

# GOLD & BLACK

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 5 • SEPT. 29, 2000

ILLUSTRATED

# That's More Like It

**Brees Shatters  
More Records,  
Penn State Next**





# Wait And See

BY BRIAN NEUBERT

Each Sunday *Gold & Black Illustrated* talks with Coach Joe Tiller following Saturday's games, getting his most recent thoughts on the contest after he's analyzed it on film.

**Q: Considering its youth, the defense seems to be exceeding expectations. Would you agree?**

Tiller: "I think they're playing OK. I don't want to diminish what they've done because they have played pretty well at times, for the majority of the time, actually. To say they've played well just at times is an understatement."

"I thought we were just a better football team than the first two teams we played, which was good because it gave us a chance to learn some things and mature. Then we faced a Notre Dame team with a very watered-down offense, which helped. (Minnesota) had very poor field position in the first half. To our defense's credit, they were really aggressive, got after them and really got (quarterback Asad Abdul-Khalik) out of sync. He's a redshirt freshman, and no one had gotten after him like we did. One of our goals heading into the game was to pressure him, confuse him and get him out of sync. We did that early."

"I think there's reasons why we're playing defensively like we have. No. 1, to the players' credit, they've gotten better and played real hard. And No. 2, they haven't been challenged like some of these offenses down the road are going to challenge them."

**Q: What has to be done to fix the problems in the punting game?**

Tiller: "We like our special teams on everything except punting. I think we had our best kickoff coverage of the year. They only had three returns, and we pinned them inside the 20 all three times. Our PAT and field goal protection was better than it's been and continues to improve. Our blocking has been good."

"The two areas on our special teams we have to improve obviously are the punt team and the kickoff return team, which is a very hard part of special teams to practice. The only time they see it for real is on Saturday afternoons. We don't have a show team that can come close to demonstrating real conditions. We made six changes on that unit last weekend in an attempt to get better athletes out there for kickoff returns."

"With the punt protection thing, I think our mechanics just need to be ironed out. We're just out of sync, period. I don't know what to do other than continue to work. We put more emphasis on it last week than we did the previous two weeks. We just never factored in a snap over the punter's head, and we're not going to practice that. That was one screw-up and the other was on the block. There were multiple reasons for that, one of which is we were slow getting the ball off. Another was that the guy on the wing (Keith Dawson) was not physical. Mechanically, he wasn't sound in what he did. We're probably going to make a personnel change there and try to shore it up."

"The two guys who were our wings last year all year were Jason Loerzel and Ben Smith, and both the blocks this year have come over the wings. Guess what happened in August? Those guys got hurt and we didn't practice either one of them. Loerzel is better, handled the left side Saturday and did a good job with it. Smith is not fully recovered, but he's closer than he has been. We're going to elevate Ben and put him out there, so at least we'll have two guys with a lot of experience. Hopefully, they'll both hold up physically. Both understand what needs to be done, and that's a huge part of us being successful."

"We've got to get it shored up. Otherwise, we're going to see pressure off the edge all fall. We're definitely going to see a lot of pressure. Everybody gets these tapes."

off the edge all fall. We're definitely going to see a lot of pressure. Everybody gets these tapes."

**Q: After further evaluation, what happened in the goal-line situation when you had too many men on the field?**

Tiller: "We'll have to talk through the week about whether we're changing our personnel groupings too much when we get down there."

"The one instance when we had too many men on the field, we had an experienced player (Loerzel) who was not in that grouping stay on the field. We substituted to match up better with their personnel, which every team in America does, and he stayed out there. Then when you ask him why, he doesn't have an answer and neither do I."

"Then they snapped the ball and we had 10 guys on the field, so we have to take a look at some things. My message to the defensive coaching staff is, 'Let's discuss what we're doing in our substitutions. Are we overburdening them?'"

**Q: Late in the game, you pulled quarterback Drew Brees for one play, replacing him with senior David Edgerton instead of freshman Brandon Hance. Why?**

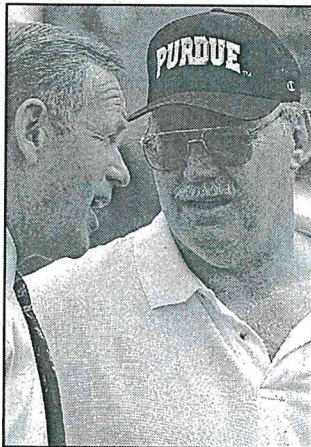
Tiller: "Brandon, I was told on Friday, was seriously ill. He had been tested for mono and was negative on the initial screening. They're going to retest him on Monday to see if he has anything. He couldn't talk, had a dry throat and they just didn't think he was going to be able to play. On Thursday, he practiced full-go and did everything, then I got that call on Friday and thought, 'Well, this is a helluva downer.'"

"We would have played Brandon, but the trainers told us we shouldn't. We had him dress in case we had to go to a third quarterback, but I hope that's a very temporary status for him, because we'd like to get him on the field and get him as much experience as we can this year."

**Q: With Penn State sitting at a surprising 1-4, do your fear your team will be walking into a hornets' nest next weekend?**

Tiller: "Oh yeah, you have to wonder, 'When are they going to explode?' I'll never forget in '97 when we were going to Illinois to play and Illinois dropped all 11 of its games that year. We had lost to Toledo then won about five in a row. The comment from everyone that week was, 'How concerned are you going to Illinois?'"

"My answer was simply that you're always concerned, because you know that a football team, particularly one as talented as Penn State, is going to have a Saturday when all pieces just fall into place for them. You just hope it isn't the Saturday against you, because they certainly have the talent to wreak havoc on any team they face."



Tom Campbell

Coach Joe Tiller, pictured with Minnesota coach Glen Mason, acknowledges that his defense has played better than expected, but doesn't think it's been tested yet as it will be later in the season.

### IN THIS EDITION OF THE JOHN PURDUE CLUB REPORT:

- Ross-Ade Stadium will be entirely re-seated prior to the 2003 season
- The next deadline for priority consideration for club seat sales is January 10, 2001

## TJ Gall and Associates, Inc.

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### This Week's TJ Gall and Associates, Inc Boilermaker Trivia

Name Purdue's all-time leading rusher and the player whose record he broke?

Post the correct answer on the GoldandBlack.com message board with your e-mail address and you will be registered for a drawing to win two tickets to the Purdue-Indiana football game on Nov. 18, 2000. Deadline for your answer is Sept. 30, 2000.

Answer to last week's trivia question: Boilermaker coaches Jimmy Phelan and Noble Kizer played or coached under legendary Notre Dame coach Knute Rockne.

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Tom Gall  
Purdue BCM '82

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### ON THE COVER

Quarterback Drew Brees was sensational against Minnesota Sept. 23. He had 497 yards of total offense, throwing for 409 yards and two touchdowns on 33-of-49 passing without an interception. Brees also had a career-high 88 yards rushing, including an 11-yard TD run in the 38-24 win.

Cover photo and University Spirit photo of Brees by Tom Campbell



# PENN STATE LOSSES, SPECIAL TEAMS WOES INCREASE PURDUE'S ANXIETY LEVEL

As Ohio State piled touchdown after touchdown on Penn State Sept. 23, all I could feel was the pressure gauge going up on the Boilermakers for their Sept. 30 trip to Happy Valley.

The worse Penn State looks, the more it seems like Purdue should beat the Lions.

The next and probably best opportunity for the program's first road victory against a Big Ten elite program in 12 years comes against a team struggling through its worst stretch in nearly four decades?

Wasn't the storyline of the Purdue-Penn State game supposed to be the Boilermakers trying to stop Coach Joe Paterno from his destiny of becoming major college football's all-time winningest coach? Had the Lions been 5-0 heading into the Purdue game, Paterno could have broken the record with a win over the Boilermakers.

Something is not right here.

If you are a paranoid Boilermaker fan, you might think all of Penn State's woes are a trap to get Purdue overconfident. The sneaky Lions' disguise has been darn convincing the past couple of weeks.

Thank God for Purdue's punt team. I look at the play of the Boilermaker special teams during the past couple of weeks has been the perfect fodder to keep the Boilermakers focused in preparation for Penn State. Despite a relatively easy, two touchdown win over Minnesota, the glaring mistakes should make

Coach Joe Tiller's nostrils flare for the next few practices. The 38-24 score should have been 52-7.

As you will read in our Penn State game preview beginning on page 18, under Paterno the Lions have had a penchant for turning around early season failures. If the Boilers give the hosts any freebie points, they will have to wait their turn once again to post that all-important road win against a Big Ten power.



so there are plenty of opportunities for exposure.

Unfortunately, winning the Heisman can be determined on what you do in November. The fact Purdue only has two games in that month does present an obstacle.

## LETTERS AND NUMBERS TO PROVE A POINT

As this week's cover states, the Boilermaker offense against

Minnesota was more of what Purdue fans are used to seeing under Tiller. You'll read on page 19 a sampling of the 15-20 e-mails and letters sent to *Gold & Black Illustrated* after the Notre Dame game. In some ways, it is great to see the Purdue football program has come far enough to raise the ire of fans — in a big way. Still, I marvel at the short memory of some of the die-hards. It hasn't been that long since 1996, has it?

To add a little more food for thought, some unidentified geekazoid on the Internet (a man or woman after my own heart) provided some research I found interesting.

In Tiller's 41 games at Purdue:

- The Boilers have rushed more than they have passed only seven times. Purdue is 6-1 in those games (wins over Northwestern and Illinois in 1997, Central Florida and Illinois in '98 and Indiana and Minnesota in '99).
- The Notre Dame game was the only

time the Boilers have lost when throwing under 30 passes. In those games, Purdue has outscored its opponents 238-120 and is 5-1.

- It has a 12-3 record when throwing 39 passes or less averaging 35.5 points per contest
- If Purdue throws more than 50 passes, like it did against Minnesota, it has a 5-8 record while averaging 27.2 points per game, and an 0-4 record when launching 60 or more aerials (21.8-point average).

Now, I'll admit that Tiller's staunch record when pulling in the reins on the aerial circus is against mostly weaker opponents. But the winless record when throwing over 60 times against strong teams like Wisconsin in 1998 and '99, Georgia in the Outback Bowl and Penn State in '97 tells me that passing on every down isn't the answer to getting maximum efficiency out of the spread offense.

You'll read in And Finally starting on page 20 that in Tiller's 13 losses at Purdue, special teams' mistakes have had a direct effect on the outcome of the game seven times. That number doesn't even include the 13 missed field goals during the losses. The point is, special teams' mistakes and the interception returned for a touchdown had a heck of a lot more to do with losing at Notre Dame than the pass/run ratio.

Great teams win the special teams war allowing them to win games they might not ordinarily win. The Boilermakers have yet to accomplish this, and have yet to become a great team.

Now, can we all move on? **AK**

## BREES BACK IN RACE

If ABC's John Saunders and Terry Bowden said Drew Brees' performance against Minnesota was good enough to get him back into the race, then it must be so. The source for much of the Heisman hype is the analysts on ESPN and ABC. The fact that Bowden has been a Brees' supporter for much of the year, doesn't hurt Brees' chances. The Boilermaker quarterback took a hit nationally after the Notre Dame game from the national pundits. As ESPN pointed out during the Minnesota broadcast, eight quarterbacks have won the Heisman Trophy since 1971, none of which had more than two losses. Quarterbacks are held accountable for their teams' success more than any other position.

A minimum of six of Brees' final seven games will be televised on national networks,

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# JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

## Brees Dissects Gophers For 497 Total Yards

BY DOUG GRIFFITHS

**D**rew Brees had his way AGAIN against Minnesota.

Brees finished his collegiate career versus the Golden Gophers 92-of-127 passing (72.4 percent) for 1,214 yards, 10 touchdowns and no interceptions.

In his final appearance against Minnesota Sept. 23 in Ross-Ade Stadium, the Heisman Trophy hopeful thrilled the sellout Homecoming crowd of 67,425, throwing for 409 yards on 33-of-49 passing with two touchdowns and no interceptions in a 38-24 win. When he wasn't shredding the Gophers through the air, Brees gave them fits on the ground. He rushed for a career-high 88 yards (which was also a game-best) on 12 carries, including a nifty 11-yard TD run in the fourth quarter which pushed the advantage to 38-17.

"We're to the point where we expect him to be perfect and that's not fair to the individual," said Coach Joe Tiller on Brees' performance. "I thought he showed greater patience today than he has at anytime since he's been at Purdue in terms of throwing the football. He's a quick trigger guy, likes to get the ball out in a hurry. Today he had to hold it longer and move a round a little bit.

"I think he played one of his better football games today considering the way we were being defended."

Brees continued his assault on the school and Big Ten records books. He set league career records for completions and attempts. For more on Brees' chase to become the Big Ten's most prolific passer, see the box on page 7.

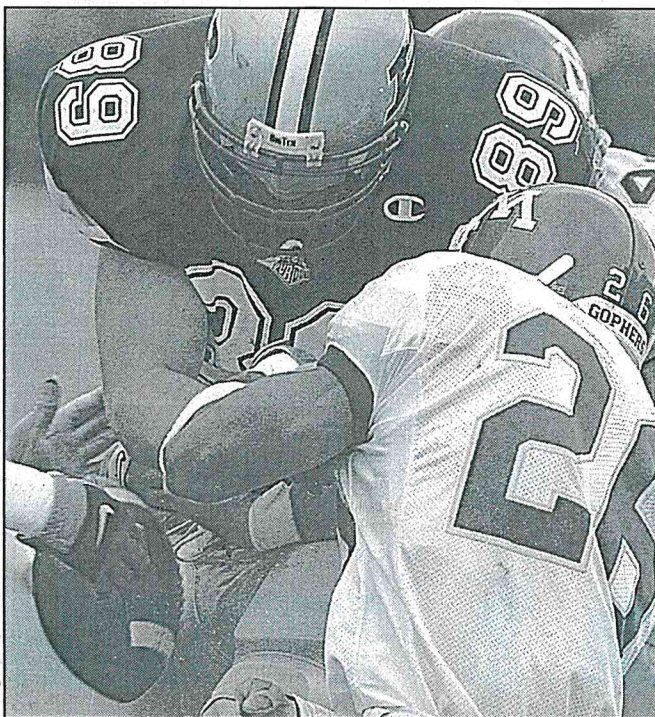
Another trend that continued was the Boilermakers' home success and their ability to bounce back from a loss. Under Tiller, Purdue pushed its record to 18-3 in Ross-Ade. In addition, its only lost two straight games twice (last season at Michigan and Ohio State and in 1998 at Wisconsin and Penn State). The Boilermakers are 4-0 on Homecoming with Tiller at the helm, beating No. 5 Michigan State (in 1999), Illinois (1998), No. 24 Wisconsin (1997) and Minnesota outscoring those foes by an average of 44.3-20.3.

After the Boilermakers lost a 23-21 heartbreaker Sept. 16 at Notre Dame, they needed to bounce back against the Golden Gophers and did in the Big Ten opener. No. 21 Purdue moved its record to 3-1 overall, 1-0 in the conference, while Minnesota dropped to 2-2, 0-1.

From the start, Brees put on a passing clinic against the Gophers. He completed his first eight passes for 119 yards. One of those completions opened the scoring. It was a 21-yard touchdown strike to Vinny Sutherland with 3:17 remaining in the first quarter.

On that 69-yard scoring drive, Brees accounted for all but one yard with four completions for 66 yards and a 4-yard rush.

Purdue went up 14-0 when Brees hit receiver A.T. Simpson with an 8-yard touchdown pass in the back of the



Tom Campbell

**Junior tight end Tim Stratton's first quarter fumble stopped the Boilers early surge. Stratton went on to have a great day with a game-high 10 catches for 105 yards. However, Boilermaker miscues gave Minnesota 14 of its 24 points.**

end zone.

Simpson was one of nine different receivers Brees used. Tight end Tim Stratton had a game-high nine catches for 105 yards.

Against Notre Dame, five Purdue receivers caught passes. Part of the problem in the passing game against the Irish was the inability of Boilermaker receivers to get open. Notre Dame played bump and run and its physical, athletic secondary made it very difficult for Purdue receivers to get off the line of scrimmage.

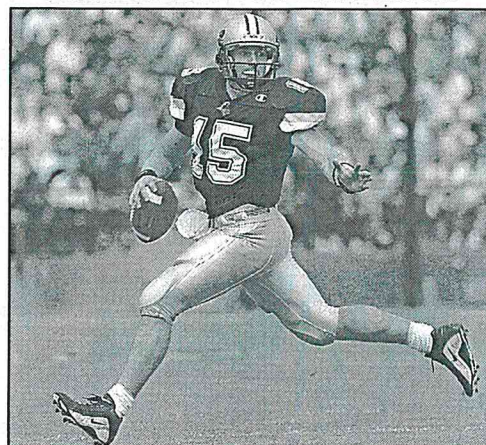
Minnesota, on the other hand, dropped eight and sometimes nine men in pass coverage. The Gophers elected to give Boilermaker receivers some cushion at the line of scrimmage, keeping everything in front of them. The strategy failed.

"They (the receivers) recognized how they were defended last week (against Notre Dame)," Tiller explained. "We actually prepared for some bump, thinking that based on the success Notre Dame had maybe Minnesota would go back in that direction. But I'll tell you what, they're playing with different athletes than what Notre Dame is and I think everybody needs to recognize that. I think that Notre Dame defense will prove to be one of the better defenses we play against all year."

Tiller wasn't surprised with the way Minnesota defended his offense.

"A year ago they defended us in a similar way and did well (permitting 283 yards passing)," said Tiller who is 17-8 in the Big Ten in four seasons at Purdue and has started 1-0

## INSIDE THE BOILERMAKERS



Tom Campbell

**Whos NOT** Drew Brees and the Boilermaker offense averaged 42.3 points in his three starts against Minnesota.

Tim Stratton was warm. John Standeford was hot. But Drew Brees was SIZZLING. What is it about those pesky Gophers that makes Brees erupt offensively? This year's Minnesota game was an explosion of 497 yards of total offense, including a career-best 88 yards on the ground. Brees was sensational picking apart the Minnesota 'D' and utilizing the ground game when needed.

**Whos NOT** Special teams, for a second consecutive week, have had critical miscues. The Boilermakers missed a short field goal, had a punt blocked and a snap sail over the kicker's head and allowed the Golden Gophers to recover an onside kick. Several different players were on the field against Minnesota in hopes of finding the right mix for the Big Ten stretch run. However, if things don't improve in a hurry, the Boilers will lose another big conference game because of a special teams' blunder.

There was some concern on the Purdue sidelines that offensive tackle Matt Light might have broken his leg. Light had X-rays and has an injured tibia, but is expected to return for the Penn State game. It appears as though Chris James will remain in the doghouse for another week. James was demoted to the scout team leading up to the Minnesota game and was in on just one play Saturday.



We'd be working on focus in practice this week. Lack of focus played a large role in allowing the Golden Gophers to get back in the game during the second half. It's also going to play a big role in not overlooking a 1-4 Penn State club. The Boilermakers have yet to defeat the Nittany Lions since joining the Big Ten and have had difficulties playing in hostile environments such as Beaver Stadium. This week's practice must feature time related to FOCUS.

Freshman Andre Henderson and sophomore Seth Morales are two wide receivers who could be heating up for a solid rookie Big Ten campaign. Henderson and Morales both made superb catches versus the Golden Gophers and have become reliable targets for Brees. Henderson is an impressive 6-3, 190-pound true freshman, while Morales is making a solid adjustment after playing one year at Butler.

**KEEP YOUR EYES ON**



in the league in each of the last four years. "After we arrived at Purdue, the first two games we played against Minnesota really got out of hand. They changed their scheme last year against us which forced us to be patient to drive the ball and they were in the game in the fourth quarter. I would've been surprised if they had gone back to their other scheme.

"A year ago when we played them, they had not shown a single snap of that defense on tape so we had to make a lot of game adjustments a year ago. This year we at least had the opportunity to watch it on tape and practice against it."

"They were obviously intent on forcing us to be patient and execute offensively," Tiller added. "They were defending us based on formations and doing a good job of it. That's why we started throwing the ball more on early downs."

"We were ready for what they were going to do," Sutherland said. "Notre Dame is definitely more physical."

Brees said, "We were going to take what they were giving us."

After having 43 rushing attempts against Notre Dame, Purdue rushed 39 times against Minnesota, but 12 of those came from Brees. Running back Montrell Lowe started the game

and got a bulk of his 66 yards on 16 carries in the fourth quarter.

"I believe that overall we did a great job today," Lowe said. "I just think we need to find a way to finish games."

Purdue gained 531 yards, 357 in the first half. Conversely, Minnesota was held to 85 yards in the opening two quarters.

Speaking of defense, the Boilermaker 'D' played another impressive game. It held the Gophers to 269 yards, including 55 yards rushing. Eighty of those yards came late in the fourth quarter on the game's final scoring drive. Minnesota was just 3-of-14 on third down, 1-of-8 in the first half.

In Purdue's four games this season, its allowed 14.3 points, 259.8 total yards and 81.8 yards rushing. The Boilermakers entered the Minnesota game first in the league in scoring defense, total defense and fourth in rushing defense.

"We played well today," said cornerback

## BREES ASSAULTS THE RECORDS BOOKS

Against Minnesota Sept. 23, Brees passed Mark Herrmann (1977-80) to become Purdue's career passing touchdowns leader with his 72nd in the first quarter. He also became the Big Ten's career completions leader with his 798th in the second quarter, an 8-yarder to Andre Henderson with 13:39 remaining. Brees snapped the mark held by Illinois' Jack Trudeau (1981-85). Brees also became Purdue's and the Big Ten's career passing attempts leader with No. 1,310 in the third quarter. He broke Herrmann's mark of 1,302. Against Kent State Sept. 9, Brees broke Purdue's all-time record for completions, dusting Herrmann's record of 773. He also became Purdue's all-time leader in total offense, again passing Herrmann's record of 9,135.

School Career Record	Record Holder (Record)	Brees Has	Needs To Break
Passing Yards	Mark Herrmann (9,946)	9,487	460
Touchdowns	Drew Brees (73)	73	—
Completions	Drew Brees (820)	820	—
Total Offense	Drew Brees (10,036)	10,036	—

Big Ten Career Record	Record Holder (Record)	Brees Has	Needs To Break
Passing Yards	Iowa's Chuck Long (10,461)	9,487	975
Touchdowns	Iowa's Chuck Long (74)	73	2
Completions	Drew Brees (820)	820	—
Total Offense	Iowa's Chuck Long (10,254)	10,036	219

NCAA Career Record	Record Holder (Record)	Brees Has	Needs To Break
Passing Yards	BYU's Ty Detmer (15,031)	9,487	5,545
Touchdowns	BYU's Ty Detmer (121)	73	49
Completions	Louisville's Chris Redman (1,031)	820	212
Total Offense	BYU's Ty Detmer (14,665)	10,254	4,412

Note: Brees needs 1,813 passing yards, 15 touchdowns, 113 completions and 1,431 total yards to move into fifth-place all-time on the NCAA Records list in each of those categories.

Ashante Woodyard, who had a team-high nine tackles, including two for loss. "We were a bit lackadaisical at the end, but we played well overall. We blitzed a lot, and the blitzing helped us pick up (Minnesota running back Thomas Tapeh who was held to 48 yards on 16 carries after averaging 5.9 yards per carry coming in). He didn't really get past the line of scrimmage too often."

Minnesota's longest run was 10 yards as Purdue had 11 tackles for loss.

"I think we played well, especially in the first half," said linebacker Landon Johnson, who had five tackles. "We ran to the ball well, made some good hits and had a lot of three-and-outs."

"We did a good job on the run, but we need to do a better job against the pass."

Had it not been for special teams, who were anything but special, the defensive statistics would be even more impressive. Consider this... in the last two games, the

defense has given up only one touchdown drive that was longer than 15 yards. Two of Notre Dame's scores came via a blocked punt (4-yard drive) and an interception returned for a touchdown.

Two of Minnesota's three touchdowns came thanks to a blocked punt and a bad snap on a punt. After the block, the Gophers drove 14 yards to cut their deficit to 31-17 with 8:13 left in the game.

In the third quarter, Minnesota was the beneficiary of a poor snap. Long snapper John Shelbourne air mailed a snap over Travis Dorsch's head. Gopher receiver Jermaine Mays recovered the ball at Purdue's 4. Three plays later the Gophers made it 31-10 with 4:13 to go in the third quarter.

"Our defense played extremely well for the majority of the football game," Tiller said. "We're all greedy and want shutouts, but I feel like 14 points came off the kicking game. When you take those 14 points off the board, I thought our defense played extremely well."

"Our biggest concern is shoring up the kicking game. The snap over the guy's head... we haven't had one of those (in the regular season) while we've been at Purdue so we're getting all of this stuff out of the way so as the season progresses we'll see fewer and fewer of these surprises on Saturdays."

"The blocked punt was very disappointing in the sense that we changed some personnel this week," Tiller added. "It's impossible to work more than we did (this week in practice) defending that and yet we had a guy (receiver Keith Dawson) who opened the door up and they get a blocked kick."

Tiller said part of the problem on the

## BOILER BITS INTERESTING WEEK ONE IN BIG TEN PLAY

The Big Ten season started Sept. 23 with a bang as defending two-time champion Wisconsin lost at home 47-44 in double overtime to Northwestern, which finished 10th in the league last season.

Michigan recorded a critical road win, rallying for a 35-31 victory at Illinois thanks to a couple of late fourth-quarter fumble calls that went its way.

"This race is going to prove to be wide open which is good for the league," Coach Joe Tiller said. "In the second half of the schedule, I think three or four teams will have a chance to win it."

## RECORDS NO BIG DEAL TO BREES

Since Drew Brees continues shattering Purdue and Big Ten records, the Austin, Texas, native is asked in most every press conference what he means to break certain marks.

The humbled Brees' general response is because he has so many opportunities, he should be setting records.

"We throw the ball so much, those things are going to come," Brees said. "I guess I get more satisfaction from the completions record because if I'm completing passes, I'm doing my job."

"It's a big honor to be in the No. 1 spot in those categories, but I'm sure if (Mark) Herrmann, (Jim) Everett and those guys threw the ball that much, they would be up there, too."

Receiver Vinny Sutherland isn't surprised that Brees is shattering record after record.

"It's not a big surprise because he's been a three-year starter and puts the ball on the money," Sutherland said.

## INJURY UPDATE

Left tackle Matt Light went down with a right ankle injury in the first half and didn't return, while the offense somewhat sputtered after receiver Sutherland didn't play in the second half.

As a precautionary measure, Light had x-rays taken, which were negative. Sutherland slightly pulled a hamstring.

"I'm concerned that we were extremely healthy (entering the game) and we lost Light and Sutherland for the second half," Tiller said. "I think Sutherland is less serious than Light. Sutherland had a hamstring that was injured and he probably could've played if we had to have him. I got mixed signals about Light because our trainer said he was OK, but he didn't want to play so I don't know what that means. I know he took a helmet on the side of the leg. We took him out before halftime and X-rayed him and he didn't have any problems. Otherwise we came out of the game in good shape physically, which is always important in the Big Ten because it's such a physical conference and that was a physical team we played today."

After the game, Sutherland said he felt "great" and there were "no problems at all" with the hamstring.

Ian Allen moved over from guard to replace Light.

Middle linebacker Joe Odom saw his first action of the season after missing the first three games with a back problem.

## NEXT TEST

Purdue heads to Happy Valley to face the 1-4 Penn State Nittany Lions. Joe Paterno's Lions are coming off a 45-6 loss Sept. 23 at Ohio State. For more on Penn State see pages 18, 21-22.

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# Game Stats

Purdue vs. Minnesota

## Rushing

Purdue						
Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
Brees	12	88	7.3	27	1	
Lowe	16	66	4.1	19	0	
Ennis	6	12	1.8	5	2	
Brown	1	3	3.0	3	0	
Standeford	1	0	0.0	0	0	
Team	1	-46	-46.0	0	0	
Total	39	122	3.1	27	3	

Minnesota					
Tapeh	16	48	3.0	8	1
Cole	3	11	3.7	10	0
Mays	1	9	9.0	9	0
Redmon	3	-4	-1.3	3	0
Abdul-Khaliq	5	-9	-1.8	4	0
Total	28	55	2.0	10	1

## Passing

Purdue						
Player	Att	Comp	Yds	Pct	TD	Int
Brees	49	33	409	67.3	2	0
Team	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Total	50	33	409	66.0	2	0

<b>Minnesota</b>						
Cole	27	17	180	63.0	2	1
Abdul-Khaliq	12	5	34	41.7	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

## Receiving

Purdue					
Player	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Stratton	9	105	11.7	25	0
Standeford	7	86	12.3	31	0
Sutherland	6	96	16.0	35	1
Simpson	4	28	7.0	15	1
Henderson	3	30	10.0	18	0
Morales	1	33	33.0	33	0
Dawson	1	14	14.0	14	0
Winston	1	10	10.0	10	0
Lowe	1	7	7.0	7	0
Total	33	409	12.4	35	2

Minnesota	65	403	12.4	65	2
Johnson	7	72	10.3	23	0
Redmon	4	43	10.8	16	0
Brewer	3	41	13.7	18	0
Patterson	3	33	11.0	20	1
Tapeh	2	9	4.5	6	0
Mays	1	8	8.0	8	0
Fitzpatrick	1	5	5.0	5	0
Utecht	1	3	3.0	3	1
Total	22	214	9.7	23	2

## Punt Returns

Purdue					
Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Sutherland	4	44	11.0	16	0
Winston	1	10	10.0	10	0

<b>Minnesota</b>					
Graham	1	18	18.0	18	0
Redmon	1	3	3.0	3	0
Mays	0	16	0.0	16	0

## Kickoff Returns

Purdue					
Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	Td
Clopton	2	36	18.0	23	0
Rowe	1	19	19.0	19	0

Minnesota					
Mays	2	28	14.0	15	0
Burns	1	9	9.0	9	0

## Field Goals

Purdue	Player	Att	Good	Made	Miss
Dorsch	2	1	24	24	

Minnesota	Player	Att	Good	Made	Miss
Nystrom	1	1	52		

## Punting

Purdue				
Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long
Dorsch	2	91	45.5	53
Kurz	1	36	36.0	36
Minnesota				
Gruening	8	386	48.3	59

Minnesota	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long
Gruening	8	386	48.3	59	

## Team Statistics

Category	Min	Purdue
First downs	16	33
Rushing	5	10
Passing	10	18
Penalty	1	5
Total offensive plays	67	89
Rushing plays	28	39
Net yards rushing	55	122
Net yards per rush	2.0	3.1
Passing plays	39	50
Completions	22	33
Net yards passing	214	409
Total net yards	269	531
Avg. gain per play	4.0	6.0
Kick returns-yds	3-37	3-55
Punt returns-yds	2-37	5-54
Fumbles-lost	2-0	2-2
Interceptions by-yds	0-0	1-0
Third down conversion	3-14	7-15
Time of possession	24:29	35:31
Sacks by-yds lost	1-9	2-7
Penalties-yds	8-66	5-42

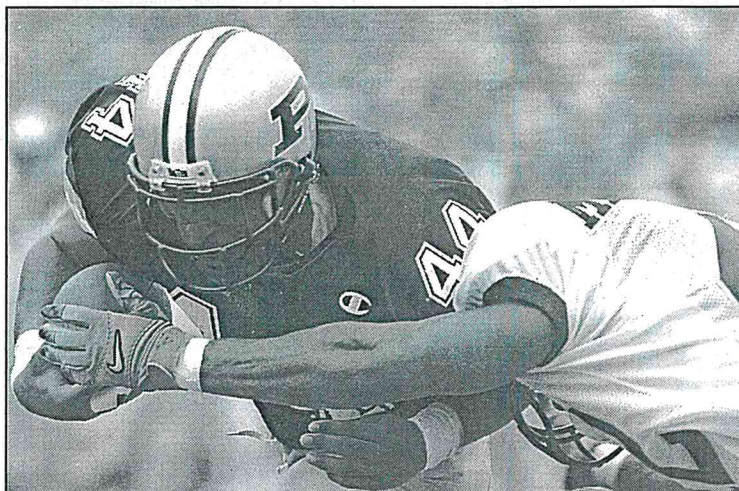
## Scoring Summary

**First Quarter**  
Purdue: Sutherland 21 pass from Brees (Dorsch kick) 3:17 left; Drive: 7 plays, 69 yards, 3:32

**Second Quarter**  
Purdue: Simpson 8 pass from Brees (Dorsch kick) 12:28 left; Drive: 7 plays, 72 yards, 1:17  
Purdue: Dorsch 24 field goal, 7:23 left; Drive: 8 plays, 44 yards, 2:51  
Purdue: Ennis 1 run (Dorsch kick) 2:29 left; Drive: 9 plays, 59 yards, 3:12  
Minnesota: Nystrom 52 field goal, 0:45 left; Drive: 10 plays, 45 yards, 1:44

**Third Quarter**  
Purdue: Ennis 3 run (Dorsch kick) 11:28 left; Drive: 9 plays, 65 yards, 3:34  
Minnesota: Tapeh 2 run (Nystrom kick) 4:13 left; Drive: 3 plays, 4 yards, 1:25

**Fourth Quarter**  
Minnesota: Utecht 3 pass from Cole (Nystrom kick) 8:13 left; Drive: 5 plays, 14 yards, 1:30  
Purdue: Brees 11 run (Dorsch kick) 3:06 left; Drive: 9 plays, 72 yards, 5:07  
Minnesota: Patterson 20 pass from Cole (Nystrom kick) 1:40 left; Drive: 6 plays, 80 yards, 1:26



Tom Campbell

block was Dorsch was slow getting it off.

"We like to get our kicks off in 2.1 (seconds) or better and that kick was a 2.36," he said.

"I really don't think we'll have a problem there again the rest of the year. The reason is is because we're going to move (safety) Ben Smith in there. Although Ben is a little handicapped (with a bad knee), he's extremely smart and disciplined and I think that's what it takes. We tried another guy in there today to see if it would work and it didn't work as well as we had hoped it would. Will give up a little coverage with Ben, but so be it. I won't think will be in danger of having any more blocked."

Johnson added, "As soon as we cut down on those (special teams) mistakes is when we'll be a good team."

The special teams weren't a complete disaster thanks to Dorsch's kickoffs and punts. He averaged 45.5 yards on two punts and four of his seven kickoffs were touchbacks.

Dorsch, who is 4-of-6 in the field goal department, hit a 24-yard field goal to increase Purdue's lead to 17-0 in the second quarter, but had a 24-yard field goal hit the right

**Freshman running back Steve Ennis saw action for the first time in two weeks. Here is the first of his two rushing touchdowns, a one-yard run on fourth down which gave Purdue a 24-0 lead with 2:29 left in the second quarter.**

upright on the final play of the first half.

In the first half, Minnesota's average starting field position was 20.4-yard line.

The Gophers would've been scoreless in the first 30 minutes had it not been for a career-best 52-yard field goal by Dan Nystrom with 45 seconds left in the second quarter.

Purdue took the opening kickoff of the second half and marched 65 yards and increased its lead to 31-3 when running back Steve Ennis scored from three yards out. The touchdown was Ennis' fifth of the season. He also scored on a 1-yard plunge with 2:29 left in the second quarter. That TD run made it 24-0.

After Ennis scored in the third quarter, Purdue's offense struggled, especially without Sutherland who was sidelined for the second half after pulling a hamstring. Sutherland had three receptions for 96 yards and four punt returns for 44 yards.

"He's a huge difference maker in our offense," Stratton said. "He's a deep threat. It helps me when he's on the field because the safeties don't double team me."

On three straight possessions, the Boilermakers failed to cross midfield. Purdue had 80 yards of offense, including -14 yards rushing in the third quarter.

However, on Purdue's fourth possession of the half, the hosts went 72 yards in nine plays and found the end zone on Brees run.

Now Purdue sets its sights on its 2:30 p.m. Sept. 30 game at Penn State (which will be televised by ABC), where the Boilermakers have never won. The Lions are 1-4 after getting blown out at Ohio State Sept. 23 and have been outscored in those four losses by an average of 27.5-4.3 (110-17).

When asked about the Penn State game, Tiller said, "I didn't know they got beat bad (at Ohio State). That's totally irrelevant to us. The big thing for our football team is to win a conference football game on the road. We need to find out how to win some games on the road."

Under Tiller, Purdue is 10-10 on the road (including 8-9 in the regular season). None of the eight road wins have come against teams that went on to make bowl appearances. **HW**

## Defensive Leaders

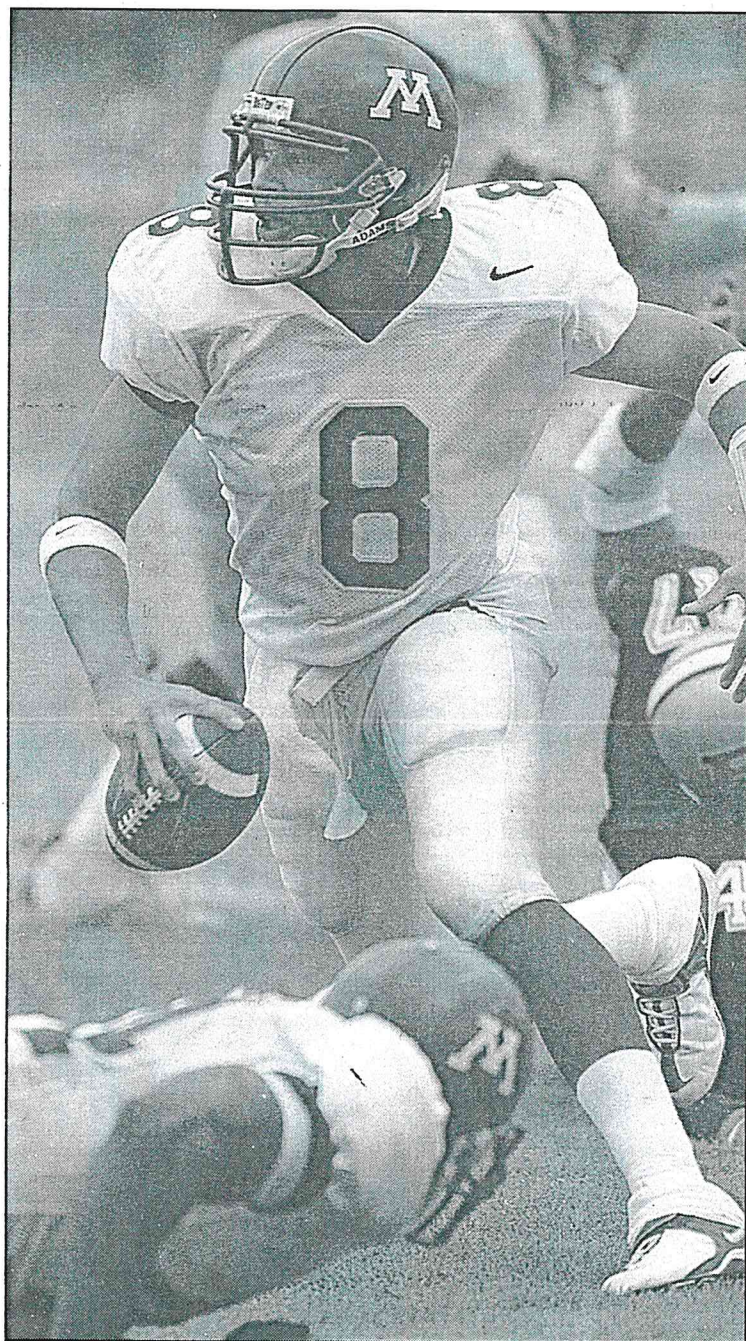
Purdue	Player	Solo	Asst	Total	For	Loss	Yds	FR-Yds	Int	Pass Def	Sack-Yds
Woodyard	7	2	9	2-11	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Phillips	5	0	5	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	3	2	5	1-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1-2
Doe	3	2	5	1-2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1-2
Turner	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clopton	2	2	4	1-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milrione	2	1	3	2-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schweigert	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	1-0	2	0	0
Boits	2	1	3	1-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Avodele	1	2	3	1-5	0	0	0	0	0	1-2	0
Dinkins	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Odum	1	1	2	1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1-5
Moore	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gardner	0	2	2	10-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Terrill	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ennis	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutherland	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vaughan	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tone	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ferrell	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reeves	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>11-40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2-7</b>			

Minnesota (top six)	Player	Solo	Asst	Total	For	Loss	Yds	FR-Yds	Int	Pass Def	Sack-Yds
Middlebrooks	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Henry	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lee	5	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poole	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riley	3	2	5	1-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Griffin	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>2-11</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1-9</b>			



# GOOD RIDDANCE

## Gophers Happy To See Brees For The Last Time



BY BRIAN NEUBERT

**I**f Minnesota can take one positive from its 38-24 Sept. 23 loss at Purdue, it would likely be that the Golden Gophers never have to face Drew Brees again.

The Boilermaker senior quarterback carved up the Gopher defense for 409 passing yards and two touchdowns, completing 33-of-49 passes. In three starts against the Gophers,

Brees was undefeated, having completed 92-of-126 passes for 1,214 yards and 10 touchdowns with no interceptions.

"He's a great quarterback and I would nominate him for the Heisman Trophy," safety Delvin Jones said. "He got the best of us again today."

Brees was able to pick apart the Gopher secondary without much pressure, as Minnesota routinely opted to rush just three or four defenders.

With Minnesota dropping most of its defense into pass coverage, Brees had plenty of time to throw throughout the game.

"If you play Purdue in a base defense, you're not going to get a lot of rush on Drew Brees," Coach Glen Mason said. "And if you blitz, he's going to stand there and pick you apart. Then if you go the other way and rush just two or three, he has all day to throw. They're a complete offense."

Even when the Golden Gophers got to Brees, he made them pay. Brees escaped the Gopher rush consistently and finished the game with a team-high and career-best 38 yards rushing. In the fourth quarter, Brees eluded the Minnesota rush and scrambled for an 11-yard touchdown, ending all hope of a miraculous Minnesota comeback. That one play typified the day for the Minnesota defense.

"That's what makes him Drew Brees," defensive end Karon Riley said. "He always seems to be able to get out of tough situations."

While Minnesota could have expected Brees to have a good day, it couldn't have anticipated its own offense being so sluggish.

The Golden Gopher offense mustered a mere 269 yards. Thanks to a stout Boilermaker run defense, the Gophers rushed for just 55 yards.

**Tom Campbell**  
Minnesota quarterback Asad Abdul-Khaliq was pulled from the game after completing just 5-of-12 passes in the first half.

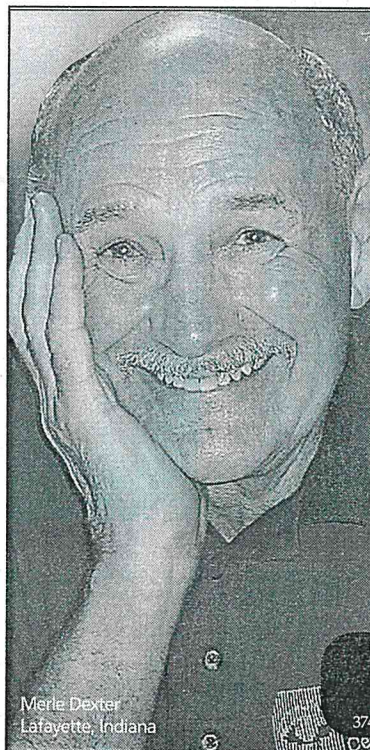
Mason's team was particularly woeful offensively in the first half, managing just three points and 85 total yards. Minnesota's first-half struggles prompted Mason to yank starting quarterback Asad Abdul-Khaliq in favor of backup Travis Cole, who was able to get the Gophers moving in the second half.

Abdul-Khaliq, a highly touted redshirt freshman, left the game having completed just 5-of-12 passes for 34 yards. Mason, however, was quick to not point the finger at Abdul-Khaliq for his team's offensive struggles. "It wasn't all Asad's fault," Mason said. "Above all, it was a lack of execution by our offense."

"It wasn't anything the defense did," Abdul-Khaliq added. "If you look at a lot of the stuff that happened, it was the offense that messed up, not anything the defense was doing to us. It's not like the defense did anything spectacular to stop us."

It was Minnesota's offensive struggles, Mason said, that led to Purdue's dominating first-half performance. The Boilermakers led 24-3 at the half, after Minnesota went three-and-out on six possessions in the opening 30 minutes. Purdue ran 18 more plays than Minnesota in the first half and had the ball for three more minutes.

"I don't think our defense was playing that badly," Mason said. "But when you give a team and a great quarterback like Purdue that many at-bats, you're in trouble. For us to be successful, our offense had to play well, because Drew Brees isn't too effective when he's standing on the sideline." **AW**



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# A TALE OF TWO HALVES

## Offense Hits Full Stride In First Half, Stumbles In Final 30 Minutes

BY KEVIN KECKLER

**D**uring the week following the heartbreaking loss to Notre Dame, fans, critics and members of the media sounded off about the Purdue offense. Much of the blame was aimed at offensive coordinator Jim Chaney.

Chaney, however, was oblivious to the reaction because he says he refuses to read the newspaper or watch the news during the season. The fourth-year Boilermaker assistant coach learned his lesson long ago.

"I don't read anything because if I did, it would affect me getting ready for the next football game," Chaney said. "Over the years, I've learned to isolate on the upcoming game. That loss meant a lot to everyone, I know. My emphasis will always be on getting a 'W', so trust me, I was mad we lost."

After calling just 22 passing plays in South Bend, Chaney took a different approach against the Golden Gophers. He called 49 pass plays, which resulted in 409 yards through the air in Purdue's 38-24 victory over Minnesota Sept. 23. Following are Chaney's thoughts on the game.

**GBI: Drew Brees is now Purdue's all-time leading touchdown passer and the Big Ten's all-time leader in completions and attempts. How impressive is that?**

Chaney: "That's great for Drew and it's great for Purdue. I didn't know that but I couldn't be happier for the young man. He

**"(Drew Brees) moved around the pocket so well against the Gophers and made many quality decisions. Drew had a terrific game, I thought."**

— Offensive coordinator  
Jim Chaney

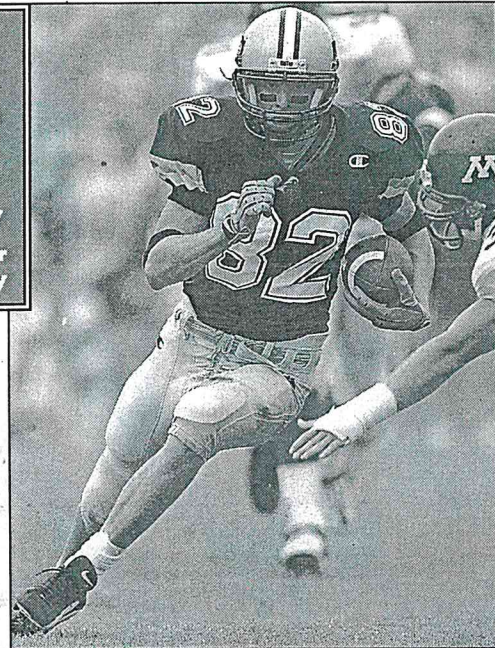
had a great game today. He moved around the pocket so well against the Gophers and made many quality decisions."

**GBI: What was the biggest difference between Notre Dame's man-to-man defense and Minnesota's coverage?**

Chaney: "The difference was the structure — Minnesota was more of a zone and Notre Dame was a man."

**GBI: Considering what you've done in the past against the Gophers, are you surprised they haven't made more adjustments when they play you?**

Chaney: "Not at all. You are who you are and you're not going to change for one game. They are a man-free coverage team, but against us I don't know if they feel like they have enough cover people so they go to more zone coverages. We're probably a harder team for them to line up against than most teams they play. Against the run they were playing straight cover-zero where they put



Freshman wide receiver John Standeford caught seven passes against Minnesota, accounting for 86 of Purdue's 409 yards passing.

everyone in the box. They were blitzing, which made it very hard to run out of our two-tight end set."

**GBI: It seemed as though the offense was ready to go from the start of the game today. Was there any special reason why?**

Chaney: "No. I just thought we were really clicking in the first half. Even the few times we didn't drive down and score, the momentum and flow we created was good. We thought we should have gotten points on that last two-minute drive (which resulted in a 24-yard missed field goal), which is something we need to do. We got all the way down to the 3-yard line and haven't been in that situation yet. We should have scored a touchdown, but we didn't."

"The second half we started the way we wanted to driving the ball but then we seemed to fall asleep at the switch offensively. We went through three or four drives without scoring. Those were from mistakes made in the drives which I believe were mental. That leads me to believe we lost our focus with the big lead and we can't do that. That's the most disappointing thing and we'll correct that."

**GBI: This team obviously has a different mentality when the offense gets off to a good start. You can tell just by looking at the Notre Dame and Minnesota games. Is that something you preached during practice?**

Chaney: "Sure. You can't underestimate the psyche of any football player, including a stable kid like Drew. When you come out at Notre Dame Stadium and you haven't won there in a long time you're

awfully jacked up. I think he was more in control of his emotions today and he got off to a great start."

**GBI: How important was it to get a solid contribution from A.T. Simpson?**

Chaney: "It's good for A.T. We're now confident in him and happy with the success he's had. It helps us a lot because we need eight guys to run around out there, especially on a day like today (warm and humid). We were chucking the ball all day today and the receivers get tired."

**GBI: Seth Morales made a great catch and threw a key block. Talk about his play.**

Chaney: "Wow, did he have a great catch on that vertical pass or what? Seth is playing very well and I'm thrilled for him. He can really help this year if he continues to play like he did today."

**GBI: How did Ian Allen do filling in for the injured Matt Light?**

Chaney: "Ian played his tail off and that was terrific. We also lost Vinny (Sutherland) and those guys stepped up and did a great job for us. I'm very pleased with the guys who stepped in and competed their butts off when those guys were out."

**GBI: The offense seemed to take a step backwards when Sutherland was on the sideline. How much do things change without No. 14 on the field?**

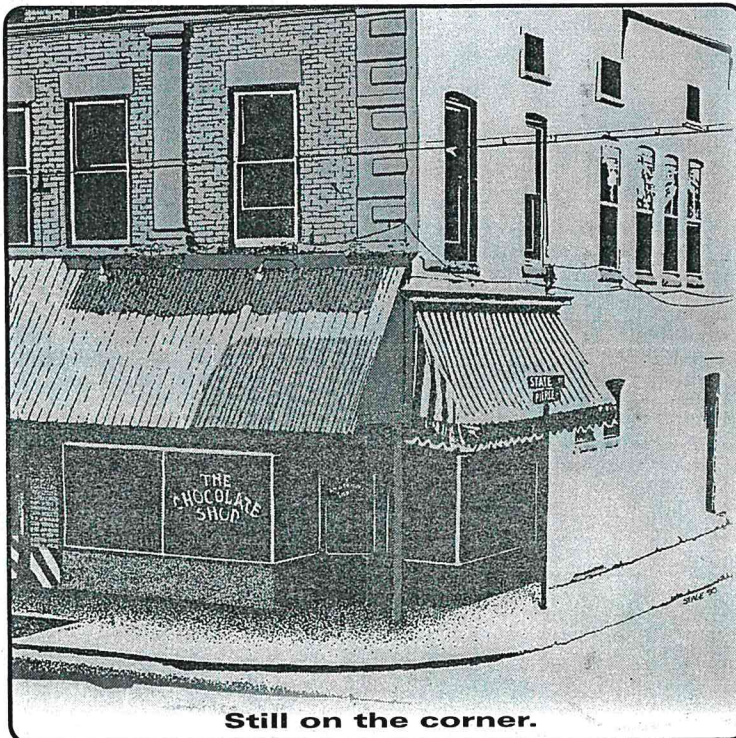
Chaney: "Well, when you lose a super-fast kid who makes a lot of plays, your play-calling is definitely going to change. When Vinny is on the field we always have the ability to throw the vertical ball and stretch defenses. It's nice to see Seth come around and make some plays. When Vinny isn't out there we're conscious of it because there are plays we can't call but not a whole heckuva a lot."

**GBI: It had to be nice to see a freshman (Andre Henderson) make some big catches today. Is that simply a sign of maturing?**

Chaney: "Andre has extremely good hands and to accompany that he's getting better and smarter when he's on the field. He's doing the little things you need to do to become a good player."

**GBI: There was a lot of talk coming into the season about how good Minnesota defensive end Karon Riley was. How did Brandon Gorin and Co. do blocking him?**

Chaney: "We didn't give up a sack when Drew was in the pocket (it came on a bootleg when the guard missed a cut block) and when you do that against a defense filled with athletes like Minnesota's, your offensive line played their tails off. (Offensive line coach) Danny (Hope) did an excellent job getting our guys ready for what they were going to do." ■



Still on the corner.



# LOSING THEIR EDGE

## Boilermaker Defense Dominates Early

BY MATT BRANN

Following each game, *Gold & Black Illustrated* gets defensive coordinator Brock Spack's thoughts on the Boilermakers' performance.

**GBI:** You can't be too happy with the way things ended today.

**Spack:** "We did a lot of great things out there, but it's frustrating. I thought we played well last week and we played great in the first half this week. We just lost our focus. We had some mistakes in the punt team, but we still had a chance to stop them."

"Coming into this game we had some multiple groupings and we got into a problem with our substitutions. We had a grouping out there and a player thought we had another grouping out there, and it resulted in having a 12th man out there. It happened twice in a row. That's bad on our part as coaches and players. We weren't focused, because we thought the game was over at halftime. I could sense that in the locker room, but we've got to finish things."

**GBI:** You said the team lost its focus at half-time. Is it tough to get the players to regain that edge once they've lost it?

**Spack:** "You've got to get their attention, and we tried that the best we can. I thought we were sloppy. We had excellent technique in the first half, but we were sloppy in the second half. It was one of those situations where we switched some personnel and guys were on the field when they should have been standing next to me. You just can't fall asleep like that."

"We were trying to get some guys some rest, and guys just didn't pay attention in the substitutions. They need to pay more attention to which groupings are called."

**GBI:** It has to be especially frustrating that it happened twice in a row.

**Spack:** "It's ridiculous, and it's on us as coaches, too. That's never happened to us since we've been here. We are always very organized, and we looked very disorganized out there, which was disappointing."

**GBI:** It appeared as if you were substituting a lot more frequently than you had in the past couple of games. Is that something that was part of the game plan?

**Spack:** "Yeah, we thought we'd do that with our matchups against them. We have some young players who we want to get out there, but we don't want to teach them everything yet because they can't handle it all yet. So we've got to get them out there in certain situations and get them off the field in other situations. That was the plan, but that was what got us in trouble down there on the goal line."

**GBI:** Several younger players were in the game very early. Is it getting to the point where they are starting to learn the defense, and you want your 11 best players out there?

**Spack:** "We want our fastest guys out there to cover them. We felt they would spread us out a little, and we wanted to be able to run with them."

**GBI:** Stuart Schweigert looks like he continues to progress as he had another interception today. Will he continue to work his way onto the field more and more?

**Spack:** "Yeah. His interception today came from a pass that wasn't a great throw. He had an opportunity to make another play, but he didn't get it done. He's a long way from where he can be, but with more playing experience he is going to get better every week."



Tom Campbell  
Junior defensive tackle Matt Mitrione pulls down Minnesota quarterback Asad Abdul-Khaliq for one of his two tackles for loss. Defensive coordinator Brock Spack was pleased with the defense limiting Minnesota to just 269 yards.

**GBI:** Alvin Ayodele was moved from linebacker to end quite a bit this week. Was that something that you saw in Minnesota's offense or is it something we'll see throughout the rest of the season?

**Spack:** "It was something we were trying to do against Minnesota. We wanted to see how he'd work out there, plus we had Joe Odom back at linebacker. Joe hasn't had a lot of conditioning, so we put him in there to test him. We just wanted our best pass rushers on the field."

**GBI:** Odom looked a little tentative the first few times the ball came his way, but do you think he got better as the game wore on?

**Spack:** "He seemed to be a little more in tune with things. It's difficult to ask a guy who has missed a month to go out there and try to do everything he needs to do. We needed to get him on the field, and that's what we did."

**GBI:** Is Jason Loerzel falling out of the mix at linebacker?

**Spack:** "No. He hasn't slipped out of favor. It was one of those games where they spread us out on defense, so we wanted our fastest guys out there. We had to make sure we had everybody covered, and right now he's not as fast as some of the other guys. But he has a role on the team and depending on the situation we'll put him out there."

**GBI:** What happened to Gilbert Gardner?

**Spack:** "He took a helmet to the thigh and it really tightened up on him. I wasn't going to play Odom as much as we did, but that forced me to do that. Alex Tone was also hobbled with his ankle, so I didn't think he was quite sharp enough to play a whole lot."

**GBI:** Were you surprised that Minnesota switched quarterbacks so early in the game when they put Travis Cole in for Asad Abdul-Khaliq in the second quarter?

**Spack:** "No. I thought they found a good

quarterback in (Abdul-Khaliq). He played well last week and (Cole) had not been impressive. But today (Cole) was good."

**GBI:** You were prepared for Cole to come in at quarterback though?

**Spack:** "Oh yeah. We knew they wouldn't change a whole lot. (Abdul-Khaliq) causes more problems because he's more athletic. But (Cole) was pretty good at passing the ball."

**GBI:** Minnesota's red-shirt freshman running back, Thomas Tapeh, had a big game coming into today. You held him to 48 yards rushing and the team to 55 yards. Were you pleased with how you shut down the Gophers' run?

**Spack:** "Yeah. In this league you've got to stop the run, and we did that. We had them right where we wanted them in the first half, but in the second half things got away from us a little. We're awfully young and we've got to be able to recover from those mistakes."

**GBI:** After a couple of mistakes on the punt team the defense was put in some adverse situations. Would you like to see the defense perform better when put in that situation?

**Spack:** "We should have won that one possession, but we had the substitution error. We had them on third down near the goal line, but we screwed up mentally."

**GBI:** On Minnesota's second touchdown, the quarterback rolled out and found the tight end for a score. Walk us through that play.

**Spack:** "They ran a bootleg, and it's tough to defend that because you've got your goal-line defense in so you're short a defensive back. We had outside leverage on them, but they just made a good play."

**GBI:** You head to Penn State where the Nittany Lions are 14. Are you concerned that at some time they are going to have a breakout game?

**Spack:** "You don't know what's going to happen. They have so many good players. Their recruiting classes in the last four or five years have been filled with talent. You worry that they're going to snap out of their funk. Obviously they had a good game against Louisiana Tech a few weeks ago. They are a very dangerous team and a team we have not beaten."

**GBI:** A lot of your younger players on defense were in a hostile environment at Notre Dame and fared pretty well. Do you expect they'll use that experience to help them at Penn State?

**Spack:** "You would hope they would learn from that, because intelligent players learn from those types of situations. It's good that we've been in that type of environment in a real close game. We had a lot of adversity early and bounced back and made some plays. So I hope that our youthful group will learn from that. Young teams have a tendency to get rattled. We didn't against Notre Dame, but we did a little this week. Those things can't happen in the big games." ■■■

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