I as 1912 teammate Red Bebout was killed on a French battlefield on Sept. 29, 1918. No matter what players suffer today, sometimes working so hard for no gain during the season, it is nothing like the war period.

Without a coach to schedule and manage games, on August 25, 1918, Penn State announced that Hugo Bezdek, manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Club, had been hired as head football

coach and director of physical education. Bezdek had supervision over intercollegiate sports. November 27, 1918.

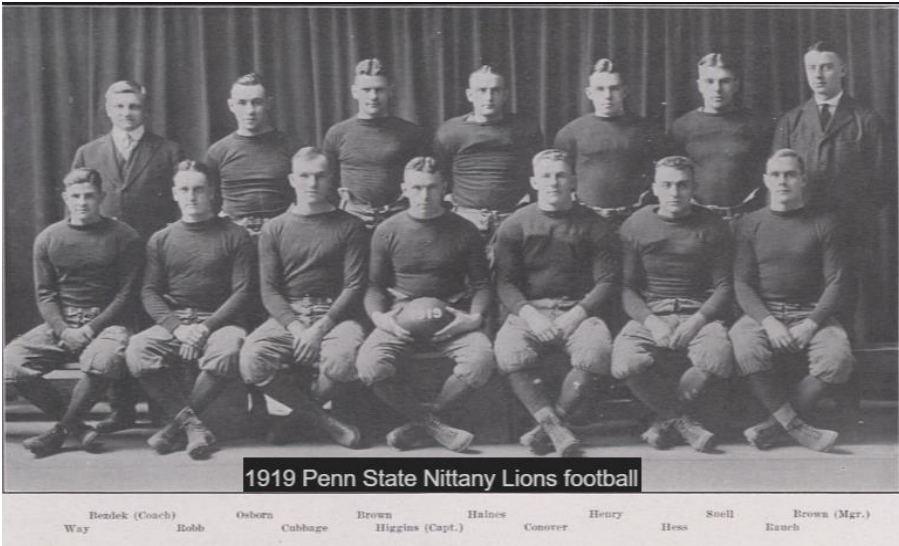
Penn State finished a strange season in November.

Coach Hugo Bezdek below



1919: PSU Season Coach Hugo Bezdek

The 1919 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Hugo Bezdek. Hugo had really gotten situated as coach and now that the war was over, he was able to build a fine team and they had a great record at 7-1. It was just the one close loss L (13-19) at Dartmouth in New Hampshire that kept the team from a perfect season. Nonetheless Coach Bezdek had fine team and he put together a fine season.



1920: PSU Season Coach Hugo Bezdek

The 1920 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Hugo Bezdek. This year the team got seven wins just like 1919, but there were no losses. Penn State was undefeated in 1920 but the season was not perfect.



Great Player: Percy W. Red Griffiths, G, 1920

Griffiths served in the U.S. Navy during World War I. He attended Bloomsburg Normal School before Pennsylvania State College where he became an All-American college football player in 1920 as a stalwart guard for Hugo Bezdek's undefeated 1920 team. He was an athlete and also lettered in lacrosse for the Nittany Lions. He earned his Bachelor of Science in chemistry in 1921. He played one pro season (1921) with

the Canton Bulldogs of the National Football League.

Great Player: Charley Way, HB, 1920

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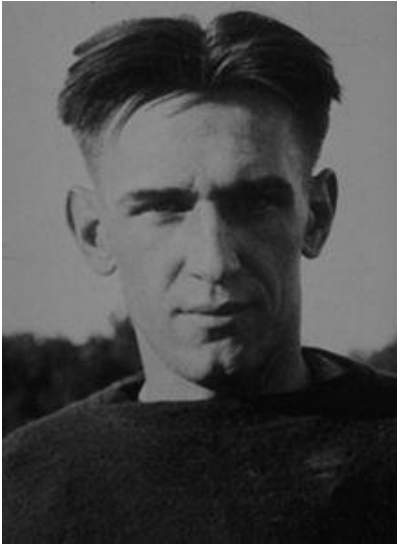
Charley Way was recognized as a consensus All-American halfback at Penn State University in 1920. He played pro and made All-Pro for the Frankford Yellow Jackets in 1924. He helped lead the Nittany Lions to an undefeated 1920 season. He was very tiny for a football player at 144 lb. However, Way was quick as lightning.

He began his pro career in the National Football League (NFL); first with the Canton Bulldogs in 1921 and then he became an All-Pro as a member of fellow Nittany Lion, Punk Berryman's Frankford Yellow Jackets in 1924. Charley was also a member of the 1926 American Football League champion Philadelphia Quakers.

1921: PSU Season Coach Hugo Bezdek

The 1921 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Hugo Bezdek in his fourth year. Penn State and Coach Bezdek had another great undefeated season with two ties again. This time, the team garnered eight wins and the first tie was against Harvard on October 20 T (20-20). The second tie was against Pitt on Thanksgiving. Two seasons in a row, neither Penn State nor Pitt scored a point on Thanksgiving Day T (0-0). The first four wins before the Harvard tie were all at home in New Beaver Field.

Great Player: Glenn Killinger, 1921



Killinger was a pure athlete. He lettered in three sports at Pennsylvania State University, where he made All-American in football in 1921. His feats came a year after Coach Bezdek's championship year. Glenn then played in the National Football League for the Canton Bulldogs and the New York Giants and for Philadelphia Quakers of the original American Football League in 1926

1922: PSU Season Coach Hugo Bezdek

The 1922 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Hugo Bezdek. At 6-4-1, PSU opponents got to rejoice this year because, after two unbeaten seasons in a row, and five straight wins in 1922, it had appeared nobody was ever going to be able to defeat Hugo Bezdek and Penn State ever again.

The season began a little early this year and after five straight wins at New Beaver Field, nobody had beaten the Nittany Lions. Then, the magic ended for 1922 on November 3, Navy neat Penn State in Washington DC L (0-14).

With a 6-3-1 record going into the Bowl season, Penn State was selected to play in the January 1 Rose Bowl against USC. The Trojans prevailed against a tough Nittany Lions team in a close game, giving PSU its first Bowl Game Loss L (3-14)

1923: PSU Season Coach Hugo Bezdek

The 1923 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Hugo Bezdek for the sixth year. The team looked better than its last year as it posted a 6-2-1 record for the season. Penn State won as many games, tied as many games, played two less games and lost two less games than the prior year. There was no Rose Bowl invitation this year, though the overall record was better.

Great Player: Harry “Light Horse” Wilson, HB, ‘23



Wilson was Inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1973. He was an All-American Selection in 1923. Harry "Light Horse" Wilson enjoyed an outstanding collegiate career and earned All- America recognition as a halfback at both Penn State (1921-23) and Army (1925-26).

He led Penn State in scoring for two seasons (1922-23) and scored every touchdown for the Nittany Lions in the final six games of the 1923 season before leading Army in scoring for two consecutive years.

Commissioned in 1928, he earned the Distinguished Flying

Cross and the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters after flying 45 combat missions as a pilot commander in the Army Air Corps in World War II. Born Aug. 6, 1902, he retired from the military in 1956. Wilson, who died on Oct. 26, 1990 in Rochester, N.Y., was inducted into the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame in 1973.

Great Player: Joe Bedenk, G. 1921-1923



Joe Bedenk was a great athlete who was an all-American Selection in 1923. Bedenk came back to Penn State in 1949 to lead the Nittany Lions to a record of 5-4 in his only season as head coach. A 1924 Penn State graduate from Williamsport, Pa., he lettered three years at guard and he was the captain of the 1923 squad.

He also served as baseball coach, compiling a record of 410-161-6 from 1931- 62. Nine of his baseball teams played in the NCAA Tournament and three appeared in the College World Series, including 1957, when the Nittany Lions placed second. Bedenk was

elected to the College Baseball Hall of Fame in 1966 and was one of the founders of the American Association of College Baseball Coaches. He lived in State College, Pa., following his retirement in 1963, until his death in 1978.

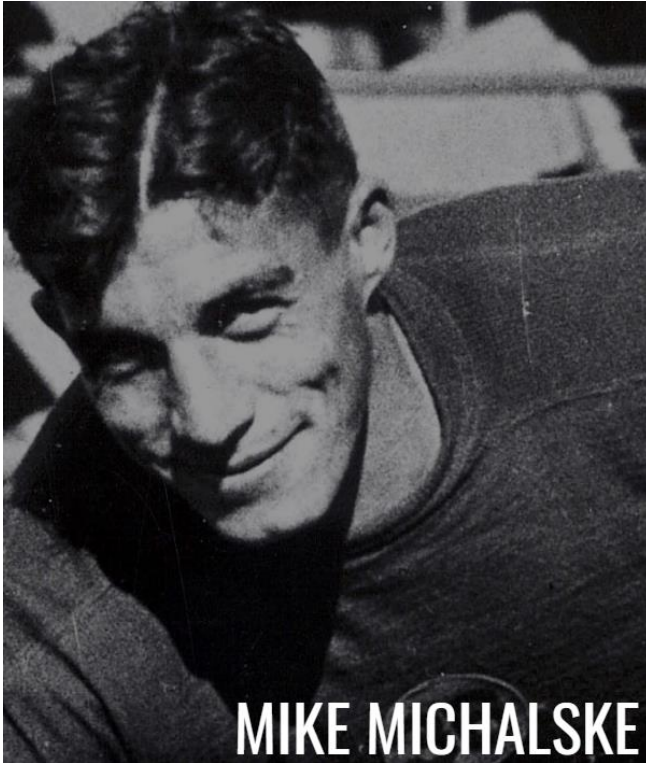
1924: PSU Season Coach Hugo Bezdek

The 1924 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Hugo Bezdek in his seventh season. He and the team performed very well again with just one more loss and one extra game from the 1923 season. 6-3-1.

1925: PSU Season Coach Hugo Bezdek

The 1925 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Hugo Bezdek in his eighth season. Though the roaring twenties were at the height of their roaring, the Nittany Lions with a 4-4-1 record clearly had not out-roared as many teams as it had in the recent past.

Great Player: Mike Michalske, G, 1925



August "Mike" Michalske's illustrious career as a football player began at Penn State, where he was an All-American. He was a great football player and he is on the list of the 11 best players in PSU history.

After graduating in 1926, he joined the New York Yankees of the American Football League (yes, there

was once a Yankees football team!). The Football Yankees joined the National Football League in 1927. In 1929 Michalske joined the Green Bay Packers, who were then coached by "Curly" Lambeau, where he played at guard position during the Packers' championship seasons of 1929 - 1931. At the end of the 1937 season, Mike retired from professional play. As an aside, now you know the origin of the name Lambeau Field.

Mike went on to coach at St. Norbert College, The Lafayette School for Boys, Iowa State University, Baylor University, Texas A&M University, and The University of Texas.

In 1963, Mike was inducted into the Green Bay Packers' Hall of Fame. In 1964, its second year, he was the first guard inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame. He was also inducted into the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame, and was honored with the Red Smith Award. Not too shabby for an offensive lineman.

1926: PSU Season Coach Hugo Bezdek

The 1926 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Hugo Bezdek. No coach delivers great seasons every year but this season at 5-4 was just a bit better than the last one 4-4-1 for Penn State. PSU settled for no ties in 1926.

1927: PSU Season Coach Hugo Bezdek

The 1927 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Hugo Bezdek to a 6-2-1 record which surely made it seem that PSU was moving again from the prior year's 5-4.

1928: PSU Season Coach Hugo Bezdek

The 1928 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Hugo Bezdek in his eleventh year with the team. It was a tough year with tough games and PSU did not measure well under the circumstances of the season. The University more or less had had it with football and sports and felt it needed to concentrate on academics instead of sports.

At the time, Penn State had decided and in fact was in the process of downgrading its entire athletic program. There had been nationwide criticism of colleges because some who cared little about sports believed that they had emphasized sports to the detriment of academics. In this year of 1928, Penn State made a bad situation even worse.

The school eliminated all new athletic scholarships, and football went into an immediate decline. Not to jump the gun ahead of Hugo Bezdek's tenure but what had been one of the best teams in the country in the early and mid-1920s became one of the worst of the 1930s. Except for 1929, Penn State did not have another winning season until 1937, and the 1931 team was the worst of them all with a 2-8 record. The 1932 record wasn't much better at 2-5.

Hugo Bezdek was a great coach, regardless but he was not a magician. Looks like our next eight years won't have much good news other than that the program survived. Amen!

1929: PSU Season Coach Hugo Bezdek

The 1929 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Hugo Bezdek in his 12th season. His career paralleled Knute Rockne's but he got another position at Penn State as Director of Athletics in 1930 and did not put in a 13th coaching year as Rockne had.

Moreover, neither Bezdek nor his successor Bob Higgins had the *schmooze factor* as Rockne had to help his players get free rides to PSU. This would be Bezdek's finest season since the slide and it would be the best that PSU could muster for the next nine years. The PSU scholarship plan for athletes had kicked in and it was surprising to many that this year's 6-3 season was as positive as it was for the Nittany Lions. The good days when great players were rewarded for coming to PSU were not about to return for a number of years. The next coach Bob Higgins, a great player and a great coach, did his best during this time of player turbulence.

Chapter 11 Coach Bob Higgins Era 1930-1949

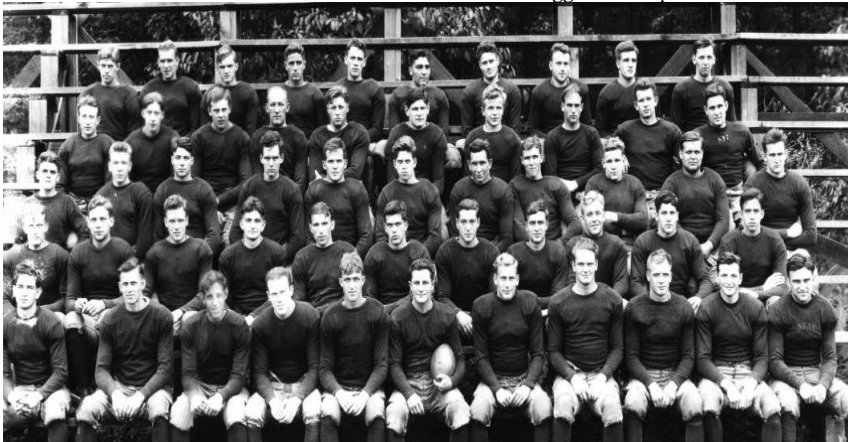
Coach # 11 Bob Higgins
Coach # 12 Joe Bedenk

1930	Bob Higgins	3-4-2	Coach # 11
1931	Bob Higgins	2-8	
1932	Bob Higgins	2-5	
1933	Bob Higgins	3-3-1	
1934	Bob Higgins	4-4	
1935	Bob Higgins	4-4	
1936	Bob Higgins	3-5	
1937	Bob Higgins	5-3	
1938	Bob Higgins	3-4-1	
1939	Bob Higgins	5-1-2	
1940	Bob Higgins	6-1-1	
1941	Bob Higgins	7-2	
1942	Bob Higgins	6-1-1	
1943	Bob Higgins	5-3-1	
1944	Bob Higgins	6-3	
1945	Bob Higgins	5-3	
1946	Bob Higgins	6-2	
1947	Bob Higgins	9-0-1	
1948	Bob Higgins	7-1-1	
1949	Joe Bedenk	5-4	Coach # 12

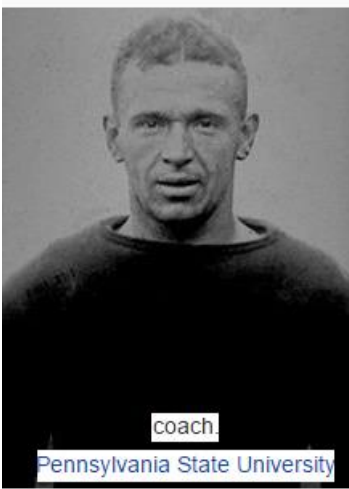
1930: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1930 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his first year as Penn State's head coach.

PSU 1930 Football Team – Coach Higgins is not present



Bob Higgins



Higgins came to Penn State as a student in 1914 and as we have highlighted, he soon became one of the best players of all time. He was an All-American Selection in 1915 and 1919 and his talents helped him get selected into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1954.

1931: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1931 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his second year at the helm. Penn State was in year two of its eight game slump due to scholarship restrictions. Bob Higgins team struggled for just two wins in ten games this year. With good players at a premium, the Nittany Lions had a tough time beating anybody.

1932: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1932 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his third year. For whatever reasons after the dismal 1931 season, Penn State scheduled only seven games and recorded a 2-5 season for 1932.

1933: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1933 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins. The team improved somewhat to a .500 record at 3-3 with a tie. For some reason, more teams seemed to be paring down

their schedules to seven games and focusing on intramural sports for all students.

1934: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1934 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins. In 1934, Higgins' PSU team had a so-so year at 4-4. The team played one more game than in the last two years. The country seemed to be getting over (not 100%) its predisposition at the time in these depression years that playing sports at the collegiate level was bad.

Since not all teams shut down their athletic scholarships, typical powerhouses such as Penn State were overwhelmed by alumni and friends who were bugging the administration to make life better for the team.

Eventually the coach right after Bob Higgins, Joe Bedenk, would benefit as Penn State adapted to the needs of athletics and academics. Somehow it was forgotten that the lucky sports people who received scholarships for their athleticism also got an opportunity to compete in the real world with a college degree from a great institution, Penn State,

1935: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1935 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his sixth year at Penn State. His 1935 record was 4-4, which was a theoretical mirror image of the final record of 1934. Higgins worked with what he had and a *give-up* coach might not have done so well with all walk-ons. Bob Higgins taught a lot of great kids how to play great football because he had to and because he wanted to. Nobody with God's best talent was knocking on the door of Penn State at the time because it was an institution that made them pay tuition to play for the university.

1936: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1936 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his seventh year. Times were tough for PSU as the walk-ons were not about to bring the University national championships or even braggable seasons. The 3-5 1936 season was another of the lollygaggers that only PSU lovers at the time cared about. Academicians were quite pleased as athletics had been minimized so well by the administration that PSU had taken itself out of the national picture for the seventh year.

A lot of brave hearts came forth and got to play football at a great university. However, with PSU saying no and choosing not to offer degrees to all of the exceptional athletes in America, who were graduating as great football athletes, the university and the team suffered.

There were few of America's exceptional teammates who had the tuition in their pocket when great universities were offering them a free ride, who came to Penn State. Thus, there were very few if any recognized great athletes from whom these great and powerful scrappy PSU walk-ons could learn the full knack of the game. Just a few scholarship athletes would have helped in many ways.

1937: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1937 Penn State Nittany Lions football team coached by Bob Higgins in his eighth season. Many college programs would have dumped Higgins as an inadequate coach because of his record to this point. Give PSU credit for keeping one of its greatest coaches of all time on the sidelines with his team as the university was sorting out whether it wanted to win football games or not.

1938: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1938 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his ninth year. Though the Scholarship ban was mitigated, the teams were not ready to be formed based on a poor track record. So, Higgins had a tough 1938 season. Think about with

all the losses he sustained in PSU's dark seasons how bright it will be as we move forward through the rest of Bob Higgins's seasons as he captured the hearts and mind so Americans what loved PSU football. PSU's season of 3-4-1 was not so good but not so bad, either.

1939: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1939 Penn State Nittany Lions football team rebounded this year to 5-1-2 after a lot of poor years. The team was coached by Bob Higgins in his tenth year. The apparent doom and gloom of the *walk-on era* had finally faded and the Penn State administration relented and permitted Coach Higgins to invite scholarship athletes to the campus as many other Division I type teams had been doing since 1928, when PSU instituted its self-imposed ban.

Penn State played eight games and had just one loss, which was a shutout blowout against Cornell in the third game of the season on October 14 in Ithaca, NY. L (0-47).

Penn State knew that it had recovered when on November 11, it beat Penn at Penn W (10-0). The Army tie was next followed by what in years past would have been a Thanksgiving Day game against Pitt. New Beaver Field was the site of the game on November 25, and PSU had gotten so good that the once hard to ever beat Pitt Panthers lost W (10-0)

Great Player: Quick Glimpse: Leon Gajecki

In this game, future All-American Leon Gajecki led Penn State to its first victory over Pitt in 20 years in this 10-0 upset before a record-tying crowd of 20,000 at Beaver Field. Penn State finishes the year with its best record since 1921 at 5-1-2. It's amazing what a little funding for football will do.

1940: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1940 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins. The team played eight games again and had a nice 6-1-

1 record. As usual, home games were played in New Beaver Field in University Park, Pennsylvania.

Great Player Leon Gajecki, C, LB 1938-1940



Leon Gajecki was a three-year starter at Penn State, playing center and linebacker. In the 1939 game against Pittsburgh, he recovered a Pitt fumble at the Panthers' 22-yard line, leading to the game's only touchdown. PSU won that game for its first victory over Pitt in 20 years.

As a senior in 1940, Gajecki was captain of Coach Bob Higgins' Nittany Lion squad, which earned a 6-1-1 record. He

also was a selected All-American and a co-captain for the East-West Shrine Game in San Francisco.

After graduating in 1941, Gajecki was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers. He then played for the Jersey City Giants, a semi-pro team, in 1947 and 1948.

Gajecki was a fuel technologist for Exxon Corp. in Paulsboro, N.J. for more than 30 years, retiring in 1978. He continued to attend almost every Penn State home football game during his lifetime.

In the 1950s, Gajecki was a volunteer assistant coach for the Pitman HS football team. In the mid-1960s, he was a volunteer assistant

football coach for Glassboro State College, now Rowan University. He also taught hundreds of children to swim and officiated high school football, baseball, track and swim competitions.

Gajecki was named to the Cambria County (Pa.) Hall of Fame in 1971, the Gloucester County (N.J.) Hall of Fame in 1986, the Pitman Hall of Fame in 1998, the South Jersey Coaches Hall of Fame and the Brown and Gold Hall of Fame at Rowan University in 1999. He was one of the good guys for sure.

1941: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1941 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his twelfth year as head coach. PSU were on a comeback roll and this year, they were also increasing the games on the schedule to 9 from 8. This 7-2 season was a great season for Bob Higgins and the Penn State Nittany Lions.

1942: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1942 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his thirteenth season. There was no bad luck, PSU played eight games and somehow kept missing undefeated by one game 6-1-1. After doing well consistently for the last several years before 1942, PSU had gained respect again as a national powerhouse for football. Penn was the only ranked team that Penn State played this year. At 6-1-1, PSU was ranked #19 in the nation by the AP.

1943: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1943 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his fourteenth year. All college football teams with good coaches or great coaches need great players to be great. Good and great coaches such as Bob Higgins do the best they can with what they get and every now and then, things happen on the field that make the season better or worse than it should have been.

Higgins team suffered a 5-3-1 season but in such a successful season there was little suffering. It is always nice to win every game but sometimes this cannot be done because of many different circumstances.

1944: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1944 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his fifteenth season. Higgins was a great coach and played this year to a 6-3, nine game season.

The Penn State schedule was like all college teams, made up by athletic departments and not by coaches in the 1940's. Football had again become respectable.

1945: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1945 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his sixteenth season with the team. The team played just eight games and had a very respectable record of 5-3.

1946: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1946 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his seventeenth season as coach. There still was no Beaver Stadium and so Higgins and the great PSU teams of his era played their games at the New Beaver Field in University Park, Pennsylvania. As time went on, New Beaver Field would not be enough to hold the crowds but that day had yet to come.

There was a game scheduled for November 29. However, Penn State canceled its final game of the season on November 9. University of Miami (Fla.) officials requested that Penn State not bring its two African-American players, Wally Triplett and Dennie Hoggard, on the trip.

All American Guard Steve Suhey was very vocal when he said "We are Penn State there will be no meetings." Suhey earned first-team

All-America honors in 1947 and was a member of arguably the most prominent family in Penn State football history. Suhey married a daughter, Ginger, of Penn State All American and head coach, Bob Higgins, and three of their sons — Paul, Larry and Matt Suhey — played for Penn State in the 1970s. Kevin and Joe Suhey became fourth-generation members of the Higgins-Suhey family to play for the Nittany Lions during the 2000s.

1947: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1947 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his eighteenth season. The team was 9-0 in the regular season, which might have been good enough for national championship but in the bowl game, the best they could do was tie. PSU had its best season under Higgins, undefeated in regular season with a tie in the bowl game. Bravo PSU and Bravo Bob Higgins for a # 4 consensus finish in 1947.

PSU won a Cotton Bowl Berth in 1947 because they were one of the top teams in the nation.

On January 1, 1948, just a few days from my birthday (I mean my birth-date when I first began to breathe) PSU and SMU battled hard to come up with the best they could, a tie T (13-13). The Cotton Bowl Classic, before the days of the tie breakers, ended in 1947 in a tie game. Bravo to both teams. Higgins coached PSU to a #4 finish in the final season rankings.

Great Player: Steve Suhey, G, 1947



Guard Steve Suhey earned first-team All-America honors in 1947 and was a member of arguably the most prominent family in Penn State football history. Suhey married a daughter, Ginger, of Penn State All-American and future head coach, Bob Higgins, and three of their sons — Paul, Larry and Matt Suhey — played for Penn State in the 1970s. Kevin and Joe Suhey became fourth-generation members of the Higgins-Suhey family to play for the Nittany Lions during the 2000s.

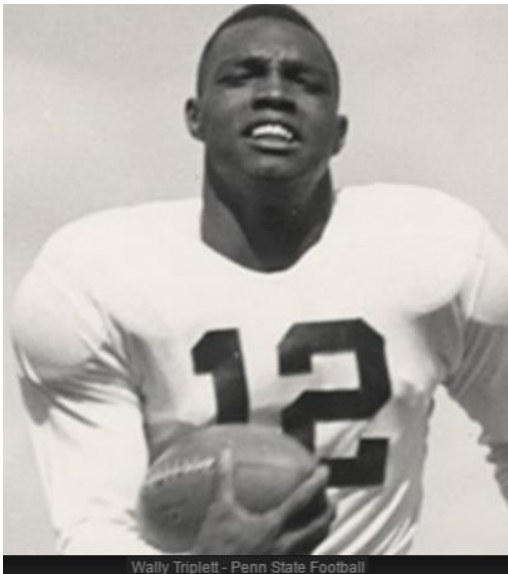
Great Player Wallace Triplett, 1947 Great Player Dennie Hoogard, 1947



Wallace Triplett, Dennie Hoogard Cotton Bowl

The January 1, 1948 was the last bowl game Penn State played before Joe Paterno was on its coaching staff. It was a historic moment in college football for another reason. It was amid the backdrop of segregation in Texas that two Nittany Lions became the first black players to compete in the Cotton Bowl at Dallas Stadium.

Wallace Triplett and Dennie Hoogard helped Penn State gain a comeback 13-13 tie against Southern Methodist that marked the first time a team with African-American players competed in Texas against a team from a segregated university.



The story of Mr. Triplett for sure is truly inspiring. For Triplett, now 90, (April 21) the 1948 Cotton Bowl was among the first benchmarks of his historic career. He became the first African-American to start a football

game for Penn State. He also became the first black player to be drafted by, and play for, a National Football League team in 1949.

Wallace Triplett played four seasons in the NFL, two with the Detroit Lions. There he was a teammate of Doak Walker, SMU's all-America tailback against whom Triplett competed in Dallas. The 1948 Cotton Bowl ended in a tie after the late Hoggard nearly caught the game-winning pass on the final play.

"Doak used to tell me, 'Wally, the best thing about that game was that there was no winner,'" Triplett said. "And I agreed with him." The 1947 # 4 team was one of Penn State's best, finishing the regular season 9-0, and outscoring opponents 319-27. The high-scoring offense featured Triplett at wingback and Pen Argyl's Elwood Petchel at tailback.



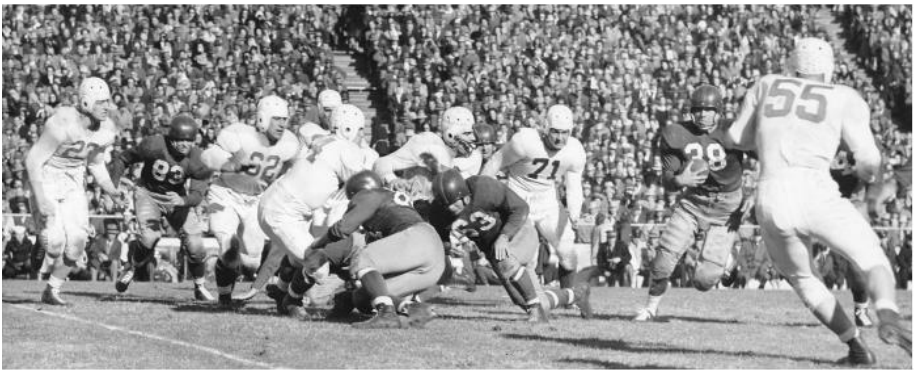
1948. Penn State, with running back Wally Triplett (pictured, right) and end Dennie Hoggard, plays SMU in the Cotton

Penn State's postseason plans stalled, however, because head coach Bob Higgins would not accept an invitation from a bowl that wouldn't allow Triplett and Hoggard to attend. In 1946, Penn State players voted not to play a scheduled game at the University of Miami, which had the same policy. A year later the players decided there would be no vote.

"[All-America lineman] Steve Suhey said, 'We're Penn State, there will be no meetings,'" Triplett said. "And that was it."

(Suhey's comment is said to have precipitated the "We are Penn State" chant, but Penn State football historian Lou Prato has traced the cheer's origin to the 1970s).

Southern Methodist, meanwhile, was 9-0-1 and ranked No. 3 after winning the Southwest Conference and wanted to face the best opponent possible in the Cotton Bowl. To coach Matty Bell, that was No. 4 Penn State.



Penn State's appearance in the 1948 Cotton Bowl was significant on several fronts. Wally Triplett and end Dennie Hoggard became the first African-Americans to play in the Cotton Bowl game and helped Penn State to a 9-0-1 record in 1947, with the only blemish a 13-13 tie with Southern Methodist in the Cotton Bowl. Behind a defense that posted six shutouts, Penn State won its first Lambert Trophy and its No. 4 final ranking was its highest in program history to date.

The game itself was a classic in Cotton Bowl history. Petchel rallied Penn State from a 13-0 deficit by throwing two-touchdown passes, one to Triplett in the third quarter.

On the final play, Petchel threw a pass in the end zone intended for Hoggard, though Triplett was nearby as well. An SMU player deflected the pass, which floated toward Hoggard

1948: PSU Season Coach Bob Higgins

The 1948 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bob Higgins in his 19th and last season. After an undefeated regular season in 1947, it was tough to equal such a performance but Higgins came close with a 7-1-1 record. He was a great coach and in many ways put PSU back on the map.

Great Player: Sam Tamburo, DL, 1948

Sam Tamburo was a great a defensive lineman for Penn State. He had been named to his high school all-state team in 1943.

In 1946, Penn State was on its way to a 6-2 season, but a game at Miami (Fla.) loomed to end the season. Because of the Jim Crow laws in effect, Penn State could not bring its black players — Wally Triplett and Dennie Hoggard.



Sam Tamburo DE, All American

Coach Bob Higgins left it up to the players to decide whether to travel to Miami without Triplett and Hoggard or to cancel the game.

When a player suggested Triplett and Hoggard leave the locker room while the players voted, Tamburo stood up and said: "No, they're part of the team. We are all Penn Staters."

The Nittany Lions voted unanimously not to go, and athletic director Carl Schott made the call to Miami to tell school officials that the game would be canceled.

"Sam was my man," Triplett said of Tamburo. "He was one of the guys who stood up when people thought America wasn't what it should be."

The Nov. 29, 1946, game was never played.

"That day there happened to be three feet of snow on the ground in State College, and Miami had sunshine." Triplett said with a laugh.

A similar situation arose the following year when Penn State was undefeated and ranked fourth in the country.

The Cotton Bowl wanted to match the Nittany Lions with No. 3 SMU. Higgins made it clear the Nittany Lions would only accept a bowl invitation if Triplett and Hoggard could play.

Cotton Bowl officials gave the OK but said Triplett and Hoggard couldn't room with the team in segregated Dallas.

Tamburo and his teammates insisted they find a place where the team could stay together.

"We're Penn State," Penn State Board of Trustees member Paul Suhey said. "And that's it."

The Nittany Lions stayed at a Naval Air base 14 miles outside of Dallas.

"I was surprised and happy, and I remember the guys who supported us," Triplett said. "A lot of people don't get the credit for things that had to be done. Times were changing, and sports were changing."

Tamburo made four All-America teams the following season — Associated Press third team, Collier's Magazine first team, Central Press second team and Hearst Newspapers selected him to its first-team offense.

He also played in the Hula Bowl postseason all-star game. It was common for Tamburo and others to play offense and defense until two-platoon football came along several years later.

In 1949, Tamburo was a sixth-round choice of the New York Bulldogs, an NFL team that folded the following season.

1949: PSU Season Coach Joe Bedenk



The 1949 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Bedenk. Bob Higgins had coached at Penn State for nineteen years and had an enviable record of 91–57–11 after having gone through the walk-on years.

Bedenk was named head coach after he had coached the offensive line for several years. After a single 5–4 season, Coach Bedenk requested a return to coaching the offensive line, and Penn State brought in Rip Engle as head coach in 1950

In September, the first class of scholarship players since 1927 entered Penn State but were sent to California State Teachers College to reside because of crowded housing conditions on the main campus. Among the freshmen were future starters Joe Yukica, Don Barney, Jim Dooley and Joe Gratson. The talent drought was over.

Chapter 12 Coach Rip Engle Era 1950-1965

Coach # 13

1950	Rip Engle	5-3-1
1951	Rip Engle	5-4
1952	Rip Engle	7-2-1
1953	Rip Engle	6-3
1954	Rip Engle	7-2-
1955	Rip Engle	5-4
1956	Rip Engle	6-2-1
1957	Rip Engle	6-3
1958	Rip Engle	6-3-1
1959	Rip Engle	9-2
1960	Rip Engle	7-3
1961	Rip Engle	8-3
1962	Rip Engle	9-2
1963	Rip Engle	7-3
1964	Rip Engle	6-4
1965	Rip Engle	5-5



Top row, left to right: Dan Radakovich, Joe McMullen, George Welsh, Joe Paterno, J.T. White Bottom row, left to right: Frank Patrick, Earl Bruce, Rip Engle, Jim O'Hara taken during the football Field Day in 1963.

On April 22, 1950 Charles A. "Rip" Engle, who had been head coach at Brown University was named the new Penn State head football coach to replace Joe Bedenk.

Engle was the innovator of the famous Wing-T formation. His teams experienced tremendous success leading Engle to a career PSU record of 104-48-4.

In May of 1950 Engle named former Brown University quarterback Joseph V. Paterno to his Penn State staff. He promptly assigned Paterno to coach quarterbacks. Rip Engle coached his last game in 1965 with a win over Maryland, 19-7 ending a 16-year stint as Penn State head football coach.

During his tenure, Penn State did not endure a losing season. Engle officially retired February 18, 1966. A day later Joseph V. Paterno was hired head football coach of Pennsylvania State University. The rest, as they say, is history.

1950: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1950 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle in his first year. Coach Engle compiled a 5-3-1 record in his first year with the Nittany Lions.

1951: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1951 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle. The team had a 5-4 record for 1951.

1952: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1952 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle and played a fine season with a record of 7-2-1. PSU was back to ten games per season.

1953: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1953 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle. They played home games in New Beaver Field in University Park, Pennsylvania. The Field had room for 30,000 fans. This season's record was 6-3 and the team played nine games.

1954: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1954 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle in his fifth year. The team finished with a 7-2 record and achieved a #16 ranking in the coach's poll and a #20 in the AP.

1955: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1955 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle. The team talent pendulum swings and changes from year to year as one team is better than another and vice versa. This year's team made it above .500 with a 5-4 record but otherwise, it was not a stellar year. Rip Engle had better years as you will see. He coached the Lions until 1965.

Great Player: Lenny Moore, HB, 1953-1955

Leonard Edward Moore was born November 25, 1933. He played halfback at PSU and he played pro for the NFL Baltimore Colts from 1956 to 1967.

Moore was simply great. He was NFL Rookie of the Year in 1956 and was a Pro-Bowler seven times. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1975.

Then assistant coach Joe Paterno often suggested that Lenny Moore is the greatest football player to ever play for Penn State. Moore starred as a halfback as the Nittany Lions went 18-9 during his playing days.



Moore led the team in rushing in 1954 with a then school record of 1082 yards in nine games on just 136 carries for a whopping 8.0 yards per carry average.

Moore was twice named to the All-

American team in 1954 and 1955. When he graduated, he owned the school career rushing record with 2380 yards which is currently 12th on the all-time list. His stats are surely impressive considering freshmen were not permitted to play in those days. His signature high-stepping running style made him popular with the fans and sports writers. The fact that he was a great player was just more gravy.

Moore went on to star in the NFL playing 12 years for the Baltimore Colts and winning two NFL championships. He was a first round (9th overall) pick for the Colts and went on to be named Rookie of the Year in 1956. During his career, he was selected to play in seven Pro Bowls. He was named league MVP and Comeback Player of the Year in 1964. He scored a touchdown in 18 consecutive games from 1963-1965, a record that stood for 40 years until broken by LaDainian Tomlinson in 2005.



Lenny Moore was among the greatest players to wear the blue and white. In 1954, he became the first Nittany Lion to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season, gaining 1,082 with 11 touchdowns. Moore was a dynamic runner, receiver and kick returner, accumulating 3,543 all-purpose yards from 1953-55. Moore was selected by the Baltimore Colts in the first round of the 1956 NFL Draft and had a brilliant 12-year career with the Colts, playing in seven Pro Bowls and gaining induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1975.

the NFL you have got to be pretty-darned good and pretty- darned tough.

Moore averaged at least 7.0 yards a carry in several seasons. He pulled in 40 receptions for 687 yards and seven touchdowns in 1957, the first of five straight years in which he would have 40 or more catches.

In 1958, he caught a career-high of 50 passes for 938 yards and seven touchdowns. This year, he helped the Colts win the NFL

Moore could to it all and Joe Paterno had him do it all just as Moore did for his great college and pro football career. He was both a great runner and receiver. He would line up both in the backfield as a halfback and split wide as a flanker, and the talented Moore was equally dangerous at both positions.

Moore's QB at Baltimore was the great Johnny Unitas. To play so many years in

championship. Then in 1959, Moore had 47 receptions for 846 yards and six TDs as the Colts repeated as champions.

As noted, he was named the NFL Rookie of the Year. Here is a pic from 2009 with JoePa at the Syracuse game. Joe Paterno was Assistant Coach when Lenny played in 1955. You can see just by looking at this picture that the two had great admiration for each other.



Pro football Hall of Famer and former Penn State running back Lenny Moore embraces coach Joe Paterno before the start of the Syracuse game at Beaver Stadium. Moore served as honorary captain for the Lions.



The Baltimore Sun archives

Baltimore Colts running back Lenny Moore in action.

1956: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1956 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle in his seventh year as head coach. The team played at New Beaver Field and had a nice 6-2-1 record.

Great Player: Sal Valentine, G, 1956

Salvatore "Sam" Valentine played his college football as a guard for PSU's football team from 1954 to 1956. Sam was captain of the 1956



team. He was a great athlete and he had a great career playing football.

He was selected by the Football Writers Association of America and the Central Press Association as a first-team player on their respective 1956 College Football All-America Teams, and he received second-team honors from

the Associated Press and United Press. In February 1957, he was named Pennsylvania's football athlete of the year.

1957: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1957 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle in his eighth season. Engle directed the team to a nice 6-3 record.

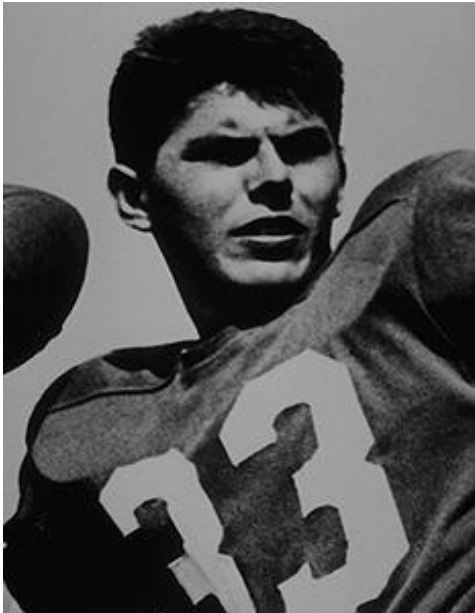
1958: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1958 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle in his ninth year. Penn State played a tenth game in 1958 and without that game the season would have been 6-3, but with the tie at West Virginia on November 8, T (14-14) the record was 6-3-1.

1959: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1959 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle in his tenth season of sixteen with PSU. This was the first eight-win year for an Engle team and it brought them a shot at the Liberty Bowl which they won on December 31, 1959 v Alabama W (7-0). The Lions finished at 9-2.

Great Player: Richie Lucas, QB, 1959



Lucas was also known as “Riverboat Richie.”

Nonetheless, he led the Nittany Lions from 1957 to 1959 as a fine quarterback. He is best known for his senior season, when he led the Lions to a 9-2 record and its first bowl victory against Alabama in the Liberty Bowl. Lucas almost won the Heisman Trophy during his senior year, but he finished second in the voting behind Billy Cannon of LSU. His success with Penn State recognized when he was named All-American and he was

inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1986.

Lucas entered the 1960 NFL Draft and was selected fourth overall by the Washington Redskins.

He decided to sign in the American Football League instead of the NFL. Thus, he became the first player in the history of the Buffalo Bills franchise. He played for the Bills for two seasons, seeing action at quarterback, halfback, defensive back, and kick returner. He played in 21 games and had four touchdowns along with more than 500 yards. When the AFL held an equalization draft in 1962, Lucas landed on the Denver Broncos and never played again.

1960: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1960 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle in his eleventh year. This year the Nittany Lions played their games in the newly opened Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania. The team played ten games and finished their first season in their big, brand new stadium with a fine 7-3 record. PSU finished # 16 for the season and if the number of bowl games were as today, PSU would have assured itself of a bowl game match.

The 500-seat Beaver Field, then the 30,000 seat New Beaver Field, and in 1960, the new Beaver stadium were all named for James Beaver, President of the Board of Trustees. The Nittany Lions played at the original Beaver Field and New Beaver Field from when they moved off the lawn until 1959.

The university decided to disassemble the stadium and move it to its current location after the 1959 season. PSU played its first game in the rebuilt stadium on September 17, 1960 against Boston University. Beaver Stadium's horseshoe configuration enabled it to have a seating capacity of 46,284, but as we all know it fits well over 100,000 today after many expansions.

The Nittany Lions had competed so well with its 6-3 record that it got a shot at Oregon in the Liberty Bowl on December 17 at JFK Stadium in Philadelphia, winning the game W (41-12). Bravo Nittany Lions!

1961: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1961 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle in his twelfth season. The lions pounded out a #19 finish and a #17 in the AP with an overall season ending 8-3 record including a Gator Bowl win v Georgia Tech.

Great Player Bob Mitinger, LB, 1959-1961



Bob Mitinger was a 1961 All-American for the Penn State football team. He had come back home in 1971 after his football playing days.

Along with coach Galen Hall, Mitinger helped lead Penn State to three straight bowl victories from 1959-61. "Bob was always a very competitive player and a leader. He was part of the backbone of the football team."

He was a standout two-way player at Penn State, starting three seasons and lettering in 1959, '60 and '61. He was labeled "our finest end in a decade and one of the nation's

really great defensive performers," by then head coach Rip Engle, Mitinger was selected a first-team All-American by the Football Coaches in 1961.

He teamed with future All-American Dave Robinson (1962) to form one of the best end tandems in college football and spearhead an aggressive Penn State defense.

Then California head coach Marv Levy called Mitinger "the best college football player in the U.S." in 1961 as he terrorized opposing backfields before the era of defensive statistics. A stalwart for the Penn State defense for three seasons, Mitinger was a starter on the 1959 Liberty Bowl team that captured Penn State's first-ever bowl victory with a 7-0 shutout of No. 10 Alabama.

He also helped Penn State to victories over Oregon (41-12) in the 1960 Liberty Bowl and No. 13 ranked Georgia Tech (30-15) in the 1961 Gator Bowl and was selected to compete in the 1962 Hula Bowl.

Mitinger was part of Penn State teams that finished three-straight years in the Associated Press Top 20 and compiled a 24-8 record from 1959-61. Known mostly for his defensive brilliance and as a bone-crushing blocker, he also compiled 14 catches for 229 yards and two touchdowns over his career.

None of his receptions had more meaning than his fingertip snag of a touchdown pass that sealed a 14-3 Penn State victory over Pittsburgh in the final regular season game of the 1960 season. The following year, Mitinger again broke Pitt's back on defense, this time forcing a fumble just before halftime that led to a touchdown and a 19-14 halftime lead. Penn State used the halftime momentum to go on to a 47-26 win in their final regular season game and the Lions earned a bid to the Gator Bowl.

A great athlete and a great football player. Mitinger was drafted in the third round by Washington of the National Football League and in the fifth round by San Diego of the American Football League in 1962. He went on to play seven seasons with San Diego (1962-68). He was named the 1962 Rookie of the Year and was a starting linebacker on San Diego's 1963 AFL Championship team.

1962: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1962 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle in his thirteenth of sixteen seasons. The team played its second set of home games in the brand-new Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania. PSU finished at 9-2 for a fine season.

Great Player: Dave Robinson, LB, 1960-1962

Former Penn State defensive end Dave Robinson is just the sixth PSU player to become a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Robinson has reached what many call the apex of professional football.

He is not alone and joins fellow Penn Staters Jack Ham, Franco Harris, August Michalske, Lenny Moore and Mike Munchak in the Hall. He was one of the 2013 class, which also included Larry Allen, Chris Carter, Curley Culp, Jonathan Ogden, Bill Parcells and Warren Sapp. Not bad company

Robinson was a phenomenal player for Penn State and gained American honors in 1962, He played from 1960-'62 under coach Rip Engle before being selected by the Green Bay Packers in the first round of the 1963 NFL draft.

As a pro, he won three NFL championships and two Super Bowl titles as a linebacker in Green Bay. He was a first-team All-NFL pick from 1967-'69 and a three-time Pro Bowler.

During his enshrinement speech, Robinson talked about Penn State, coaches Engle and Joe Paterno (Assistant coach at the time), his home state of New Jersey, his teammates and more. Here's a look at what he said about his time in Happy Valley. The transcript of his entire speech can be found at

<http://www.profootballhof.com/players/dave-robinson/here>. It is a wonderful speech from a great man and a great player at all levels of play. Robinson is a proud Nittany lion.



Dave Robinson, All American PSU

1963: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1963 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle in his fourteenth of sixteen seasons. The regular season finale with Pittsburgh was postponed from Nov. 23 to Dec. 7 following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22 in Dallas, Texas. Even football history cannot undue history, though we wish it could. PSU finished # 16 with a fine 7-3 record.

1964: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1964 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle in his fifteenth year. Even though the team was just 6-4, its strength of schedule prompted the coach's poll to rank PSU # 14 in 1964.

Great Player: Glenn Ressler, C-MG, 1962-1964



Glenn Ressler is a well-deserved All-American Selection for the year 1964. He, like many really tough linemen played his role to the finest as a dominant two-way lineman from 1962-64.

Glenn was inducted into the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame on December 11, 2001, and his honor is well-deserved. He is a native of Dornsife, Pa. At PSU, he had the pleasure of winning three varsity letters, excelling at center and middle guard. In his senior season of 1964, he was a consensus All-

American and was the choice of Philadelphia's Maxwell Football Club as the nation's most outstanding player.

Ressler played in the East-West Shrine Classic and Hula Bowl following his senior season and graduated in 1965. He played for 10 seasons with the Baltimore Colts of the National Football League after being selected in the third round of the '65 draft.

He was a member of the Colts' 1969 Super Bowl team and played on Baltimore's 1971 NFL Championship squad that defeated the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl V. Ressler was selected second-team All-NFL in 1968 by the New York Daily News. He lives in Mechanicsburg, Pa., and volunteers his time to several community organizations. He is quite a guy.

1965: PSU Season Coach Rip Engle

The 1965 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Rip Engle's in his last season as head coach of Penn State. Penn State ironically had one of its worst records this year (5-5) as it proves the ups and downs of college football results. Rip Engle was a fine coach. With sixteen seasons of coaching PSU behind him Engle had had enough. He never had a losing season.

This 5-5 season was Rip Engle's last. Penn State appointed Joe Paterno as Head Coach of the Nittany Lions.

Chapter 13 Coach Joe Paterno Era 1966 to 1980

Coach # 14

1966	Joe Paterno	5-5
1967	Joe Paterno	8-2-1
1968	Joe Paterno	11-0
1969	Joe Paterno	11-0
1970	Joe Paterno	7-3
1971	Joe Paterno	11-1
1972	Joe Paterno	10-2
1973	Joe Paterno	12-0
1974	Joe Paterno	10-2
1975	Joe Paterno	9-3
1976	Joe Paterno	7-5
1977	Joe Paterno	11-1
1978	Joe Paterno	11-1
1979	Joe Paterno	8-4
1980	Joe Paterno	10-2

Coached 45 great seasons 1966 to 2010 and part of 2011.

With 409 victories, Joe Paterno is the winningest coach in NCAA FBS history.



He put together bowl victories, two consensus National Championships—1982, 1986, and five undefeated and untied

seasons – 1968, 1969, 1973, 1986, and 1994. Four of Penn State's unbeaten teams (1968, 1969, 1973, and 1994) won major bowl games and yet were not awarded a national championship. You make the call on that one, please! At the end of the 2011 season, he was the winningest coach ever in Division I with a 409-136-3 record. He was the best coach ever!

1966: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1966 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his first season as head coach of Penn State. Paterno helped the team achieve a 5-5 record, which coincidentally was the record for PSU in Rip Engle's last season.

1967: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1967 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno and played its home games in the recently built Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania. It did not take Joe Paterno long to break out of the regular pack of American coaches. Rip Engle and many PSU coaches were very good coaches.

Joe Paterno at 45 years-old was a remarkable, unquestionably great coach. In his getting to know you first year, he was 5-5 but those days for the most part were gone. In 1967 Paterno showed his mettle and delivered a great 8-2-1 season to PSU fans. Penn State had been a National power. Joe Paterno made Penn State a "you better notice us" national phenomenon.

1968: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1968 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his third season. The 1968 team was Paterno's first perfect season. He had gone from 5-5 to 8-2-1, to 11-0, and still could not get the pundits, the scribes or the coaches to give Penn State the championship it deserved. No matter what you think of the BCS, this is the scenario that it was created to avoid.

Was it fair the Penn State was denied the National Championship with a perfect record and eleven games played? How about going 11-0? Regardless of the fairness factor, the voters ruled. The Nittany Lions finished behind 9-0 Ohio State and 9-0-1 USC in both polls. Not fair for sure. PSU should claim a piece of this championship as many other schools have done when fairness was not achieved. Just a thought. Every game was a win in 1968. Every game, including the big Orange Bowl game on January 11, 1969

Great Player: Ted Kwalick, TE, 1966-1968

Kwalick after the Maryland Game



Ted Kwalick was inducted into the Polish American Hall of Fame on June 9, 2005. Having three children of Polish descent and living in a Polish / Irish family, I can say that I believe that Ted Kwalick enjoyed this honor as much as his College Hall of Fame induction.

Kwalick was born in Pittsburgh, on the other side of the state from where I live, but he came to mid Pennsylvania to play football. He became a star at Penn State University for his outstanding play. He put in a three year highly successful tenure with the Nittany Lions as a tight end, catching 86 passes for 1,343 yards and 10 touchdowns—all Penn State records.

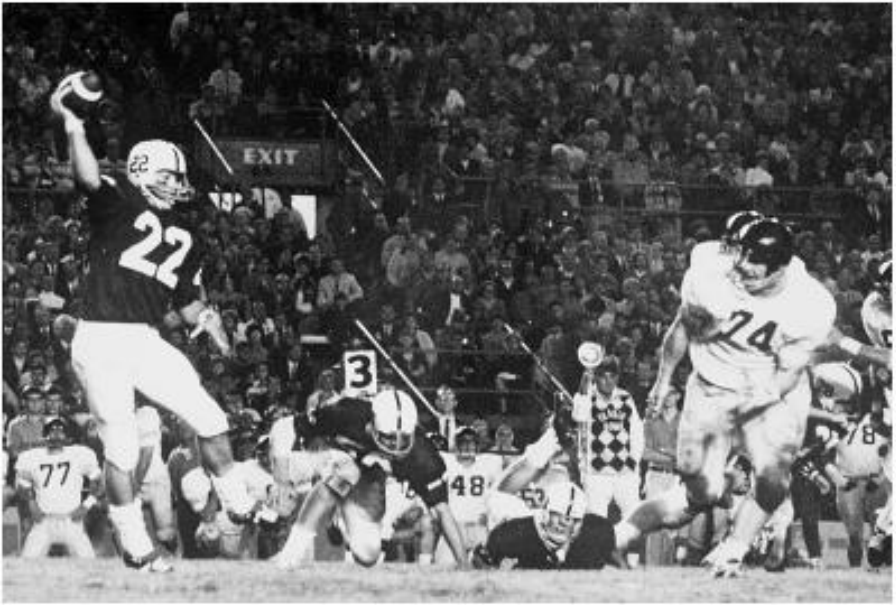
Kwalick was the school's first two-time All-American (1967, 1968). He helped lead the Nittany Lions to a perfect 11-0 record and a victory in the Orange Bowl in 1969 (the season being reported).

Kwalick was selected seventh overall in the NFL draft by the San Francisco 49ers, and he quickly made an impact the way great players most often do. He made the NFC Pro Bowl three straight seasons (1971-73) playing in three NFL West Championship games. In 1972, as a pro, Kwalick scored nine touchdowns and averaged an amazing 18.8 yards per catch. After six seasons with the 49ers he played his last three years with the Oakland Raiders. In 1977 the Raiders beat the Vikings in Super Bowl XI giving Kwalick his Super Bowl ring. Kwalick was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1989.

As an aside, the all-time great lefty quarterback Kenny Stabler was steering the Raiders ship at that time. Ted Kwalick was the guy on the end of the defensive line getting the ball back for him to play another set off downs. Guys like "Snake" Stabler at QB made pro football at the time almost as interesting as college ball.

Kansas and Penn State entered the Orange Bowl for the NBC televised game on January 1, 1969, both wanting to win this prestigious game and both hoping for the best. Both were great teams and nobody could deny that. Before 77,719 fans, Penn State played one of its best games ever against a very, very tough and

respectable Kansas squad. PSU won the line battle and the scoring battle but just about won the game by one point W (15-14)



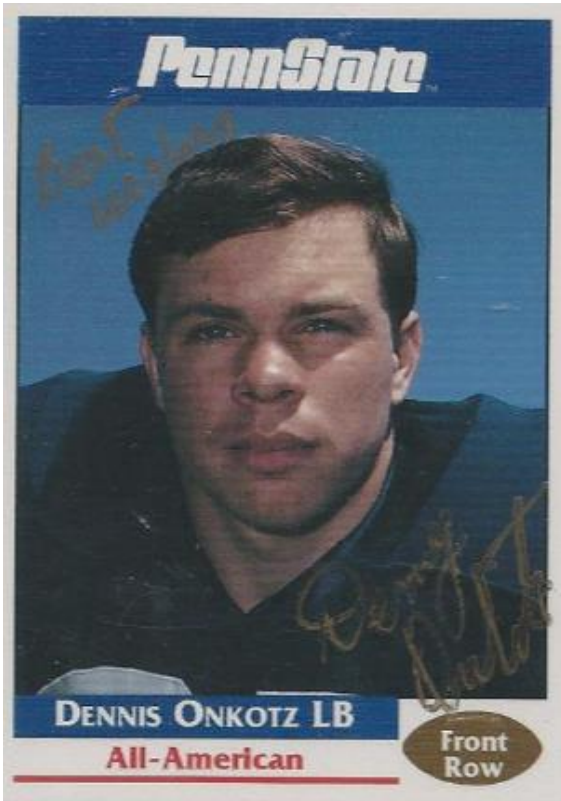
Quarterback Chuck Burkhart directed Penn State to its first two undefeated seasons under Joe Paterno in 1968 and '69. In the 1969 Orange Bowl against Kansas (above), Burkhart ran for a three-yard touchdown with eight seconds left and Bob Campbell's two-point run gave Penn State one of its most thrilling victories in program history, 15-14, to cap an 11-0 season and No. 2 finish in the Associated Press poll.

1969: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1969 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his fourth season. The 1968 team was Paterno's second perfect season in a row. He had gone from 5-5 to 8-2-1, to 11-0, and now again in 1969, 11-0, and yet the coaches and the pundits denied Penn State a National Championship for the second time in ten years. As I have said before, no matter what you may think of the BCS, this is the scenario of which it was created.

Great Player: Dennis Onkotz, LB, 1968-1969

Dennis Onkotz was a two time first team All American on the great Penn State teams of 1968 and 1969. Both teams went 11-0 with Orange Bowl wins over Kansas and Missouri. Amazingly, neither team was awarded the national championship. Onkotz started all three years (freshmen didn't play back then) and finished his career as Penn State's all-time leading tackler with 287 tackles. He led the team in tackles in 1967 and 1969 with 71 and 97 respectively.



His tackling record would be passed by three guys later on, but two of them had the benefit of playing as freshmen and having additional regular season games. Onkotz still holds the record for interceptions by a Nittany Lion linebacker with 11, and three of those he returned for touchdowns. He was such a gifted athlete that he also returned 47 punts for an average return of over 13 yards as Penn State's primary punt returner.

After Penn State, Onkotz was a third-round pick by the New York Jets. An injury in his rookie season ended his playing career. In 1995 Onkotz was selected to the College Football Hall of Fame.

Great Player: Mike Reid, IL, 1968-1969



Mike Reid was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1987. He was made an All-American by his excellent play in 1969. Lots of honors are given in recent years to outstanding players compared to the paucity of plaudits in years past.

So, when I say that Mike Reid at the time was the only Penn State player to win the Outland Trophy as the "outstanding interior lineman in college football," it was a new

idea but a big idea nonetheless. Additionally, Reid, inducted into the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame in 1987.

He was a bulwark for the PSU 1968-69 teams. He was All-American and an All-East choice in 1969, when he recorded 87 tackles and returned an interception for a touchdown against Maryland.

He also had a great national record finishing fifth in the Heisman Trophy balloting. Reid enjoyed a fine career at Penn State (1966-69), and he had some good fun in other notables. One of these was the lead role in the play "Guys and Dolls." Not settling for acting, the strong man on the line also did well with the 1967 Eastern heavyweight wrestling title.

When he moved on from PSU, he again starred with Cincinnati in the National Football League (1970-74), winning All-Pro honors twice, before retiring to devote full time to his music career.

Reid has won numerous music awards, including the Grammy Award. He is also a Penn State Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, having been named to the NCAA Silver Anniversary team in 1995. He is quite a football player, quite a man, and seemingly he is quite good at whatever he chooses.

1970: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1970 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his fifth season, and continued to play its home games in Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania. After two undefeated and untied seasons, 1970 was a rebuilding season but well played nonetheless. Paterno's Lions finished with a 7-3 record, ranked #19 in the coach's polls and #18 in the AP pundits poll.

Great Player: Jack Ham, LB, 1969-1970

Ham was a standout at Linebacker U.

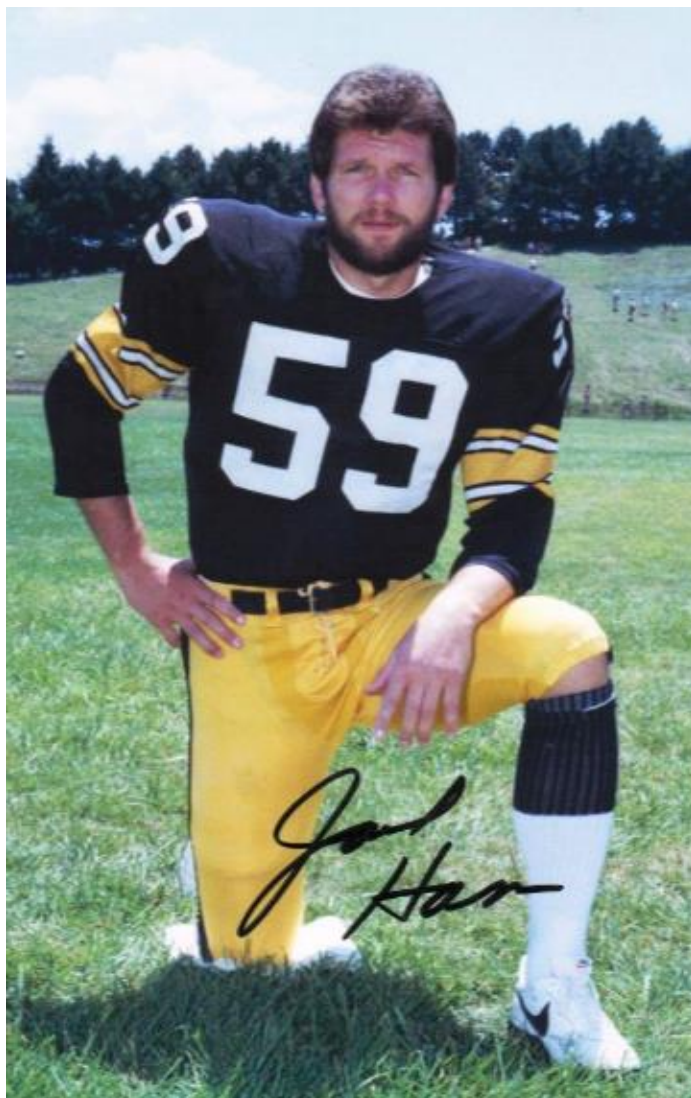
Ham, Jack Raphael (nickname Dobre Shunka)
Born: December 23, 1948, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania
Vocations: Athlete, Radio Personality, Sports Analyst

Short Bio: Jack Raphael Ham, Jr. was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on December 23, 1948. He attended The Pennsylvania State University where he became one of the school's all-time great football players.

He then went on to a wildly successful career in the National Football League with the Pittsburgh Steelers. After retiring, he entered broadcasting and headed a drug-testing company. He

currently resides in Pittsburgh with his wife, Joanne.

Here is the rest of the full "skinny" on Jack Ham. This biography was prepared by Wesley Kendle, fall 2007.



Jack Ham, a man who would leave his mark on the world of American Football, was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on December 23, 1948. The undersized and underrated linebacker graduated Bishop McCort High School in 1967 and found that he had no place to go. Ham, worried that his football career might be finished, then went to Massanutten Military Academy in Woodstock,

Virginia, with hopes of toughening up and honing his skills in order to work his way onto a college football team.

Just when Ham had thought his only option was to enroll as a student at The Pennsylvania State University and attempt to walk on

to the football team, his high school friend Steve Smear convinced recruiter George Welsh to offer Ham a newly opened scholarship. The rest is history. Jack Ham would go on to an astounding career in football, both with The Pennsylvania State University and the NFL's Pittsburgh Steelers. He is now considered to be one of American football's greatest linebackers to ever play the position.

[My wife comes from a half Polish / half Irish family and so I know a lot more Polish than your average Harp. When I saw Ham's nickname I knew that I already knew what half of it meant. Dobre Piwo in Polish means good beer and before I was eighteen and before I had met my wife, I was well acquainted with the best of the Piwos. Considering my dad worked for Stegmaier Brewery in Wilkes-Barre, PA, all members of the family one way or another learned all the names for beer before too long.]

Jack Ham's nickname, "Dobre Shunka," means "good ham" in Polish. His nickname was not just a childhood nickname, but it stayed with him throughout his playing days. In fact, it was the name of a fan club devoted to Ham when he sported the black and gold of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Much like his nickname states, Ham became quite good at playing outside linebacker.

A turning point that he himself points to as somewhat of a springboard for his career is the spring of his freshman year of college. After a rough freshman year in a time when freshmen did not see the varsity playing field, Ham found himself on the first string going into spring practice. The confidence that the coaching staff showed throughout the spring off season had a huge impact on Ham, and it began to show the following season.

As summed up in Ken Rappoport's book *The Pennsylvania State University Nittany Lions, Where Have You Gone?* Jack Ham would go on to letter in football at The Pennsylvania State University from 1968 to 1970. He was a key player in a Nittany Lion squad that would go on a 31-game unbeaten winning streak. In 1970, he was a consensus All-American.

However, even throughout his outstanding successes at The Pennsylvania State University, he was still seen by many as an undersized player. Scouting reports in the National Football League

said that Ham was too small to make it in the pros when the Steelers drafted him in the second round of the 1970 NFL draft. Many scouts were saying that Ham's 6'1", 225-pound frame was not big enough to handle the physicality of the professional football league. For a linebacker, his height was nothing to brag about. Even when he was finally drafted and signed by an NFL team, Ham had trouble making people believe he was qualified for the job.

Art Rooney, Jr. almost ran him out of his rookie physical for the Steelers when he "thought [Ham] was the delivery boy." He was even barred from the players' entrance at Three Rivers Stadium before his debut game because the security guard at the door did not believe that he played in the NFL.

In Ray Didinger's Pittsburgh Steelers, the guard was quoted as saying, "You expect me to believe you're one of the Steelers?" However, when Ham finally reached the gridiron, there was no mistaking that he belonged there. In his 12 year, pro career, spanning from 1971-1982, Ham won four Super Bowls with the Steelers' organization. He was on the All-Pro team nine consecutive years and was a unanimous selection on the NFL's Team of the Decade for the 1970s. In 1975, Ham was named the NFL Defensive Player of the Year.

Then, in 1988, Ham's former football coach, Joe Paterno, inducted him into the National Football League Hall of Fame. No more than two years later, Ham was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame where he became the only The Pennsylvania State University player to be inducted into both halls.

There is also a life after football for Jack Ham. Immediately following his retirement from professional football, Ham decided that it was time to put to use his Business degree that he had earned from The Pennsylvania State University after graduating in 1970.

He began selling coal for a company in his native city of Johnstown. He sold the coal to other industries, such as power plants, utilities, and steel companies. Ham also headed Nationwide Drug Testing in Pittsburgh. When being interviewed for the book Penn State Nittany

Lions, Where Have You Gone? by Ken Rappaport, Ham had this to say about his endeavors after football:

“I still do some of that, but I also have a drug-testing company as well here in Pittsburgh. We implement drug-free workplace programs for companies, from background checks to drug testing to writing policy for companies, so that’s my main job out here.”

Along with his job at Nationwide Drug Testing, Ham is also involved in broadcasting. For years, he could be heard on NFL’s Games of the Week on Westwood One Radio Network.

Ham also won the Penn State Distinguished Alumni Award.

No one will forget his accomplishments on the playing field. His former coach, mentor, and hall of fame inductor Joe Paterno used these words to sum up Jack Ham: “Jack Ham’s career is a monument to the work ethic. He was not a highly-recruited athlete, but his exceptional intelligence and capacity for hard work made him an extraordinary football player. I don’t think any of us knew then what an enormous talent we were getting. Jack Ham will always be the consummate The Pennsylvania State University player.”

The native of Johnstown, who has also called State College and Western Pennsylvania his home, now resides in the suburbs of Pittsburgh with his wife, Joanne. He still runs a drug testing company. Ham currently works as radio and sports analyst for the Penn State Sports Network.

1971: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1971 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his sixth season. If the man, who would soon be known and loved as JoePa knew anything at all, he knew how to win. With just one loss in an 11-1 season, I was a justified whiner in 1971 when for this stellar record, PSU was ranked at just #11 in the coach's poll and # 5 in the AP. A lot of coaches seemed to be unwilling to reward Penn State in the mid twentieth century for its valid accomplishments.

With a 10-1 record, ranked # 10 in the nation, Penn State won a shot at Texas in the Cotton Bowl on January 1, 1972. The game was televised on CBS so that 70,000 in attendance along with millions of fans on TV saw #10 PSU defeat #12 Texas W (30-6) in a well-played game for the Nittany Lions.

Great Player: Franco Harris, FB, 1969-1971



FRANCO HARRIS

What a blessing for any team to have Franco Harris and Lydell Mitchell playing in your backfield. One might ask if linemen would be necessary at all. Just kidding—honest! I can't complain because in my short high school football career I played guard and linebacker. Sure, wish I had gone to Linebacker U at Penn State. Let's look at teammates (FB) Franco Harris and (RB) Lydell Mitchell.

Running backs and fullbacks did well at Penn State. We'll look at both running superstars from 1971.

Let's look at the guy called on to get the 1st downs first and then the guy called on to win the games—Franco Harris then Lydell Mitchell

Franco Harris continues his loyalty to his college coach Joe Paterno. Surely, no matter how well you and a and several other million Penn

State football fans think we knew Joe Paterno, the coach, nobody knew him like Penn State players and a lot of good guys like Franco Harris.

Harris was a three-year starter and standout player for the Nittany Lions. Harris is a gentle yet very tough man. He still does not let anybody, including the press push his Alma Mater or his coach around. He hits back and stings and then continues to fight back

When you are talking about the all-time best players in the NFL from Penn State, you must start with Franco Harris. Harris was named to nine Pro Bowls and seven all-pro teams, and won four Super Bowls with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Yet, his PSU years do not get him the same level of acclaim...but they should. He started for the Lions for three years and averaged over five yards per carry each year. I am convinced that because Franco's pro career was so stellar, that the write-ups of the day focused on who he was and not who he had once been.

Nonetheless, he was one heck of a PSU football player even though I cannot find him on anybody's top ten PSU player list. He is on mine for sure.

When you dig down into Harris's great career at Penn State there was a player on the team who cast a big shadow. Fellow running back Lydell Mitchell became an All-American. Despite Mitchell's great stats the Steelers scouts still saw enough in Harris's play to draft him with their 13th overall selection of the 1972 NFL draft.

Yet, he gained more yards as a pro in his first season than in any of his Penn State Seasons, in which of course, he averaged between 5 and 6 yards per carry. He rushed for 1,055 yards and scored 10 touchdowns in his first year in the NFL and he was named Offensive Rookie of the Year and chosen for his first of nine consecutive Pro Bowls. Franko Harris was one heck of a football player. Not taking anything from All-American Lydell Mitchell, it is ironic that he had to become a pro to gain his proper recognition.

Harris was named the MVP of Super Bowl IX, 1972 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year and AFL-AFC Rookie of the Year by UPI, and was the 1976 Walter Payton Man of the Year.

Harris is most famous for The Immaculate Reception in the AFC playoffs against the Oakland Raiders and was voted to the NFL 1970s All-Decade Team. Harris finished his Hall of Fame career with 100 touchdowns and 12,120 rushing yards.

Rather than depend on the reader being omniscient about things like the Immaculate Reception, let's talk a bit about it since this is a book about the great moments in Penn State History. Undoubtedly this reception is one of the greatest moments and the most talked about moments in football history. Unfortunately for Franco Harris it did not affect his college stats as he achieved this career milestone as a pro.

It is the nickname given to what is what most living pundits today would agree is the most famous play in the history of American football. The Immaculate reception has a great ring to it. It was a divisional playoff game so it had much more than the normal coverage.

The game opponents were the Oakland Raiders vs the Pittsburgh Steelers with help from Franco Harris, and some say, help from the Lord himself. Even three Rivers Stadium could not prevent the miracle that was to occur on this Merry Christmas day December 23, 1972. Then, again if God is a Pittsburgh fan who had to worry?

Despite all of the spirits and the entire Franco Harris family and perhaps even a few Bradshaw's rooting for the right outcome, Pittsburgh was losing. So, with 30 seconds left in the game, Pittsburgh quarterback Terry Bradshaw, who still has lots of sputter during NFL game days, threw a pass attempt to John Fuqua. I cannot name one person today who knows who John Fuqua is but the ball did not reach him anyway.

It bounced off the hands of Raiders safety Jack Tatum; though it might have been Fuqua and with this more than likely the last play of the game, the world went into slow-mo. as everybody in the stadium and watching from TV sets across the land, saw the ball falling toward the ground like a rocket. Like a gift from the most high, out of nowhere, Steelers fullback Franco Harris, who had purchased a discount halo helmet attachment the night before the

game at K-Mart, was there to scoop it up, right into his arms before ground-touch, and then as a schooled running back, the young Harris had enough sense and wherewithal to tuck it in and he ran for the game-winning touchdown. And, that was that. Everybody accepted the outcome. Well, not exactly.

No play that starts off so needy goes so far south without a miracle intervention from above. Even the agnostics did not know what had hit them. This play remains a source of unresolved controversy and speculation ever since, as many people have contended that the ball touched either Fuqua or the ground before Harris caught it, either of which would have resulted in an incomplete pass by the rules at the time.

Kevin Cook's *The Last Headbangers* cites the play as the beginning of a bitter rivalry between Pittsburgh and Oakland that fueled a historically brutal Raiders team during the NFL's most controversially physical era. Either way, Pittsburgh won and Harris got another TD...one of many in his outstanding career.

Looking for some suckers who do not really want to know what really happened, the NFL happened upon their filming crew, NFL Films to make a few after bucks on the game. This group of professionals, unrelated of course to the NFL chose this play as the greatest play of all time, as well as the most controversial play of all time. The Steelers looked upon it as a calling and decided never to be chumps again. It was the first and so far, the last Immaculate Reception and Franco Harris's hands had the calling.

This play was thus a turning point for the Steelers, who reversed four decades of futility with their first playoff win ever, and they mustered up enough mustard to go on and win four Super Bowls by the end of the decade. The play's name is a pun derived from the Immaculate Conception, a dogma in the Roman Catholic Church. The phrase was first used on air by Myron Cope, a Pittsburgh sportscaster who was reporting on the Steelers' victory. A Pittsburgh woman, Sharon Levosky, called Cope before his 11 PM sports broadcast on the 23rd and suggested the name, which was coined by her friend Michael Ord. Cope used the term on television and the phrase stuck.

Great Player: Lydell Mitchell, RB, 1969-1971



In his day, Mitchell was the most prolific running back the college football world had ever seen.

During his playing days Penn State amassed a record of 29-4 including an undefeated 11-0 season in 1969.

After two years of sharing running back duties with Franco Harris, Mitchell exploded in his senior year for 1567 yards and 29 touchdowns (26 rushing) in 1971. Both marks shattered single season school records and the 29 total touchdowns and 174 points set new NCAA marks. He also graduated as

Penn State's all-time leading rusher with 2934 yards, still good enough for seventh on the all-time list. Still need evidence of Mitchell's greatness? Because of Mitchell, future Heisman winning running back John Cappelletti had to play on defense in 1971.

After Penn State, Mitchell went on to be drafted 48th overall by the Baltimore Colts. He was a key member of the Baltimore Colts-Miami Dolphins rivalry of the 1970's leading the Colts to three consecutive AFC East Division Championships. He had three consecutive 1000 yard seasons from 1975-1977 and went to the pro bowl all three years. He later went on to play for the San Diego Chargers and Los Angeles Rams before retiring in 1980. After his playing days Mitchell went on to become CEO of a sausage company in Baltimore Maryland. Today he lectures youths about the dangers of drugs and alcohol abuse. In 2004 Mitchell was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame.

Though he played football and graduated in 1972, Lydell Mitchell was elected into the SBC Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame on December

20, 2004 with the major tribute being his 146-yard running total in the 1972 Cotton Bowl win over Texas.

Former Penn State standout Lydell Mitchell earned on this day what some call his second hall of fame recognition of 2004. He was elected to the SBC Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame, less than two weeks after his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame. The All-America running back was inducted with seven others on Wednesday, April 20, 2005 at Cotton Bowl Plaza in Dallas.

Lydell Mitchell was an outstanding PSU football player. He was a



1971 All-American. As a dangerous running back, he led the Nittany Lions to a resounding 30-6 victory over Southwest Conference champion Texas in the Cotton Bowl on January 1, 1972. He pulled it in for 146 yards on 27 carries and scored the go-ahead touchdown, as Penn State rallied from a 6-3 halftime deficit to score 27 unanswered points in the second half. It was nothing less than the Lydell Mitchell Show with fullback Franco Harris picking up the slack as needed.

Mitchell was the overwhelming choice as the game's Outstanding Offensive Player, as he led Penn State to its first Cotton Bowl victory. The Lions became 1-0-1 and as of 2015, are 2-0-1 all-time in the contest.

The win over the Longhorns was one of the landmark victories in the early years of the Joe Paterno era. Two years prior, an undefeated Penn State team had been overlooked, as President Richard Nixon spoke before he thought and declared Texas the 1969 national champions after a 15-14 win over unbeaten Arkansas, and the pollsters followed his lead. The 1969 undefeated, untied Nittany

Lions finished No. 2 in the final AP rankings for the second consecutive year.

Lydell Mitchell was so good that the pundits did not fully notice Franco Harris but the Pittsburgh Steelers did. Mitchell led the nation in touchdowns (29) and points scored (174) in 1971. He also set three NCAA season records during his superlative 1971 campaign - most touchdowns (29), most rushing touchdowns (26) and points scored (174) - and finished fifth in the Heisman Trophy balloting. Franco Harris, one of the best football players in PSU history was kept in the shadows as the high-scoring Mitchell scored and scored and scored.

Mitchell still holds Penn State records for touchdowns in a season (29 in 1971), touchdowns in a career (41) and rushing touchdowns in a career (38) and his 246 career points scored rank fourth, the most among players other than kickers. His 1,567 yards rushing in 1971 stood as the Penn State season record for more than 30 years until Larry Johnson's 2,087-yard season in 2002.

During his phenomenal Penn State career, Mitchell won three varsity letters from 1969-71 and helped lead Penn State to a 29-4 record over that span. The Nittany Lions went 11-1 during his senior campaign to finish No. 5 in the final AP poll. In case you are not scoring at home folks, it helps to recall these fine teams were all coached by Joe Paterno, the master.

Mitchell is the first Penn Stater elected to the SBC Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame. He will join the following individuals in the SBC Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame: UCLA quarterback Troy Aikman, Arkansas halfback Lance Alworth, former CBAA executive director Jim "Hoss" Brock, Texas offensive guard Mike Dean, Tennessee fullback Andy Kozar, Tennessee tailback Hank Lauricella, and former collegiate head coach Gene Stallings.

A 35-member judging committee comprised of media representatives and athletic administrators voted from a list of 52 original nominees that included players, coaches, bowl administrators and others who have made special contributions to the Cotton Bowl Classic.

On Dec. 7, Mitchell became the 19th Penn Stater to be inducted into the National Football Foundation's College Hall of Fame.

Think about how great Lydell Mitchell was and think about how great Franco Harris was. Consider that Joe Paterno was their coach and he got the most out of them and they loved him for it.

1972: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1972 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his seventh season. Penn State had another enviable regular season at 10-1 and with a #5 ranking in the national poll, they were invited to the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans against # 2 Oklahoma, and were defeated in a close match L (14-0), finishing the season at 10-2.

1973: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1973 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his eight season. Penn State had another undefeated and untied season just four years after having two undefeated and untied seasons in a row. Despite having a perfect 12-0 season, PSU for the third time in six years was denied a proper ranking by the Coaches and by the AP. They slotted Penn State at # 5 after its third perfect season in six years. No wonder many felt that the system was rigged.

Great Player: John "Cappy" Cappelletti, RB, 1971-1973

On November 22 against NC, in this best of Beaver Stadium game, John Cappelletti, #22, solidified his credentials for the Heisman Trophy with his best running day ever in this wild shootout in freezing cold and snow. Cappelletti set a school record of 41 carries that is still unbroken in rushing for 231 yards and three touchdowns.

Like all freshmen back then, Cappy didn't play his first year at Penn State. In his second year, the offensive backfield was crowded with Mitchell and Harris sharing the load, so Cappelletti had to settle for playing on defense.



It wasn't until his junior year he was made a running back. He broke 1000 yards in his junior and senior year. As far as I can tell he was the first Nittany Lion to accomplish the feat. He exploded in 1973 for 1522 yards and 17 TD. He won the Maxwell Award and was a unanimous All-American. And of course, he was awarded the prestigious Heisman Trophy.

He is the only Penn State player to ever win the Heisman Trophy award. He finished his career second to Mitchell on the all-time career rushing list for Penn State with 2639 yards and 29 career touchdowns. Amazingly Penn State only lost three games during his playing years and went undefeated in 1973.

Cappelletti will forever be remembered for his Heisman acceptance speech in which he dedicated the trophy to his younger brother,

Joey, who was diagnosed with leukemia. After Penn State, Cappy went on to play in the NFL for ten years with the Los Angeles Rams and San Diego Chargers. John was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1993. Today he is a successful business man and father of four, living in California.

1974: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1974 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno and played its home games in Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania. At # 7 in both polls and with a 10-2 record, and a fine Cotton Bowl win, Penn State had a remarkably great year after so many previous great years. It's like the flow of great athletes would never stop.

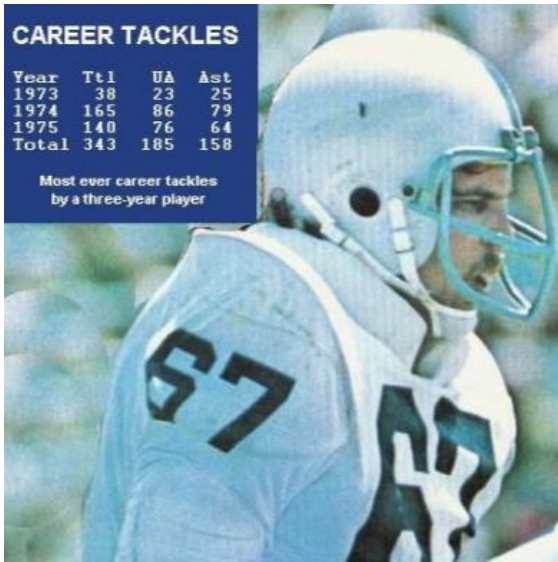
The Cotton Bowl

With a 9-2 record, ranked # 7 ranked PSU won a berth to the Cotton Bowl and on New Year's Day, beat #12 Baylor in Dallas Texas before 67,500 onlookers as well as the entire CBS TV audience W (41–20).

1975: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1975 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his tenth year. With a 9-2 regular season record and a berth in the Sugar Bowl at the New Orleans, Louisiana SuperDome on December 31, 1975, PSU, with Joe Paterno, an unbelievably successful coach at the helm, had a great season.

Great Player: Greg Buttle: LB, 1975



Greg Buttle was one of the most colorful players to ever wear the Blue and White. His jovial nature often drew the ire of a then young Joe Paterno. His junior and senior year statistics are simply mind blowing. 165 tackles as a junior and 140 tackles as a senior.

Again, he didn't have the benefit of 12 regular season games or even playing as a freshman back then. Buttle still holds the single season tackle record as well as the record for tackles in a single game (24). His 343 career tackles were a school record until it was passed by Paul Posluszny in 2006. Buttle was honored as a consensus All American in 1975. During his playing career Penn State only lost five games and went undefeated in 1973.

In 2001 he was awarded the Silver Anniversary Butkus Award for the 1975 season.

After college Buttle played nine seasons for the New York Jets in the NFL and is a member of their All-Time Jets team.

1976: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1976 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his eleventh year and played its home games in a just expanded Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania. In 1969, PSU found another 2000 seats for Beaver Stadium. In 1974, over 9000 seats, extended the capacity to 57,536. In 1976: South end

zone bleachers expanded, adding 2,667, extending capacity to 60,203. Coming up in 1978, another big expansion of 16000 seats was coming and the growing still would not be done.

For any other program in any other year, Penn State's 7-5 record in 1976 would have been chalked up as well above .500 and very acceptable. Looking at the season, you will find an awful lot of close games that in other years went the Lions' way. Just one in the other direction and the team is 8-4, which sounds a lot better. Nonetheless, this was still a darn good year when you consider the problems that other teams with coaching instabilities have. Nice job again JoePa.

With 7 wins, ranked #20, PSU was eligible for a Bowl game. They played in the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville Florida on Monday, December 27, 1976 against the University of Notre Dame. Notre Dame won a tough battle v PSU L (9-20) before 67,827 and an ABC television audience.

1977: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1977 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his twelfth season. PSU recovered from a tough 7-5 season and experienced one loss to Kentucky at home on October 1, the fourth game of the season by just four points L (20-24).

Four points doth make a season as the Kentucky game is all that separated Paterno's tough Penn State squad from another perfect, undefeated and untied, season. The one loss made all the difference in the world as the Nittany Lions finished #4 in the Coach's poll and #5 in the AP poll. It was another great year for Penn State on the field.

Great Player: Jimmy Cefalo, RB, 1975-1977

Being from Northeastern PA, which includes Pittston, Jimmy Cefalo's home town, because of this great player highlight, I now no longer must fear hearing: "But what about that nice Jimmy Cefalo guy from Pittston... isn't he from up your way in WB? He was great. Why is he not in the book? Was it because his Pittston team beat your Meyers team the year he played? Then, why not?"

Well, if that is your question and you can wait for a response here it is:

Jimmy Cefalo was the best football player that I ever saw play in high school at Meyers Stadium (Wilkes-Barre Stadium) against Meyers High School, my alma mater. By then, I had long graduated and was comfortable in the seats eating the Nardone Pizza they serve at the games.

I loved watching football in Meyers Stadium. Observing Jimmy Cefalo was like watching a pro playing against high school wannabees. I did not know that a young man from Pittston could grow such huge muscular legs that could enable him to mow down every lineman he encountered. Cefalo was outstanding.



Cefalo was that impressive as a high schooler. Penn State's Jimmy Cefalo was Pittston's Jimmy Cefalo even before he was Miami's Jimmy Cefalo. Yep, same guy. Great ball player! I never saw a

better athlete, period! He did well and I always rooted for him. He was one of ours!

James Carmen "Jimmy" Cefalo

When the stork arrived at Cefalo Haven some place tucked within the inner surrounds of Pittston, PA, it was October 6, 1956. The young man being carried was at his smallest and weakest point in life. Yet, over time he was able to become an American Journalist, news broadcaster and sports broadcaster, radio talk show host, and of course like Curt Gowdy and the Phillies, he is now the Voice of the Miami Dolphins, He is also a businessman, wine enthusiast and former professional American football wide receiver and game show host.

As noted previously, I met Jimmy Cefalo only from a distance as I was watching a football game when I was about 24 years old and he was about 18. It seems like yesterday. He more than likely would not recognize me even though I was not wearing a protective helmet in the stands during the game.

I observed the talented Cefalo when he was a kid at Pittston High. Even though I am a football enthusiast, and I went to a ton of high school games, I had never seen anybody play so well... ever.

Jimmy Cefalo is the real deal and he ripped into every defense in the Wyoming Valley right from the line. He held nothing back and his team won. He got banged and bruised but he always won the yards even with no blockers. He became an adept pass receiver and maybe even one of the greatest. I knew he could outskirt the DBs but I was always hoping one of those huge collegiate linemen had to deal with a pair of Cefalo tree-trunks on a running play. It would have been awesome.

I thought the readers of this book might enjoy a local press release from the Wyoming Valley from which I hail.

YATESVILLE — Former Pittston Area great Jimmy Cefalo returned to his alma mater Friday night to present the school with a “golden football” during the game against Abington Heights.

Cefalo, in conjunction with the Super Bowl, the National Football League, and athletic company Wilson, presented longtime Pittston Area head football coach Bob Barbieri with the football. Barbieri accepted the football on Pittston Area's behalf.

Football was given to all former Super Bowl participants and were to be presented to programs that show character and perseverance.

Cefalo, who played for Penn State and won Super Bowl XIX with the Miami Dolphins, said this was the first time he's been back to the field since his final high school game.

"It's a great honor to be back here," he said.

"The National Football League's program is an important program and I'm glad to be part of it."

The former Patriot [Pittston Patriot] is a member of the Pennsylvania Football News All-Century team and was a standout at Penn State from 1974 to 1977. He was named MVP of the 1976 Gator Bowl.

A third-round pick of the Miami Dolphins, Cefalo appeared in two Super Bowls and caught a 76-yard pass against the Washington Redskins, one of the longest in Super Bowl history.

In 1984, Cefalo caught the Dan Marino pass that broke the record for most touchdown passes in a season.

A meet-and-greet was held for Cefalo prior to the game at the Red Mill in Pittston. Cefalo then spoke to current Pittston Area players before the game. Cefalo was also an honorary captain and was part of the coin toss.

When asked about what Cefalo remembers most about his time playing high school, college and professional football, he came back to his roots.

“Most of my shining moments were on this field,” he said. “That’s where it all started. Here, it was special. It was with my friends and the guys on the playground. I think this is the shining moment.”

How can we not all agree!

Jimmy Cefalo, not heralded as much at Penn State because of all the talent was clearly the most talented player that non-coaches, and real coaches ever saw come from Wyoming valley because it was right in front of us.

I herald Jimmy Cefalo of Penn State. Despite his greatness, he never uttered a negative word.

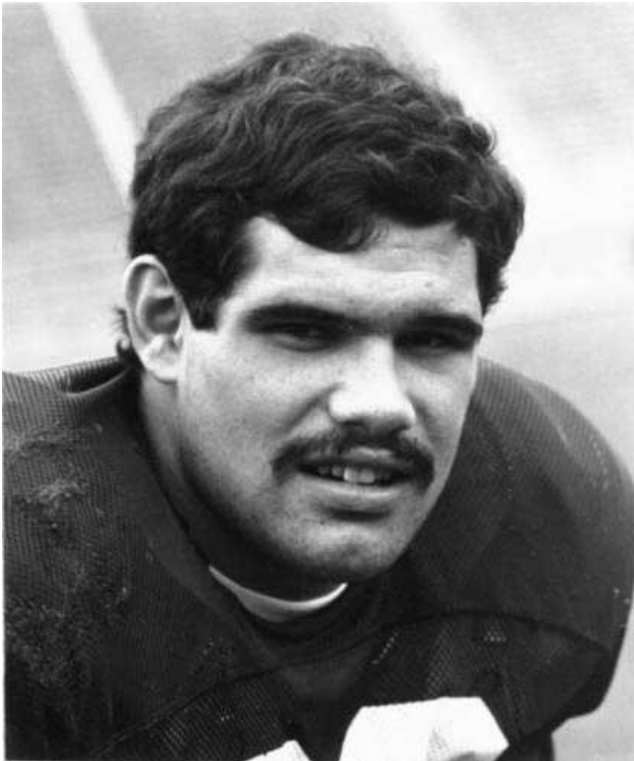


Penn State coach Joe Paterno and his quarterback Chuck Fusina discussed things late in the fourth quarter in Pittsburgh, Saturday, Nov. 26, 1977.

1978: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1978 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his thirteenth year. This Chuck Fusina led-team was phenomenal. In 1977, four points to Kentucky in the fourth game separated PSU from a perfect season. This year, PSU did not lose a game until the Sugar Bowl when it was a seven-point difference against a Bear Bryant coached Alabama team that kept PSU from the National Championships. PSU was 11-0 and ranked # 2 going into the bowl game. Alabama was 11-0 and ranked #1. Alabama won the game and the National Championship. PSU finished 11-1 and were ranked # 4 in both polls.

Great Player: Matt Suhey, RB, 1978



Matt Suhey is a third-generation Nittany Lion hailing from arguably the first family of Penn State football. Matt Suhey is one of three sons of College Football Hall of Fame guard Steve Suhey to letter at Penn State University and a grandson of Hall of Fame Penn State player and coach Bob Higgins.

His son, Joe Suhey, was a fullback at Penn State from 2007-2011. The Higgins–Suhey family is often referred to as the "first family of Penn State football" due to their affiliation with the program spanning four generations. [

Matt a standout running back at Penn State from 1976-79 before starting a highly-successful pro career with the Chicago Bears. Although Suhey was never a leader in any statistical category, he was a fan favorite for his personality and blocking ability.

His grandfather, 19-year coach Bob Higgins was Penn State's second All-American, garnering honors in 1915 and '19 and served as head coach from 1930-48. Matt's father, Steve Suhey, was a letterman at guard in 1942 and again in 1946-47, earning All-America honors his senior season. That gives the Higgins-Suhey family an amazing 95 years of involvement with the Penn State program of the 130 seasons it has existed.

When he went to the Chicago Bears, Walter Payton thought of him as a "Short white boy," though the two were the same height. Suhey overcame that, became a fine player with Chicago and a great friend of Walter Payton. He is such a friend that when Walter passed on Suhey became the executor of his estate.

The Sugar Bowl 1978

Alabama, coached by the inimitable great, Bear Bryant, a man with the great coaching stature of Joe Paterno, with a great team, was ranked #2. The Sugar Bowl eventually got the #1 and # 2 teams to play each other even though Coach Paterno would have preferred the Orange Bowl, the last game played on New Year's Day. That did not happen. Destiny was in the hands of both of these teams.

With its 11-1 1977 season behind them coming in with just four points separating PSU from a National Championship bid, PSU had high expectations for the 1978 season. Before game time. Nobody could say that the 1978 Penn State squad had disappointed anybody. PSU had a great season after barely escaping Temple in game 1.

Joe Paterno was a phenomenon. So was Bear Bryant. My buddy George Mohanco, a former Pennsylvanian has a saying, whether he invented it, I do not know but it applies to 1978. "Sometimes you eat

the bear and sometimes the bear eats you." This time Bear Bryant had the better dinner.

1979: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1979 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno. No team can have a championship every year. After back to back 11-1 seasons, PSU kept working hard. The University football program did not take the night off. Joe Paterno's squad compiled a 7-4 regular season record and won the Liberty Bowl, making the record 8-4. PSU was top-twenty ranked in both polls—#18 in the Coach's poll and #20 in the AP.

1980: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1980 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his fifteenth season with Penn State. The team had a great season, winning two more games than in 1979, and finishing with a 10-2 record, ranked #8 in both polls. I am in awe about how consistent a winner, coach Paterno was with his PSU teams. Bravo!

Great Players: Matt Millen, DT, 1978

Matt Millen was an All-American Selection in 1978. The Hokendauqua, Pa. native played Defensive tackle of the Nittany Lions. He was also selected by Walter Camp and United Press International. Millen was a terror on Defense with 54 tackles, including nine quarterback sacks. He even blocked a punt and caused two fumbles as a junior.

He had an unfortunate senior year or he would have killed it in the stats and honors categories. He was a great football player. He missed most of his playing time during senior year with an injury. After graduation, he played with the Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders (1980-88), San Francisco (1989-90), and Washington (1991) of the National Football League.



Former player Matt Millen

In Millen's 12-year NFL playing career, he played on four teams that won the Super Bowl.

Millen won a Super Bowl ring with each of the three teams for which he played; moreover, he won a Super Bowl ring in each of the four cities in which he played (the Raiders won

championships in both Oakland and Los Angeles during his tenure).

Millen was very successful in football., He was president and CEO of the NFL Detroit Lions until 2008.

Chapter 14 Coach Joe Paterno Era 1981 to 1995

Coach # 14

1981	Joe Paterno	10-2	
1982	Joe Paterno	11-1	National Champions
1983	Joe Paterno	8-4-1	
1984	Joe Paterno	6-5	
1985	Joe Paterno	11-1	
1986	Joe Paterno	12-0	National Champions
1987	Joe Paterno	8-4	
1988	Joe Paterno	5-6	
1989	Joe Paterno	8-3-1	
1990	Joe Paterno	9-3	
1991	Joe Paterno	11-2	
1992	Joe Paterno	7-5	
1993	Joe Paterno	10-2	(6-2 Big 10)
1994	Joe Paterno	12-0	(8-0 Big 10)
1995	Joe Paterno	9-3	(5-3 Big 10)

Coached 45 great seasons 1966 to 2010 and part of 2011.



1981: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1981 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his sixteenth season. Coach Joe Paterno did it again—a 9-2 excellent regular season and a victory over USC in the

Fiesta Bowl giving a 10-2 combined record and a #3 position in both polls.



The Nittany Lions delivered one of their most satisfying wins when quarterback Todd Blackledge (above) and the defense sparked a turnaround from a 14-0 deficit to a 48-14 win at No. 1 Pitt on November 28, 1981. Penn State beat Southern California in the 1982 Fiesta Bowl to finish 10-2 and ranked No. 3, setting the table for the Nittany Lions' 1982 National Championship.

On November 28, Penn State said enough is enough and shellacked #1 ranked Pittsburgh at Pitt Stadium W (48-14) in Dan Marino's last year. Incidentally, with Pitt's 11-1 record, PSU had put the only blemish on its season. The Pitt Team came back from the PSU loss, played and beat the # 2 team in the country Georgia 24-20 in the Sugar Bowl.

On this day in 1981 Penn State pulled off one of its finest come from behind victories, snapping back from a 14-0 second-quarter deficit to rout No. 1 Pitt, 48-14, and end the national title chances of the Sugar Bowl-bound Panthers before a national television audience and 60,260 at Pitt Stadium. The victory was sparked by interceptions of Dan Marino passes by Roger Jackson and Mark Robinson and the passing combination of Todd Blackledge to Kenny Jackson.

Great Player: Todd Blackledge, QB, 1980-1982



When I first saw Todd Blackledge play at the Carrier Dome v Syracuse years ago, I was amazed at the passing after having seen so many games in which Penn State would run the ball almost all the time even if the situation clearly called for a pass. Before Blackledge, it seemed Paterno was always squeamish about passing.

On this day v Pittsburgh facing the consummate passer of all time, Dan Marino, JoePa had to let Blackledge throw—but would he? He sure did. Not only did Coach OK a vaunted passing attack, it was as if PSU had been a passing team forever. Blackledge could not do anything wrong. He played one heck of a game

He was so good that Todd Blackledge upstaged the best passer in football Dan Marino at quarterback. Penn State got its biggest upset since Joe Paterno became the head coach in 1966, a huge 48-14 victory over top-ranked Pittsburgh that ended the Panthers' 17-game winning streak, and ended their day in the championship sun.

Marino was a junior at the time, and as the QB, so far in the game he had put Pitt out ahead so quickly that it looked like the crying towels would be needed. Marino had already thrown for two touchdowns to put the Panthers ahead by 14-0 in the first 10 minutes.

Blackledge, Penn State's sophomore quarterback got some breaks and took advantage of them. There were a series of Panther mistakes that in a flash turned the game around. Before the Panthers knew it, the game was tied and then they were losing.

Blackledge threw two touchdown passes to Kenny Jackson, ran for one touchdown and wound up with 12 completions in 23 attempts for 262 yards before a crowd of 60,260 in Pitt Stadium.

Blackledge was elated. "This was the best game of my life," he said. Marino was not his usual pinpoint self with 22 completions in 45 attempts for 267 yards. His big problem was that he got only 80 yards in the second half. He was intercepted four times and his team lost three fumbles. The seven turnovers killed the Panthers.

"We can't cry," said Marino, who had taken Pitt to be the #1 team in the nation with 34 touchdown passes before this day in this season. "They did a good job and beat us outright today. We just made too many mistakes, and you can't win with so many fumbles, penalties and interceptions."

Going back into the archives, the Nittany Lions had a tough time finding another such significant victory. They had to go back to 1964 when PSU shocked OSU, 27-0, and toppled the Buckeyes from the No. 1 rank in midseason.

Warner pressed into duty

Curt Warner, Penn State's best tailback, did not start the PSU Pitt game because of recent leg injuries. But when Jon Williams also got hurt early in the game, Warner came in and ran for 104 yards to finish his junior season with 1,044 yards rushing. He had missed two full games and most of two others this season.



The triumph was Penn State's 40th in the series, against 38 defeats and three ties. Paterno would not compare this victory with any previous ones in his 31 years as an assistant and head coach at Penn State but said, "I've never been around a squad with more tough luck. People are disappointed we didn't win every game, but I'm glad for the squad. We

played a lot of difficult defenses, and injuries to so many like Warner have been tough luck."

Sherrill said, "They outplayed us simply and we made too many mistakes. Next one is against Georgia."

When it was all over, PSU was # 3 in both post season polls whereas Pitt was # 2 in the Coach's poll and #4 in the AP poll. Texas, which had a loss and a tie played Clemson and lost but yet, was given the #4 slot in the Coach's Poll and were ranked above Pitt at # 2 in the AP poll. The Clemson Tigers, who were unbeaten and untied, claimed the national championship with #1 ranking in both polls after their victory over Nebraska in the Orange Bowl. No wonder we have the BCS today.

As the standout quarterback at Penn State, Blackledge started for the Nittany Lions from 1981 to 1983, going 31-5 through three seasons. After leading Penn State to the national championship in 1982, Blackledge won the Davey O'Brien Award as the nation's most outstanding quarterback, and he finished sixth in the Heisman Trophy voting. His passer rating was 10th among the nation's quarterbacks that season.

In the 1983 NFL Draft, Kansas City selected Blackledge seventh overall. He played for the Chiefs for five seasons before joining the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1988. He retired in 1989.

Blackledge was one of seven former NCAA student-athletes selected to receive the 2008 Silver Anniversary Award, which recognizes former student-athletes who completed successful collegiate careers and have gone on to excel in their chosen professions.

In 2009, he was awarded Penn State's Distinguished Alumni Award. He is a member of Penn State's Board of Visitors for Penn State's Center for Sports Journalism.

Blackledge lives in Canton, Ohio. In the offseason he coaches high school basketball.

Blackledge received a Bachelor of Arts degree in speech communication from Penn State in 1983, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. A first-team Academic All-American, he also earned the Eric Walker Award that year from Penn State, given annually to the senior believed to have most "enhanced the esteem and recognition of the University."

Great Player: Mike Munchak, G, 1978-1981

Mike Munchak was born about eighteen miles north of my home town. He was ready to play offensive lineman (Guard) for Penn State from 1978-1981 but he was injured in 1980 and he missed the season as his knee was recovering. Nobody has lots to say about offensive Tackles or Guards so just being honored is a big deal as everything is a team effort.

Munchak came back and was fully healed in 1981. He was a talented starter in both 1979 and 1981. During his senior year, he was named a second team All-American and was subsequently drafted 8th overall by the Houston Oilers.



He had a great but short professional career. During the 1982 NFL Draft, Munchak was chosen as the Houston Oilers first round draft pick (8th overall), making him the first offensive lineman drafted that year. In his rookie season, he quickly earned a starting position at the left guard position.

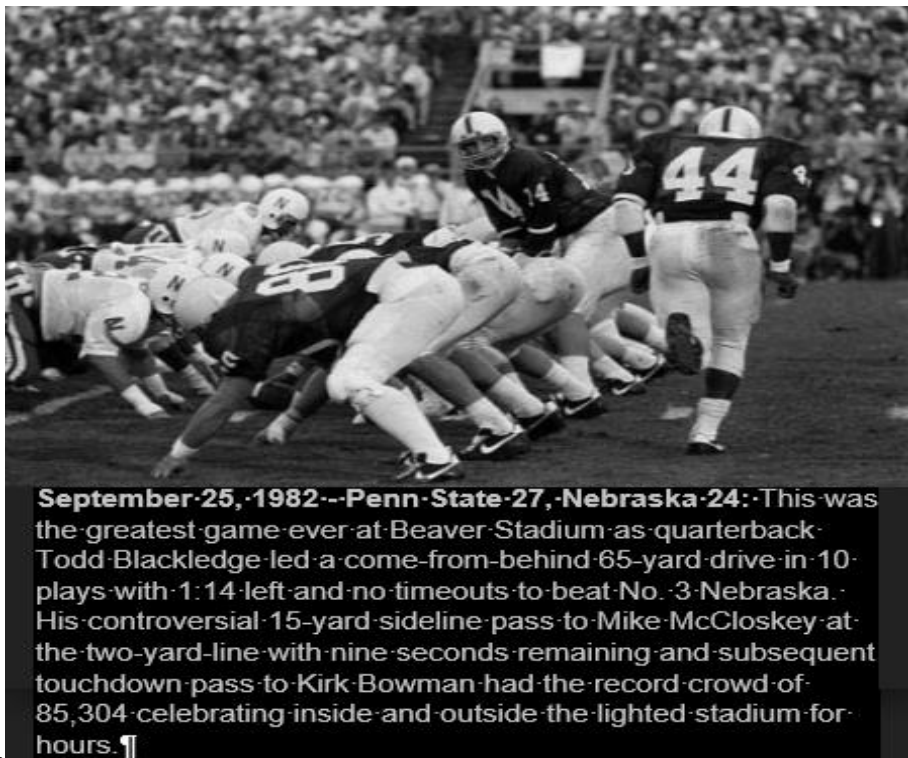
He remained in that position for 12 seasons. During that time he garnered nine Pro Bowl

nominations, four All-Pro, nine Second Team All-Pro, seven All-AFC, and four second team All-Pro selections. He was a great player. In addition, he was selected for the 1980s All-Decade Team. Munchak's 12-year tenure tied for second most seasons played with the Houston Oilers.

Mike Munchak has been in the hunt for the PSU coaching job since 2011. As much as Munchak would be very welcome as a tiger Lion for the Lions, most PSU football fans are OK if James Franklin kills it in the next year as he seems ready to do.

1982: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1982 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his seventeenth season. After a disappointing loss at Birmingham to #4 Alabama in game 5 L (21-42), a resilient and very tough Penn State squad came back and brought home all the marbles. The Nittany Lions won every game for the rest of the regular season, and defeated the #1 Georgia Bulldogs 27-23 in the Sugar Bowl. Added to their 11-1 record Penn State's fine play gave Joe Paterno his first consensus national championship



Great Player: Curt Warner, RB, 1979-1982

Curt Warner led Penn State to a 39-9 record during his playing days. He was the starting running back for the 1982 team that defeated Georgia in the Sugar Bowl to win Joe Paterno's first National Championship.

In 1981 Warner rushed for a school record 256 yards in one game against Syracuse, a record that would stand for over 20 years. Warner was twice selected a first team All American. To this day, he still holds the career rushing record for Penn State with 3398 yards.

After Penn State Warner was a first round draft pick for the Seattle Seahawks, where he led the AFC in rushing his rookie year. He tore his ACL his second year in the league, but still went on to be a highly productive player. Warner went on to play for seven years and make three Pro Bowls with the Seahawks before retiring in

1990. Currently he owns and runs a Chevrolet dealership in Vancouver, Washington.



**Curt Warner 17th Nittany Lion
player to gain induction**

Curt Warner, PSU great, Elected to College Football Hall of Fame

When elected into the hall of fame, the PSU career rushing leader became the 17th Nittany Lion Player to Gain this honor. Think about all the greats in PSU history in which a running game was preferred over a passing game. PSU simply bulled over its opponents. Well in that scenario, former Penn State All-America tailback Curt Warner, the Nittany Lions' man who holds the career rushing yardage leadership for all of PSU football's 100+ years of varsity football, was noted as

worthy to become elected to the College Football Hall of Fame.

"I am deeply honored to have been elected to the College Football Hall of Fame," said Warner, who lives in Camas, Wash., near Portland, Ore. "It's always a good day when you receive news like this. I am honored and privileged to join such a distinguished group of players and coaches."

Hailing from the small town of Pineville, W. Va., Warner was a standout at Pineville High School, graduating in class of 90 students. He went on to lead the Nittany Lions in rushing in 1980, '81 and '82, helping Penn State capture its first National Championship in 1982. Warner was instrumental in Penn State's 31-5 record during his final three seasons, which included two Fiesta Bowl wins (Ohio State and USC) and a 27-23 win over Georgia in the 1983 Sugar Bowl in the National Championship game.

When Warner's brilliant career ended, he owned 42 school records. His 3,398 career rushing yards and 18 100-yard rushing games remain Penn State records more than 25 years later. The Nittany Lions were 18-0 when he eclipsed the century mark. Warner is the only Penn State running back to be selected a two-time first team All-American and is one of just 14 Nittany Lions all-time to earn first team All-America honors twice.

"Curt Warner was an outstanding running back," said head coach Joe Paterno, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2007. "In all my years at Penn State, we have had a lot of exceptional backs, and he is one of the very best of that distinguished group. Curt was a leader for the great teams we had in the early 1980's and played a big part in helping us win our first national championship. Curt was a very good student, has been very loyal to Penn State and has made a positive impact on his community in Washington.

"Curt is most deserving of induction into the College Football Hall of Fame, and we are very pleased that he will be joining its prestigious membership," Paterno added.

"We are thrilled Curt Warner's outstanding career will be recognized with his enshrinement in the College Football Hall of Fame," said Tim Curley, Penn State Director of Athletics.

"Curt was a fantastic representative of the University and was a great leader on our 1982 National Championship team. Curt has earned numerous professional accomplishments in football and business and has made many contributions to the community. We are very pleased with his well-deserved election and earning college football's ultimate honor."

As a freshman in 1979, Warner gained 391 yards on 84 carries (4.7) and scored two touchdowns in a reserve role to leading rusher Matt Suhey. In 1980, Warner gained 922 yards on 196 carries (4.7) and scored six touchdowns, helping Penn State to a 10-2 mark and No. 8 final ranking. He ran for a then-Penn State bowl record 155 yards on 18 carries, including a 64-yard touchdown run, to earn Offensive player of the Game honors as the Nittany Lions beat Ohio State in the 1980 Fiesta Bowl.

In 1981, the Walter Camp Football Foundation and United Press International selected Warner a first team All-American. He ran for 1,044 yards on 171 attempts (6.1) and scored eight touchdowns. The Nittany Lions were 10-2, ranked No. 1 for two weeks at mid-season, ending the season with a 48-14 win at No. 1 Pitt and a 26-10 win over USC in the Fiesta Bowl to finish No. 3 in the polls.

Warner gained 145 yards and scored twice vs. the Trojans, out-rushing Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Allen by 60 yards, en route to winning Outstanding Offensive Player accolades in Tempe for the second consecutive year.

As a senior in 1982, Warner gained 1,041 yards on 198 carries (5.3) and scored eight times, again earning first team All-America honors. He also gained 335 receiving yards with five touchdowns. He was awarded the Hall Foundation Award as Penn State's Senior MVP. Warner eclipsed the 100-yard mark in each of the final five games of 1982, including a season-high 183 yards and three touchdowns in a win at Boston College.

After losing at Alabama in the fifth game of the 1982 campaign, the Nittany Lions reeled off six consecutive wins to climb back to 10-1 and No. 2 in the polls and earn a berth in the Sugar Bowl against unbeaten and No. 1 Georgia for the national title. For the second consecutive year, Warner out-gained the Heisman Trophy winner, rushing for 117 yards and two touchdowns in the Nittany Lions' monumental 27-23 win.

He scored from two yards out in the first quarter to open the scoring and added a nine-yard run in the second frame for a 17-3 lead. Warner fought through leg cramps to gain 63 yards in the second

half. Georgia's Herschel Walker gained 103 yards on 28 carries vs. the Penn State defense.

Warner said identifying the top highlight of his Penn State career was difficult. "It would probably be the (1983) Sugar Bowl. We had to battle the entire game to beat Georgia. That game epitomized what we were about and culminated all of the hard work we had put in during our careers."

In addition to his Penn State career rushing and 100-yard rushing game records, Warner also holds the school record for all-purpose yards in a game – 341 yards.

After playing in the 1983 Hula Bowl, Warner was the third overall selection in the 1983 NFL Draft by the Seattle Seahawks. He led the AFC in rushing his rookie season with 1,449 yards on 335 carries (4.3), scoring 13 touchdowns to help the Seahawks reach their first AFC Championship game. He suffered a torn ACL in the 1984 opener and missed the rest of the season. Warner gained a career-best 1,481 yards in 1986 and added 41 receptions.

Warner earned Pro Bowl selections in 1983, '86 and '87 and was named All-Pro in 1983, '85, '86 and '87. He gained 6,844 career yards and scored 56 touchdowns, while playing with Seattle (1983-89) and the Los Angeles Rams (1990). Warner also gained 1,467 career receiving yards. He was inducted into the Seattle Seahawks Ring of Honor in 1994 and is one of only eight Seahawks players to be so honored.

Warner was very appreciative of the opportunity to play for Paterno. "I really don't think his players fully appreciate Joe Paterno until they leave," he said. "After you have left Penn State and are out in the world, then you begin to understand the things he talked about and taught us. It was a privilege to play for Joe Paterno."

He is a great person and a great coach. He prepares you for life and he has my utmost respect."

Other members of the Penn State program enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame, located in South Bend, Ind., include ex-coaches Hugo Bezdek, Rip Engle, Dick Harlow and Bob Higgins

along with former players John Cappelletti, Keith Dorney, Jack Ham, Glenn Killinger, Ted Kwalick, Rich Lucas, Pete Mauthe, Shorty Miller, Lydell Mitchell, Dennis Onkotz, Mike Reid,

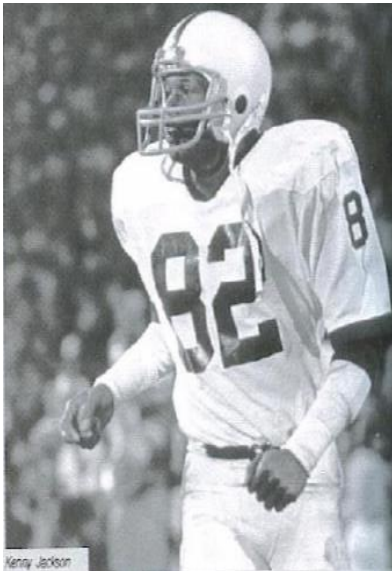
Additional information on the College Football Hall of Fame Class of 2009 can be found at www.footballfoundation.com.

1983: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1983 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his eighteenth year. The team achieved an 8-4-1 record with an Aloha Bowl game victory over Washington. Even with four regular season losses, the Lions were ranked at #17 in the Coach's poll. Clearly after a national championship it is safe to call 1983 a rebuilding year for Penn State. New players equal a new team.

On December 26, PSU played Washington at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii in the Aloha Bowl. 37,212 watched the game on the field while millions of others watched it on ESPN. Penn State won the game W (13-10).

Great Player: Kenny Jackson WR, 1982-1983



Kenny Jackson, from Mount Holly, NJ, who played Flanker for the Lions, was an All-American Selection in 1982 and 1983.

Jackson was selected by the Associated Press in 1982 and by NEA in 1983. Jackson was Penn State's first All-American wide receiver, catching 41 passes for 697 yards and seven TDs in 1982. He owned 27 school records after his senior year. Jackson was a #1 draft pick, played with Philadelphia (1984-88, 90-91) and Houston (1989) in the National Football League.

He served on the Penn State football coaching staff from 1993 to 2000 and was an assistant coach with the Pittsburgh Steelers from 2001-03.

1984: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1984 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his nineteenth year at age 56. With a 6-5 record this can be called a rebuilding year to a rebuilding year. Lots of losses.

1985: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1985 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno for the twentieth year and played its home games in Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania.

On November 16, a new regular, Notre Dame, then an unranked opponent, played the #1 ranked Penn State at Beaver Stadium W (36-6).

In the Beaver Stadium historical annals, no game ever had been played in such drenching, cold rain. The heavy rain started Friday night and did not let up until the game was long over. Despite regional TV able to take the fans out of the inclement weather, over 84,000 fans showed up. They expected to see a close game but watched as the top ranked Nittany Lions annihilated Notre Dame en route to an 11-0 regular season and berth in the national championship game vs. Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl.

On November 16, an undefeated PSU team beat Pitt at Pitt W (31-0). PSU was ranked #1 at 11-0 undefeated and were invited to play Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl.

Bowl Game Destroys Undefeated Season

The game was about five or six weeks after the team was in shape and had their last taste of a real football game. Miami had the same circumstances so there are no excuses but PSU had obviously lost its

edge. On January 1, 1986, # 1 PSU played #3 Oklahoma in the Miami Orange Bowl and lost the game to a Miami team that played better than Penn State L (10–25). 74,148 saw the game on the field and NBC showed the game to the willing in the rest of the country. It was a great season, 11-1 with a #3 finish in both the Coach's and the AP polls.

1986: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1986 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his twenty-first year. Penn State defeated the Miami Hurricanes 14–10 in the 1987 Fiesta Bowl to win Paterno's second consensus national championship for an undefeated 12-0 record. Joe Paterno knew how to win football games.

Great Player: Shane Conlan, LB, 1986



Many Penn State fans consider Shane Conlan to be the prototypical linebacker by which all other linebackers are judged. He was an unknown prospect coming out of high school, but would go on to become a two time First Team All American that led his defensive squad to appearances in two National Championship games. The 1986 defense was one of the greatest of all time not allowing any opponents to score

more than 19 points. In the Fiesta Bowl Conlan had eight tackles

and two interceptions in leading Penn State to their second National Championship over the Miami Hurricanes. He ended his Penn State career with 274 tackles which is still good enough for fifth all time.

Conlan was a first round draft pick of the Buffalo Bills (8th overall) in 1987 and went on to claim the NFL Rookie of the Year award. He was named to the Pro Bowl in three straight seasons from 1990 to 1992. The Bills went to the Super Bowl each of those seasons, but couldn't win the game. Conlan joined the Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams in 1993 and played a few more years before retiring in 1995.

Shane Conlan inducted into College Football Hall of Fame

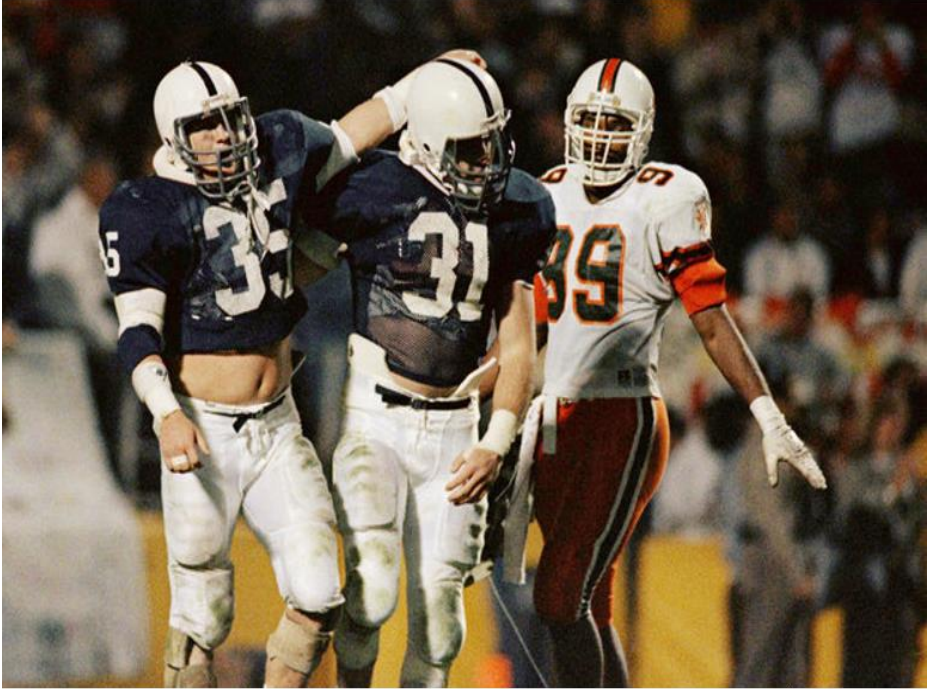
By [Dustin Hockensmith | dhockensmith@pennlive.com](mailto:dhockensmith@pennlive.com)
on May 22, 2014 at 1:58 PM, updated May 22, 2014 at 2:45 PM

Former Penn State linebacker Shane Conlan was one of 16 inductees into the 2014 College Football Hall of Fame. One of three Nittany Lions on the ballot, Conlan made the cut as a two-time All-American who helped lead Penn State to an undefeated record and the 1986 national championship. Running back D.J. Dozier and offensive lineman Steve Wisniewski also made the final vote.

Conlan thanked late legendary coach Joe Paterno and former defensive coordinator Tom Bradley in his acceptance speech. He added that the Nittany Lions were the only program to offer him a scholarship as a three-sport athlete from Frewsburg High School in upstate New York.

"It's been a tough time last few years at Penn State," Conlan said, beginning to choke up. "So, most of all I want to thank two people that are most important to me in my life, one being the late, great Joe Paterno. Thank you so much for all you've done. We miss you, Coach. And my defensive coordinator Tom Bradley, who found me at a very small school. I had no offers except for one, Penn State, and he went to bat for me."

Conlan played a pivotal part in one of the most memorable games in Penn State history, recording eight tackles and two interceptions in a 14-10 win over No. 1 Miami in the 1987 Fiesta Bowl. Conlan and the Nittany Lions also reached the 1985 national championship game, where they lost to Oklahoma.



Penn State linebackers Trey Bauer (35) and Shane Conlan (31) pat each other on the back as Miami's Aoatoa Polamalu watches following Conlan's fourth quarter interception in the Fiesta Bowl, Friday, Jan. 3, 1987, Tempe, Ariz. Penn State defeated Miami 14-10. (AP Photo/Jim Gerberich)

"Shane was one of the greatest linebackers in our long and outstanding Linebacker U heritage and we are thrilled for him," athletic director Dave Joyner said. "His intense, physical play and leadership were exciting to watch. Most importantly, though, is how he has conducted himself on or off the field; always with humility and class. His demeanor, drive and success after football serve as another example for all our student-athletes -- past, present and future. We are very proud of Shane and elated he has earned college football's most prestigious honor."

Conlan was a four-year letter winner who twice led the team in tackles, finishing his career with 274 career stops, seventh-most in school history. He was the No. 8 pick in the 1987 NFL draft and

went on to play nine seasons in the NFL, winning NFL Rookie of the Year honors and being named to three Pro Bowls.

Conlan is now the Vice President of Corporate Sponsorships for the Pittsburgh Power of the Arena Football League.

Conlan was part of a class that combined inductees from all levels of college football in one class, the National Football Foundation said in a press release. He was one of three linebackers inducted, along with late Alabama star Derrick Thomas and Maine's John Huard.

Great Player: D.J. Dozier, RB, 1983-1986



D.J. Dozier won the hearts of Nittany Nation when he rushed for 1000 yards in his freshman year. Unfortunately, he played on some pretty disappointing teams in 1983 and 1984. But he was a major part of the teams that won 23 games and played in two National Championship games in 1985 and 1986. He played on some terrible offenses that were incapable of moving the ball through the air.

So much like Tony Hunt in 2006, Dozier faced eight and nine men in the box all day and kept chugging ahead four yards at a time. The image above of Dozier kneeling in the end-zone after putting Penn State on top of Miami 14-10 in the 1987 Fiesta Bowl will forever live in the minds of Penn State fans as one of the greatest moments in our 100-plus year history. He was named a first team All American his senior year and finished his career as the second leading career rusher for Penn State only behind Warner.

Dozier was a first round draft pick by the Minnesota Vikings. Unfortunately, his NFL career never really took off. He played four seasons with the Vikings and one year with Detroit before hanging it up to pursue a professional baseball career. He signed as an amateur free agent with the New York Mets and played two seasons in the minors before making his Major-League debut on May 6, 1992. He was traded in October of that year and played his final game on October 4, 1992.

1987: PSU v Miami Fiesta Bowl

Taking advantage of the long New Year's weekend, this January 2, 1987 encounter was scheduled for Friday. It was another game of the century with #1 Miami coached by Jimmy Johnson, the coach everybody loved to hate, and Joe Paterno, a great winning coach at the helm for the #2 ranked Penn State. The Fiesta Bowl game was played in Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, AZ (Fiesta Bowl). It was televised by NBC and watched on the field by 74,098. PSU won the game W 14-10 and received the national championship.

1987: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1987 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his 22nd year as head coach. The team's aggregate record including its Citrus Bowl major loss to Clemson L (10-35) Bowl was 8-4 and after a #1 finish in 1986, PSU finished out of the top 20 at #22. It was

Great Player: Pete Giftopoulos, 1985-1987

Pete Giftopoulos: 1985-1987. He was starting inside linebacker for the Nittany Lions. 'At Penn State, Pete Giftopoulos learned to speak the language of his coach Joe Paterno since Pete loves football and JoePa loves football. Pete had a successful career at Penn State



followed by an eight-year stint with the Hamilton TigerCats in the Canadian Football League. Pete loves football.

Perhaps best known for his game-saving interception in the end zone against Vinny Testaverde and the Miami Hurricanes in the 1987 Fiesta Bowl, which brought the Lions their second national championship in five years, Giftopoulos was

part of a strong linebacking corps that also featured Shane Conlan and Trey Bauer.

He tried out for the NFL (Pittsburgh) and did not make it. Just because he was not in the NFL, it didn't mean his football career was over. While he was trying out with the Steelers, he was also drafted by the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the first round of the CFL entry draft. Because Canadian teams in the CFL (there are American teams as well) have to have 20 Canadian players on their roster, Giftopoulos was a valuable commodity up north. The Tiger-Cats knew this as well, so they traded a first round draft pick and future considerations for him. Eight years later, Pete G. is a definite success.

Citrus Bowl

PSU was invited to the Citrus Bowl in which they played a tough Clemson Tigers team on January 1, 1988 in Orlando. Clemson won decisively L (10-35).

1988: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1988 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his 23rd season. With a 5-6 record, this is the first losing season in Joe Paterno's first 23 years. A double rebuilding process was underway. PSU was unranked and the team did not qualify for a bowl bid.

Great Player: Steve Wisniewski, G, 1986-1988



Steve Wisniewski, from Houston Texas, was a great guard for PSU starting in 1986, 1987 and 1988. He was selected by The Sporting News in 1987 and by The Sporting News and the Football Coaches (Kodak) in 1988 for All-American. He was the third Penn State offensive lineman to win two-time All-American honors.

Wisniewski was a three-year starter and capped his senior season by playing in the Hula and the Japan bowl games. Selected by the Dallas Cowboys as the

first pick overall in the second round of the 1989 National Football League Draft, he was immediately traded to the Los Angeles Raiders. Wisniewski played his entire career with the Raiders (1989-2001). He lives in Pleasanton, Cal.

1989: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1989 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his 24th season. At 8-3-1, the team made a great comeback from the 5-6 record of 1988. Additionally, the Lions were #14 in the Coach's poll and #15 in the AP poll. Moreover, they played and beat BYU in the Holiday Bowl W (50-39).

Great Player: Andre Collins: LB, 1988-1989



Andre Collins...After playing on a National Championship team his freshman year, Collins endured some disappointing seasons the rest of his Penn State career. None-the-less, he was a shining star on the defense. Collins broke 100 tackles in each of his junior and senior seasons, one of only five Nittany Lions to achieve the feat. In 1989 Collins was named a First Team All American and a Butkus Award Finalist. He finished his Penn State career ninth in all time tackles.

Collins went on to play 10 years in the NFL for the Washington Redskins. He was a starting linebacker for the team that won Super Bowl XXVI. Today he serves as Director of Retired Players for the NFL Players Association.

Great Player: Blair Thomas, RB, 1986-1989



The debate has raged for decades among Penn State fans. Who was the better cutback runner? Warner or Thomas? Blair Thomas was the first player to rush for 1400 yards in two seasons earning All American honors in 1987 and 1989. He finished in the top five for the Heisman in 1989 and earned MVP honors in the Holiday and Senior Bowls. He ended his career the

second all-time rusher for Penn State only 97 yards behind Curt Warner and stayed in second until Tony Hunt passed him in 2006.

After Penn State, Thomas was selected by the New York Jets as the second pick of the first round. Unfortunately, he played on some horrible Jets teams for six seasons and couldn't get much going in the NFL. He joined on with several teams over the next few years before he retired in 1995. After his playing days Thomas coached the running backs for Temple University before he gave that up in 2005. Today he lives with his wife and three children in King of Prussia, PA.

1990: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1990 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his twenty-fifth season. The team had a great 9-2 record.

1991: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1991 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his 26th season. They won 11 games including the Fiesta Bowl W (42-17 v Tennessee.) Their two losses were at unranked USC on September 14 L (10-21) and against #2 ranked Miami in Florida L (20-26) on October 12.

Great Player: Darren Perry, Hero, 1991



Darren Perry from Chesapeake Virginia was an All-American Selection in 1981. He played the Hero Back position for Penn State in the 1991 season. He was selected by the Football Writers. Perry led Penn State with six interceptions, pushing his total to 15 to earn a share of second place on Penn State's career list. He had back-to-back interception returns for touchdowns (Boston College, Temple) to tie the Lions' season and career marks.

Perry was a Top 20 finalist for the Jim Thorpe Award as the nation's top defensive back. Perry was selected by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the eighth round of the 1992 National

Football League Draft. He played with the Steelers from 1992-98, after earning a starting spot as a rookie. He also played for Baltimore

(1999) and New Orleans (2000). He is the defensive backs coach of the Oakland Raiders after serving with the Pittsburgh Steelers from 2003-06.

1992: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1992 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his 27th season. After three great years, 8-3-1, 9-3, and 11-2, one could almost expect a rebuilding year. This year's 7-5 record was a winning season but it was not a contender season as the past three.

Great Player: O.J. McDuffie, WR, 1992



OJ McDuffie, from Warrensville Heights, Ohio, was an All-American Selection in 1992 at Wide Receiver. He was selected by the Associated Press, United Press International, Football Coaches, The Football News, Walter Camp, and Athlon Publications.

McDuffie broke or tied 15 Penn State receiving, return and all-purpose yardage records. He had a record 63 receptions for 977

yards in 1992. His career total of 125 catches and his season all-purpose yardage (1,831) were records at the time.

McDuffie, who is the first wide receiver to make the list, is eighth on Penn State's all-time chart with 3,817 all-purpose yards. McDuffie played in the 1993 Japan Bowl. He was selected in the first round of the 1993 National Football League Draft by the Miami Dolphins, the 25th player selected overall. He played nine seasons with the Dolphins (1993-2001). McDuffie lives in Plantation, Fla.

1993: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1993 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his twenty-eighth year. Joe Paterno figured it was time to stop his run as an independent and begin playing Big Ten teams more regularly. So, PSU joined the Big Ten Conference in 1990 and began play in 1993.

Penn State then won its first Big Ten championship in 1994, and the Nittany Lions won two more in 2005 and 2008. As a deep Penn State fan, all my life, after reviewing his life in his football record, I cannot believe what a great coach Joe Paterno was. The mold from which he was cut created the greatest football coaches of all time.

At the end of the 1993 season, PSU was ranked #7 in the Coach's poll and # 8 in the AP with a 10–2 record (6–2 in Big Ten play). The complexion of the PSU schedule would change forever as a result of its playing in the Big Ten Conference. The same-ole same-oles were no longer on the schedule but the schedule was always exciting.

1994 Citrus Bowl

Penn State had a great 9-2 record going into the Bowl Season. The Lions were invited to the Citrus Bowl in Orlando Florida on January 1, 1994 at 1:00 PM (prime time New Year's Day) to play #6 Tennessee.

Penn State would not be denied the victory over this substantially higher ranked opponent W (31-13) before 72,456 plus the

nationwide ABC TV audience. Nobody was more thrilled than I. Despite the outcome, it did not look good at first as the game began.

Tennessee got off to a great start at were ahead 10-0 after a quick 46-yard field goal and a 19-yard TD pass from Shuler to Cory Fleming. There were 72,000 singing Rocky Top and that was not the Nittany Lions favorite tune. At 10-0 but very early, it appeared the Vols might take it to the Lions with a big rout.

But with Kerry Collins calling the signals and Bobby Engram catching the pigskin when thrown to him, the Nittany Lions were about to roar. On second down from their own 36-yard line, Collins hit Engram on a wide receiver screen over the middle. Engram picked up a block and outran the defenders down to the Tennessee 29-yard line.

After the game, Engram had no problem noting: "That play set the tone...They saw we had some speed after all, and you could just see



it in their eyes they weren't sure they could stop us." It was not long before PSU scored on a 3-yard TD run by Carter, who had been sitting out with a knee injury since the Illinois game. Carter was ready.

Tennessee came right back with an impressive drive down to the PSU 28-yard line where linebacker Tyoka Jackson got a tip on the ball in the air, and safety Lee Rubin intercepted it for the Lions at the 13-yard

line. This was as close as Tennessee would come to the goal line for the rest of the day. The rout was on but it was not as originally thought. Penn State got hot and The Volunteers were cold.

Before the break-away, Craig Fayak hit a field goal to tie the game and UT responded with a 50-yarder of their own to take a 13-10 lead. With 1:08 to go in the half, Collins moved the ball down the field with a 12-yard draw play to Mike Archi. He then tossed an eighteen yarder to Engram. With 10 seconds to go at the UT 14-yard line, Penn State called their final timeout. Everyone expected Joe Paterno to elect for the field goal, but to their amazement the offense went back out on the field.

Tennessee sat back in pass defense expecting the Lions to take a shot at the end zone, but Paterno called a draw play to Carter instead. Carter broke a tackle at the line and sprinted into the end zone to give the Nittany Lions a 17-13 lead at halftime. The pundits felt that PSU had sent this message to the Volunteers with this play: "We can do anything we want to do, and there is nothing you can do to stop it."

Joe Paterno let it out at half time in the locker room: "Who do they think they are, telling us they need a better opponent,"

Paterno yelled out to a fully-tuned in team of Nittany Lions: "I'm tired of this Orange team! I'm tired of this Orange Stadium! I'm tired of seeing Orange! Let's go out there and kick the Orange out of them!" Coaches inspire teams.

Penn State did exactly that. The Lions took the second half kickoff and marched 60 yards, with Collins hitting Brady wide open in the end zone to make it 24-13. Engram later added a 15-yard TD catch, and the defense shut out the Vols. The tough PSU D sacked Shuler four times. The final score was Penn State 31, Tennessee 13.

This was one game that even the players felt the negative hype and it had irritated them. Perhaps it had even inspired them. When it was all over, Kerry Collins let it be known that the Penn State team was irritated by the lack of respect for Penn State in the pregame media coverage.

"We heard all week about Heath Shuler and everybody was underestimating us," Collins said. "We thought all along that we were the better team. All we had to do was come out and prove it."

Paterno himself felt obliged to add: "We never thought Tennessee was better than us."

Great Player Lou Benfatti, DT, 1990-1993



Lou Benfatti from Green Pond, NJ, was a Walter Cap All-American Selection in 1993 as a defensive tackle. He started all 49 games in his PSU career and was Penn State's first semifinalist for the Lombardi Award since Sean Farrell in 1981.

He was the 60th Penn Stater to earn first-team All-America recognition and the 45th under coach Joe Paterno. Benfatti recorded 64 tackles, six tackles for loss, five sacks, an

interception, three pass breakups and one fumble recovery. He also forced a fumble in each of the last four regular-season games. Benfatti made 179 career tackles (109 solo), including 25 tackles for loss, 10 sacks and two interceptions. A team captain, he played in the 1994 East-West Shrine and Senior Bowl games. He played three seasons for the New York Jets (1994-96) after being selected in the third round of the 1994 National Football League Draft. He still lives in Green Pond, N.J.

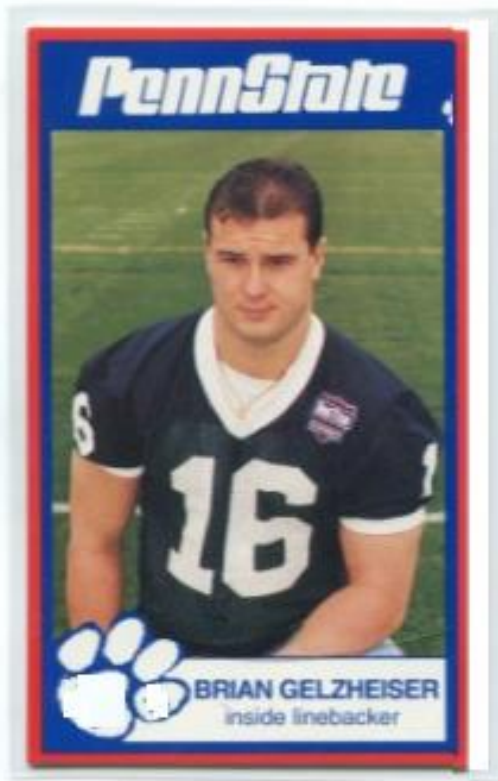
1994: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1994 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his 29th year. Hard as it is to believe Penn State had another perfect record at 12-0. But, again, they were not national champions. Instead, they were bequeathed a # 2 ranking, and thus were denied another national championship. Life sometimes is not

fair. Some say the reason PSU did not win the championship is that the Big Ten was not a respectable conference.

I don't buy that. I think there are dominating love-fests by the coaches and the AP and they feel a successful program such as Penn State does not need the benefit of the doubt. They were right to a degree but how about fairness?

Great Player Brian Gelheizer, LB, 1993-1994



Brian Gelheizer wasn't a very flashy linebacker. He didn't win All American Awards. He wasn't named as a finalist for the Lombardi or Butkus Awards. But he was a steady performer that showed up week in and week out. He was a starter and key member of the 1994 team that went undefeated in winning Penn State's first Big Ten Championship.

He tore the medial collateral ligament in his knee in August before his senior year. He sat out week one, but suited up against USC in week two. Not only did

he play, he recorded 10 tackles. Gelzheiser also recorded 100 tackles in junior and senior years and finished his Penn State career as the second all-time leading tackler. Today he is still number three on the list.

Gelzheiser was a sixth round selection by the Indianapolis Colts in the NFL draft. His NFL career never amounted to much. After a brief stint in the NFL Gelzheiser went into sales in the Pittsburgh area.

Great Player Ki-Jana Carter, RB, 1992-1994



Many Penn State fans consider Ki-Jana Carter to be the standard by which all other Penn State tailbacks are judged. He started out as a platoon player sharing carries with Mike Archie and Stephen Pitts, but he exploded in his junior year to claim the job all to himself. Carter was a key member of the 1994 team that went undefeated in claiming Penn State's first conference title in the Big Ten.

The 1994 offense featured several players that would go on to play in the NFL including Kerry Collins, Kyle Brady,

Jeff Hartings, Marco Rivera, and Bobby Engram. In 1994 Carter rushed for 1539 yards and scored 23 touchdowns. The 1539 yards was the second highest total ever achieved by a Penn State tailback in a single season. The scary thing is he could have easily broken 2000 yards had the Penn State offense been so good. Paterno often sat Carter the entire second half when Penn State was up by several touchdowns. In 1994 Carter was named a first team All American and finished second in the Heisman voting.

Having earned his degree after the 1994 season, Carter decided not to return for the 1995 season. He finished his Penn State career as

the number 5 Penn State rusher of all time. Today he still sits at number 8.

After college Carter was picked #1 overall by the Cincinnati Bengals in the NFL draft. An unfortunate knee injury in the preseason of his rookie year forced him to have surgery and go through extensive rehab. He was never the same running back again. He moved from team to team for several years before officially retiring from the NFL in 2004.

Great Player: Kerry Collins, QB, 1993, 1994

Kerry Collins hails from West Lawn PA. He was selected in 1994 as an All-American quarterback by the Associated Press, United Press International, The Football News, Football Writers, Walter Camp and The Sporting News. Collins also captured two of college football's major post-season prizes -- the Maxwell Award (nation's outstanding player), and the Davey O'Brien Award (nation's top quarterback).

Collins finished fourth in the Heisman Trophy balloting and garnered Player-of-the-Year honors from ABC-TV/Chevrolet and the Big Ten. Collins made a serious run at the NCAA season passing efficiency record, falling just four points short (172.8), the fourth-highest figure in NCAA annals.

He broke Penn State season records for total offense (2,660), completions (176), passing yardage (2,679), completion percentage (66.7), yards per attempt (10.15) and passing efficiency (172.86). He had 14 consecutive completions at Minnesota, another school mark.

Collins was the linchpin of an explosive offense that shattered 14 school records and led the nation in scoring (47.8 ppg) and total offense (520.2 ypg.).



The Carolina Panthers made Collins their first-round pick in the 1995 National Football League Draft, the fifth player selected overall. He played part of the 1998 season with the New Orleans Saints after playing with Carolina (1995-98).

He played five years (1999-2003) with the New York Giants, capping the 2000 season with a trip to Super Bowl XXXV. He played for the Oakland Raiders in 2004-05 before signing with the Tennessee Titans in 2006. Collins lives in Fair Hills, N.J.

1995: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1995 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his thirtieth year as head coach. His PSU Nittany Lions had a great season at 9-3, and their record on the Big Ten was 5-3.

Great Player: Bobby Engram, 1992-1995



Bobby Engram of Camden, SC, was an All-American Selection in 1994 at wide receiver. He was selected by the Walter Camp organization. Bobby is the only Penn State receiver to amass more than 1,000 yards in a season. Engram was the initial recipient of the Biletnikoff Award, presented to the nation's top receiver. A three-time first-team All-Big Ten selection, Engram finished the 1994 season with 52 receptions and a record 1,029 yards.

He ended his career by making 63 receptions, tied for most in school history, for 1,084 yards (breaking his own mark)

and 11 touchdowns in 1995. He capped his career with his selection as the MVP of the 1996 Outback Bowl. Penn State's finest receiver, Engram held 12 school records upon his graduation. The Chicago Bears' second-round pick in the 1996 National Football League Draft, he has played with the Bears (1996-2000) and for Seattle (2001-07). He lives in Murrysville, Pa

David Comer, PSU Collegian (Student Newspaper) Oct 28, 1995 wrote a great piece about Engram and I use some of his quotes in the rest of this story.

Bobby Engram has always been a great football player. In the 1995 season, pundits kept asking who was the best receiver of the year – Bobby Engram from PSU, Keyshawn Johnson of USC, or Terry Glenn of OSU. because he is from Penn State. This question was being asked continually in the football 1995 season. Penn State fans know that Bobby Engram was the best.

All season long and into his pro career, Engram made spectacular catches look routine and after he got the ball, he made defenders look foolish. Regardless of how good Keyshawn or Terry were, Bobby Engram played great ball for Penn State.

When the Penn State offense needed a big play, Engram made it. He beat defensive backs deep with his speed or he would turn a simple five-yard catch into a 50-yard gain by using his strength to break tackles and elusiveness to make defenders miss. He was a team player who always had a quarterback or somebody else on the other side of the thrown ball.

In 1995 for example, Engram had 44 receptions for 814 yards and seven touchdowns (six receiving, another on a fumble recovery). Many of his catches seem to come while the No. 16 Penn State offense was struggling or needed a spark. He was ready to come through and more importantly, did come through.

Bobby Engram is mentioned in other areas of this book, other books, and tons of articles because you can't get away from the things he has done to make Penn State great.

Engram also contributed to the Lion running attack. His downfield blocks always helped Lion tailbacks turn a routine carry into a big play, and with a successful running game, Engram knew he would see more man-to-man coverage from opposing secondary's.

"I like to block," said Engram. "I have no choice being at Penn State. It's part of the position. We have to go downfield and mix it up. It helps the running game, and I really enjoy it." But Engram was always at his best when he had the ball.

Bobby Engram made 52 grabs for 1,029 yards and seven touchdowns in his last season. He became the first Penn State

receiver to eclipse 1,000 receiving yards in a year and he won the initial Biletnikoff Award as the nation's top receiver, because of course, he was the nation's top receiver.

"He is so intelligent, understands the game so much and is such a great competitor to go along with his wonderful instincts and wonderful athletic ability that it sets him off," Nittany Lions Coach Joe Paterno said. "He is willing to do anything it takes to get the job done. He will block, run the football and be a decoy. There is no ego involved with him. He wants to be in clutch situations."

Bobby Engram loves Penn State and he always gave it all so that the team could win.

Engram lived for the pressure of the game. He enjoyed a superb senior season and before it was over, he held eight Penn State records, including most career receptions (148) and touchdown catches (27).

In the Lions' season-opening 24-23 win against Texas Tech, Bobby Engram made all seven of his catches in the second half for 106 yards, atoning for two fumbled punts earlier in the contest. During the Lions' 26-23 victory at Purdue Oct. 14, Engram set career highs with nine catches and 203 yards.

"Any time he gets his hands on the ball, he can make big plays happen," Lion quarterback Wally Richardson said at the time. "He brings big-play capability to our offense."

Engram also gave the Nittany Lions offense a clutch receiver and a player who wanted the ball in his hands in the fourth quarter of a close game. He was the go-to-guy in the Penn State passing attack. He dazzled the Beaver Stadium crowd by catching a school record of four touchdown passes to lead Penn State to a 38-20 win to start the 1993 season.

It was a successful return to the Penn State football program for Engram, who sat out the 1992 season for disciplinary reasons. JoePa said no to Bobby when Bobby broke some rules. Bobby broke no more rules.

Engram had another important matter on his mind after his last season. Would he forgo his final year of eligibility and declare himself eligible for the 1995 NFL Draft or would he return to Penn State for an encore performance? The Camden, S.C., native decided the NFL could wait.

"Was I surprised he came back? No. We sat down and I tried to get the best information I could as to what would happen to him if he went into the draft," Paterno said. "A lot of them felt that if he stayed, he would be better off as far as how high he would be drafted and what his future would be in pro football.

"I told him exactly what I had heard and I said, 'It is up to you Bobby.' Bobby decided to stay. I think he made the right decision."

Opposing defenses were not so happy and would not have agreed. They wished Engram were playing on Sunday afternoons instead of on Saturdays. Engram was that good!

Bobby Engram might not be picked as player on a sandlot team some would say. I am 5 foot 10 myself and I know how hard it was to play with big guys who think they can control everything. I was not in Bobby Engram's league for sure but nobody controlled me either. Engram's lack of size, 5-foot-10, 187-pounds -- small by NFL standards -- became the only question surrounding his professional football future. But Jim Schwartz, a scout with the Cleveland Browns, thought in many ways it would benefit Engram.

"Some guys [he said] like (Eric) Metcalf use their lack of size to their advantage," Schwartz said. "They make people miss and use their agility. Engram is more in the mold of the old Dolphin receivers Mark Duper and Mark Clayton. He's shorter. He's a big-play guy. He runs after the catch. He's an exciting player."

Only five receivers had won the Heisman Trophy since the award was first awarded in 1935, but Bobby Engram was more than worthy of recognition.

Many considered Engram as the nation's best receiver and he had a great reputation coming into the season, but was not heavily

considered for the award since the Lions had lost two games in a row earlier in the season.

In the mid 1990's, no college football highlights show was complete without a catch from Engram, Johnson or Glenn. At schools from coast to coast, the three receivers were quietly spectacular, but not unheard. At Penn State, however, Bobby Engram rules!

Great Player: Jeff Hartings, G- C, 1993-1995

Jeff Hartings from St. Henry, Ohio was All-American Guard in 1994

and 1995. He was selected by the Associated Press and Walter Camp in 1994 and the Football Coaches, United Press International, Walter Camp, and The Sporting News in 1995.

Hartings was the cornerstone of a Penn State offensive line that surrendered only three sacks in all of 1994 and helped the Nittany Lions lead the nation in scoring and total offense, setting 14 school records.



A starter in the final 31 games of his career at long guard, Hartings was the 11th Nittany Lion to twice earn first-team All-America

honors. He was a three-time first-team All-Big Ten choice and a semifinalist for the Rotary Lombardi Award. Hartings also was just the fourth Lion selected to the GTE/CoSIDA Academic All-America first-team on two occasions and was chosen a National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete.

Hartings was selected by the Detroit Lions in the first round of the 1996 National Football League Draft. Now retired, he played for the Lions (1996-2000) and the Pittsburgh Steelers (2001-06), earning All-Pro honors in 2004 and '05. He lives in Baden, Pa.

Chapter 15 Coach Joe Paterno Era 1996 to 2011

Coach # 14 Joe Paterno

Coach # 15 Tom Bradley

1996	Joe Paterno	11-2	(6-2 Big 10)
1997	Joe Paterno	9-3	(6-2 Big 10)
1998	Joe Paterno	9-3	(5-3 Big 10)
1999	Joe Paterno	10-3	(5-3 Big 10)
2000	Joe Paterno	5-7	(4-4 Big 10)
2001	Joe Paterno	5-6	(4-4 Big 10)
2002	Joe Paterno	9-4	(5-3 Big 10)
2003	Joe Paterno	3-9	(1-7 Big 10)
2004	Joe Paterno	4-7	(2-6 Big 10)
2005	Joe Paterno	11-1	(7-1 Big 10)
2006	Joe Paterno	9-4	(5-3 Big 10)
2007	Joe Paterno	9-4	(4-4 Big 10)
2008	Joe Paterno	11-2	(7-1 Big 10)
2009	Joe Paterno	11-2	(6-2 Big 10)
2010	Joe Paterno	7-5	(4-3 Big 10)
2011	Joe Paterno	8-1	(5-0 Big 10)
2011	Tom Bradley	1-3	(1-2 Big 10)

JoePa Coached 45 great seasons 1966 to 2010 & part of 2011. This 15-year period, we find some of JoePa's Worst but mostly his best. Nobody could make the team be a contender as well as Joe Paterno!



The overall record was 11-2, (6-2 in the Big Ten). Their record included a nice win against Texas in the Fiesta Bowl W (38-15). Penn State finished in the top ten in both polls at # 7.

1996: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1996 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his thirty-first year. Penn State had another great winning season (11-2) with just a few disappointing games.

Great Player: Kim Herring, FS, 1994-1996



Kim Herring, from Solon, Ohio was an All-American Selection at free safety in 1996. He was selected by The Sporting News. A three-year starter, Herring's seven interceptions in his senior season led the Big Ten and were tied for third nationally.

He was also chosen an Associated Press second-team All-American and first-team All-Big Ten. Herring's 13 career interceptions are the third-highest total in Penn State history. He made 212 career tackles.

Selected by the Baltimore Ravens in the second round of the 1997 National Football

League Draft, he played with the Ravens (1997-2000), the St. Louis Rams (2001-04) and Cincinnati Bengals (2005-06). He lives in Chesterfield, Mo

The 1996 season was also notable as it marked the end of ties in college football, as an overtime system was put into place across all of Division I-A. Penn State's first OT game came in 2000 v Iowa. The 1995 season had overtime rules, but only for postseason games.

The Bowl Alliance was formed to make post-season championships fairer but it did not really work well and over time the current BCS plan was adopted. For example, in 1996, there was a large controversy when #5 BYU was robbed of a spot in a Bowl Alliance game, as they were snubbed in favor of lower ranked teams from Bowl Alliance conferences. Believe it or not Congress got involved.

1997: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1997 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his 32nd year. Penn State had a respectable season overall at 9-3 (6-2 in the Big Ten). The Nittany Lions were ranked #17 by the Coaches and #16 by the AP. Their season was capped off by being invited to the Citrus Bowl in Orlando but on January 1, 1998, the #11 Lions were beaten in this game by #6 ranked Florida L (6-21).

Great Player: Curtis Enis, RB, 1995-1997

Curtis Enis was a big physical running back that could run around you or run over you. He showed off his potential after he rushed for 683 yards as a freshman. With the starting job his in 1996, Enis pounded his way for 1210 yards and 13 TD. He came back his junior year and ran for 1363 yards and 19 TD and was named a first team All American. The 1997 team had high aspirations entering the season ranked #1 in the country.

A late season loss to Michigan led the team into a tailspin that ended with back to back losses to Michigan State and Florida in the Citrus Bowl. With less than 200 yards separating him from Curt Warner on the all-time rushing list, Enis could have returned for his senior year to get the record and he would have been a serious Heisman contender.



They called it Curtis Enis' coming-out party came when, in East Rutherford, NJ, the powerful sophomore tailback racked up 241 yards and three touchdowns on 27 carries in his first career start. The Trojans didn't score until pouncing on a fumble in the end zone in the final 30 seconds of the game. On November. 4: 1996, in his first try, Curtis Enis lifted #11 PSU

over #7 Southern Cal by a score of 24-7. It was just the start of his great college career.

As PSU's main running back while he played for the Lions from '95 to '97, Curtis Enis chalked up two 1,000+ yard seasons, including 1,369 yards and 19 TDs in 1997. He was 6th in Heisman Trophy voting in 1997. He was the 5th overall pick of the 1998 NFL Draft, though he played just 3 years in the NFL, retiring after the 2000 season because of knee problems. His best NFL season was 1999. He was a star. He rushed for 916 yards and 3 TDs.

Enis chose Penn State after a standout career at Mississinawa Valley High School in Ohio. He had made Parade All-American and Ohio's Mr. Football (state's best player). Going to college was not easy for Curtis had a lot of good times in HS being so naturally talented. He would have to work in college to do so well with Joe Paterno.

Enis was not attentive to high school requirements. Coach Paterno made him attend *The Kiski School* in rural Pennsylvania for a year before enrolling at Penn State. At *The Kiski School*, Enis was able to work to get his grades and SAT score up so he could qualify.

Ironically, many Ohio State fans were upset that he chose to leave the state to attend college. There is some humor in how Ohio recruited Enis. The OSU recruiting computer had a few typos for example, and when they sent him a letter it was addressed to “Curtis Phenis.” When they fixed the last name, they changed his first name to Chris. It has been reported that when Enis took a visit to Ohio State’s campus, no one seemed to know who he was.

Enis was a standout player at Penn State for sure. With 3 seasons and two 1000 yarders, he was more than special. He was 6’0” and weighed a muscular 235 lbs. They say he was quite a load at running back. He earned All-American honors his junior year at Penn State and finished 6th in voting for the 1997 Heisman Trophy. He decided to leave school after that season and enter the 1998 NFL Draft, where he was selected 5th overall by the Bears. He was that impressive.

Enis went on to be the fifth overall pick of the 1998 NFL draft. He played three uneventful seasons for the Chicago Bears before being cut and retiring.

He gained 1,497 yards in his career and scoring only 4 touchdowns. The Bears released him after the 2000 season and he chose to retire, citing knee problems stemming from a 1998 ACL injury.

Citrus Bowl

Not having recovered from the two late-season crippling losses, #11 Penn State lost the Citrus Bowl to # 6 ranked Florida L (6-21).

1998: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1998 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his 33rd year. Penn State had another very respectable season overall at 9-3 (5-3 in the Big Ten). The Nittany Lions were

ranked #15 by the Coaches and #17 by the AP. Their season was capped off by being invited to the Outback Bowl on January 1, 1999 in Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Florida where they beat #22 Kentucky W (26-14).

On October 31, at Beaver Stadium, the Nittany Lions pitched a shutout against Illinois W (27-0). This game is known for LaVar's leap. If there is one single, memorable but isolated moment frozen in time it was LaVar Arrington's leap over the Illinois offensive line the instant the ball was snapped, tackling the runner in the backfield the millisecond the quarterback gave him the ball. That moment early in the third quarter when the score was already 21-0, had absolutely no impact on the game or the season but it will be forever known as "LaVar's Leap."

LaVar Arrington's Leap was more substance than faith



1999: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 1999 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his thirty-fourth year. This year the Nittany Lions had a nice 10-3 record (5-3 in the Big Ten), ranked # 11 in both polls. Their record was fine enough for a bowl game and they beat Texas A&M on December 28 in the Alamo Bowl in Texas W (24-0).

Great Player: LaVar Arrington, LB, 1998



Penn State Collegian, the Student Newspaper says all that needs to be said about the great football work of LaVar Arrington, one of The Lions best linebackers of all time. There is surely lots more that can be said as Arrington is one of the greatest Linebackers from PSU. In his write-up in the Collegian author Anthony Picardi got a great perspective on Arrington's football playing days with Penn State University: Enjoy!

Being a great linebacker was a big deal at Penn State but the University sure had its share.

Lavar Arrington is easily the most physically gifted linebacker to every play at Penn State. He was big enough to take on offensive linemen yet fast enough to cover wide receivers in man coverage.

His playing style could best be described as "chaos", as he often went outside of the system by abandoning his assignment. Although he was undisciplined, he made several spectacular plays by simply following his instincts.

No play epitomized LaVar's style more than [The LaVar Leap](#). In his junior season, he was named a First Team All American and won both the Bednarik and Butkus Awards. He didn't rack up an overwhelming number of tackles, but he wreaked all kind of

havoc in the backfield with 19 career sacks and 39 TFL good enough for eight and ninth all time respectively.

Arrington was the number two pick overall by the Washington Redskins in the 2000 NFL draft. He made three consecutive Pro Bowls from 2001-2003 until he suffered a season ending knee injury in 2004. After a very public feud with head coach Joe Gibbs, Arrington was released and signed with the New York Giants. He appeared to be regaining his old form before an ankle injury ended his season in week seven of 2006.

Arrington was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He played linebacker and running back at North Hills Senior High School in Pittsburgh. He was always a standout. After his senior year, he was awarded the 1996 Parade National Player of the Year, the Bobby Dodd National Offensive Player of the Year, the Gatorade Player of the Year and USA Today Pennsylvania Player of the Year.

He became the second player in Pennsylvania Class 4-A history to rush for more than 4,000 career yards. Yes, he was a running back. Before Arrington, PSU was breeding linebackers so it is not a phenomenon that the coaches picked Arrington out of the crowd to make him an outside linebacker. They bred another great player. The Collegian article by Anthony Picardi is a perfect piece for inclusion in a book about great players. I hope you enjoy it as much as I. Arrington is one of the greats for sure. It is in italics below:

As the 1980s approached, Penn State had passed the torch to seven All-American linebackers.

*In 1982, the torch fell to Shane Conlan, and he carried it to multiple national championships. When the 1980s title teams aired on television and radio, a future All-American linebacker watched, listened and prepared to make the leap.
Seeing gold*

Striding down field while holding the football firmly against his heart and shielding defensive attackers with his right arm, the bronze statuette elevates collegiate players into an elite club.

The Heisman Trophy winner was outstanding in 1982-83, rushing for 1,752 yards, breaking the goal line 17 times and carrying Georgia to a Sugar Bowl showdown against Penn State.

When Herschel Walker stepped onto the turf at the Louisiana Superdome, he used stiff arms to fend off Nittany Lions' defenders for 103 yards and a touchdown. But as the clock flashed 0:00, the scoreboard read "Penn State 27, Georgia 23."

Celebrating the Sugar Bowl victory and national championship on the Penn State sideline was a part-time starter at linebacker, who would become the first two-time All-American at the position since Dennis Onkotz.

During Conlan's collegiate career, the football program underwent a growing period. Beaver Stadium's capacity rose by almost 30,000, and lights illuminated the field for the Penn State faithful.

As Conlan progressed, so did the Penn State defense. And in his senior campaign, Conlan and the Lions were on the verge of another national championship.

Miami marched into the 1987 Fiesta Bowl sporting military fatigues, and Heisman-winning quarterback Vinny Testaverde highlighted the Hurricanes' offense.

As the "Duel in the Desert" heated up, Penn State shut down the Hurricanes. Mirroring the 1970 Orange Bowl when it intercepted seven passes, the Lions' defense dictated the 1987 Fiesta Bowl. And like Onkotz did in 1970, Conlan snagged two interceptions.

With 18 seconds remaining in the game, the Hurricanes had their final chance to overcome a 14-10 deficit. On fourth-and-goal, Testaverde dropped back to pass and had his eyes glued on the end zone. After he released the football toward the goal line, it landed in the hands of inside linebacker Pete Giftopoulos.

Testaverde threw 26 touchdown passes during the 1986-87 season, but he failed to find the end zone once at Sun Devil Stadium, and the Lions intercepted the future first-overall NFL draft pick five times.

As Conlan and Penn State celebrated their second national championship, the Keystone State rejoiced. And the blue and white caught the attention of a Pittsburgh-area football player.

Over the line

On Halloween day of 1998, LaVar Arrington leapt his way onto the highlight reel. Trailing Penn State and stringing together its best drive of the game, Illinois faced fourth-and-inches in Penn State territory. The Fighting Illini kept their offense on the field and rushed to the line.

“Based off the film reviews we had on them, I figured if they ran up to the ball, they were going on a quick count,” Arrington said. “In my mind I said ‘I’m going through the [center of the offensive line], and I’m going to hit the quarterback before he has a chance to get the first down.’”



Penn State linebacker LaVar Arrington takes a flying leap at Illinois quarterback Kirk Johnson. Collegian File Photo

Anticipating the snap count, Arrington bolted toward the line. At the snap, he took to the air, soaring over defensive and offensive linemen. Once Illinois' Elmer Hickman received the handoff, Arrington descended and brought the fullback with him to the ground.

"It's a classic situation when preparation meets opportunity," Arrington said. "I was prepared. I felt confident about what they were going to do based off of the tendencies that I studied on film review."

Following the footsteps

Penn State's third two-time All-American linebacker revered the Lions' 1980s teams. And as Conlan and D.J. Dozier were awarded MVP honors of the 1987 Fiesta Bowl, it was the running back that he especially relished.

At North Hills High School, Arrington played both sides of the ball. Offensively, he followed in the footsteps of Dozier, and rushed for more than 4,000 yards in his high school career.

"If you can play linebacker from a running back's perspective, then I think you're ahead of the game," Arrington said.

Linebackers watch how blocks develop along the offensive line during run plays and feel their way to the ball carrier. As Arrington became accustomed to weaving his way through these holes as a running back, it improved his awareness as a defensive player.

When the high school Parade National Player of the Year arrived on campus in 1997, the coaching staff originally placed the athlete at safety. As Arrington showed a nose for the football and charged the line of scrimmage in practice, he moved to a new position.

Playing outside linebacker, Arrington teamed with All-American middle linebacker Brandon Short to form one of the most intimidating

duos in collegiate football. And when they locked eyes with future Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks Tom Brady and Drew Brees during games, Arrington and Short were ready to lead the Penn State defense.

“We played against some very talented players,” Arrington said. “You need to have more belief in what you’re able to do and how you’re going to dictate to them versus preparing how they’re going to dictate to you.”

Before game day, Arrington and the Penn State defense studied tendencies and identified opposing playmakers. No music played during practices. Instead, the thuds of shoulder pads sounded as players improved their craft. Once it was game time, No. 11 flew to the ball.

LaVar vs. Na’il

The Bednarik Award winner formed a rivalry against another Big Ten foe. When the Lions hosted Ohio State in 1999, Arrington and counterpart Na’il Diggs traded big plays and pounding hits.

“It was friendly between [Diggs and I],” Arrington said. “He was making the plays first, so he’d look over at me almost like ‘I’m giving you the floor.’ Then he’d run off and I started making plays. I looked at him, started laughing and put my hand up like, ‘C’mon, c’mon, your turn.”

At the start of the second quarter, the floor belonged to Arrington. During one play, the outside linebacker came free off the edge. The only thing that stood between the Butkus Award winner and quarterback Steve Bellisari was the Ohio State running back. And once Arrington hurdled Jonathan Wells, he tossed Bellisari to the ground to complete the sack.

Penn State defeated Diggs and the Buckeyes, 23-10.

Arrington said no matter how talented another team's linebackers might be, "Linebacker U" will always belong to Penn State because that is where it was created. Similarly how no one could take "The U" away from Miami, nobody can strip "Linebacker U" away from Happy Valley.



<<< LaVar Arrington hits Steve Bellesari--
Collegian File Photo

Leaving a legacy

When Arrington played, fans filled the lower bowl and the second deck at Beaver Stadium to watch. But in the crowd of more than 90,000 people, a couple of loved ones stood out for the future No. 2 overall NFL draft pick.

"I would locate [my parents] before the game during warm ups," Arrington said. "As soon as we got to the sideline, I would locate my parents again. No matter where the game was, my mother, my father and I had a pregame ritual. I would always locate them and we would do our ritual, and then I knew it was time to play, like I knew it was OK."

In his final game as a Lion, Arrington was named Defensive MVP of the Alamo Bowl. He recorded 72 tackles, including 20 tackles for loss and nine sacks in his final collegiate season.

"I think the one component that makes every linebacker from Penn State is our desire to be everything we could possibly be," Arrington said. "I think it's our ability to lead but also be led. It's ultimately an innate sense of team and understanding of what we represent to our team."

Great Player: Courtney Brown, DE, 1999



Courtney Brown was not your basic defensive end. He was a star player for Penn State. Hailing from Alvin, SC, Brown was an All American selection in 1999. He was selected by the Associated Press, Football Coaches, Football Writers, Walter Camp, The Sporting News and The Football News. He also was a finalist for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, Rotary Lombardi Award and Chuck Bednarik Award. He was one powerful football player.

Brown shattered PSU long-time records for career tackles for loss (70) and sacks (33) and the season mark for team tackles for a loss TFL (29). He played three years as a starting DE. Most players in the Paterno system used their first year as a redshirt year for learning football. He was tied for third in Big Ten career TFL and was named 1999 Big Ten Defensive Player-of-the-Year.

He was the fourth Nittany Lion selected All-Big Ten three times, he finished his brilliant career by earning the Hall Foundation Award as the team's Senior MVP. He made 55 tackles (33 solo), with 29 TFL (minus-150), 13.5 sacks (minus-107), an interception (TD) and three forced fumbles.

At the Penn State, pro day Brown measured 6'4 $\frac{7}{8}$ " 271-pounds; ran a 4.52 second forty-yard dash; had a vertical leap of 37" and bench-pressed 225 pounds 26 times. Brown was selected by the Cleveland Browns as their first overall pick of the 2000 National Football League Draft, making him the eleventh defensive lineman to be taken first overall in the 70-plus year history of the NFL Draft. He has played with the Browns (2000-04); the Denver Broncos (2005-06); and he signed with San Diego prior to the 2007 season.

Brown had a productive pro rookie season, recording 69 total tackles and 4.5 sacks. His second season was cut short due to injury, but Brown recorded 4.5 sacks in 5 games. Brown had problems staying healthy for the rest of his career, and struggled on the field because of injuries. From 2002-2004, Brown only played in 26 games and recorded just 8 sacks. He finished his professional football career with the Broncos in 2005. Brown lives in St. Stephen, S.C.

Great Player: Brandon Short: LB 1996=1999

Brandon Short was a great middle linebacker, from the PSU football class of 1999. The McKeesport, Pa football great was an All America Selection by the Associated Press, Football Writers and Walter Camp. He also was chosen a second-team All-American by The Sporting News and third-team by The Football News. Short was a finalist for the Butkus Award as the nation's top linebacker, he and LaVar Arrington were the first teammates to be finalists for the honor.

Chosen a team co-captain prior to the season, Short was a four-year starter and two-time first-team All-Big Ten pick. He concluded his superlative career second on the school's career tackles for loss list with 51, the 17th-best total in Big Ten annals. He also was sixth on the school career tackles list with 273.



On any other team, Brandon Short would have been the best player on the defense. But when you line up next to LaVar Arrington, people tend to call you "the other guy". Short started all four years at Penn State (Played at defensive end his freshman year).

Short led the team in tackles his senior year with 103. He was named a First Team All American and a Butkus Award finalist along with Arrington.

Short was a fourth- round pick for the New York Giants in the 2000 NFL draft and appeared in Super Bowl XXXV as a rookie. He signed with the Carolina Panthers for the 2004-2005 seasons before rejoining the Giants in 2006.

He is just the 12th Nittany Lion to crack 100 tackles in a season with 10 or more stops six times in '99. Short led the Lions with 103 tackles (62 solo), including 12 TFL, four sacks, three pass breakups, a fumble recovery, an interception and a blocked kick. He was the North Squad's Defensive MVP in the Senior Bowl.

Short signed as a free agent with the Carolina Panthers in 2004, and appeared in all 32 games at strong side linebacker with Carolina in 2004 and 2005. He tallied 70 tackles and helped the Panther's defense collect 38 take-aways, which tied a team record. He returned to the New York Giants in April 2006, signing as a free agent.

2000: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 2000 Penn State Nittany Lions football team's head coach was Joe Paterno. This was another one of those building years (5-7 with 4-4 in the Big Ten). It was just the second losing season for Coach Paterno in his 35-year stint so far at Penn State. Long time defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky retired before the season began and he was replaced by Defensive coach Tom Bradley.

2001: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 2001 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his 36th season with the Lions. Penn State did not play Big Ten teams Minnesota and Purdue this year. Also, due to the events of 9/11, the Virginia game was rescheduled from September 13, 2001, to December 1, 2001.

Adam Taliaferro Rejoices



Those watching while it was happening and after the fact believe that the most emotional and electrifying moment of all-time occurred just before the Miami night game began. It was when Adam Taliaferro walked, then skipped through the south tunnel after suffering a paralyzing injury nearly a year earlier at Ohio State.

This record crowd in and expanded Beaver Stadium that now featured club and private suites gave Taliaferro a long-standing ovation, but the joy ended soon as Miami coasted to victory en route to the national title.

2002: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 2002 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his thirty-seventh year as head coach. The team improved substantially over 2000 and 2001, finishing the full season at 9-4 (5-3 Big Ten) and #15 in the Coach's Poll and #16 in the AP. Ranked #10 at game time, PSU was invited to the Citrus Bowl against #19 Auburn. In a game played on January 1 2003, in which neither team showed much offense, Penn State scored just four points less than the Tigers and lost the Bowl game in Orlando, FL, L (9-13).

Great Player: Larry Johnson, TB, 1999- 2002



Larry Johnson was an exciting All-American Penn State football player at Tailback. He was accorded many honors for his great work.

In 2002, he was selected by the Football Coaches, Associated Press, Football Writers, The Sporting News and Walter

Camp. That is a lot of honors. He was also an All-American Selection for 2002.

Johnson also was the recipient of the Maxwell and Walter Camp Player-of-the-Year Awards and the Doak Walker Award, presented to the nation's top running back. He was third in balloting for the Heisman Trophy and was the Chevrolet National Offensive Player-of-the-Year.

Adding to the recognition for his great years was a unanimous first-team All-Big Ten selection.

Johnson became just the ninth player in NCAA Division I-A history—and the first in the 107-year history of the Big Ten Conference -- to rush for more than 2,000 yards in the regular-season. He finished the season with 2,087 yards on 271 carries, for an outstanding 7.7 average, and 20 rushing touchdowns.

This effort put him on the top in the whole nation in rushing (160.5 ypg) and all-purpose yardage (204.2). He was fourth in scoring (10.8 ppg). He became the first Nittany Lion to lead the nation in rushing or all-purpose yardage and joined placekicker Matt Bahr (1978) as the only Penn Staters to lead the nation in two statistical categories in the same season.

Johnson shattered the Penn State game rushing record three times and blew by the 200-yard mark on four occasions, becoming the first Lion ever to post four 200-yard games in a season or career. His final record-breaking effort was a spectacular 327 yards at Indiana. He also tallied 279 yards against Illinois, 257 against Northwestern and 279 yards -- all in the first half -- in his home-finale with Michigan State.

Johnson posted eight 100-yard rushing games on the year and averaged an all-time Big Ten-best 8.8 yards per carry and 183.1 yards in eight conference games. His 2,655 all-purpose yards in 2002 shattered the Penn State record by more than 800 yards and were the fifth-highest total in NCAA history.

His 5,045 career all-purpose yards also were a school record.



Larry was an enigma his first three years at Penn State. He rode the bench mostly only getting carries when the game was in hand. When Penn State struggled in 2000 and 2001 he grumbled publicly to the press about the play calling and his playing time, a major no-no on a Joe Paterno team. After spending three years in and out of the doghouse

he finally got to be "the man" in 2002, and he set out determined to show Paterno and everyone they made a mistake by not playing him sooner.

Johnson had the most prolific single season ever by a Penn State tailback rushing for 2087 yards and 20 TD with an amazing 7.7 ypc average. In 2002 LJ broke the school record for single game rushing yards three times and still holds the record today with his 327 yards against Indiana. He was nothing short of a phenomenon.

In 2002 Johnson was named first team All American and won the Maxwell, Doak Walker, and Walter Camp awards and finished in the top five in the Heisman voting. He finished his Penn State career as the fifth leading rusher.

Chosen the Senior Bowl MVP, Johnson was selected by the Kansas City Chiefs in the first round of the 2003 National Football League Draft.

Like his Penn State career, Johnson started out riding the bench and making noise in the press. When he finally got a chance to play Johnson rushed for 1750 yards in 2005 in only nine starts. He followed it up with 1789 yards in 2006 and made the Pro Bowl two years.

He played five seasons (2003-07) with the Chiefs and was selected All-Pro in 2005 and 2006. He set a National Football League record in 2006 for the most carries in a season.

From 2009, to 2011, Johnson met some good fortune and played with the Bengals, Redskins and the Dolphins at the end of his career, making at least twelve more \$million and then he wrapped up his career in 2011.

Great Player: Jimmy Kennedy, DL, 1999-2002



Jimmy Kennedy from Yonkers, NY was an All-American Selection as a Defensive Lineman in 2002. He was selected by The Sporting News and Walter Camp. He also was a third-team All-America choice by the Associated Press.

A four-year starter, Kennedy was named the 2002 Big Ten Defensive Lineman-of-the-Year and was a two-time first-team All-Big Ten selection. He recorded 87 tackles during the 2002 season, second on the squad, and the most by

a Penn State defensive tackle since starting Big Ten play in 1993.

A semifinalist for the Lombardi Award, he ranked fourth in the Big Ten with 16 tackles for loss; made 5.5 sacks and broke up three passes in 2002.

Kennedy finished his career with 39 tackles for loss, good for a tie with LaVar Arrington for eighth place on the Penn State all-time list.

Kennedy was the catalyst for a defense that allowed just 53 points in the last six regular-season games and gave up just 17.5 ppg, ranking 11th nationally. He tied the Penn State record with four sacks and made five tackles for loss in a win at Wisconsin. T

he St. Louis Rams made Kennedy the No. 12 overall selection in the first round of the 2003 National Football League Draft. He played four seasons (2003-06) with the Rams before signing with the Chicago Bears during the 2007 season.

2003: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 2003 Penn State Nittany Lions football team's head coach was Joe Paterno in his thirty-eighth year. I bet JoePa in reflection would have still coached this year even though it was his worst ever. It was one of the worst seasons in PSU history. I guess if you bring home a lot of big ones, having a season in which there appears to be no harvest is expected. But, Penn State Fans get agitated when the W's are not there in the column. Realistically all home teams feel the same. Our coach is supposed to win. Wins rarely happened in 2003. In a word, the year stunk with a 3-9 record and the second worst record in the Big Ten (1-7). Illinois at 0-8, had to live with its season for some time to come.

Great Player: Michael Robinson, QB-WR, 2002- 2005

Michael Robinson played quarterback and wide receiver, helping PSU to a Big Ten Conference title in 2005 and being recognized as the Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year in 2005. He won the Chicago Tribune Silver Football as the Big Ten's MVP.

In 2002 with the Nittany Lions, Robinson shifted around the offensive set from quarterback to running back, slot back, and split end to utilize his talents. He showed great running ability and helped spark the diversified Penn State offense. He started at tailback against Michigan and at slot back against Auburn in the Capital One Bowl. Robinson was Penn State's second leading rusher in 2002 with

263 yards and six touchdowns on 50 carries. He caught nine passes for 44 yards.

Burton Michael Robinson, aka Michael Robinson, played quarterback and wide receiver for the Nittany Lions leading the team to a Big Ten Conference title in 2005 and being recognized as the Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year in 2005. He won the



Chicago Tribune Silver Football as the Big Ten's MVP. During his first three years at Penn State Robinson had done some rushing and receiving, but very little throwing. Many fans saw his ascension to the starting role as more of a sign that prized sophomore Anthony Morelli was being protected than a sign that Penn State was about to win a Big Ten title.

In 2002, Robinson was being moved all the time from QB to RB to SB to SE or wherever because he is a great athlete. He started at tailback against Michigan and at slot back against Auburn in the Capital One Bowl. As the utility man of PSU somehow, he had enough yardage to be the second leading rusher in 2002 with 263 yards and six touchdowns on 50 carries. He also caught nine passes for 44 yards.

In 2003 with the Nittany Lions, he still had not gotten the full nod. He did start eight games—three at quarterback and five at tailback. He completed 62-of-138 passes for 892 yards, five touchdowns, and five interceptions and finished second on the team with 396 yards and three scores on 107 carries.

In 2004, Robinson got his eight games again. He was second on the team with 33 receptions for 485 yards (14.7 avg) and three touchdowns. He completed 14-of-39 passes for 170 yards, a touchdown, and five interceptions. He was third on the squad with 172 yards on 49 carries.

Michael Robinson became a super hero in 2005, He had his best numbers of his college career. He was named Big Ten Conference Offensive Player of the Year by the league's coaches and was a consensus second-team All-Big Ten choice. He was named to the Maxwell Award watch list and was a semi-finalist for the Davey O'Brien Award, given to the nation's top passer. He completed 162 of 311 passes (52.1%) for 2,350 yards, seventeen touchdowns and ten interceptions.

His 2,350 passing yards at the time ranked fifth on the school season-record list, topped only by Zack Mills (2,417 in 2002), Tony Sacca (2,488 in 1991), Anthony Morelli (2,651 in 2007) and Kerry Collins (2,679 in 1994). He was second on the team with 163 carries for 806 yards (4.9 avg) and eleven touchdowns, becoming the first player in school history to throw for over 2,000 yards and rush for over 500 yards in the same season.

His 806 rushing yards set a school season-record for quarterbacks and he became the first quarterback in Penn State history to run for at least ten touchdowns in a season. His 28 touchdowns (17 passing, 11 rushing) was one shy of the school season-record of 29 (26 rushing, 3 catching) by Lydell Mitchell in 1971. Robinson also became the first Nittany Lion to throw three touchdown passes in three separate games during the same season since Todd Blackledge in 1982.

Robinson was captain of the 2005 team, one of Penn State's most competitive teams in years led by Coach Joe Paterno, winning the Big Ten championship and the over the Florida State Seminoles in a

gut-wrenching triple-overtime victory. He also finished fifth in the voting.

Robinson's Pro Career

San Francisco 49ers (2006–2009)

Seattle Seahawks (2010–2013)

Michael Robinson was drafted in the 4th round of the 2006 NFL Draft by the San Francisco 49ers. The 49ers wasted no time converting the versatile athlete into a running back. 49ers head coach Mike Nolan was immediately impressed with Robinson's attitude and toughness during training camp. Robinson began his first season as a pro as the #2 back in the 49ers backfield.

2004: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 2004 Penn State Nittany Lions football team's head coach was Joe Paterno in his thirty-ninth year. The wonderful coach JoePa and the same wonderful man over the last two years has began to have trouble winning games in his later years of coaching. In 2004, he was 77 years old but still spry and he did have player issues.

In the spring of 2004, there were changes made to the coaching staff. As you will see by this year's less than sterling 4-7 overall record overall (2-6 Big Ten), coupled with last year's (2003) 3-9 record, something was wrong.

The changes affected long-time offensive coordinator Fran Ganter, who signed up for the new Associate Athletic Director for Football Administration, after 37 years as a player and coach for Penn State. Former Penn State quarterback Galen Hall joined the coaching staff as the new offensive coordinator and running backs coach. Mike McQueary, another former Penn State quarterback, joined the staff as the wide receiver's coach and also served as the recruiting coordinator.

2005: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 2005 Penn State Nittany Lions football team for the fortieth year in a row were coached by the one and only JoePa (Joe Paterno) in another of many great winning seasons. Just when you think there is a systemic reason for losses that may involve coaching, the same Paterno formula again brings in more wins than anybody could ever expect and guys like me and perhaps you too, regardless of where we were in the dark losing years say, "Of course, that's JoePa. He's our coach."

This was Paterno's toughest mountain to climb. The Nittany Lions were coming off of back-to-back losing seasons, finishing 3–9 in 2003 and 4–7 in 2004, capping a stretch from late 1999 where Minnesota upset the #2 Nittany Lions with a late field goal until the goal line stand at Indiana. There were four of five seasons being losing seasons and the lone winning season in 2002 featuring many extremely frustrating close losses. You lived through the frustration in this book, and this is one of our chances to smile.

This stretch was called "The Dark Years", sometimes including 2002 as well. The team finished this sketchy 2004 season with wins over Indiana and Michigan State. As always, a strong finish helps springboard momentum into the next season (2005 in our case). So here we are with a great year, which we are about to discuss, having closed out 2004 with two nice wins, there was a ton of hope for continuance into the 2005 Nittany Lions season. It happened.

Instead of five starters in 2003, this year's team returned 18 starters from last year's squad. Eight starters returned on offense, led by starting quarterback Michael Robinson who also played at wide receiver, tailback, and punt returner during his first three years at Penn State. Robinson played exclusively under center after the graduation of Zack Mills.

PSU heralded the fact that it had nine defensive starters return from a unit that did not allow more than 21 points in a game in 2004. Also returning was safety Chris Harrell who suffered a neck injury in 2003 and missed the 2004 season. It was time to play.

Michael Robinson, Alan Zemaitis, and Paul Posluszny were elected tri-captains of the football team in 2005. Posluszny was the first junior captain since 1968.

Penn State had made the pundits wary in their last four out of five tough seasons. So, they started the season unranked in both the AP and the Coaches college football preseason polls. Who can argue with an excellent # 3 finish in both polls and an 11-1 overall record as well as a 7-1 record in and co-championship in the Big Ten, Penn State had recovered and the prognosis for the patient was good.

Great Player: Tamba Hali, DE



Tamba Hali was a great PSU defensive end in 2005. He is from Teaneck, N.J., and gained lots of honors at PSU for football. He was selected by the American Football Coaches Association, Associated Press, Football Writers Association of America, The Sporting News and Walter Camp Football Foundation. Hali was also a finalist for the Nagurski Trophy, presented to the nation's top defensive player, and the Ted Hendricks Defensive End-of-the-Year Award.

Hali was a unanimous selection as the Big Ten Defensive Lineman-of-the-Year and first-team All-Big Ten. He led the conference with 11.0 sacks and 17.0 tackles for loss. Hali made 65 tackles, with 17 TFL (minus-86), 11 sacks (minus-79), four pass breakups and one huge forced fumble, which the Lions recovered in the waning minutes to preserve a 17-10 win over Ohio State.

Hali's season sack total was tied for sixth-best at Penn State and his 36 career TFL are tied for 10th-best.

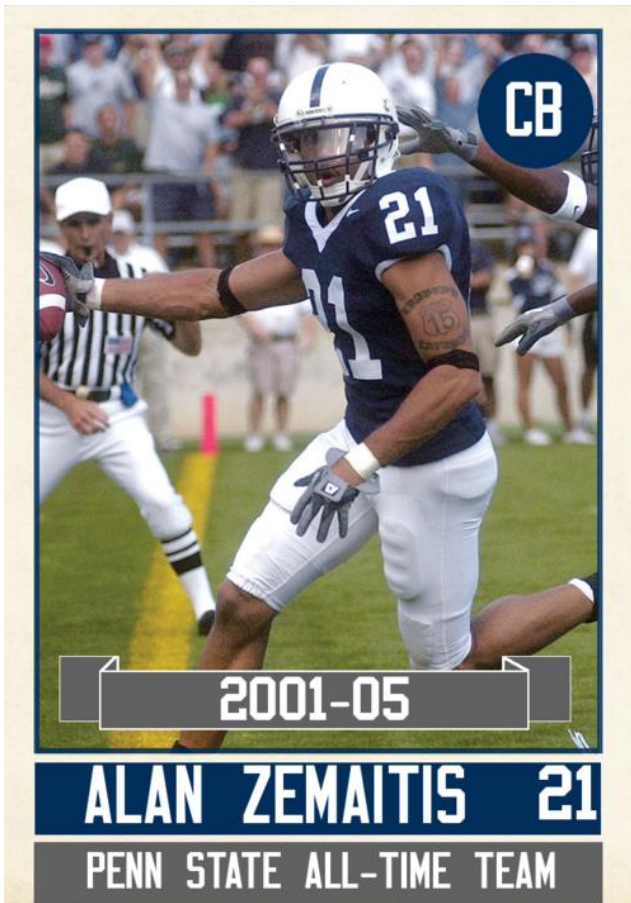
The Kansas City Chiefs selected Hali in the first round of the 2006 National Draft. Hali is very proud of his selection and he still shows a ton of Penn State Pride as he chose not make himself available for free agency because he feels at home at Kansas City after ten years. He still plays like a kid with wonton enthusiasm for the game and a healthy respect for the Kansas City Chiefs.

He is now on most recent \$22 million extension with the Chiefs which he thought about before saying no to free agency. He enjoys explaining that he has been a Chief for so long he couldn't imagine playing for anyone else. He has that old-time loyalty that transcends cash. OK...\$22 million is not peanuts but neither is \$50 or \$100 million for a great player.

He loves telling people that he was the last first-round draft pick of Chiefs founder Lamar Hunt, who died about seven months after the Chiefs selected Hali in the 2006 draft. Moreover, he figures why learn a new way when he already loves the old way,

Hali said. "I couldn't imagine going somewhere else and needing to establish myself as a player again, especially being in the game this long...I wanted to end my career here. It's a family atmosphere here, and everything (general manager John) Dorsey, coach (Andy) Reid and the Hunt family stand for, everything they say, has been right on point."

Great Player: Alan Zemaitis, CB, 2001-2005



Alan Zemaitis was an All American in 2005 at Penn State University. Zemaitis was also a tri-captain and a three-time All-Big Ten cornerback and was second team All-America in 2005. For two straight seasons, he was a semifinalist for the Jim Thorpe Award, given to the nation's top defensive back.

He helped lead the Nittany Lions to an 11-1 record and a Big Ten championship in 2005. His three interceptions in the

season finale at Michigan State helped seal a 31-22 victory that gave the Penn State the title.

Despite suffering through a violent car accident in January 2003 that left him with several head wounds, Zemaitis played in every Penn State game over his four years and started 34 of his last 35. He finished his career with 181 tackles. Alan broke the Big Ten and Penn State single-season records with 207 interception return yards in 2003.

2006: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 2006 Penn State Nittany Lions football team's head coach was Joe Paterno in his forty-first year. As always, the Lions played its home games at Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania. Though not as clean as 2005, PSU was making everybody take notice again with a season record of 9-4 (5-3 in the Big Ten). PSU had a winning in the Big Ten and against non-Big-Ten teams. Certainly, there were better years but this signaled an escape from the Dark Years back into the top 25 with a Coaches ranking of 25 and an AP rank of 24.

Great Player” Paul Posluszny, LB, 2005-2006

In 2005, All American Paul Posluszny was a junior outside linebacker at Linebacker U and captain for Penn State. He had a great year as a junior with 82 tackles, ranking third in the Big Ten and 11th in the nation with 11.7 tackles per game.

In 2005 and 2006, Posluszny was named a semifinalist for the 36th Rotary Lombardi Award, presented to the nation's top lineman or linebacker. In both years, the 6-2, 234-pound linebacker was one of 12 semifinalists up for the prestigious award and in 2005, he was one of only three non-seniors chosen. On November, 15, 2005 Posluszny was selected a finalist.

Known simply as "Poz", Paul Posluszny embodied the Joe Paterno image of the student athlete. Hall of Famer Jack Ham once called him "the greatest linebacker to ever play at Penn State." His work ethic on and off the field were unsurpassed. He was named team captain both his junior and senior seasons, a rarity in the Joe Paterno era. Poz was a key member of the 11-1 team that beat Florida State in the Orange Bowl and finished ranked #3 in the country. He recorded 116 tackles in both his junior and senior seasons. He's the only Penn State linebacker to ever record 100 tackles in three consecutive seasons (2004-2006). Poz won the Dick Butkus Award in 2005 and won the Chuck Bednarik Award in 2005 and 2006. He was also named a First Team All American in 2005 and 2006. Poz is Penn State's all-time leading tackler with 372.



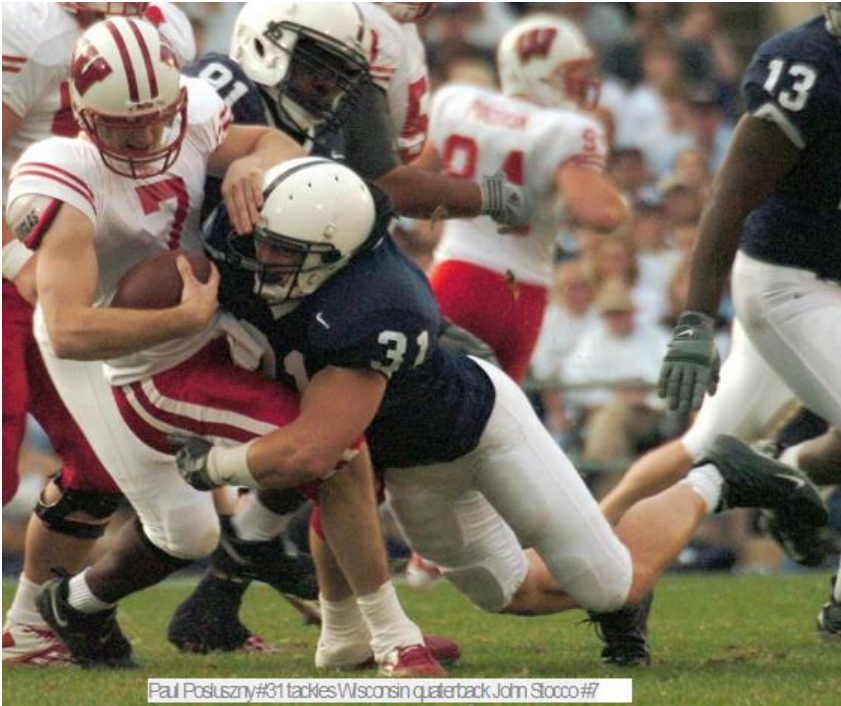
Posluszny was drafted in the second round of the NFL draft by the Buffalo Bills. 2007 will be his rookie season.

In the football version of the never-ending story, Penn State All-American Paul Posluszny, who did cleanly win the prestigious 2005 Butkus Award as a junior, was again selected a finalist for the 2006 honor, which is presented to the nation's top linebacker. A fellow Big-Ten player, LaMar Woodley from Michigan was

selected out of the top four.

Clearly Posluszny's nomination as a finalist shows how toughness and the abilities of this great football player. As a new guy to sports journalism, I find it quite strange however that a school that has put out the best cadre of linebackers in America has had such a hard time having many of them gain this award.

In 1978, Bruce Clark received the award and then during a period in which PSU had many top linebackers, none made the cut until Carl Nassib got the award in 2015. Just saying! OK, I am saying even more. Would anybody off the street believe that Clark and Nassib were not linebackers? And, so Linebacker U has never won the award with a linebacker. Strange! Strange like all the undefeated seasons without a championship. OK, enough jawboning.



Posluszny started playing when he was six, back home in the Pittsburgh area. He recalls his dad asking if he wanted to do something new and play football. So, he said sure and gave it a shot. He's been playing ever since.

Paul Posluszny had a great high school career, was highly recruited, and he felt really comfortable coming to Penn State. He likes to say that one of his favorite notions about Penn State is that it is Linebacker U and he is a linebacker. He feels that anytime you play a position like linebacker at a school known for that, it's really an honor and a privilege. To Posluszny, it is something to try to uphold.

Baseball is his favorite other sport. Like many of us who are not seven-foot-tall, he once liked basketball. His major at PUS is finance, but he is not exactly sure how he picked it. Posluszny will need that finance degree in life to take care of his holdings from being a star professional athlete.

We know that the POZ from Aliquippa, Pa played outside linebacker for PSU in 2005-06. He received lots of awards and nominations including being selected as an All American by the Associated Press, Football Writers Association of America, The Sporting News and Walter Camp Football Foundation in 2005 and the AP and Walter Camp Football Foundation in 2006.

Posluszny became just the second two-time winner of the Chuck Bednarik Award, presented to the nation's top defensive player, in 2006. In 2005, he also won the Butkus Award, presented to the nation's top linebacker and was a finalist for the '06 honor.

He was a starter in his last 37 games at PSU. He became the first Nittany Lion to lead the team in tackles three times and to post three 100-tackle seasons, recording 116 in 2006. Posluszny also was a two-time first-team ESPN--The Magazine Academic All-American, and was selected the 2006 Academic All-American-of-the-Year among Division I football players.

As a Pro, this ninth-year LB started 101 career games and is now in his fifth season with the Jaguars. He has impressive stats with career totals including 1,079 tackles (764 solo), 12 INTs, 12.0 sacks, eight forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and 32 passes defended. He was voted to Pro Bowl in 2013.

As a former second-round pick of the Buffalo Bills in 2007, he joined the Jaguars as an unrestricted free agent in 2011 ... It was a good deal for the Jaguars. Pusluzny has produced 100-plus tackles in six of the last seven seasons including a career-high and single-season franchise record 231 stops in 2012. He owns two of the four highest tackle totals in Jaguars history as he compiled 192 tackles in 2011, the fourth-most for a season

Paul Posluszny is a super football player and one of Penn State's finest. Paul Posluszny is the real deal and he is a Penn Stater.

Great Player: Tony Hunt, RB, 2003 -2006

Tony Hunt started his career as "the other guy". He was part of a recruiting class that featured the highly-touted Austin Scott.



He set to work the best he could and would end his career the second all-time rusher at Penn State. His straight-ahead workhorse running style endeared him with the fans. As a sophomore in 2004 Hunt was the leading receiver on the team.

He was a key member of the 2005 offense that featured Michael Robinson and Derrick Williams. Hunt never won

any awards. He was never named an All American. He never had any amazing runs.

But in many ways, he symbolized Penn State. Hard working. No nonsense. Straight ahead. Four yards and a cloud of dust. In his final game against Tennessee in the Outback Bowl, Penn State clung to a 17-10 lead in the fourth quarter, Tony Hunt put the team on his back like he did so many other times. Hunt ran the ball on seven consecutive plays gaining three first downs. The drive allowed Penn State to kill five minutes off the clock and put the Lions in position to kick a field goal and put the game out of reach. That was Tony Hunt.

Hunt was drafted in the third round of the NFL draft by the Philadelphia Eagles

2007: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 2007 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his 42nd year and played its home games in Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania. Penn State was ranked #17 in the AP and #18 in the Coaches college football preseason polls. They finished the season at 9-4 with rankings of #25 and # 24 in the Coaches and AP polls.

Great Player: Dan Connor, LB, 2005-2007



Two-time All-American Dan Connor could have gone pro after his junior season in 2006. If he had he would definitely have been on the list. He is one of the best ever. Connor cracked the starting lineup as a true freshman in 2004 and set a freshman record for tackles with 85.

In 2006 and 2007 Connor was named First Team All American and finished second in

the Bednarik Award voting in 2006 to his teammate, Paul Posluszny. In 2007, he gained the award. He is currently fifth on the all-time tackles list.

Even though he could have gone pro after his junior season, Dan Connor returned for his senior year in 2007. He switched from outside linebacker to middle linebacker in 2007. He was a top prospect for the Lombardi, Butkus, and Bednarik awards, winning the Bednarik Award in 2007. He was. He was predicted to be a first round draft pick in the NFL when his Penn State career was done but as good fortune had it, he was chosen in the third round by Carolina, where he plays football today. For a short while he was traded to the Giants and the Cowboys where he played. Now, he is back with the Panthers

2008 PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 2008 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his forty-third year. Ranked #6, PSU had a great record of 11-1 going into the Rose Bowl v #5 USC L (24-38). The team finished with a great winning season of 11-2 and were ranked #8 in both polls.

2009: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 2009 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his forty-fourth year. The Nittany Lions continued to play home games in the newly massive Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania. As an aside, for those concerned about academics and athletics, in 2009, Penn State University had the highest graduation rate among all of the teams on the Associated Press Top 25 poll with 89% of its 2002 enrollees graduating. Miami and Alabama tied for second place with a graduation rate of 75%.

2009 was also another great year for football, though the two losses were heartbreaking, coaches are paid gazillion dollars a year to achieve records such as PSU's 11-2 record this particular year. Though 82 years of age in the 2009 season, Paterno never weakened.

Great Player: Sean Lee, LB, 2005-2009



Sean Lee, from Upper St. Clair Township, Pennsylvania played Linebacker at Linebacker U and made All American in 2007. Going into 2008, Lee was a starting outside linebacker for coach Joe Paterno's Nittany Lions for two consecutive

seasons. In his junior year, he was 2nd team all-Big Ten, finishing second on the team in tackles with 138. He had a season high 17 tackles versus Illinois, and registered more than 10 tackles in all but three games.

Sean Lee was in the on-deck circle for a while at Linebacker U as the Linebacker Apparent. He had been a three star recruit out of Pittsburgh but he broke into the Paterno lineup early. He made his Penn State debut as a true freshman in the 2005 classic whiteout win over Ohio State. He started every game as a true sophomore, ending the year third on the squad in tackles. He had become a real PSU Linebacker as in his junior season in 2007. He finished the year second in the whole Big Ten in tackles, and he was named second team All-Big Ten.

He would have had an even bigger 2008 when an ACL tear in spring practice crippled him while it was repairing after surgery. He sat on the sidelines as a red-shirt, wearing a head set during the games

watching for things to report. Penn Staters were hoping that after such a nurturing Lee would be back at Beaver Stadium in 2009. It was not what it was expected to be.

During 2009, he simply was not the same player as in 2007. He just was not as strong physically as in 2007. He was forced to sit three games due to lingering injuries, but despite all that he did end the year with 86 tackles (39 solo) in the middle, right alongside Navarro Bowman. He used his innate football sense and intensity and then he was drafted in the second round, 55th overall.

After being drafted by Dallas, Lee was still plagued by recurring injuries and he was susceptible to hard hits. It was his fifth year and it was a much better year. After the emergence of Rolando McClain at middle linebacker the previous year, Lee was moved to weak side linebacker to protect him from direct hits by the defensive line and take advantage of his playmaking abilities. In the second game against the Philadelphia Eagles, he had 16 tackles (2 for loss), two passes defended, an interception in the end zone, and sealed the 20–10 win with an onside kick recovery, although he also suffered a concussion.

His performance earned him NFC Defensive Player of the Week. On December 7 against the Washington Redskins, he posted 13 tackles, two tackles for loss and one sack.

He finished with 156 tackles (led the team), 2.5 sacks, 11 tackles for loss (led the team), 6 quarterback pressures, one interception and 5 passes defended. He appeared in 14 games, missing one contest because of a hamstring injury and the other because of a concussion. Lee was named to his first Pro Bowl, as an injury replacement for Kansas City Chiefs.

Sean helped lead the Cowboys defense to a 13-3 record in 2016. He was second only to Bobby Wagner in tackles, and named First-team All-Pro as a linebacker for the first time in his career. Lee was named to his second straight Pro Bowl as an injury replacement. Sean lee is a quite a football player.

Great Player: NaVarro Bowman, LB, 2007-2009

PSU star Linebacker Navarro Roderick Bowman was born on May 28, 1988 in District Heights Maryland. From day one, he worked every day of his life to become a great football player. He was so good, nobody wanted to see him leave PSU but the pressure to change life status for players is very difficult to refuse. On January 4, 2010, after a great PSU career, Bowman's mother announced his decision to forgo his final year of NCAA eligibility and enter the 2010 NFL Draft.



His 2009 Penn State Stats were 93 tackles (52 solo), 17-60 TFL, Sacks 3.0-15, 2 INT, 2 FR.

Bowman was a redshirt freshman on special teams in 2007. He was a physical player with speed and tenacity in pursuing the ball and bringing down the ball carrier. In limited duty, due to a stacked depth chart with upper classmen like Dan Connor and Sean Lee, Bowman managed 16 tackles to go with a sack and 2.5 TFL.

Bowman returned after a suspension in 2007, thanks to a depleted linebacker unit from Connor's graduation and Sean Lee's knee

injury, Bowman got the chance to start in week four of the season and never looked back. Though many don't remember, Bowman had a significant role in Penn State's biggest win of the year against Ohio State. Everyone remembers Mark Rubin knocking the ball out of the hands of Terrelle Pryor on a 3rd and 1 quarterback sneak.

But as the ball was bouncing around out of control with bodies flying everywhere, it was Bowman who jumped in the pile to cradle the ball giving Penn State the huge momentum swing that propelled them to victory. He went on that season to lead the team in tackles with 106, and recorded 17.5 TFL, 4.0 sacks, and 1 INT to go with it.

His efforts earned him First Team All-Big Ten honors from the media and coaches.

On the second day of the Draft, Bowman's ticket was punched in the third round as the 91st overall pick. The San Francisco 49ers gained a powerful player for their roster. Bowman wears number # 53 for the 49ers.

First year pro in 2010, he played in all 16 games, starting one in place of Patrick Willis.

With the emergence in Bowman's play, he helped a top ranked 49ers defense set a NFL single season record of not allowing a rushing touchdown for 14 games. The previous record was held by the 1920 Decatur Staleys, who did not allow a rushing touchdown in a 13-game season. Starting all 16 games in 2011, Bowman finished the year with 143 tackles, 2 sacks, 8 passes defended, and 3 fumble recoveries. The 49ers finished with a 13-3 record for an NFC West pennant but lost to the eventual Super Bowl champ New York Giants 17-20 in the NFC Championship game in overtime.

Although he was not voted to the Pro Bowl for his stellar season, he was named to the First-Team All-Pro by the Associated Press. He was also voted No. 85 on NFL Network's Top 100 Players of 2012, which recognizes performance from the previous season.

2010: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his forty-fifth and last full season with Penn State University. Team captains for the 2010 season were wide receiver Brett Brackett and defensive tackle Ollie Ogbu. After a number of great seasons in a row, especially the outstanding 2009 season, it was again time for some rebuilding. The Nittany Lions finished the season 7–6, with a 4–4 record in the Big Ten play. They qualified and they played in the Outback Bowl where they were defeated by Florida L (37-24). The bottom line is that it was another winning season.

Great Player: Stefen Wisniewski



In 2008, Stefen Wisniewski was the first Nittany Lion true freshman offensive lineman to start a game since center Joe Iorio in 1999, Wisniewski was a starter in 12 games at guard in 2008, and a starter in 25 of the last 26 games.

Selected a 2010 first-team preseason All-American by Athlon, Lindy's, Sporting News and Phil Steele's College Football Previews, Wisniewski was a 2009 third-team All-America honoree by Collegefootballnews.com. Wisniewski became Penn State's first three-time

Academic All-American

In 2009, his Junior Season, Wisniewski was shifted from guard to center prior to spring practice and emerged as one of the nation's top

offensive linemen. Starting every game, he was selected first-team All-Big Ten by the coaches and media and was named a third-team All-American by Collegefootballnews.com.

Wisniewski and senior tackle Dennis Landolt anchored a line that had four different starting lineups in the first six games, but meshed well in the second half of the season. Wisniewski also was selected a first-team ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American®, joining teammates Josh Hull and Andrew Pitz on the first-team.

In his 2007 Freshman PSU Season, Wisniewski played in eight games and was joined by linebacker Chris Colasanti as the only true freshmen to earn time on the field. He was named to The Sporting News Freshman All-Big Ten team. Wisniewski played in each of the last seven games, making his collegiate debut against Buffalo. One month later, he made his first career start in the 36-31 win at Indiana, getting the nod at right guard.

He became the first Penn State true freshman offensive lineman to start since center Joe Iorio in 1999. Wisniewski helped the Nittany Lions rush for 192 yards and pass for 197 in the important road win over Indiana. He saw action on 230 snaps, led by 42 in the Alamo Bowl win over Texas A&M, as he helped the Lions run for a season-high 270 yards. He compiled a perfect 4.0 grade-point average during the 2007 fall semester.

Stefen David Wisniewski is the son of Leo and Cindy Wisniewski and has one sister, Sarah. He comes from a deep football family. His father was a standout defensive lineman for the Lions, lettering from 1979-81 and serving as a tri-captain in 1981. He was selected by the Baltimore Colts in the second round of the 1982 NFL Draft and played four seasons with Baltimore/Indianapolis.

An uncle, Steve Wisniewski, was a two-time first-team All-America guard during his Penn State career (1985-88) and was selected All-Pro eight times in his 13 years with the Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders. In his free time, Stefen enjoys reading and working out. He is interested in pursuing a career in teaching and coaching or in the ministry. Wisniewski is one of the squad's premier students, compiling a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.

Stefen Wisniewski was taken with the 48th overall pick in the second round of the 2011 NFL Draft by the Oakland Raiders, and he signed with the Raiders shortly before the beginning of the 2011 training camp. Stating that he wished to create his own legacy, he declined to wear his uncle's old uniform #76 (which was available), opting for his college #61 instead.

At the beginning of the 2011 season, coach Hue Jackson named Wisniewski the Raiders' starting left guard, placed between Samson Satele at center and Jared Veldheer at left tackle. On opening day of the 2011 NFL season, the offensive line cleared the way for 190 rushing yards and a victory over the Denver Broncos.

Stefen Wisniewski was made to play football. He was immediately named the Pepsi NFL Rookie of the Week for Week 3 of the 2011 NFL season, after the Oakland offensive line cleared the way for 234 rushing yards and allowing only one sack against the New York Jets.

His lead block on a pivotal fourth-quarter touchdown run gave Oakland a two-score lead. In January 2012, Wisniewski was named to the Pro Football Weekly All-Rookie team for his outstanding rookie season as starting left guard.

Wisniewski helped pave the way for the NFL's 7th ranked rushing attack and anchored an offensive line that only allowed 25 sacks, tied for 3rd best in the NFL. With the departure of Samson Satele to the Indianapolis Colts in the 2012 offseason, Wisniewski became the Raiders' starting center. After a few more years, he moved to Jacksonville

Wisniewski signed a one-year contract with the Jacksonville Jaguars on April 18, 2015. On March 9th 2016, Wisniewski became a free agent.

He is now back in Pennsylvania with the Eagles. Welcome home, Stefen. On April 4, 2016, Wisniewski signed a one-year contract with the Philadelphia Eagles. Let's all hope the deal is mutually beneficial.

2011: PSU Season Coach Joe Paterno

The 2011 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Joe Paterno in his forty-sixth and final year. Coach Paterno was the head coach for the first nine games of the year in what looked like it might be another championship season after the rebuilding year. As everybody knows there was a major scandal at Penn State and the Coach was fired in the wake of the devastating allegations involved.

Defensive coordinator Tom Bradley took over the team for Joe Paterno. Without discussing the merits of the case, it is certain that the firing of the head coach main stream was very disruptive to the season. The Nittany Lion players continued to work hard and they were clearly innocent victims of the situation and they continued to play but with heavy hearts.

Penn State finished the season 9–4, 6–2 in the Leaders Division of the Big Ten to become co–division champions with Wisconsin. Due to the head-to-head loss to Wisconsin, they did not represent the division in the inaugural Big Ten Championship Game. They were invited to the Ticket City Bowl where under Tom Bradley's best efforts as interim coach, they lost to Houston 14–30.

Chapter 16 Coach Bill O'Brien Era 2012 to 2013

Coach # 15

2012 Bill O'Brien 8-4 (6-2 Big Ten)
 2013 Bill O'Brien 7-5 (4-4 Big Ten)



2012: PSU Season Coach Bill O'Brien

After over 60 years of coaching at Penn State (15 as assistant and 46 as head coach), Coach Joe Paterno passed away from Lung Cancer on January 22, 2012. This disease was once diagnosed as very treatable. Many of us who admire his work and who admired the man in life and in death believe that the consensus thought of this good man being fired and not having done enough to help others was more than enough to kill him, or deplete his desire to live, hastening his death.

So many fans and pundits and alumni who could have simply suggested that they did not buy into his major involvement at all in the scandal, as I would have, stayed silent. Joe Paterno died not a

hero as he should have passed out of life. Surely, our merciful Lord has him slotted properly.

Unfortunately, the greatest figure in Penn State Football from the day football was invented, died with a shadow instead of as a great hero. That, in my opinion killed him as much as lung cancer from a very treatable disease in January, 2012. His fortitude if he felt it was worth it, would have given us the man who could speak about so many great seasons and so many great players, and how to live life.

Unlike the last forty-six years, at the beginning of the 2012 Penn State Nittany Lions football season, the PSU team needed a new coach. It would be Bill O'Brian, a good man. PSU was coached in 2012 by Bill O'Brien, and not Joe Paterno or Tom Bradley. It was O'Brien's, first season and so as had been the accustomed venue for his team, the Lions played home games in Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania, US.

After losing its first two games, the Nittany Lions finished their season winning eight of their final 10 to finish with a record of eight wins and four losses (8–4). They were not eligible to participate in a bowl game despite their winning record. Many PSU fans were wondering why the team and players were suffering as their playing football with encumbrances seemed to be punishing the wrong people. The student athletes were punished. The state of Pennsylvania was punished. Coach Paterno was punished unmercifully while there was only one accused

The damage to children in the Penn State sexual abuse situation cannot be minimized. That is not my issue, but a rapid-fire witch hunt intended to defame Penn State and Joe Paterno and the football program, was not an appropriate response to the problem.

Jerry Sandusky has been found guilty. The facts have spoken and unless we plan to close down every public school and fire every principal whose charges went off on their own, then destroying the value of a Penn State experience and a Penn State education should be off the table.

Now, let's get off the subject of why Bill O'Brien became the coach and move on

Games of the 2012 PSU Football Season



Bill O'Brien recorded his first victory as Penn State's head coach when the Nittany Lions defeated Navy, 34-7, at Beaver Stadium on September 15, 2012.

Great Player: Michael Mauti, LB 2008-2012

Michael Mauti had no clue his 2011 season would be abbreviated by injury. He was a Linebacker U Linebacker all over the field making the big plays for the first three games of 2011 season. He was earning recognition and would have surely gotten the plaudits with a completed senior season. But it was not to be.



He suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. Before his injury, Mauti had recorded 21 tackles, with 3.0 tackles for loss, one interception and three pass breakups in three-plus games. In the meeting with an ever-tough No. 2 Alabama, Mauti led the team with a career-high 13 tackles and had two pass breakups. If there were more Mauti's on the team, the outcome would have been different.

He was superb in helping the Nittany Lions hold Temple to 10 points, recording six tackles (all solos), including a career-tying three for a loss (minus-eight). In the fourth quarter, he made a diving interception, the first of his career, to set up Penn State's final touchdown drive at Lincoln Financial Field. Mauti saw action on 182 snaps, topped by 76 against Alabama.

Mauti's junior season ended abruptly in the first quarter against Eastern Michigan with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. These are tough injuries and tough to fully recover. Mauti did not play the rest of last season, but he continued as a leader at practice and on the sideline during games. His continual presence permitted him to maintain his slot on the team's 70-man roster for

away games. He worked very hard in his rehabilitation and he was in the forefront during winter strength and conditioning sessions. He showed his leadership by example and his warrior mentality.

He worked out in spring in selected drills was expected to be 100 percent in time for the season. He was a likely Butkus Award and post-season honors candidate. Michael Mauti is a fierce competitor, and without a doubt, one of the team's hardest workers and when engaged, he is a sure tackler. Few escape his clutches. He is the consummate linebacker with the proper balance of acumen and athleticism and speed to chase down a ball carrier or blanket a running back or tight end in pass coverage.

After all the prep work, this intense and focused fifth-year senior started the first four games in his last season and had 11 career starts. He won All-American honors in 2012. After game four, he had 21 tackles, with 3.0 tackles for loss, one interception and three pass breakups in three-plus games in 2011 prior to his second injury.

Despite missing the last game of the 2012 season, due to a third torn ACL, Mauti was named first team All-Big Ten, first team All-American, and won the Butkus-Fitzgerald Award for best Big Ten linebacker

The former Mandeville High School All-American graduated in December 2011 and is on schedule to earn a second degree, in labor and employment relations, in December. Mauti and his older brother, Patrick (2005-09) have combined with their father, Rich, to join the long line of fathers-son tandems to play at Penn State over the past 50 years.

In his junior season, he played in 11 games, with seven starts. He garnered 5.5 tackles for loss (minus-18), with two sacks and a pass breakup. Mauti rewrote his career-high in tackles in three consecutive games during the season.

Mauti is from a football family of Penn Staters. He is the son of Rich and Nancy Mauti. He has an older brother, Patrick, and sister, Rachel. Patrick was a wide receiver for the Nittany Lions from 2005-09. Their father was a letterman at Penn State in 1975 and '76 as a wide receiver and played for the National Football League New

Orleans Saints (1977-83) and Washington Redskins (1984). Michael is majored in crime, law and justice. Born January 19, 1990 in New Orleans, La.

Mauti's pro career began when he was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings in the seventh round, 213th overall of the 2013 Draft. The Vikings also selected fellow Penn State linebacker Gerald Hodges in the fourth round, reuniting the teammates in the NFL. He played for the Vikings for two years, primarily on special teams, before being cut at the end of training camp in 2015.

The New Orleans Saints claimed Mauti off waivers after Minnesota released him. On October 15, 2015, in a Thursday Night Football game v the Atlanta Falcons, Mauti blocked a Matt Bosher punt and returned it for a touchdown. The block was widely compared to a famous punt block made by Saints safety Steve Gleason in a 2006 game against Atlanta, in the Saints' first home game after a year of wandering after Hurricane Katrina. This was more special as Gleason was present and received an award at the 2015 game, while Mauti himself had attended the 2006 game in person.

Michael Mauti is one of the good guys in football and in life and he is a key element in many PSU pundits best of PSU football lists. He always occupies a nice spot.

Mauti, as many other PSU players enjoyed Penn State; enjoyed PSU Football, and enjoyed playing for the most decorated coach who has ever lived—Joe Paterno!

2013: PSU Season Coach Bill O'Brien

The 2013 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was coached by Bill O'Brien and they were a member of the Big Ten Conference and its Leaders Division. Penn State was ineligible to play in a bowl game for the 2013 season, the second season of a four-year ban, due to NCAA sanctions imposed in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky sex abuse scandal.

Penn State finished the season at 7-5, (4-4 in the Big Ten.) Great job by Bill O'Brien in a tough year with many unsettling things happening.

Great Player: Allen Robinson, WR, 2009-2012



All American Allen Robinson is quite a football player with a knack for making things look easy on the football field. He has what it takes plus a lot of heart. He has great size, speed and strong hands.

In the 2012 season, Robinson busted onto the scene with nine catches for 97 yards in the high-octane Bill O'Brien-led offense. With his confidence confirmed by the breakout season-opener, Robinson never looked back en route to racing into the record books during a dominant sophomore season. The awards in 2012 and 2013 piled up for the athletic and vastly talented wideout, who was selected the 2012 Big Ten Richter-Howard Receiver-of-the-Year and first-team All-Big Ten by the coaches, media, BTN.com and ESPN.com.

Robinson was named an All-American by The Sporting News and Phil Steele named Robinson to his second-team All-America squad. Robinson shattered the Penn State season receptions record with 77 catches, besting the previous record of 63 held by All-Americans O.J. McDuffie (1992) and Bobby Engram (1995).

He also obliterated the season mark for a sophomore that had been held by Engram (48, 1993) and Deon Butler (48, 2006). Robinson's 1,013 yards marked just the third 1,000-yard receiving season in school history, joining Engram (twice) as the only 1,000-yard season receivers to wear the blue and white.

Having made three catches for 29 yards as a freshman, Robinson led the Big Ten in catches, receptions per game, receiving yards and touchdown catches in 2012. His 11 touchdown grabs were tied for second-highest in a season at Penn State (Engram, 1995).

Robinson's 6-3 frame and leaping ability makes him a big target in the red zone, and he enters the year tied for ninth on the career touchdown receptions chart after two seasons. The former Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep standout has breakaway speed and has always been elusive in the open field.

Chapter 17 Coach James Franklin Era 2014 to 2016 +...

Coach # 16

2014	James Franklin	7-6	(2-6 Big Ten)
2015	James Franklin	7-6	(4-4 Big Ten)
2016	James Franklin	11-3	(8-2 Big Ten)



Penn State head coach James Franklin, center, leads his team onto the field at Beaver Stadium before an NCAA college football game against Akron

2014: PSU Season Coach James Franklin

The 2014 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was led by first year head-coach James Franklin and played its home games in Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania. It continued as a member of the Big Ten Conference and played in the newly organized East Division. As in 2011 through 2013, Penn State was ineligible to play in a bowl game due to NCAA sanctions. However, on September 8, 2014, the NCAA announced that Penn State would again be eligible for post-season games, effective immediately.

The Nittany Lions had a 7–6 overall record for the season with a 2–6 Big Ten mark, placing sixth in the Big Ten East Division. The Nittany Lions respectably concluded the season with a victory in the Pinstripe Bowl over Boston

2015: PSU Season Coach James Franklin

The 2015 Penn State Nittany Lions football team was led by second year head-coach James Franklin. The Nittany Lions finished the season 7–6; (4–4 in Big Ten) to finish in fourth place in the East Division of the Big Ten. They were invited to the TaxSlayer Bowl where the Lions lost to Georgia in a close battle L (17-24).

Great Player: Carl Nassib, LB-DE, 2012-2015



Selected as an All American in 2015, Carl Nassib is a great addition to Linebacker U. Carl set the Penn State season sack record with 15.5 sacks in 2015. He forced six fumbles in 2015, which was the most forced by a Penn Stater since Michael Haynes forced seven in 2002.

Nassib is the first Nittany Lion to lead the FBS in multiple statistical categories since Larry Johnson in 2002. He is the 13th unanimous Consensus All-American in PSU program history. He is recognized as a phenomenon and a

mainstay of the team. He is the first Penn State player to win three National Awards since Larry Johnson in 2002.

As a senior, it would be better to save trees to show the awards Nassib did not receive as he received just about all there was for a linebacker. He was that good. Let me sneak through them in crunched format. It will be tough to read but it won't take the twenty pages which otherwise would be needed:

Awards: Selected as the Lombardi Award winner for the nation's top lineman or linebacker...Named the winner of the Ted Hendricks Award for the nation's top defensive end...Won the Lott IMPACT Trophy for the defensive player that represent the qualities embodied by Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott – Integrity, Maturity, Performance, Academics, Community and Tenacity...Is the first Nittany Lion to win three National Awards since Larry Johnson in 2002...Selected as the CBS Sports National Defensive Player of the Year... Unanimous Consensus All-American, earning the distinction from Walter Camp, AP, FWAA, Sporting News, AFCA...Is the 13th Nittany Lion to earn unanimous Consensus All-America status and the 41st overall...Also earned first team All-American honors from ESPN.com, SI.com, CBS Sports and Athlon Sports...Earned second team All-America honors from USA Today...Earned second team All-America honors from USA Today...Selected as the Big Ten's Nagurski-Woodson Defensive Player of the Year by the conference's coaches and media...Selected as a finalist for the Nagurski Trophy (College Defensive Player of the Year), Bednarik Award (Nation's Defensive Player of the Year) and Burlsworth Trophy (top walk-on)...Named first team All-Big Ten from the coaches and media...Selected BTN.com's Defensive Player of the Year and earned a nod to the website's all-conference team...Named to ESPN.com's All-Big Ten team...Tabbed first team All-Big Ten and Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year by the Associated Press and Athlon Sports...Selected as an ECAC First Team All-Star...Named to CBS Sports, ESPN.com and SI.com Midseason All-America teams...Selected to ESPN.com's midseason All-Big Ten team...Additionally, was selected by CBS Sports Eye on College Football staff writers Jon Soloman, Tom Fornelli and Robby Kall and as the National Defensive Player of the Year at the 2015 midpoint...Selected as ECAC Defensive Player of the Week

(10/20)...Selected as the team's Most Valuable Player...Named the team's Most Valuable Defensive Player.

OK, now do you believe me. You don't need me if you've been watching recent PSU games. Nassib is simply at the top of the watch list.

The jury is light on Nassib as a Pro so you must look for the next version of this book for more info or check it out on the Internet.

Nassib was selected by the Cleveland Browns in the 3rd round of the 2016 NFL draft with the 65th pick.

On June 28, 2016, Nassib signed a four-year contract worth about \$3.2 million, with signing bonus worth approximately \$890,000.

In his first game as a professional, against the Philadelphia Eagles, Nassib recorded one sack, three tackles, and one defended pass, and earned a nomination for Pepsi NFL Rookie of the Week.

Stay Tuned for Cleveland to begin to stop the big plays.

2016: PSU Season Coach James Franklin

The 2016 Penn State Nittany Lions football team will be led by third year head-coach James Franklin and play its home games in Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania. The Penn State Nittany Lions are a member of the East Division of the Big Ten Conference.

The PSU 2016 schedule consisted of 7 home and 5 away games in the regular season. The Nittany Lions hosted Big Ten foes Iowa, Maryland, Michigan State, Minnesota, and Ohio State, and will travel to Indiana, Michigan, Purdue, and Rutgers.

The team also hosted two of the three non-conference games which are against the Kent State Golden Flashes from the Mid-American Conference (MAC), Pittsburgh Panthers from the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), and the Temple Owls from the American Athletic Conference (AAC).

The Nittany Lions began the season slowly at 2–2. However, after losing to the Michigan Wolverines in game 4, they won nine straight conference games. This string of victories included defeating the Wisconsin Badgers in the Big Ten Championship Game. They represented the Big Ten in the 2017 Rose Bowl and were defeated by the Trojans of Southern California L (49-52) in a nail biter.

Date	Opponent	Site
September 3	Kent State*	Beaver Stadium • W(33-12)
September 10	at Pittsburgh	Heinz Field • L(39-42)
September 17	Temple	Beaver Stadium • W(34-27)
September 24 ...	at Michigan	Michigan Stadium • L(10-49)
October 1	Minnesota	Beaver Stadium • W(29-26)
October 8	Maryland	Beaver Stadium • W(38-14)
October 22	Ohio State	Beaver Stadium • W(24-21)
October 29	at Purdue	Ross–Ade Stadium • W(62-24)
November 5	Iowa	Beaver Stadium • W(41-14)
November 12	at Indiana	Memorial Stadium • W(45-31)
November 19	at Rutgers	High Point Solutions W(39-0)
November 26	Michigan State	Beaver Stadium • W(45-12)
December 3	Wisconsin	Lucas Oil Stadium W (38-31)
January 2	USC	Rose Bowl L (49-52)

* Below Photo by Rich Barnes



2016 Season Highlights

Penn State had its best season since Joe Paterno's 2009 season brought the Nittany Lions 11 victories. It was quite a year for Penn State Fans and it was a long-time coming. How can anybody argue with the year--Big Ten Champions with 11 wins and a #5 ranking in the country. In fact, there was actually an outside shot that the Nittany Lions would be playing for a national title in 2016. For many, it was difficult to believe., Penn State is finally back! Go Lions!

The last time the Lions had 11 wins was in 2009, which ended in a win over LSU in the Capital One Bowl... That team was loaded with NFL talent...but mostly on defense. Guys like Navarro Bowman, Sean Lee, Jared Odrick, Nate Stupar, and Jack Crawford all went on to have NFL careers.

Success for a team most often has to do with its coaching in combination with a fine quarterback. PSU had both in 2016 as Coach Franklin finally became comfortable with the team and the pressure and Trace McSorley was simply outstanding. It was a season that was fun to watch.

The Rose Bowl was very winnable and PSU had already showed its mettle when the Lions were down 28-7 and came back to beat Wisconsin in the B1G 10. PSU could have tucked away the Rose Bowl if the D were able to come together a bit better.

The recent-old PSU looked like it was here when the Nittany Lions played Michigan early in the season. It was as if the Lions were unprepared and Michigan was on key for the whole game. Big loss. Big number of points for Michigan and just 10 for PUS. It was demoralizing. Barkley got just 59 yards on 15 carries. McSorley did not have it that day throwing for 121 yards a TD and a pick. Four different Michigan running backs had touchdown runs. It was tough to watch. Pitt created some jitters but did not ruin the season as the Lions came through.

Nobody can say the Rose Bowl was not a great contest but the end of the Rose Bowl game was as big a disappointment. The Nittany Lions were winning 49 to 45 and had the ball four times in the fourth quarter and did nothing.

Final scores matter and USC put it together to beat Penn State as the defense were not fully there for the last quarter. The pundits put the blame for the loss on coaches Franklin and Moorehead. There's nothing like great play calling at the end of a game. Didn't happen! Many are looking towards 2017 as a breakaway year but are concerned that there are a lot of great teams to get through. If the Defense can play a lot better, PSU has a chance to light up the scoreboard at will and that means a great season. We'll see!

Great Player: Saquon Barkley, RB, 2016

In the post Paterno years, Penn State's avid supporters have second guessed the AP's decisions on All Americans. For some it was thus surprising that the AP selected Barkley as an All-American for the 2016 season. He played great for sure. He is just a sophomore so we may need an edition of this book each year to update his phenomenal stats.

If you are reading this book, you are a PSU fan and thus, you know Penn State had a great 2016 season and that Saquon Barkley was a big reason for its success. Barkley ranks 15th on Penn State's career

rushing list with 2,131 yards. He is just the eighth player in Penn State history with multiple 1,000-yard seasons. Right now, he is # 17 on the single season rushing charts with 1,055 and # 21 on the career rushing touchdowns chart.



He is just a sophomore. We must remember that he I just a sophomore and we must remember he may leave after his junior year.

You don't have to look at his play too hard to understand how he earned immediate playing time as a true freshman at Penn State in 2015. After he had rushed for a positive one yard on one carry in his first game, he came back and rushed for 115 yards with a touchdown in his second game.

In October, 2015, Barkley missed two games from injury. When he came back, PSU was facing OSU and the Buckeyes were ranked #1. Barkley chose not to respect the vaunted OSU defense and he rushed for 194 yards on 26 carries. He was just a freshman.

During this first year in 2015, Barkley carried 182 times and amassed 1,076 yards and seven touchdowns.

In the offseason, the pundits and the press at large and the award givers had spotted him. So, Barkley began to receive large amounts of praise for his great first year. He was awarded second-team All-Big Ten (getting some votes for first team) and he was the BTN.com Freshman of the Year. Wow!

But, the kid has a good head on his shoulders so he knew that hard work would move him forward.

In his sophomore year, 2016, Saquon Barkley rushed for 105 yards and a touchdown out of the gun in a 33–13 win over Kent State. In week 2 in a renewed rivalry game against Pitt, he scored a college-career high of 5 touchdowns but the Nittany Lions D could not hold and the loss was close, 42-39.

In a week 7 match up vs the Ohio State Buckeyes, a team looking to win it all, Barkley rushed for 99 yards on 12 carries with a long of 37 in a 24–21 win over the No. 2 Buckeye's. What could be in store for PSU?

On October 29th Barkley and No. 24 Penn State scored a season high sixty-two points v Purdue when Barkley achieved 207 rushing yards with a career-high long of 81 yards and two touchdowns, along with 70 yards of receiving. A total of 277 yards on the day. PSU beat Purdue 62–24 improving to 6–2 and 4–1 in Big Ten play. Coach Franklin and the team were thrilled but they knew more work was needed.

On November 1, 2016, it was announced Barkley was named a semifinalist for the Maxwell Award. On November 5, Barkley followed up his career week with a 167 yard 1 touchdown performance vs Iowa. He added 44 yards and another TD in the air with a total of 211 all-purpose yard in the 41-14 win.

After the season, Barkley was named the Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year, Ameche–Dayne Running Back of the Year and First Team All-Big Ten. Not bad for a sophomore.

During the Rose Bowl, Barkley picked up the call and added 25 carries for 194 yards, at an astounding 7.8 yards per carry. He also scored what the pundits call a “highlight-reel worthy” 79-yard touchdown that briefly gave Penn State the lead. PSU had a great chance of winning the Rose Bowl but not everything happens right all the time. Barkley had already set the Penn State record for rushing yards in a season by a freshman (1,076) and by a sophomore (1,496). What's next. One thing is for sure. Saquon Barkley is already one of the Penn State Greats.

For those who care, Barkley already holds a ton of freshman records. In his sophomore season, a season in which he helped drive PSU to the cusp of a national championship, his list of honors and records is deep.

When I copied the stats to this book, they took up over two pages of what would be boring reading. I will present to you just the first four lines from the PSU Biography page that they are already collecting on one of their already greats and future great player, Saquon Barkley. They tell me he is a pretty good guy besides.

Barkley's Sophomore Season

Awards: Selected one of 18 semifinalists for the Maxwell Award...Named to the Big Ten Preseason Honor Roll...Named to the Maxwell Award, Doak Walker Award and Rotary Lombardi Award Preseason Watch Lists...Named to the Dante Hall Award Watch

OK, folks, that's all for now.

Let's give PSU a big mental hug for a great 2016.

Let's hope for more in 2017 and through the future.

Amen!

LET'S GO PUBLISH! Books by Brian W. Kelly (Sold at www.bookhawkers.com; Amazon.com, and Kindle.).

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