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GOLD & BLACK ILLUSTRATED

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ON THE COVER

Coach Kristy Curry officially welcomed the nation's top recruiting class to college basketball Oct. 15 with the team's first practice. The "Sensational Six" is shown here taking a leap off the Purdue University sign on Northwestern Avenue near Mackey Arena.

GBI's "second cover" on page 15 pictures a triumphant Chris Clopton (23), Akin Ayodele (13) and Shaun Phillips (53) leaving Ryan Field after Purdue's 41-28 victory.

Cover, page 15 and University Spirit photos (Sutherland) by Tom Campbell.

24 HOURS LATER WITH JOE TILLER

One Game At A Time

BY BRIAN NEUBERT

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

Q: With your team sitting in solid position for the Big Ten Championship at this point, how do you ensure your players are focused through the rest of the season?

Tiller: "I'm not big into clichés, but the old, proverbial 'one game at a time' factors big into our thinking. The biggest threats to this football team is having the media — bless your hearts — or their classmates or families wearing them out with that question about running the table and controlling your destiny and all that rhetoric. That's irrelevant to us playing a game this upcoming Saturday. The future is irrelevant to us at this point. We have to be more concerned about finding a way to win our next game."

"Hopefully, they'll pick up on it and be able to focus so we can get some results."

Q: What happened on the snap that punter Scott Kurz dropped, then picked up and punted?

Tiller: "He wasn't ready for the snap because he wasn't watching the center, he was watching the personal protector. The reason he was watching the personal protector was because he hadn't finished making his call. It was a premature snap to a punter who wasn't even looking at the snapper."

"Fortunately the snap was close to his body. He only had to move about two inches to his left, and was able to backstop the ball. The ball hit his hands and fell right to his feet, which is why he was able to pick it up."

Q: Against Michigan, you only had to punt once, but you kicked four times at Northwestern. Were you happy with the punt team's performance?

Tiller: "I thought we did a good job and executed pretty well. We held up against their rush, which was good, and we were able to down the ball inside their 5-yard line."

"With the exception of the first snap, the rest of the punt game was good."

Q: What's your reaction to Northwestern coach Randy Walker suggesting Purdue's offense utilized several illegal downfield pick plays in its passing game?

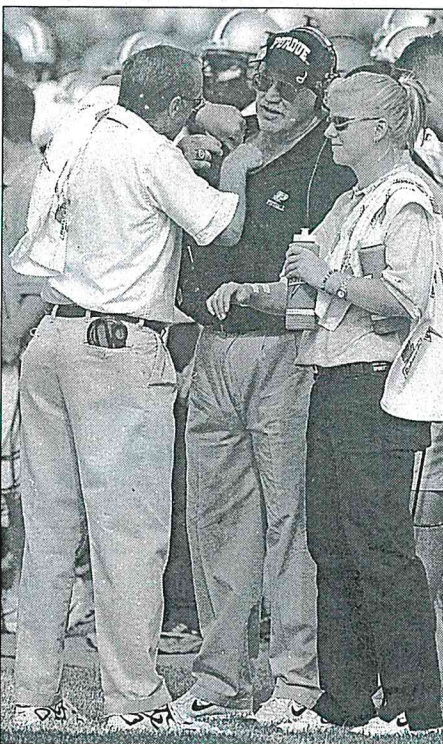
Tiller: "I've seen (the comments). A couple times, they had defenders that ran into each other. I don't have any response to that."

Q: Akin Ayodele played the entire game at defensive end. Can we expect to see that the rest of the season?

Tiller: "Right now, we're going to play him more at end than at linebacker, though we may play him a little bit at linebacker. I would say that it would be a pretty safe assumption to say he will play predominantly as a defensive end through the balance of the season."

Q: Watching the film, did anything about the game really stand out to you?

Tiller: "It's always the same. Every week there are things that impressed us. I thought our hands team (on kickoffs) performed well. They on-side kicked twice and the hands team made some plays."



Coach Joe Tiller gets a little help from head athletic trainer Denny Miller on the sideline at Northwestern. Tiller thought the defensive line played its best game of the year.

They're putting it in a brace, so we'll see how rapidly he can come back from that."

I thought it was really a headsy play by (freshman linebacker) Gilbert Gardner on that first on-side kick where he just kind of volleyball-spiked it out of bounds. There was a guy just inches away from him and he made a very intelligent play not trying to catch it, because they could have recovered it, if it had gotten away from him."

"Our kickoff coverage teams continued to do things well for the most part."

"Defensively, our front played its best game of the year. According to our coaches, we had a season-high 15 tackles for loss. We had seven sacks and forced three turnovers, so certainly there were a lot of positives."

"Offensively, we played really well, and did well in the red zone. I think Drew (Brees) had his best game against the blitz this year. He used his audibles and checks, and we went 7-for-7 against the blitz."

"We did a lot of positive things, but we still have some things that need improvement."

Q: What's the status of linebacker Landon Johnson, who played sparingly against Northwestern after missing the Michigan game with an ankle injury?

Tiller: "We hope he'll play next week more than he did this week. Hopefully, he'll get back to 100 percent as the week progresses. How much we'll play him because of the AstroTurf (at Wisconsin) remains to be seen. We'd probably like to play him 25 snaps or so. "He's better than he was last week, but he's still not completely ready to cut loose and go."

Q: What about defensive linemen Brent Botts and Warren Moore, both of whom were hurt Saturday?

Tiller: "Botts has a muscle strain in his rib-cage area. We got very good news when his X-rays came back negative. Nothing is broken or cracked."

"Moore injured his other elbow. Remember as we were preparing for the second Alamo Bowl (in 1998) that he dislocated his elbow? He injured the other one Saturday. It's not dislocated, but it is similar to a dislocation. That's huge, because if he had (dislocated it), he'd be done."

IN THIS EDITION OF THE JOHN PURDUE CLUB REPORT:

- Notes on upcoming basketball season
- New Athletic Ticket Office policies

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FROM ASSISTANT EDITOR: KEVIN KECKLER

IS THIS PURDUE'S YEAR?

EVANSTON, Ill. — My how things change in a matter of weeks.

I remember flying home from Penn State Sept. 30 and thinking the Boilers were going to spend Christmas in El Paso, Texas — if they were lucky. Now, two conference wins later, I'm thinking of setting up an artificial tree in Pasadena.

Wait, did I just say that?

Actually, the thought isn't as ridiculous as it may sound. And keep in mind this is a mouthy journalist saying that, not a 19-year old kid who has to perform flawlessly in the final four games for that to occur.

But the reality is if Purdue can win out it will play in the Rose Bowl for the first time in 34 years. That road is filled with potential potholes, starting with the next two weeks in Wisconsin and at home against Ohio State. But both are games Purdue can and should win.

All of this is possible because of the Boilers' first road win over a ranked opponent under Coach Joe Tiller. Granted it was No. 17 Northwestern, but a victory away from Ross-Ade Stadium against a ranked opponent doesn't happen very often.

Following the game, the team and coaches seemed to be properly focused on the upcoming opponent, despite prodding from reporters to get Purdue to speak about the Rose Bowl.

"I'm not talking about anyone other than Wisconsin," offensive coordinator Jim Chaney said. "It's a wonderful feeling to be at the top. You play your butts off to have a chance to win a championship and right now we're in first. We know there's a long road to hoe and it goes through Madison, the home of the two-time defending Rose Bowl champions."

"This win doesn't mean anything because we have four more games left," said senior wideout Vinny Sutherland.

One reason the topic was even discussed following the game was Minnesota's upset of No. 5 Ohio State, which created a five-way logjam atop the Big Ten. The other reason is because the Boilermakers have already knocked off three of the other four teams joining them with one loss (Minnesota, Michigan and Northwestern).

The only title contender left on the schedule is the Buckeyes, who come to West Lafayette Oct. 28. But before that game, a more important battle looms. The upcoming test in Madison will not be easy.

While Wisconsin's record (4-3 overall, 1-3 in the Big Ten) isn't what many expected, don't be fooled. This Badger team still has two



defensive All-Americans (Jamar Fletcher and Wendell Bryant), one of the nation's top running backs (Michael Bennett) and a tremendous scheme.

Add to that the success, which some would call luck, the Badgers have had in the previous two games against Purdue, and you know this will be a dogfight.

"Wisconsin's had our number the past two years," Chaney said.

"We know what's in store in Madison," said Sutherland, who is eager to go against Fletcher.

Yes, Vinny, we do. But a handful of things must occur for Purdue to keep its train heading down the right track.

- Special teams must have its most complete performance of the fall. And Tiller seems to think everything that could go wrong already has. Let's hope he touched wood when he said that. Typically, Wisconsin has one of the best special teams units in the nation.

- The defense must continue to stop the run. After a poor first half against Michigan's Anthony Thomas, the Boiler 'D' stepped up in the second half and carried that momentum into the Northwestern game. Bet you didn't think Drew Brees would outrush Damien

Anderson, did you?

- The offense must have another solid performance in the red zone. Purdue scored on 4-of-5 possessions inside Northwestern's 20-yard line. A similar stat at Wisconsin will provide Purdue with a win.

Chaney told me the Badgers have defended the Boilermakers better than any other Big Ten opponent. They'll play a similar defensive scheme to that which the Wildcats showed Purdue. That means another stellar effort in the running game will be needed.

While Chaney's comment may be true, you wouldn't think so by looking at the statistics. In those two losses the past two years, Purdue has averaged 469.6 yards of offense and held Wisconsin to 334.4. Still, an 0-2 record appears in the media guide.

Bottom line is if Purdue can win the war in the trenches, it will keep its dream season alive.

"If you can control the line of scrimmage you have about an 80-percent chance of winning the game," Chaney said.

That means four games remain where the Boilermakers need to come up with 20 percent of everything else. That's because I don't foresee Matt Light and Co. being outmatched the rest of the fall. If the Boilermakers execute in the trenches and on the perimeter, gas that bus up for Pasadena. **AW**

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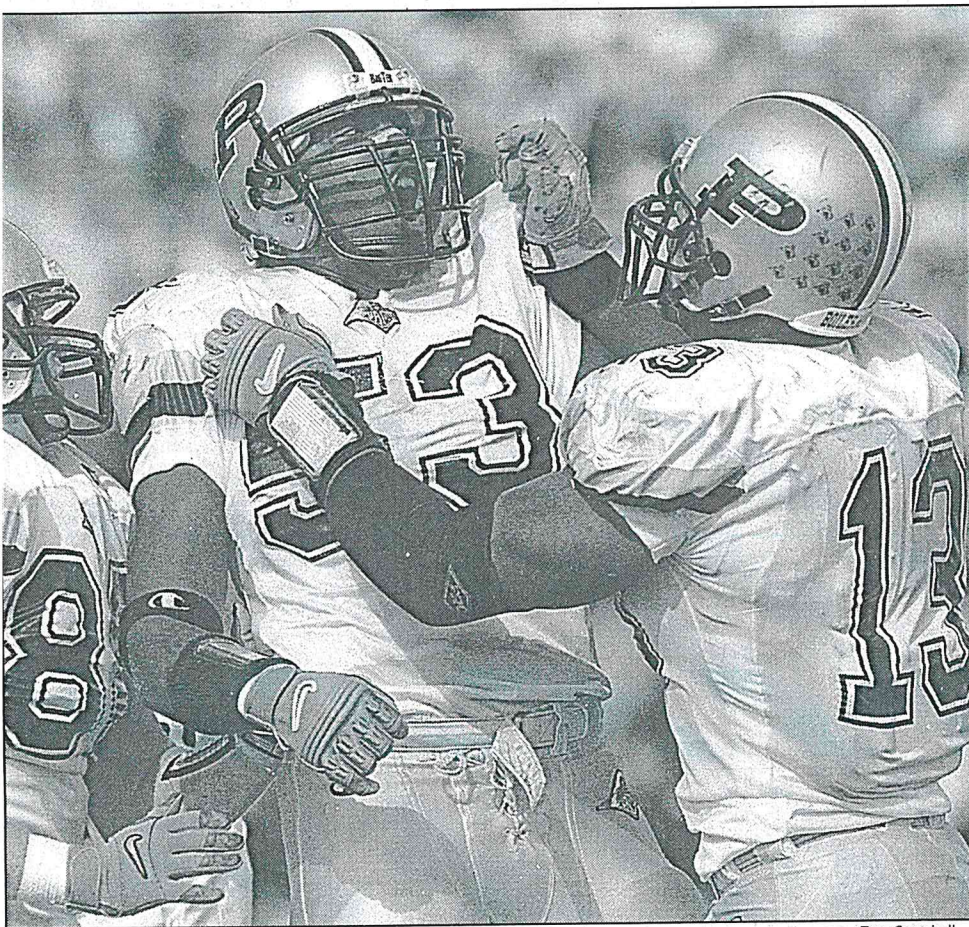
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ANOTHER LANDMARK VICTORY

Boilers Notch First Road Win Over Ranked Foe Under Tiller



BY BRIAN NEUBERT

EVANSTON, Ill. — For the second consecutive week, Purdue got a proverbial monkey off its back.

Seven days after beating Michigan — when they silenced the naysayers who said the Boilermakers couldn't beat the Big Ten's elite — Purdue notched its first road win over a ranked opponent during the Joe Tiller Era.

No. 21 Purdue (5-2 overall, 3-1 in the Big Ten) beat 17th-ranked Northwestern (5-2, 3-1) 41-28, Oct. 14, in Evanston, Ill., before 41,053 fans at Ryan Field.

In doing so, it also marked the second time since 1945 and first since 1959 that Purdue defeated ranked teams in consecutive weeks.

"This is good for the young guys, and for the older guys to realize, 'Hey, we can win on the road,'" said sophomore running back Montrell Lowe, one of the heroes of the day. "I think you start to get it in your head when you keep hearing, 'Purdue can't win on the road.' You start believing it yourself, but we proved to ourselves we can do it."

Vinny Sutherland knew this day would finally come.

"We believe we can do it," Sutherland said. "The media not believing doesn't bother us. It's a deal with us where we go out and prove ourselves every week, and that's how we like it."

Tiller's team notched this landmark win in similar fashion as it did the week before.

Defensive ends Shaun Phillips (53) and Akin Ayodele (13) had a big day, combining for four tackles for loss, three sacks and a turnover. The duo was a big reason Purdue held Northwestern's vaunted running attack to 83 yards, while maintaining pressure on the quarterback.

The Boilermakers allowed the Wildcats to score touchdowns on their first two possessions (Michigan scored on all four of its first-half possessions), before the defense stepped up its effort.

In the meantime, the Purdue offense had its way with the opposing defense, particularly on the ground.

A week after rushing for 126 yards against Michigan, Lowe established a career mark, running for 174 yards. Lowe set the tone for his game early, scampering 50 yards on his first carry, Purdue's longest run of the season and longest since J. Crabtree had a 59-yard scamper Sept. 18, 1999, against Central Michigan.

The successful Boilermaker running game helped slow the tempo of a contest that was quickly developing into a shootout. Purdue was able to sandwich touchdowns between Northwestern's opening two scores.

"It was a shootout at the start," said Lowe, who leads Purdue with 565 yards rushing but has scored just two touchdowns. "We knew that was going to happen because Northwestern has a very high-pow-

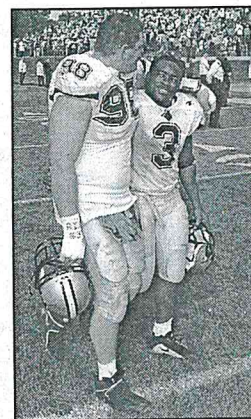
ered offense. We had to slow the ball down and keep it out of their hands."

Thanks in part to Purdue's ground-oriented offense, the shootout that was quickly developing just as quickly fell apart.

The Boiler defense, much like it did against Michigan

Who's HOT

Running back Montrell Lowe is playing his best football as a Boilermaker. The small, but stout sophomore is still making the same shifty moves that he's known for, but he's added a dimension of toughness to his game. Rarely does the young man come down on initial contact. Lowe has 300 yards rushing in the Boilers' past two wins, both of which came over ranked teams.



Tom Campbell

Who's NOT

While neither blunder proved costly, junior safety Brady Doe happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time... twice. The first came on a Purdue punt when he was moving in for the tackle but was flagged for being within two yards of the Northwestern receiver. The five-yard penalty was not costly. The second error wasn't entirely Doe's fault. He was near the Wildcat sideline trying to provide a block for Vinny Sutherland. The ball actually bounced off Doe making it a live ball and Northwestern recovered. The miscue might have been avoided had Sutherland been more vocal in letting Doe know where the ball was.

The Purdue running game, led by sophomore Montrell Lowe, and the Boilermaker rush defense, bolstered by junior tackle Matt Mitrione, are hot.

INSIDE SCOOP

After the game, Wildcat coach Randy Walker all but said Purdue's crossing routes that led to a few touchdowns were basically illegal. After reviewing the film Coach Joe Tiller said that wasn't the case and Northwestern's defenders actually ran into each other.



We'd start campaigning John Standeford for national Freshman-of-the-Year honors. The 6-3, 184-pound rookie has been sensational despite limited football experience in high school. He has shown the poise and skills of an upperclassman and with 40 catches and five touchdowns, there's reason to give him national acclaim.

Purdue's defensive line might have had its finest group effort under Tiller. The Boilermaker front forced 15 tackles for loss, including seven sacks against Northwestern. Matt Mitrione, Akin Ayodele, Shaun Phillips and Craig Terrill wreaked havoc on the Wildcat backfield. If this group can keep it up, Purdue's defense will continue to be among the Big Ten's best.

KEEP YOUR EYES ON

in the second half, began to dominate. After Northwestern's first two possessions, Purdue adjusted to Northwestern's no-huddle offense and cranked up its intensity level. The Wildcats scored twice more through the duration of the game, with both touchdowns coming in the second half after the outcome was all but decided.

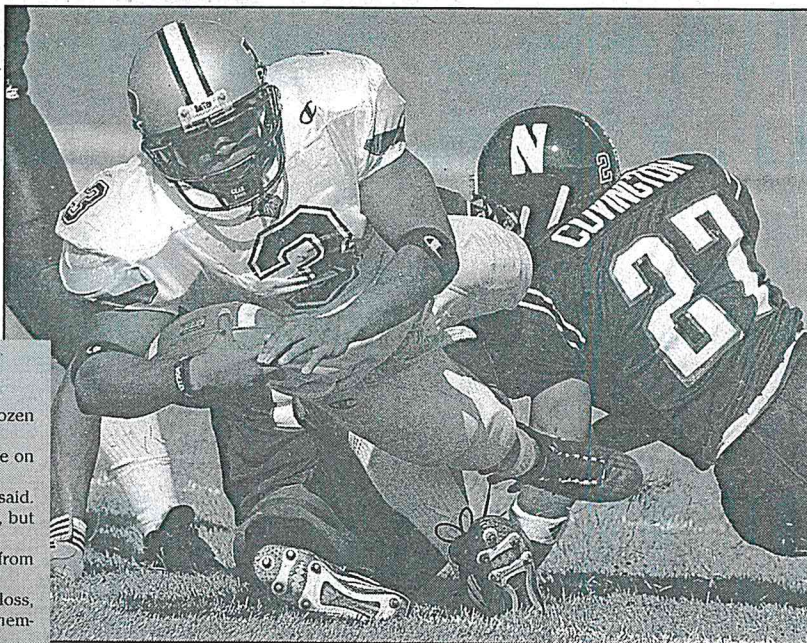
"Our defense did a great job adjusting to the tempo of the game and began playing with more confidence," Tiller said. "They really began to attack the football."

Junior defensive end Akin Ayodele

agreed.

"Against Michigan and now Northwestern, we just kind of sat back early and let them run plays at us, instead of us attacking them," said Ayodele, who contributed a sack and an interception. "After those first two drives, we just decided we'd had enough. We started playing with more emotion and making the plays."

Though the defense struggled early, it shut down star running



Tom Campbell
Montrell Lowe had a career-high rushing performance with 174 yards in 26 carries. It was the best single-game rushing performance by a Purdue back since Kendall Matthews had 177 yards at Illinois in 1997.

BOILER BITS WHERE'S THE FLAG?

Though Northwestern, the most-penalized team in the Big Ten, was flagged a dozen times, Purdue would have liked to have seen even more.

With the Boilermaker defensive linemen busting through the Wildcat offensive line on seemingly every play, some thought more holding calls should have been made.

"I thought, quite frankly, we got held a lot more than was called," Coach Joe Tiller said. "I don't want to be negative and say (the officiating) had any real impact on the game, but our guys just kept coming and they got held a lot."

Defensive end Shaun Phillips wasn't surprised by what he perceived as dirty play from the Wildcats.

"They've been playing that way all year," said Phillips, who tallied three tackles for loss, including two sacks. "We saw it on film. They hold, grab facemasks... everything. I remember a couple times in the game I just got tackled."

BLOCKING DOWNFIELD

Purdue's success running after the catch against Northwestern can directly be attributed to the receivers' ability to block. On Vinny Sutherland's touchdown in the third quarter, Sutherland caught a short swing pass from Drew Brees, but key blocks thrown by Seth Morales and A.T. Simpson allowed the senior to dash 26 yards for the Boilermakers' fourth touchdown.

"Our coach (Kevin Sumlin) works a lot with us on blocking," freshman John Standeford said. "On Vinny's touchdown, A.T.'s just so strong he got his guy on the ground and just man-handled him. Our receivers do a real nice job blocking."

On Standeford's 41-yard catch and run in the fourth quarter, the freshman was sprung thanks to a key block by Morales, which sealed off the defense to the inside and allowed Standeford to dash down the sideline for his third touchdown of the game.

THIRD QUARTER TURNOVERS

Purdue's defense has been outstanding to date, but hasn't forced as many turnovers as it would have liked. That all changed in the third quarter, as the Boilers posted three take-aways.

Sophomore safety Ralph Turner and junior defensive end Akin Ayodele grabbed interceptions, while Matt Mittrione forced a fumble, which was recovered by Gilbert Gardner.

On the fumble, receiver Kumble Patrick caught a short pass, but was quickly hammered by Mittrione, who was pursuing from behind, knocking the ball loose.

"I didn't even know the kid fumbled the ball," Mittrione said. "I hit him so hard I knocked myself silly. I broke my helmet and practically bit my tongue off."

"I dropped the bomb on him," added Mittrione, proudly showing off his bloodied tongue to reporters. "That was the best shot I ever had on a guy."

Mittrione, who had to use freshman offensive tackle Kelly Butler's helmet after the play, was none too pleased when told linebacker Jason Loerzel was erroneously credited with the forced fumble.

Ayodele's interception came at the Boiler goal line on third down, thwarting a Wildcat scoring threat. Ayodele dropped an interception against Michigan. This one, however, didn't get away.

"It was a big turnover," Ayodele said. "They had driven down to our 5, and we had to make a statement and I had to make up for last week."

MORE BLUNDERS

Though Purdue beat the Wildcats, the Boilermakers' trend of special teams errors continued:

● On Purdue's first punt of the game in the second quarter, Tim Stratton's snap drifted a few feet to the left. Punter Scott Kurz was able to get his hands on the ball, nonetheless. The junior kicker dropped the ball, but quickly retrieved it and got off a 27-yard punt.

"I felt the rush coming, but knew I could get the kick off," Kurz said.

● After Purdue took a 21-14 lead early in the second quarter, the Boiler defense forced Northwestern to go three-and-out and punt. The punt, however, hit the ground, took a funny bounce and hit Brady Doe. The ball was then recovered by the Wildcats, who promptly turned the ball over on the first play of their ensuing possession, as Turner grabbed his first interception of the season off a tipped pass from Zak Kustok.

"I don't know what else can happen to this team in the kicking game," said Tiller, whose team has had four punts blocked, in addition to a bad snap, as well as two big missed field goals. "That (play) was a first for us."

● Following Steve Ennis' 1-yard rushing touchdown in the third quarter, kicker Travis Dorsch missed the extra point. It was Dorsch's first missed PAT of the season, making him to 29-of-30. His last miss (and only one of last season) came in the Outback Bowl.

back Damien Anderson all day. Anderson, who rushed for 200 or more yards in the two games prior to facing the Boilers and was the nation's first 1,000-yard rusher, was held to just 55 yards. Anderson has made big plays all season, but had little room to run throughout the game. His longest carry was 14 yards.

Anderson entered the game averaging nearly seven yards per carry. Purdue held him to 3.2.

"We wanted to take out Anderson and

make them beat us throwing the ball," red-shirt freshman defensive end Shaun Phillips said.

Simply put, the Boilermakers did just that, and made the rest look easy.

Though quarterback Zak Kustok made a handful of big plays in the passing game, Purdue hurried the senior signal-caller all day. The Boilermakers sacked Kustok seven times and recorded 15 tackles for loss.

The defense keyed a third-quarter effort that won the game for the

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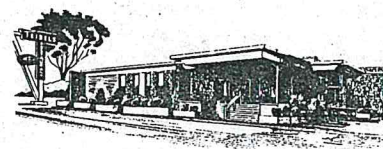
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SKINNING THE 'CATS

Following is a look at senior quarterback Drew Brees' performances against Northwestern the past three seasons. Games played in 1998 and 2000 were in Evanston.

Year (Result)	Comp.-Att.-Int.	Yards	TDs
1998 (W, 56-21)	24-42-2	338	6
1999 (W, 28-23)	32-50-1	405	3
2000 (W, 41-28)	22-40-1	239	5
Totals	78-132-4	982	14

Boilermakers, forcing three turnovers. The offense rolled, as Purdue scored three touchdowns in the third, turning a 14-14 tie into a 34-14 lead.

Purdue's defensive linemen seemed to be in the Wildcat backfield all day, particularly Phillips (two sacks and three tackles for loss) and junior tackle Matt Mitrione (three tackles for loss and several quarterback hurries).

"It's all about effort, and if you don't put forth that effort, you're going to give up big plays," Mitrione said. "Everybody on the defensive line played so well at their positions. This was a great all-around team effort."

While Purdue dominated the line of scrimmage defensively, it did the same on offense.

With the veteran Boilermaker offensive line consistently flattening the Wildcat front, Lowe had room to run and Brees had plenty of time to throw.

Though uncharacteristically inaccurate at times, Brees completed 22-of-40 passes for 239 yards and a season-high five touchdowns. Brees has now thrown 11 scores against the Wildcats in two trips to Ryan Field. The senior Heisman Trophy candidate threw one interception, on a pass that was batted in the air at the line of scrimmage.

Brees' favorite target was again Sutherland. The senior speedster caught a team-high eight passes for 84 yards with two touchdowns.

Meanwhile, freshman John Standeford continued his sensational rookie campaign, catching six passes for 74 yards, including a career-high three touchdowns.

Sutherland got Purdue on the board first, catching a 10-yard scoring strike from Brees at the 10:26 mark of the first quarter, answering Anderson's 1-yard TD run at 12:06 and tying the game at 7.

Northwestern took the lead right back at 7:27, when Kustok hit Teddy Johnson for a 7-yard score on third down. Purdue looked to answer Johnson's drive, driving to the Wildcat 14, but the score stalled and Purdue was stopped on fourth down.

In the second quarter, the Boilermakers tied the game 14-14 when Brees hit Standeford for a 7-yard score.

After halftime, Standeford gave Purdue a 21-14 lead, capping the Boilers' first second-half possession, with a 5-yard scoring catch. Minutes later, Sutherland caught a short swing pass from Brees and turned upfield for a 26-yard score at the 7:53 mark. Steve Ennis closed third quarter scoring with a 1-yard scoring plunge at 4:51.

Standeford added his third touchdown at 4:48 of the fourth, catching a short pass over the middle, making one move and

dashing 41 yards along the sideline.

"I was just hoping he'd stay in-bounds and keep the clock running," Brees said, "and he goes and runs in for a touchdown. I'll take that, too, though."

In the fourth quarter, Northwestern made the game look respectable through the air. At 6:45, Kustok hit Johnson for a 41-yard TD down the sideline, burning junior cornerback Ashante Woodyard. With just 1:16 to play, quarterback Matt Danielson

(son of former Boiler QB Gary Danielson and grandson for former athletic director George King) tossed a 35-yard scoring pass to Louis Ayeni.

Purdue, which entered the game leading the Big Ten in total offense, amassed 461 yards against the Wildcats. With the running game clicking, Northwestern didn't stand a chance.

"Northwestern has a good defense with some great players," Brees said. "But I

think our offense is just to the point where we're tough to defend because we can do so much. It's a real guessing game sometimes."

With the win, coupled with Ohio State's loss to Minnesota, the Boilermakers find themselves in great position for a shot at the Big Ten Championship.

"We're just going to take it one game at a time from here," Lowe said, "and we'll see what happens." ■■

Game Stats

Purdue vs. Northwestern

Rushing

Purdue	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	Lowe	26	174	6.7	50	0
	Brees	12	68	5.6	11	0
	Sutherland	1	9	9.0	9	0
	Ennis	2	1	0.5	1	1
	Brown	1	-3	-3.0	0	0
	Team	5	-27	-5.4	0	0
	Total	47	222	4.7	50	1

Northwestern	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	Anderson	17	55	3.2	14	1
	Kustok	14	23	1.6	34	0
	Patrick	1	9	9.0	9	0
	Lawrence	1	7	7.0	7	0
	Danielson	4	-11	-2.8	4	0
	Total	37	83	2.2	34	1

Passing

Purdue	Player	Att	Comp	Yds	Pct	TD	Int
	Brees	40	22	239	55.0	5	1
	Total	40	22	239	55.0	5	1

Northwestern	Player	Att	Comp	Yds	Pct	TD	Int
	Kustok	28	18	260	64.3	2	2
	Danielson	8	6	109	75.0	1	0
	Total	36	24	369	66.7	3	2

Receiving

Purdue	Player	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	Sutherland	8	84	10.5	26	2
	Standeford	6	74	12.3	43	3
	Winston	2	21	10.5	13	0
	Morales	2	14	7.0	11	0
	Stratton	1	25	25.0	25	0
	Brown	1	11	11.0	11	0
	Simpson	1	10	10.0	10	0
	Allen	1	0	0.0	0	0
	Total	22	239	10.9	43	5

Northwestern	Player	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	Schweighardt	7	115	16.4	46	0
	Johnson	5	91	18.2	41	2
	Patrick	5	67	13.4	25	0
	Ayeni	2	50	25.0	35	1
	Jordan	2	16	8.0	8	0
	Worley	1	19	19.0	19	0
	Thompson	1	16	16.0	16	0
	Anderson	1	-5	-5.0	0	0
	Total	24	369	15.4	46	3

Punt Returns

Purdue	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	Sutherland	1	3	3.0	3	0
	Doe	1	0	0.0	0	0

Northwestern	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	Thompson	1	2	2.0	2	0

Kickoff Returns

Purdue	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	Td
	Clopton	2	37	18.5	33	0
	Sutherland	1	8	8.0	8	0

Northwestern	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	Td
	Johnson	6	126	21.0	41	0
	Lawrence	1	11	11.0	11	0

Field Goals

Purdue	Player	Att	Good	Made	Miss
	None				

Northwestern	Player	Att	Good	Made	Miss
	None				

Punting

Purdue	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long
	Kurz	3	93	31.0	34

Northwestern	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long
	Standring	6	236	39.3	49

Scoring Summary

First Quarter
NW: Anderson 1 run (Long kick) 12:06 left; Drive: 7 plays, 76 yards, 2:54

Purdue: Sutherland 10 pass from Brees (Dorsch kick) 10:26 left; Drive: 7 plays, 80 yards, 1:40
NW: Johnson 7 pass from Kustok (Long kick) 7:27 left; Drive: 9 plays, 56 yards, 2:59

Second Quarter
Purdue: Standeford 7 pass from Brees (Dorsch kick) 3:51 left; Drive: 13 plays, 95 yards, 5:15

Third Quarter
Purdue: Standeford 5 pass from Brees (Dorsch kick) 11:20 left; Drive: 11 plays, 44 yards, 3:40
Purdue: Sutherland 26 pass from Brees (Dorsch kick) 7:53 left; Drive: 4 plays, 47 yards, 1:49
Purdue: Ennis 1 run (kick failed) 4:51 left; Drive: 9 plays, 29 yards, 2:44

Fourth Quarter

NW: Johnson 41 pass from Kustok (Long kick) 6:45 left; Drive: 5 plays, 59 yards, 1:35
Purdue: Standeford 43 pass from Brees (Dorsch kick) 4:48 left; Drive: 3 plays, 44 yards, 1:57
NW: Ayeni 35 pass from Danielson (Long kick) 1:16 left; Drive: 10 plays, 75 yards, 3:32

Team Statistics

Category	Purdue	NW
First downs	25	19
Rushing	10	4
Passing	11	15
Penalty	4	0
Total offensive plays	87	73
Rushing plays	47	37
Net yards rushing	222	83
Net yards per rush	4.7	2.2
Passing plays	40	36
Completions	22	24
Nets yards passing	239	369
Net yards per completion	10.9	15.4
Total net yards	461	452
Avg. gain per play	5.3	6.2
Kick returns-yds	3-45	7-137
Punt returns-yds	2-3	1-2
Fumbles-lost	1-1	1-1
Interceptions by-yds	2-8	1-18
Third down conversion	11-18	8-16
Time of possession	33:58	26:02
Sacks by-yds lost	7-44	1-3
Penalties-yds	8-45	12-106

Defensive Leaders

Purdue	Player	Solo	Asst	Total	For Loss-Yds	FR-Yds	Int	Pass Def	Sack-Yds
	Schweigert	5	6	11	0	0	0	0	0
	Woodyard	7	3	10	1-5	0	0	0	0
	Odum	6	3	9	2-12	0	0	0	1-10
	Phillips	5	3	8	3-11	0	0	0	2-10
	Turner	5	3	8	3-15	0	1-5	1	2-10
	Ayodele	3	3	6	1-9	0	1-3	1	1-9
	Loerzel	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
	Mitrione	3	0	3	3-9	0	0	1	0
	Terrill	2	0	2	1-3	0	0	0	0
	Ferrell	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Dinkins	2	0	2	1-5	0	0	0	1-5
	Vaughan	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Tone	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Faggio	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Light	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Moore	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Gardner	1	0	1	0	1-0	0	1	0
	Clopton	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Doe	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Koutouvides	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Johnson	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	53	24	77	15-69	1-0	2-8	4	7-44

Northwestern (top eight)	Player	Solo	Asst	Total	For Loss-Yds	FR-Yds	Int	Pass Def	Sack-Yds
	Bentley	5	6	11	1-15	0	0	0	0
	Wheeler	5	4	9	0	0	0	0	0
	Silva	5	4	9	0	0	0	0	0
	Morton	4	4	8	0	0	0	0	0
	Covington	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
	Emmerich	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0
	Harris	4	1	5	1-1	0	0	1	0
	Collins	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	48	28	76	4-22	1-0	1-18	3	1-3

Hype Hinders Wildcats' Focus

Talk Of Rose Bowl, Lack Of Run Game Dooms Northwestern

BY MATT BRANN

EVANSTON, Ill. — The Run for the Roses. The Purple to Pasadena.

Those two phrases were running rampant just prior to No. 17 Northwestern's Oct. 14 game against Purdue.

The talk was with good reason. The Wildcats were 5-1 entering the contest and a 3-0 in league play, including victories over ranked foes Wisconsin and Michigan State.

Northwestern fans were comparing their team to the 1995 Wildcat squad that went 10-1 and advanced to the Rose Bowl, where it was defeated by USC. Based on the way Northwestern performed in the 41-28 loss to the Boilermakers, apparently some Wildcat players fell victim to the Rose Bowl hype.

"I tried to warn our kids about all the comparisons, about all of the attention and all of the speculation," Northwestern coach Randy Walker said. "I guess I didn't do a good job, because we didn't play our best and most focused game against Purdue."

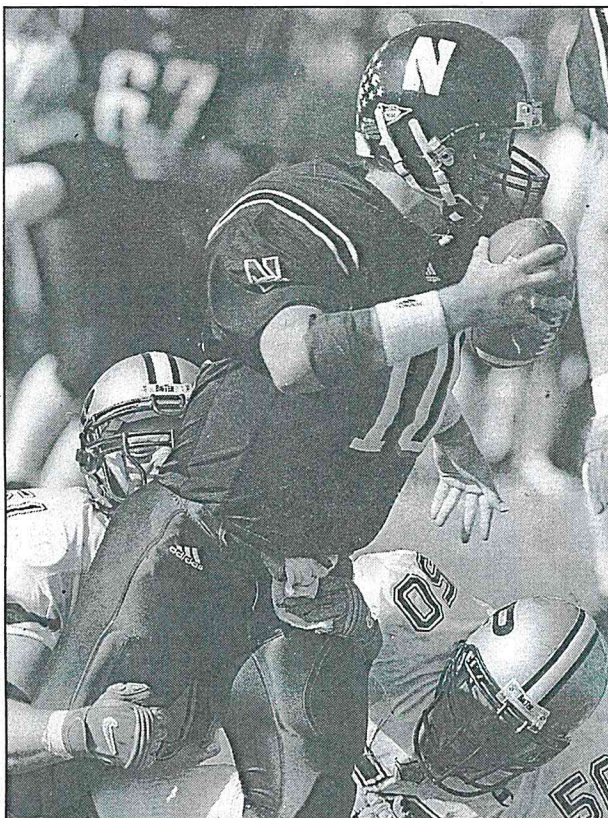
It was evident Northwestern's focus wasn't as sharp as necessary. The Wildcats committed three turnovers, allowed seven sacks of quarterback Zak Kustok and were flagged for 12 penalties for 106 yards.

"Turnovers and not executing our plays absolutely killed us," said Kustok, who had an impressive day in the air by completing 18-of-28 attempts for 260 yards and two touchdowns. "Not to take anything away from Purdue, but we had some key penalties and I had two interceptions that really hurt us."

What really hurt Northwestern, however, was its inability to run the ball on offense, and its inability to stop the run on defense.

The Wildcats entered the game second in the Big Ten in rushing offense, averaging 272.8 yards per game on the ground. Junior running back Damien Anderson had already ran for 1,050 yards and averaged 175 yards per game.

But the Boilermakers' stingy defense held the Wildcats to 83 rushing yards. Amazingly, Purdue held Northwestern to neg-



Tom Campbell
Sophomore linebacker Joe Odum (51) and senior defensive end Brian Dinkins (50) bring down Northwestern quarterback Zak Kustok. Wildcat signal callers were sacked seven times.

ative yards rushing (-10) in the second half.

"When everybody is not on the same page, the other team is going to make some plays," sophomore center Austin King said. "Every team has tried to change something to stop our run. Before today, against five of our six opponents we were able to make adjustments. Today we didn't."

The lack of production was especially frustrating to Walker because he saw his squad jump to an early 14-7 lead, with the Wildcats scoring on their first two possessions. Northwestern's first two drives combined for 16 plays, 132 yards and 5:53 of possession time. Then, unexplainably, the proverbial wheels fell off Northwestern's offense.

"I don't know what happened when it was 14-7," Walker said. "When you get a couple of early scores like that, you worry that it gets a little easier than you want it to be. A good football team is able to respond and seize back the momentum."

"I haven't been in many football games where you can lose the battle of turnover ratio, lose the running game, and lose the battle of pass protection and still win the game."

"With our team, there's such a fine line between success and failure. We just got out of our rhythm. All of a sudden we were back on our heels instead of on the attack."

— Northwestern coach Randy Walker

It's just fundamental to how we play the game."

Defensively, Northwestern had just as much trouble trying to stop Purdue running back Montrell Lowe. The sophomore gained a career-high 174 yards rushing on 26 carries, including a long of 50 yards.

Junior middle linebacker Billy Silva said the Wildcats weren't sharp mentally, allowing Lowe to have so much success.

"That was the defense's fault," Silva said. "We didn't play our gaps correctly, and he ran the ball well. I give him a lot of credit; he's a good running back."

"We knew what Purdue was doing, but we didn't have the numbers to stop it. It was really frustrating."

It was irritating for Northwestern to watch a team that ranked ninth in the Big Ten in rushing offense (162.3 yards per game) rumble for 222 yards. In addition to Lowe, quarterback Drew Brees gained 68 yards — out-rushing Anderson.

Brees also threw for 239 yards and five touchdowns on 22-of-40 passes, but it was his and the rest of the Boilermaker offense's rushing performance that doomed the Wildcats.

"Brees is a good quarterback," said sophomore cornerback Raheem Covington. "But as a defense, we have to go out and play our game, and we didn't do that. We didn't stop the run like we know we can, and they took advantage of that. We wanted to make them one-dimensional, but we didn't."

"We got out-executed, and I guess they wanted it more than us. We played hard, but they played harder." ■■■

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GAME VIEW WITH OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR JIM CHANEY

Getting The Job Done In The Air, On The Ground

Offense Continues To Play Well In All Phases

BY KEVIN KECKLER

EVANSTON, Ill. — Following the Boilermakers' 41-28 win over No. 17 Northwestern Oct. 14, *Gold & Black Illustrated* caught up with offensive coordinator Jim Chaney to get his thoughts on the game.

GBI: You said productivity in the red zone would likely decide whether or not you won. Once again, you were right.

Chaney: "I don't know what we were (4-of-5), but we preached all week in practice that scoring every time we were in the red zone would be important. Our job as a staff was to make sure we got our guys into the red zone and then we would go from there. When you get down in there against a good zone defense like Northwestern's, you have to be detailed in your assignments. For the most part, our guys did a good job in those situations."

GBI: Montrell Lowe was able to get off to a great start with a 50-yard carry on your third play from scrimmage. He really seems to be in a zone right now.

Chaney: "Yeah, that was a helluva start. That big play was basically part of what seemed to be a tennis match in the first quarter. He ran hard against Northwestern. He really did a marvelous job against the hardest defensive looks this offense will see."

GBI: Since getting points in the red zone was so important, why did you go for it on fourth-and-2 on your second possession, rather than kick a 31-yard field goal?

Chaney: "Well, we thought because of our field position and the success with which we'd been running that play, that we'd take a chance. We thought it was just two yards and we'd been executing that play very well. We'd

made up our minds we were going to go for that a long time ago."

GBI: Another botched play was the third-and-1 early in the second quarter. It looked like reserve running back Steve Ennis didn't hit the right hole. Was that your view, too?

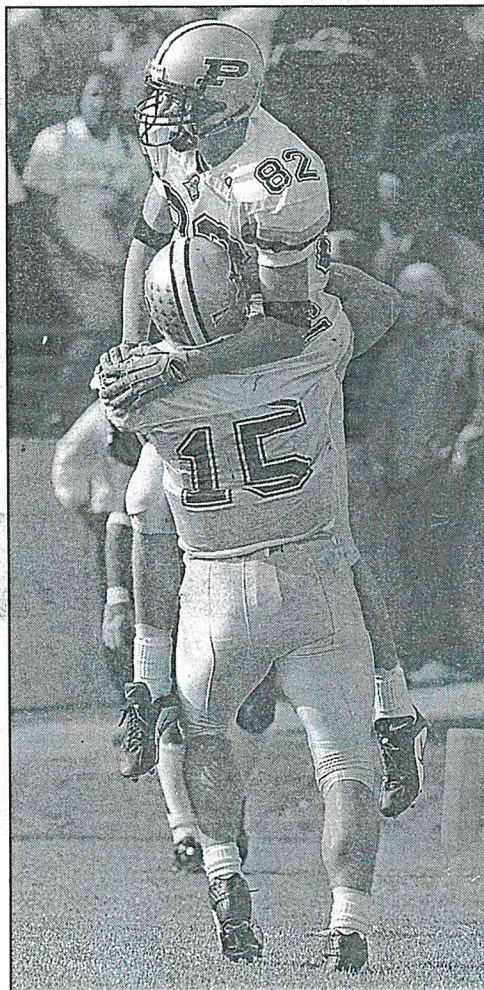
Chaney: "Actually, that was a play made by Northwestern rather than a Purdue mistake. They beat us on that play. I think all 10 of our guys were knocked around. We came back to that play again on the goal line and ended up scoring a touchdown."

GBI: A crucial point in the game was when you were trailing 14-7 and had to start a drive from your own 5-yard line. Take us through that drive, which resulted in a touchdown.

Chaney: "Anytime you take the ball 95 yards you look back and smile because it's rare and you'd think the odds are totally against you. It was an uplifting drive because the morale of our team definitely went up after that. It was nice for the offense from a confidence standpoint and it gave our defense a much needed rest (the drive lasted 5:15). On drives like that we tell our kids to make sure we get two first downs. That happened on a

"At halftime the kids felt like we were moving the ball pretty well and our morale was very high offensively."

— Offensive coordinator
Jim Chaney



Tom Campbell
After a slow start, freshman receiver John Standeford caught a career-high three touchdown passes from Drew Brees. He had six catches for 74 yards.

few yards and then missed on a route to Seth (Morales) and on third down we went incomplete. We thought the third-down call might have been interference but I'm certainly not an official."

GBI: Once again, you were successful scoring a touchdown on the first possession of the second half. How important is that?

Chaney: "At halftime the kids felt like they were moving the ball pretty well and our morale was very high offensively. It was similar to the Michigan game when we thought we'd be able to really do a lot of things in the second half. I thought our coaches did a great job of getting their players ready to play at the half and we scored on our first three possessions of the second half. That basically put Northwestern in a hurry type of offense because they dropped behind 21 points. That was the game, really."

GBI: On Vinny Sutherland's 26-yard touchdown in the third quarter, you got tremendous blocks from A.T. Simpson and Seth Morales. It looked like the bubble screen was back to normal.

Chaney: "A.T. and Seth were great on that play. I'm very proud of A.T. on that bubble screen because I think he blocked his guy for about 10 seconds. Vinny played off the block very good, which is also important. I think this is the fourth straight year we've scored on a bubble screen against Northwestern."

GBI: Fans would love to see A.T. catch more passes, but he's turned into a valuable blocker which is imperative for success in the passing game.

Chaney: "We'd love to see A.T. catch more too, but he has really fit into his role well. Fans and everyone would love to see more balls end up in No. 80's hands, but right now there isn't but one football and that seems to be going to John, Vinny and Tim. He's doing everything we're asking him to do."

GBI: Chris James didn't play again today, the third straight game. What's his status on the depth chart and has his disappearance been disappointing?

Chaney: "Right now our rotation is set the way it is and whether Chris plays will be based on injuries and his effort in practice. If he has a great week of practice we'll probably get him some balls, but now we're rolling the way it is. Anytime a young man has a good year and the next fall he doesn't play up to expectations it's disappointing. We still believe in him and I think he'll snap out of this and have a good career at Purdue." ■

drive later in the game, where we got those two first downs and then struggled, but we downed the punt on Northwestern's 5-yard line which means it was a 90-yard swing."

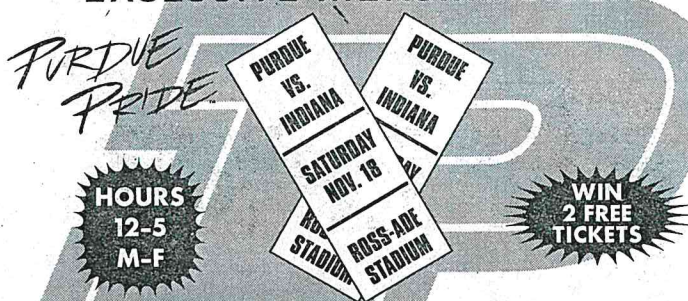
GBI: Drew Brees' first touchdown pass to John Standeford looked similar to others he's had this year. Is that just a play where Brees must be patient and wait for someone to get open?

Chaney: "Drew really waited and made a good call. I think they were in drop-eight coverage so with only three guys rushing, Drew had time to wait. Drew knows our line is going to give him time, so you just wait for it to pop open. The tempo of the game slows down when teams go to drop-eight coverage, so you can't hurry things."

GBI: We saw a rare occurrence when the two-minute offense actually stumbled before the half and went three-and-out. What happened?

Chaney: "That was disappointing. We had a breakdown up front that cost us a loss of a

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STUFFING THE RUN

Trio Of Turnovers Trigger Boilermaker Defense

BY MATT BRANN

EVANSTON, Ill. — Following each game, *Gold & Black Illustrated* talks with defensive coordinator Brock Spack and gets his thoughts on the Boilermakers' performance.

GBI: The first thing I've got to ask you about is holding Damien Anderson, who entered the game with more rushing yards than any back in the country, to just 55 yards. What did you do to stop him?

Spack: "We knew we had to take the ball out of his hands. We tried to out-number him when he had the ball and by doing that we forced Northwestern to throw the ball. It worked out pretty well. People haven't given Anderson much credit, but he's a great runner. The big key was keeping him under control."

GBI: That is two weeks in a row you've held a pair of good Big Ten running backs under their rushing average after slowing Michigan's Anthony Thomas to 120 yards Oct. 7. Are you doing anything special to shut down the run?

Spack: "Not really. Our guys are playing well and they're getting better every week. I give our players a lot of credit because they've played with a lot of character these past two games. The other team got out to a fast start again today and it could have snowballed on us, but the players settled down and performed well. I thought we dominated three quarters of the game."

GBI: How much did it help in containing Anderson that the offense was able to gain a sizeable lead in the second half and force Northwestern to play from behind?

Spack: "That's great, because Northwestern really hasn't had to play catch-up all year. Our offense has done a great job of controlling the ball and not turning it over. They've given the defense a lot of rest. In the first quarter when the defense wasn't playing real well, the offense still was able to give us some rest and regroup."

GBI: After those first two drives, what did you do to adjust to Zak Kustok having success rolling out of the pocket and throwing the ball or running with it?

Spack: "We just changed our coverages a little. We started in man-to-man, but then switched our coverages to zone most of the time. That helped our players see the ball. When you're playing man coverage, your back is turned away from the ball-carrier a lot, so we went to a zone."



Tom Campbell

After averaging more than 200 yards per game in his first three Big Ten contests, Damien Anderson was limited to 55 yards on 17 carries. Here he is smacked by safety Ralph Turner as linebacker Jason Loerzel (88) rushes in.

GBI: What's your opinion of Kustok as a quarterback?

Spack: "He's a solid player. He's smart and seems to have a good command of their offense. There's no question our guy (Drew Brees) is the best quarterback. But Kustok is good."

GBI: The defense got seven sacks, and even when Kustok was able to get a pass off, he was often knocked down or forced to hurry the pass.

Spack: "We wanted to force him to beat us. We wanted to get the ball in his hands. We got that working, and told our guys once we did that we had to start teeing off on him. They did a great job of that."

GBI: You called a few blitzes, but most of the time the pressure came from the defensive line.

Spack: "The front four played outstanding. It looked like they played their best game of the year, because Northwestern has a good offensive line. We were playing with a lot of emotion and I was excited with the way they performed."

GBI: Now that Akin Ayodele has played an entire game at defensive end, you've got to be pleased to have two ends in Ayodele and Shaun Phillips who can make some big plays?

Spack: "They are nice. I thought that was a big difference in the game. Our ends are very athletic, and in order to defend an offense like Northwestern's, you need ends who are athletic and can run. If you've got big plodders out there, they can't make the plays."

GBI: Matt Mitrione and the other tackles were jumping around a lot before the snaps. What were they trying to accomplish?

Spack: "We were stemming up front to try

and confuse the quarterback. We wanted to confuse them about where they wanted to run the trap. It was an attempt to confuse the running game."

GBI: Landon Johnson appeared to be hobbled before the game even started. What is his status?

Spack: "It's still his ankle that's hurting him. I put him out for the first series, and that was a mistake on my part because he wasn't ready. On the one long quarterback run that was his man and he wasn't able to get there and make the play. He just wasn't ready to play yet."

GBI: The secondary gave up quite a bit in the passing game, especially in the second half. Were you still pleased with the way that unit played overall?

Spack: "I thought they played well most of the game. We got a little casual late, but those touchdowns didn't matter. The game was out of hand at that point. But we did get a little sloppy, and Ashante Woodyard got

beat a couple of times. That happens sometimes."

GBI: Northwestern had a lot of penalties on offense. Could you tell whether they were getting frustrated?

Spack: "Northwestern is the most penalized team in the Big Ten. So they didn't do anything different and it was a typical game for them in that regard."

GBI: The defense forced three turnovers (with two interceptions and a fumble). How big was that?

Spack: "Those were big, no question about it, especially when (third quarter) they occurred in the game."

GBI: At the beginning of the game, how much did Northwestern's no-huddle offense bother the defense?

Spack: "It just took us a little while to get adjusted to the speed of the game."

GBI: Didn't that hinder your substitutions?

Spack: "We didn't substitute much at all. We couldn't substitute, so we played with the same personnel the entire game, even on the goal line."

GBI: Purdue is now in a tie for first place in the Big Ten. What does the defense have to do to possibly win the remainder of the games and go to the Rose Bowl?

Spack: "We've got to keep getting better each week. Plus we need to get healthy. We need Landon back on the field at full speed." ■■■

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