

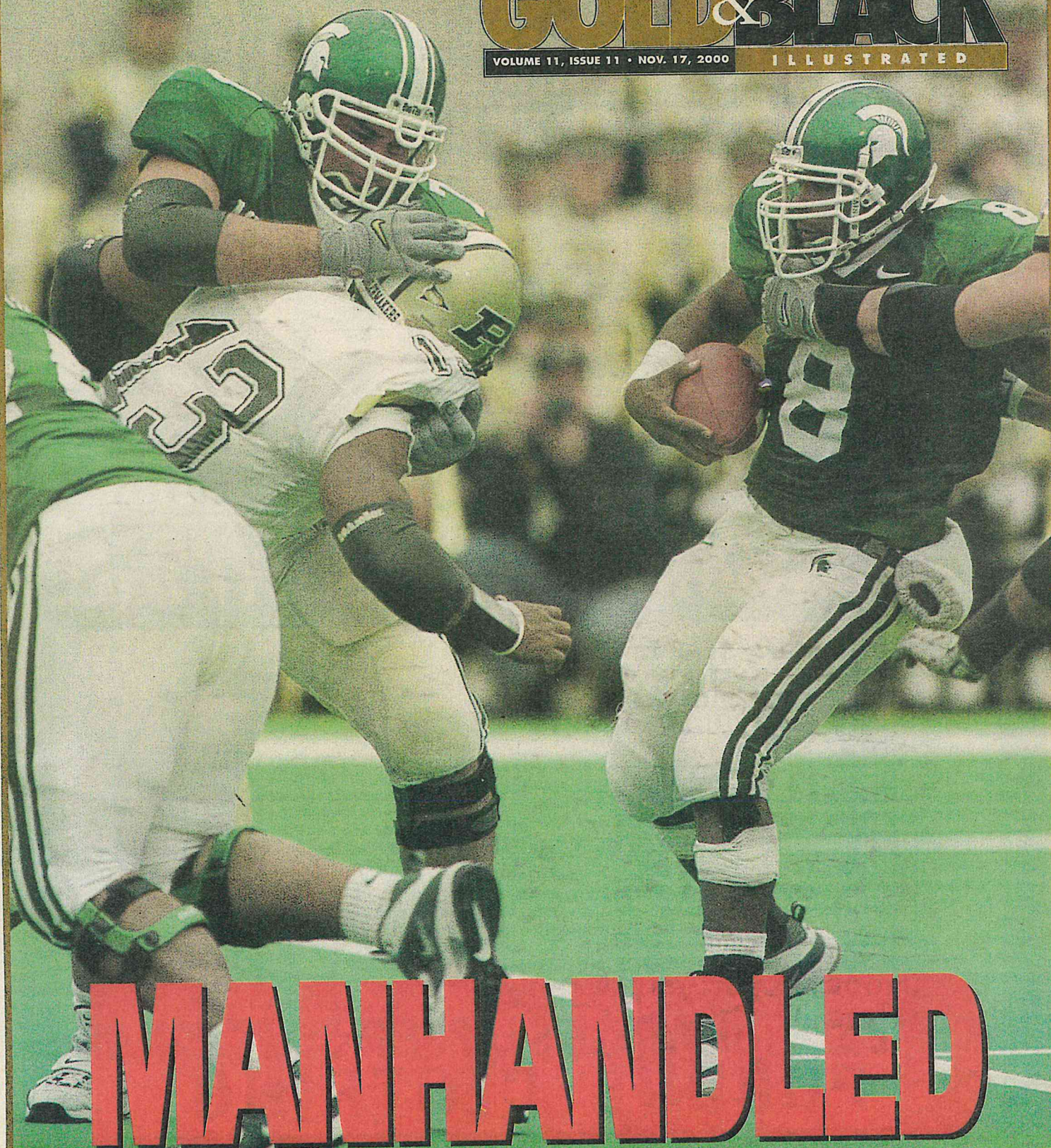
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ILLUSTRATED



MANHANDLED

After 30-10 Loss To MSU, Rose Bowl Berth Hinges On Bucket Game

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ON THE COVER

Purdue junior/defensive end Akin Ayodele is man-handled by the Michigan State offensive line as he tries to pursue the Spartans' T. J. Duckett. Last-place Michigan State put all of Purdue's Big Ten title hopes and Rose Bowl plans on hold with a convincing 30-10 win over Purdue Nov. 11 in East Lansing. Cover and University Spirit 2000 Photos by Tom Campbell. University Spirit 1966 photo by Bob Mitchell.

24 HOURS LATER WITH JOE TILLER

As Bad As It Looked

BY BRIAN NEUBERT

Each Sunday, Gold & Black Illustrated speaks with Coach Joe Tiller, getting his most recent thoughts on his team's Saturday game after he's analyzed it on film.

Q: Did your team's performance look as bad on film as it did on the field?

Tiller: "Yes."

Q: What happened to the defense?

Tiller: "A lack of fundamentals. We didn't tackle or get off blocks well, and we didn't cover well. Pick an area of the game defensively, and we didn't do it well. It was basically a breakdown of fundamentals."

Q: Do you think the bye week had anything to do with the team's sluggish performance?

Tiller: "I guess it didn't help now."

Q: Did you sense any rust on the team?

Tiller: "I didn't before the game, but we didn't play well. I don't think the bye week affected us as much as the peripheral activity around our team. I didn't see a player last week that didn't have a television camera or a microphone or tape recorder in front of him that wasn't asked about the Rose Bowl. As simple as that sounds, I think that had a much bigger impact on our mental state of being than the bye week did."

Q: Assess Drew Brees' performance.

Tiller: "Maybe his poorest game since he's been at Purdue."

Q: After the game, Brees made a comment that perhaps Purdue fooled itself more than Michigan State offensively, and that maybe it got too conservative on offense. Do you agree?

Tiller: "I don't think so, because we didn't execute well, especially if you look at our third down efficiency. In situations like these you try to find positives in all phases



Tom Campbell
Coach Joe Tiller believes his team may have gotten too caught up in Rose Bowl hype.

ferently, running some 3-4 front, with the linebackers up and the linebackers out. They had not played that against us, nor had they shown much of it on film. They had played a little of it, but not against one-back teams, so we prepared a little bit for it, but didn't put a lot into it. As it turned out, they played more of it than they had.

"I was really amazed at the amount of drop-eight (coverage) they played against us."

Q: What's Matt Light's status? He left the game with a knee injury, but returned.

Tiller: "He's got an MCL (knee injury). It's in a brace right now. They're going to immobilize him for a couple days then let him

of the game, and one of our few pluses was that we were 3-for-3 on fourth down. The negative is, why were we even in fourth down? Because we couldn't convert a third down. I think we were 3-of-12 on third down which far and away our worst productivity of the year. When we threw on third down, we were not running new routes. They were routes we've been running all year, but we didn't run them with much enthusiasm or sense of purpose."

Q: What was the drop count?

Tiller: "I was surprised to find out that we only had seven drops. One thing, however, is that we had seven bad (throws). In other words, we had some balls ricochet off some guys, which we didn't count as drops, but as bad passes. There were low passes at guys' ankles and some were behind the receiver. When you add seven drops and seven bad balls, there's 14 potential completions we didn't get."

Q: Did MSU do anything differently defensively?

Tiller: "They only did one thing different, running some 3-4 front, with the linebackers up and the linebackers out. They had not played that against us, nor had they shown much of it on film. They had played a little of it, but not against one-back teams, so we prepared a little bit for it, but didn't put a lot into it. As it turned out, they played more of it than they had."

"I was really amazed at the amount of drop-eight (coverage) they played against us."

Q: What's Matt Light's status? He left the game with a knee injury, but returned.

Tiller: "He's got an MCL (knee injury). It's in a brace right now. They're going to immobilize him for a couple days then let him

practice. That'll be a day-to-day thing, otherwise we came out of the game healthy."

Q: Why did Michigan State find so much success running the option and running quarterback draws?

Tiller: "They'd run some of that before. It wasn't a complete surprise to us. They ran more of it against us because they checked to it when he had our blitz on, which is not uncommon."

"Twice on the option, we had a guy come upfield and take the wrong guy when he was supposed to take the quarterback, but took the pitch instead. Two other times, they ran the option and pinned our guy responsible for the quarterback inside. That's what happens a lot against the blitz, they'll pin your linebacker inside with a wide receiver. When that happens, you just have to rely on your inside-outside pursuit. Plus, we didn't get off any blocks. When your linebacker gets pinned, you have to have someone get off a block and help, but we didn't have that happening."

Q: Does the fact that Iowa beat Northwestern reinforce the belief that Purdue may be a team of destiny this year?

Tiller: "I don't know anything about that. I just know we're very fortunate to be in the position we're in. Talking as a staff, if you'd told us we'd playing for a championship and it would all come down to the last game of the season, if someone would have told us that in August when we had all those freshmen lining up on defense, we'd have said, 'Heck yes, let's go. We'll take it.'" **MM**

Publishing Schedule

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Issue 21	March 6
Issue 22	March 12
Issue 23	March 19
Issue 24	March 26
Issue 25	May 4
Issue 26	May 24

Dates subject to change



IN THIS EDITION OF THE JOHN PURDUE CLUB REPORT:

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

SECURITY TIGHTENED FOR PURDUE-INDIANA GAME

Several changes in game-day procedures will be instituted for the Nov. 18 Purdue-Indiana game at Ross-Ade Stadium to ensure fan safety.

The changes include suspending the issuance of pass-outs, which allow fans to leave the stadium and re-enter. The action is part of an effort to counteract unruly fan behavior that, during the Oct. 28 Purdue-Ohio State game, resulted in injuries to a few visiting fans.

Much of the unruly and inappropriate behavior has taken place in the student seating section. Jay Cooperider, director of communications for Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics, stressed that most students are enthusiastic and courteous fans.

Additional police officers will be brought in for the Indiana game to monitor fan activity and make arrests if necessary.

Fans are encouraged to get to their seats 20-30 minutes earlier on Saturday to welcome the Boilermakers, Cooperider said.

Police and Andy Frain employees will heighten their visual inspection of fans to ensure that beer and other alcoholic beverages are not carried into the stadium. That process may slow the movement of fans into the stadium.

Suspension of pass-outs is just one measure being taken for the Old Oaken Bucket game, Cooperider said. The suspension of the issuance of pass-outs will affect those who smoke.

Although Ross-Ade Stadium is a smoke-free facility, space will be provided for smokers in the northeast and northwest areas of the concourse.

Signs will be posted throughout the stadium about the suspension of pass-outs and the location of smoking areas.

Fans who have traditionally moved to seats other than those indicated on their tickets will be asked to remain in their assigned seats.

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FROM ASSISTANT EDITOR: KEVIN KECKLER

THERE'S STILL LIFE

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Deuces are wild. Had there been a slot machine in the Boilermaker locker room at Michigan State, Purdue would have pulled the lever following the 30-10 loss and seen three two's. That's right, despite the disappointing defeat, Purdue now has a second chance at redemption, including the most important — a chance to claim its first Rose Bowl berth in 34 years.

The Spartan victory coupled with an Iowa upset of Northwestern kept the Boilermakers alive for a Big Ten Championship and a trip to Pasadena. I don't think Coach Joe Tiller and his group will blow this second chance.

And if Purdue once again takes advantage of its second chance, the celebration that was put on hold this past weekend will unfold Nov. 18 in West Lafayette.

Take the following tidbits from this season as examples of times Purdue failed to convert on the first attempt but was somehow granted a lucky second chance.

● The kick(s). Purdue had crept its way back from a 28-10 halftime deficit to Michigan when Travis Dorsch missed a potential game-winning field goal. Thanks to a gritty defensive stand, the offense marched back down the field and gave Dorsch his second try. Bingo, No. 30 delivered for a last-second 32-31 win.

● The pass(es). No one will ever forget the spine-tingling finale against Ohio State. First, Drew Brees lost his footing, threw a ball

off-balance and completed it to the Buckeyes'. Michael Doss. Doss' interception led to an Ohio State touchdown which gave it the lead with a couple minutes left.

However, Brees would be granted a second chance. Sure enough, in the pass heard round the country, No. 15 delivered the game winner — a 64-yard touchdown strike to Seth Morales.

● The loss(es). Purdue now stands 5-2 in the conference. Those two losses won't keep the Boilers from heading to the Rose Bowl if they take care of business against Indiana. Who would have ever thought Tiller's troops would be given a second chance to win the conference crown after stumbling against the Big Ten's cellar dweller Michigan State?

For that we must offer a big, gracias, pardon my Spanish, to the Hawkeyes, who knocked off Northwestern to keep the dream alive.

"This is absolutely amazing," said offensive coordinator Jim Chaney. "I'd be crying if the results weren't what they were in Iowa City. I'm going to send personal thank you cards to everyone at Iowa. It's truly a one-game season now."

Purdue enters the battle for the Old Oaken Bucket with one more loss than it wanted, but also with another opportunity to stick



a long-stemmed rose between its molars. If that is to happen, some things better get fixed. And in a hurry.

If you think Michigan State quarterback Jeff Smoker was elusive when he tucked the ball to run, just wait until you see Antwaan Randle El. To give you an idea of how tough Randle El is to bring down, imagine trying to tackle Smoker covered in Vaseline and about three-tenths

of a second faster in the 40-yard dash.

Considering the Boilermaker 'D' had its struggles stopping Smoker, it makes one wonder how they'll stymie Randle El.

Another problem Purdue faces heading into the regular season finale is getting fire back in its eyes. That effort, if you want to call it such, against Michigan State was pathetic. To be frank, it was the worst physical performance I can recall since Tiller's arrival in 1997.

It's pretty sad when the most excitement and movement I saw out of the Purdue players came courtesy of the Baha Men.

That's right, any time "Who Let The Dogs Out?" was blared on the loud speakers in Spartan Stadium, several young men in gold pants and white tops were seen cutting a rug. The problem was, the Boilermakers couldn't stop T.J. Duckett from putting their backs on the artificial rug in East Lansing.

Where was the emotion and intensity of a

team on the cusp of a Rose Bowl berth?

"I'm shocked that we didn't play harder," said quarterbacks coach Greg Olson. "I'm sure it seemed the same from where you were sitting, too. We just didn't seem to come ready to play. As much as we had on the line today, you would have thought we'd play better."

One player in particular who was flipping mad following the game was defensive tackle Matt Mittrione. I guess I'd be peeved too after being on the receiving end of such a butt-stomping. But why wasn't that anger channeled toward the goobers in green and white during the game?

Purdue can only blame itself. It was a golden opportunity to get this Rose Bowl talk out of the way and simply concentrate on beating the Hoosiers. Instead, there's even a greater need for a great week of practice to properly focus for what will be Indiana's bowl game. As a side note, it will take a 750-yard, seven-touchdown performance by Brees to propel himself back in the Heisman Trophy race.

"If someone had told you before the season that all you had to do to go to the Rose Bowl would be win the Bucket game, would you have taken it?" Olson asked. "I would have said yes right then."

Would you still say yes now? I would.

Even though the Boilers slipped in East Lansing, they'll hit the jackpot this weekend against the Hoosiers and head to Rose Bowl No. 2. Thanks to yet another second chance. ■■■

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WHAT HAPPENED?

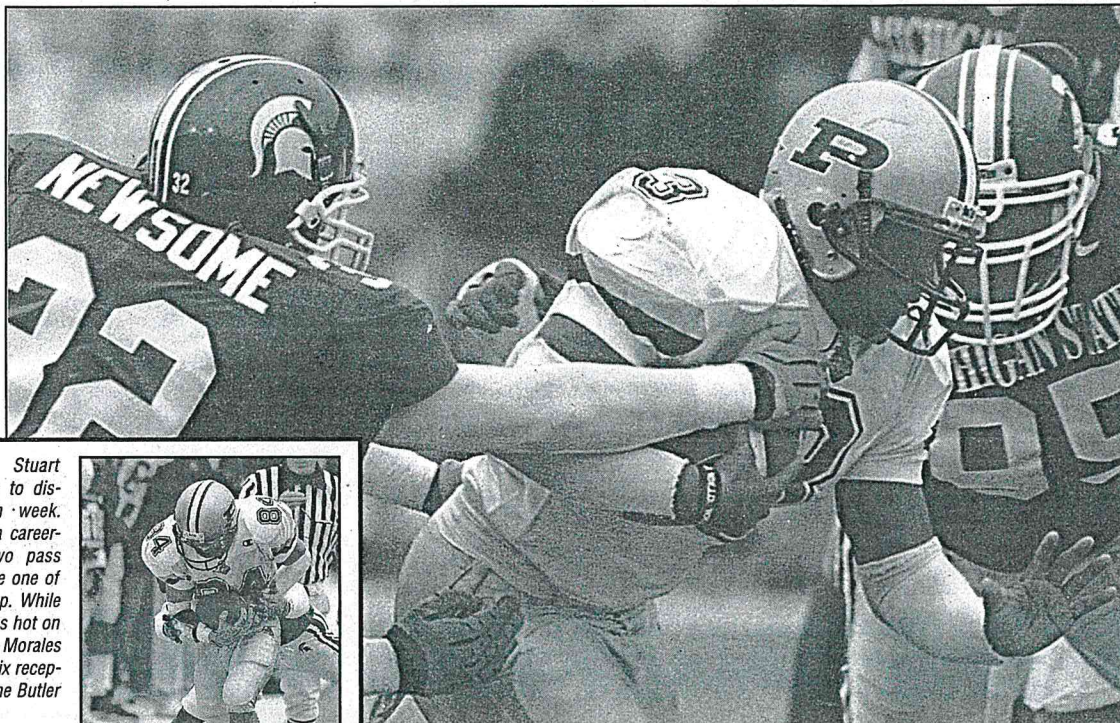
Lack Of Focus Does In Boilermakers

BY MATT BRANN

EAST LANSING, Mich. — It's a question that has been asked by coaches, players, media and fans. But nobody can come up with a definitive answer.

How could the Boilermakers be emotionally flat for their Nov. 11 game at Michigan State with a Big Ten Championship and Rose Bowl berth on the line?

Because ninth-ranked Purdue wasn't mentally as sharp as necessary, the Spartans, the Big Ten's bottom-dweller, dealt the Boilermakers a 30-10 loss in East Lansing, Mich. The loss dropped Coach Joe Tiller's squad to 7-3 overall, 5-2 in the Big Ten, while Michigan State kept its postseason hopes alive, improving to 5-5, 2-5.



Tom Campbell

For the second game in a row, the Boilermaker ground game failed to break the 100-yard barrier. Montrell Lowe (3) led all Boilermaker rushers with 31 yards on 12 carries.

With so many reasons to be fired up for the game, why did the Boilermakers not play with a high-energy level?

"I've got no answer to that," defensive tackle Matt Mittrione said. "That's what I'm wondering. That's why I'm so mad."

"Before the game even started, it was quiet. We were flat. Nothing was worth saying. Everyone was so flat and down. It was really ugly. We read too much (publicity), sat around this past week and did nothing."

The Boilermakers may have gotten out of rhythm during their bye week. Following four straight victories that culminated with a thrilling 31-27 victory Oct. 28 against Ohio State, Purdue seemed to lose its edge.

"We lost our focus with the bye week," said defensive end Akin Ayodele, who registered only two tackles. "Because we were supposed to go to the Rose Bowl, we expected everybody to come out and let us run over them. We just thought we would automatically win the game, and you can't do that."

"We knew Michigan State would be fired up to stay in the hunt for a bowl game, but our mindset was, 'Oh, whatever. We are going to win this game.'"

Quarterback Drew Brees, however, said using the bye week as an excuse for Purdue's poor play is a way of seeking a scapegoat.

"I'm very disappointed with the way we played in all facets of the game," Brees said. "I don't know what we can attribute it to. You'd like to find a scapegoat and blame it on the off

week, but we just weren't into it today."

The Boilermaker defense got things going right from the start. On the game's first possession, freshman safety Stuart Schweigert intercepted a tipped pass as the ball landed on the back of Marcus Waters.

Purdue gained possession on its 42-yard line, but only managed 11 yards before the drive stalled and the Boilermakers were forced to punt.

The drive was a sign of things to come, as the Boilermakers managed just three points in the opening 30 minutes. Purdue gained just nine first downs in the first two quarters. For the game, the Boilermakers converted just 3-of-12 third-down opportunities. Purdue entered the game converting better than 55 percent of third-down plays.

"Michigan State executed and did everything they had to do in order to win," Ayodele said. "They played with a lot more emotion than we did. I have to take blame for that. We weren't ready to play. We were down, didn't have any emotion and weren't aggressive enough. I'm ashamed right now."

The Spartans, who averaged only 16.0 points per game prior to kickoff, scored their second-highest point total of the season. Only one other time had Michigan State scored more than 27 points in a game — in a 34-24 win over Marshall in the season opener.

The Spartans amassed 487 yards of total offense, including 292 on the ground. The Boilermakers, meanwhile, were held to just 79

WHO'S HOT

Freshman safety Stuart Schweigert continues to display progress each week. Schweigert notched a career-high 14 tackles, two pass deflections and an interception. He seemed to be one of the few Boilermakers to play with fire every snap. While Schweigert was hot on defense, Seth Morales was hot on offense. With eight Spartans in pass coverage, Morales still managed to get open, catching a team-high six receptions. Morales' play the past month has turned the Butler transfer into a go-to receiver.

WHO'S NOT

Rarely if ever do Akin Ayodele and Matt Mittrione not give opposing teams fits. However, this time neither of the defensive dominators did much against the Spartans. Ayodele had two tackles while Mittrione notched three. Several times it appeared as though Mittrione wasn't going full speed in pursuit of MSU's running backs. Both players were marked men, though, as the Spartans frequently double-teamed Ayodele and Mittrione.



Tom Campbell

Seth Morales had his third strong game in a row leading all Purdue receivers with six receptions for 76 yards.

Offensive tackle Matt Light tore his medial collateral ligament in the first half but came back and played through the pain. His status for the Bucket game is still in question. Freshman wide receiver Andre Henderson did not make the trip because of a back injury suffered while lifting weights two days prior to the game.



We'd be baffled and irate at the team's performance. How could the Boilermakers not be ready to play? Didn't the bye week give them plenty of time to come down from the Ohio State win and focus on the Spartans? We'd certainly like to think the players didn't convince themselves a plane ticket to Pasadena was already gift-wrapped. Considering the effort put forth, however, it seems that was the case.

Redshirt freshman linebacker Landon Johnson had nine tackles in his best game since September. The athletic Johnson is completely healthy after recovering from a bad ankle sprain and a sore back from a year ago. His speed was noticeable on the artificial turf at Spartan Stadium. With added weight and increased exposure to opposing offenses, Johnson will be a force in the Big Ten.





Spartan tailback T.J. Duckett was awarded a touchdown on this one-yard run with 10:34 left in the fourth quarter. The controversial play gave the Spartans a 23-10 lead.

Tom Campbell

BOILER BITS

SCHWEIGERT STANDS OUT IN HOMECOMING

Freshman Stuart Schweigert enjoyed a homecoming of sorts. The starting free safety is a native of Saginaw, Mich., and had approximately 150 friends and family in attendance for the game.

Schweigert led all players with 14 tackles and also added an interception. Schweigert actually chose Purdue over Michigan State, and is friends with several Spartans, such as hometown rival Charles Rogers (who is academically ineligible) and quarterback Ryan Van Dyke.

"It was good to come back here," Schweigert said. "I knew I had to play big. I knew a lot of the coaches and players here on a personal level. I was pretty much playing in my hometown because I played my high school all-star game here. It was nice to come back and see some of the fans, but I wish we could have gotten the victory."

FOND MEMORIES FOR GRIESE

Former Boilermaker quarterback Bob Griese, now a color analyst for ABC, relived his moments as the only QB to guide Purdue to a Rose Bowl.

ABC began its broadcast of the game with video and still-frame footage of the 1967 Rose Bowl.

Play-by-play announcer Brad Nessler asked Griese if the trip to the Rose Bowl was one of the most memorable moments of his playing career.

"It has gotten more important to me with the passage of time," Griese said. "Because it has been so long since Purdue has gone, it is memorable. Every kid growing up in the Midwest wants to go to the Rose Bowl."

DROPPING THE BALL

In Tiller's four seasons at Purdue, there has been a direct correlation between his wide receivers' ability to hang onto the football and his team's ability to win.

Against the Spartans, the Boilermaker wideouts had far too many dropped passes. Whether it was freshman John Standeford, junior A.T. Simpson or senior Vinny Sutherland, all of Purdue's receivers had trouble holding onto the football.

Tiller said he doesn't believe the receivers were adversely affected by the bye week, because Purdue spent plenty of time working on its passing attack leading up to the Michigan State game.

"We'd like to think not. If it did, I don't know anything different we can do in the future," Tiller said. "We couldn't have thrown the ball any more than we did this past week."

"I don't think Drew had a particularly good game. And when we can't count on one hand our number of drops, we're in trouble. I think we had more than five drops today. When you throw the football as much as we do, you can't afford to drop it."

NEXT TEST

The Boilermakers close out the regular season with the battle for the Old Oaken Bucket against arch-rival Indiana. The Hoosiers 3-7 overall and 2-5 in the Big Ten. For more on Indiana game see pages 20, 25-26.

yards rushing as the offense sputtered to produce any significant drive that resulted in something positive.

"Michigan State outplayed us in nearly every phase of the game," a visibly disturbed Coach Joe Tiller said. "They outplayed us offensively and defensively. We didn't feel like we played to our ability level, and that's disappointing."

Another thing that was disappointing for Purdue was the way MSU signal caller Jeff Smoker was able to run free on the field. The freshman continually slipped past tacklers in Michigan State's option game, rushing for 46 crucial yards.

Sophomore T.J. Duckett, a bruising 6-foot-2, 252-pound tailback, rushed for 174 yards and a touchdown on 32 carries,

but it was Smoker's running ability to frustrate and confused Purdue's defenders.

"He did a good job of pulling the ball down and running with it," Tiller said. "Michigan State did a good job with their scheme. A couple of times when we had blitzes on, they would audible to the option and we would be in man-to-man coverage. We would have somebody out on the pitch man,

but when you're playing man-to-man you don't account for the quarterback. He did a nice job."

Defensive coordinator Brock Spack must make several adjustments before Purdue's regular-season finale Nov. 18, when Indiana comes to Ross-Ade Stadium sporting one of the best option offenses in the country.

"Indiana saw how we played the option, so I'm sure they're smiling because we had trouble stopping it. One reason was because of T.J. Duckett, because he is a very physical back. I don't think Indiana has anyone as big as him, but Antwaan Randle El is a very athletic quarterback. We just have to keep him contained."

Michigan State had no problems containing Purdue's offense throughout much of the game. Purdue's lone score in the first half came on a 36-yard Travis Dorsch field goal, which brought Purdue within 6-3 with 2:10 remaining in the first quarter.

Michigan State got up early on a 10-play, 80-yard drive that culminated on a 2-yard touchdown run by Smoker on... yes, an option play.

The touchdown run gave Smoker, who has split time at quarterback this season with Ryan Van Dyke, a boost of confidence that was evident throughout the remainder of the game. Smoker completed 12-of-23 pass attempts in the game for 195 yards, one touchdown and an interception.

"I thought if we could have gotten him on the ground a few times in the first half, maybe we would have created some doubt in their ability to consistently move the football," Tiller said. "But to their credit, he was able to get away from the rush a number of times. As the game went on, he became a more confident player and as a result did a great job executing their offense."

More importantly than Smoker's statistics was the leadership he provided, helping Michigan State's offense control the ball for



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more than 10 minutes longer than Purdue. Smoker also helped the Spartans convert 8-of-14 third-down plays, which enabled them to retain possession.

"We let them out of the hole on so many third-down situations," Mitrione said. "If we're going to do that, shame on us. Michigan State executed, did what they had to do and beat our tail."

After both teams traded four punts, Michigan State put together a quick scoring drive after taking over in good field position. The Spartans moved 60 yards in three plays, needing only 1:07 to push their advantage to 15-3.

After a seven-yard run by Smoker, he completed a 30-yard pass to Waters, who made a sensational catch over senior cornerback Chris Clopton. Waters won the matchup with Clopton throughout the game, finishing with five receptions for 98 yards.

On the ensuing play, Smoker found tight end Chris Baker over the middle of the field, and he broke seven tackles for the 18-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion pass was broken up by Schweigert.

Purdue attempted to come back in the final minutes of the second quarter. But with Purdue on MSU's 27-yard line, Brees' pass was deflected high into the air by a leaping Thomas Wright, and the ball came down into the hands of cornerback DeMario Suggs for Brees' first of three interceptions on the game.

The Boilermakers came out after halftime in a no-huddle offense that seemed to catch MSU off guard a bit, but the Boilers suffered self-inflicted wounds with a motion penalty and another dropped pass to end the drive.

"Our plan was to come out at halftime and go into our two-minute game and try to pick up the tempo," Tiller said. "Our thought was if we could change the tempo and get something going for us, we could change the momentum of the game. They were controlling the game, and we wanted to get something going our way."

"We didn't execute that well. When we did do something good, it seemed like we found a way to penalize ourselves. Obviously we did not bring our A game."

Purdue responded on its next possession. Brees connected with senior wide receiver Vinny Sutherland for a 68-yard touchdown bomb on the drive's first and only play. The score closed the gap to 15-10.

Tiller felt that if Brees and the offense would have remained as patient as it did on the long pass, the Boilermakers could have had a few more deep plays.

"I thought we panicked in the passing game several times," Tiller said. "We threw the ball underneath when we had crossing routes open deep. We just didn't execute well."

Purdue was led in receiving by sophomore Seth Morales, who caught six passes for 99 yards. Sutherland had four catches for 99 yards and the score, while junior A.T. Simpson grabbed five balls for 33 yards.

Brees finished the day 26-of-43 (60.5 percent) for 279 yards and a score to go along with his three interceptions. The passing numbers weren't bad for Brees, but his normally pin-point accuracy wasn't present against Michigan State.

"Drew was out of sync and he struggled a little," quarterbacks coach Greg Olson said. "If you look at the 35 or so games he's played at

Purdue this certainly wasn't his best effort. He didn't play real well."

Brees' second interception of the game came on the final play of the third quarter. With Purdue putting together one of its more impressive drives, Brees was just off target on a pass to Donald Winston, and cornerback Renaldo Hill slid in for the catch. The interception ended an eight-play, 54-yard drive that took up four minutes.

"I think that was the turning point in the game," Brees said. "That was a play we worked on. Marshall did that play against Michigan State earlier in the year and were very effective with it. When we ran it, we thought we'd get the same result. But Michigan State played it a little differently."

"The interior linebacker was coming at me. I saw Donald, and right when I went to throw the ball the cornerback came out of

nowhere. I didn't really see him, but he came in from the side, jumped in front of Donald and picked it off. It was a great play by a great player."

Michigan State capitalized on the turnover, turning it into another touchdown on a 1-yard scamper by Duckett. The ensuing two-point conversion was successful, giving MSU a 23-10 lead with 10:34 remaining.

On the Spartans' next possession, they needed only four running plays to go 86 yards for the game's final score, pushing the advantage to 30-10. Duckett carried three times for 38 yards before Little John Flowers dashed 48 yards for the touchdown.

With the loss, Brees seemingly has no hope now of winning the Heisman Trophy. The senior signal caller, who finished fourth in the voting for the coveted award last season, was more upset with his team's loss than

his stock dropping in the Heisman race.

"The Heisman is not up to me. I'm just playing to win. And we still can go to the Rose Bowl, so that's all I'm concerned about."

Indeed, Purdue still controls its own destiny. Because Iowa upset Northwestern, there is now a four-team tie for first place in the league standings, as the Boilermakers, Wildcats, Ohio State and Michigan all own 5-2 conference marks.

But because Purdue defeated each of the other three teams this season, Purdue owns the tiebreaker and can still clinch a trip to the Rose Bowl with a victory over the Hoosiers.

"We'll live to fight another day as a result of what happened," Tiller said. "Nothing changes."

"The fact is," Brees said, "if we come out and beat Indiana, we are still going to the Rose Bowl." **MM**

Game Stats

Purdue vs. Michigan State

Rushing

Purdue	Alt	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Player					
Lowe	12	31	2.6	8	0
Brown	4	26	6.5	18	0
Brees	5	22	4.4	11	0
Total	21	79	3.8	18	0

Michigan State	Alt	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Player					
Duckett	32	174	5.4	30	1
Flowers	6	64	10.7	48	1
Smoker	11	46	4.2	15	1
Dorch	2	8	4.0	8	0
Total	51	292	5.7	48	3

Passing

Purdue	Alt	Comp	Yds	Pct	TD	Int
Player						
Brees	43	26	279	60.5	1	3
Total	43	26	279	60.5	1	3

Michigan State	Alt	Comp	Yds	Pct	TD	Int
Player						
Smoker	23	12	195	52.2	1	1
Total	23	12	195	52.2	1	1

Receiving

Purdue	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Player					
Morales	6	76	12.7	21	0
Simpson	5	33	6.6	11	0
Sutherland	4	99	24.8	68	1
Standeford	4	28	7.0	22	0
Winston	3	17	5.7	11	0
Brown	3	12	4.0	7	0
Stratton	1	14	14.0	14	0
Total	26	279	10.7	68	1

Michigan State	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Player					
Waters	5	98	19.6	30	0
Baker	2	43	21.5	25	1
Haygood	2	32	16.0	19	0
Richardson	2	8	4.0	12	0
McCoy	1	14	14.0	14	1
Total	12	195	16.3	30	1

Punt Returns

Purdue	Alt	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Player					
Sutherland	1	2	2.0	2	0
Kavanagh	2	4	2.0	2	0

Kickoff Returns

Purdue	Alt	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Player					
Sutherland	4	102	25.5	28	0
Lougheed	1	11	11.0	11	0
Total	5	113	22.6	28	0

Michigan State	Alt	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Player					
Flowers	2	31	15.5	25	0
Foster	1	24	24.0	24	0

Field Goals

Purdue	Alt	Good	Made	Miss
Player				
Dorsch	1	1	36	—
Total	1	1	36	—

Michigan State	Alt	Good	Made	Miss
Player				
Schaefer	1	1	32	—
Total	1	1	32	—

Punting

Purdue	Alt	Yds	Avg	Long
Player				
Kurz	5	211	42.2	47
Total	5	211	42.2	47

Michigan State	Alt	Yds	Avg	Long
Player				
Jarrett	4	159	39.8	47
Total	4	159	39.8	47

Scoring Summary

First Quarter
MSU: Smoker 2 run (kick failed) 6:37 left; Drive: 10 plays, 80 yards, 3:06
Purdue: Dorsch 36 field goal, 2:10 left; Drive: 10 plays, 43 yards, 4:27

Second Quarter
MSU: Schaefer 32 field goal, 14:47 left; Drive: 8 plays, 57 yards, 2:23
MSU: Baker 18 pass from Smoker (pass failed) 3:07 left; Drive: 3 plays, 60 yards, 1:07

Third Quarter
Purdue: Sutherland 68 pass from Brees (Dorsch kick) 7:30 left; Drive: 1 play, 68 yards, 0:08

Fourth Quarter
MSU: Duckett 1 run (Smoker run) 10:34 left; Drive: 9 plays, 62 yards, 4:26
MSU: Flowers 48 run (Schaefer kick) 7:44 left; Drive: 4 plays, 86 yards, 1:41

Team Statistics

Category	Purdue	MSU
First downs	19	27
Rushing	5	15
Passing	13	10
Penalty	1	2
Total offensive plays	64	74
Rushing plays	21	51
Net yards rushing	79	292
Net yards per rush	3.8	5.7
Passing plays	43	23
Completions	26	12
Nets yards passing	279	195
Net yards per completion	10.7	16.3
Total net yards	358	487
Avg. gain per play	5.6	6.6
Kick returns-yds	5-113	3-55
Punt returns-yds	1-2	2-4
Fumbles-lost	1-0	0-0
Interceptions-by-yds	1-0	3-7
Third down conversion	3-12	8-14
Time of possession	24:39	35:21
Sacks-by-yds lost	2-8	0-0
Penalties-yds	6-63	6-66

Defensive Leaders

Purdue	Solo	Asst	Total	For Loss-Yds	FR-Yds	Int	Pass Def	Sack-Yds
Player								
Schweigert	11	3	14	0	0	1-0	2	0
Johnson	8	1	9	0	0	0	1	0
Woodyard	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Phillips	7	1	8	2-8	0	0	0	1-5
Odum	6	2	8	0	0	0	1	0
Turner	6	1	7	1-8	0	0	0	0
Clopton	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0
Gardner	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Terrill	3	1	4	1-3	0	0	0	1-3
Mitrione	3	0	3	1-2	0	0	0	0
Ayodele	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Team	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Stratton	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Loerzel	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Moore	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Schaub	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Allen	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tone	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Koutouvides	1	0	1	1-1	0	0	0	0
Total	71	10	81	6-22	0	1-0	4	2-8

Michigan State (top five)	Solo	Asst	Total	For Loss-Yds	FR-Yds	Int	Pass Def	Sack-Yds
Player								
Thornhill	9	2	11	0	0	0	1	0
Hill	6	1	7	0	0	1-7	0	0
Suggs	5	1	6	0	0	1-0	1	0
Wright	5	1	6	0	0	1-0	3	0
Henry	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Total	52	11	63	4-8	0	3-7	6	0

WELL-DESERVED WIN

Michigan State Believed It Was Due

BY BRIAN NEUBERT

Many Purdue followers expected East Lansing, Mich., to be a brief stop along the Boilers' long awaited trip to the Rose Bowl.

Michigan State saw things differently, however. Instead of rolling over in front of their home crowd, the Spartans handed the ninth-ranked Boilermakers a 30-10 loss Nov. 11. The MSU win preventing Purdue from clinching a Rose Bowl berth.

"Everyone involved with Spartan football is on Cloud Nine after this win," said linebacker Josh Thornhill. "Everyone expected them to come in, roll over us and go to the Rose Bowl."

Those who thought the Boilermakers would take care of Michigan State in their second-to-last game of the season were justified in their belief.

The Spartans entered the game in last place in the Big Ten, with a 1-5 conference record. They also brought with them one of the least productive offenses in the conference. Meanwhile, Purdue was riding a four-game winning streak that had vaulted it into the national top 10.

While statistics and previous results told one story, no one accounted for the fact that fate may have been on Michigan State's side.

Under first-year head coach Bobby Williams, the Spartans have been competitive in all but one of their Big Ten games.

"This was a game that I felt we deserved to win," said Williams, a former Purdue player and assistant coach. "We have had a very frustrating year, and this win sets the stage for our program to move forward."

Some Spartans believed a game like this would come sooner or later.

"This was just perfect timing," defensive tackle Jace Saylor said. "We really came together as a team."

"This was unbelievable," Thornhill added. "All along we knew we were a better team than our record showed. We just needed to come together, and that's what you saw. Michigan State came together."

Michigan State's eruption shouldn't have come as that big of a surprise, considering the motivation it had coming into the game.

First, the Spartans were hungry to repay Purdue for the painful losses the Boilers handed them the past three seasons. Also, it was the senior's last game in Spartan Stadium.

"This was a game where our guys really made a commitment and dedicated it to our

seniors," Williams said.

Lastly, Michigan State was fighting for its postseason life. Entering the game with a 4-5 overall record, MSU needed to win its final two games to become bowl eligible. The Spartans now must defeat Penn State Nov. 18 in order to qualify for the postseason.

"We were still hungry to get back in the bowl picture," running back T.J. Duckett said. "We had some bad breaks here and last week (in a Nov. 4 27-13 loss to Ohio State). Today we came out and didn't make mistakes and we capitalized on their mistakes."

Duckett led a Spartan offense that came alive against Purdue. Michigan State's offense had been dormant all season, averaging just 16.0 points per game. Against the Boilermakers, however, MSU erupted for 30 points and 487 yards of total offense.

"We got some execution for a change and scored some points," Williams said. "We've been moving the ball all year, but just haven't been able to put it in the end zone. We finally got it in today and had some good production in the red zone."

Duckett was the key for Michigan State, as the sophomore rushed for 174 yards and a touchdown. MSU's offense, however, received a huge boost from the play of freshman quarterback Jeff Smoker.

Smoker played the best game of his young career, completing 12-of-23 passes for 195 yards and a touchdown. He also rushed for 46 yards, mostly on quarterback draws, picking up three crucial first downs on third-and-long scenarios and a two-point conversion.

"I was really proud of the way Jeff played today," Williams said. "He made some outstanding plays. We put a lot of the game in his hands, and he really put us in some good situations and got us out of bad situations. He made some great throws, scrambled well, ran the option with control and ran some key draw plays. There's no question that he really performed well today."

At the same time, Michigan State's highly-touted secondary intercepted Drew Brees three times, and prevented Purdue from ever finding its offensive rhythm for an extended period of time.

"We wanted to come at them a lot of different ways, we used the three-man rush, sometimes we brought everybody, used man-to-man coverage and sometimes we barked off and dropped into coverage and that's going to confuse anyone," Saylor said. "We got the better of them today." **■**



Spartan freshman quarterback Jeff Smoker had his best day of his young career passing for 195 yards and a touchdown, and rushing for 46 yards and a score. Tom Campbell

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GAME VIEW WITH OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR JIM CHANEY

Offense Never Found A Rhythm

Boilers Couldn't Run Or Pass The Ball Against The Spartans

BY KEVIN KECKLER

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Following are offensive coordinator Jim Chaney's thoughts immediately following the 30-10 loss to Michigan State Nov. 11.

GBI: From my vantage point, it certainly appeared both sides of the ball got physically dominated. Would you agree?

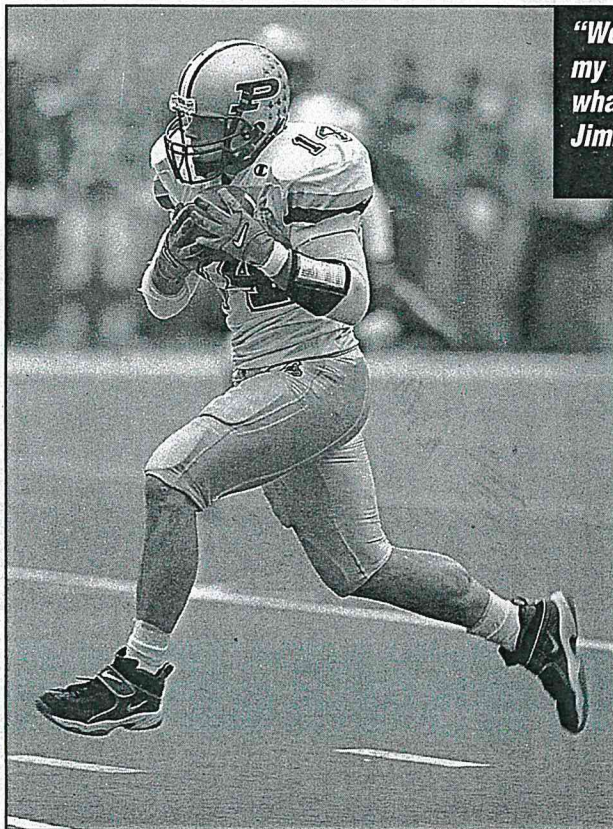
Chaney: "Even without viewing the film I would definitely agree. We took one of those good old-fashioned hind-end kickings today from the beginning of the game to the end of the game. There were some aspects that weren't that way but all-in-all I thought they played harder than we did and we lost."

GBI: Did you feel as though the effort put forth by their defensive line gave you problems?

Chaney: "I don't know about that until I've reviewed the film but I do know they did a very nice job of defending us. We knew they would be cranked up playing us and playing for a bowl game. We drew their A-game and they smacked us today. Whether that's entirely them or if it's partially us, I couldn't tell you."

GBI: Does that speak volumes about your program, considering you seem to draw every team's A-game any more?

Chaney: "I don't think it's just our program, it's any team



Tom Campbell

"We weren't real sharp today offensively and that's my fault. We'll go back to the drawing board and see what we can fix for Indiana. The buck stops with Jimmy and I take full responsibility."

— Offensive coordinator Jim Chaney

that happens to be sitting on top of the conference race in November. They're going to be shooting for you because you have some marquee players and they want to knock off the first-place team."

GBI: Did Matt Light's injury affect your team's play at all?

Chaney: "No, not really. Matt's a helluva football player and any time you lose him from your huddle it changes things a little bit. As far as play-calling and execution, we were fine with Ian (Allen) in there."

GBI: Was this the shakiest you've seen Drew (Brees) start a game?

Chaney: "Everything just seemed to be out of sync today. Whether it was Drew or the wideouts or whomever, we weren't ourselves today. We kind of got rolling when we hit the big touchdown to Vinny (Sutherland) and just when things were going good we had the turnover and we lost momentum. There were spurts when we looked like ourselves and then there were a whole lot of times when we didn't."

GBI: Did you see that interception as the turning point of the game? And what did Brees do wrong?

Chaney: "It was a big play. Drew was rolling out and got a little pressure in his face. I don't think he saw the corner coming in

off the two-deep coverage. Their corner made a good play and I don't think Drew saw him."

GBI: Did you expect the offense to struggle at all considering you were coming off a bye week?

Chaney: "No, I didn't expect rust I expected us to go out and execute our offense. But we didn't, so maybe we had rust."

GBI: You had a chance to get back in the game before halftime but your drive was halted by another interception. How frustrating was that considering you were moving the ball?

Chaney: "We talked to the kids all week about what a big-play defense Michigan State was and how they were going to try and get minus-yardage plays: They were able to do that in the first half and put us in a lot of third-

and-long situations. We knew going into this game if we were forced into a lot of third-and-longs we'd be behind the eight ball a little bit.

"We didn't do what we needed to do on first down to help us have better opportunities on third downs. As for the interception, the kid made a great play."

GBI: (Tight end Tim) Stratton only had one reception on the game and that was in the first quarter. Was it the fact they put a defensive back on him that kept him from having a big game?

Chaney: "They had a DB on him most of the game and some of the play calls we were in twins quite a bit and four-wides in our two-minute packages. That takes Tim off the field which certainly had an effect on his performance, too."

GBI: During October one of the biggest reasons you won four straight was your ability to score on the first drive of the second half. What happened today?

Chaney: "We moved it with two or three first downs and then we got stuck and had to punt the ball. We got on their side of the 50-yard line but I believe we had a penalty (illegal motion) and a dropped ball (John Standeford) so when you're playing that bad you're not going to win the ball game."

GBI: Did you think the team was uninspired and unemotional today?

Chaney: "I didn't sense that at all. The outcome of the game would indicate that something wasn't going right, obviously, but it's really hard to say at this point. My gut feeling is that we were very poor in execution on offense. The routes — needing to be where we needed to be — weren't there. We struggled with that all day. I don't know if that's effort as much as it is execution. We worked very hard on that all week and nothing seemed to materialize for us."

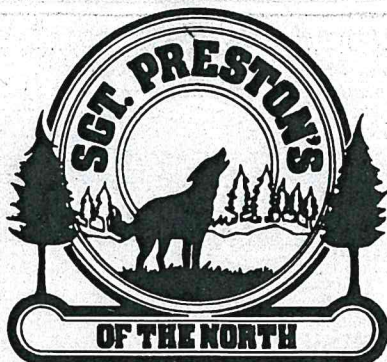
GBI: Despite being completely outplayed you were only trailing 15-3 at the half. What did you say to the offense at that point?

Chaney: "We told them to go out and have some fun. We wanted to go right out and get in our two-minute drill to try and change the tempo back to our side of the ball. We really felt we could come out and win the game considering we were only down by two touchdowns. Their attitude was good at halftime, they were ready to get back out there and play."

GBI: Were you handcuffed with respect to play-calling considering nothing seemed to be working?

Chaney: "No, I never felt handcuffed. I just felt like we needed to make some plays. We ended up trying to force some things to make some plays. One time we did and scored a touchdown and then they played drop-eight coverage and you won't make any big plays in that. **MM**

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Vinny Sutherland hauled in this 68-yard scoring bomb from Drew Brees midway through the third quarter to cut the Spartan advantage to 15-10. It was the third consecutive week Purdue connected on a long scoring pass.

Playing With Little Emotion

Defense Gets Run Over By Spartan Rushing Attack, Improvement Needed For Indiana

BY KEVIN KECKLER

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Following are defensive coordinator Brock Spack's thoughts immediately following the 30-10 loss to Michigan State Nov. 11.

GBI: Did you think your defense was flat today?

Spack: "I don't think we played with a lot of intensity and we certainly didn't have our best game in that regard. We seemed to come out and play better in the second half and get some shut downs. Then we gave up a couple of big plays and lost it again. This performance is pretty unexplainable."

GBI: Did you feel like you had the players' attention throughout the game?

Spack: "I thought we did but it's a lot harder to say that now after watching us play. I thought it was by far our poorest effort of the season and that's our fault as coaches. As a staff, we need to do whatever it takes to get them focused and we didn't perform well today."

GBI: Freshman Stuart Schweigert had a solid game with 14 tackles, two pass deflections and an interception today. Talk about his performance.

Spack: "He had to make plays most of the day because their running back was in our secondary. Before this game everyone asked me, 'Why is your free safety leading your team in tackles?' Well, today he had to because if he didn't we would have been in real trouble. I was worried about the power running game going into this contest and that came to fruition. They ran the ball well and made a lot of plays."

GBI: Is it obvious the entire team isn't executing when the receivers are dropping passes and the defense is missing makeable tackles?

Spack: "That's definitely true and we couldn't tackle today. When you're watching Purdue football play defense you know we're not playing well when a) one or two guys are having to make tackles by themselves and b) we're missing tackles. That's a tell-tale sign that the defense isn't ready to play. They had a lot to do with that and I don't want to take anything away from them... they played very well."

GBI: Although T.J. Duckett had 174 yards rushing, there were several plays where your guys could have had him stopped for a loss but he turned it into a big gain.

Spack: "Yeah, I remember the one where we had him on our sideline and he busted loose the other way for 28 yards. (Quarterback Jeff) Smoker did the same thing. That goes back to a team's intensity level and ours obvi-



Tom Campbell
Redshirt freshman Craig Terrill (92), sophomore Ralph Turner (8) and freshman Gilbert Gardner gang tackle T.J. Duckett. The Boilermaker rush defense had its worst day since a 1997 loss at Iowa, giving up 292 yards to MSU.

ously wasn't very good throughout the game. If you're not tackling on defense, you're not ready to play. There was another play where Ashante Woodyard was stuck having to make a play on a screen pass and he was the only guy out there. That's not Purdue defense and not how we got ourselves to this point in the season. There were not enough guys hustling to get to the football."

GBI: It seemed when you blitzed Ralph Turner off the edge Smoker was able to pick up on it, change the play and get the ball to the receiver of his choice. Is that how you saw it?

Spack: "Yeah, he did some of that. We tried to confuse him by showing blitz and backing off. There were times where we thought we had him and he simply made plays. It wasn't just him, though. Had we executed we probably would have won some more third down battles."

GBI: You had them in third-down situations 14 times and they were able to convert eight of them. What did you see happening that enabled them to convert so often?

Spack: "We wanted to get them in third-and-long situations and we did but they converted. We have been very good shutting teams out on third down the past few weeks and most of the season, but today we couldn't get ourselves off the field. We knew our offense

"We have been very good shutting teams out on third down the past few weeks and most of the season, but today we couldn't get ourselves off the field."

— Defensive coordinator Brock Spack

would have a tough game because they have such a good defense so it was our responsibility to continually get the ball back in our offense's hands. We were on the field far too long."

GBI: What did you tell your troops at halftime?

Spack: "We were only down 12 points and we wanted to make sure they knew that. We weren't playing with a lot of intensity and we didn't have an edge to us. I told them, 'If you want to go out and win a championship you're going to have to get that edge.' We did well for a while but we deflated after a big play would occur. We need to buckle down if we want to win a championship."

GBI: Was their group just much more physical than yours?

Spack: "Yeah, I thought they pretty much handled

us. It surprises me in some respects, but they're a good football team and we knew they would be. They're a physical team and always have been. If you don't come play physically against this team you're going to get beat... and that's what happened. So it's not a big surprise the way things turned out."

GBI: I'm sure you had heard at some point during your game that Iowa had defeated Northwestern. Obviously you don't want to lose, but you're goal of a Big Ten championship and Rose Bowl berth is still alive.

Spack: "Yeah, we still can do that but it sure would have been nice to finish things off here today. The good Lord really shined on us today, there's no question. As miserable a performance as this was today, we have to be very thankful. This is a good football league and people should recognize that. Iowa beat Penn State on the road and a good Northwestern team at home. Michigan State was in last place in the Big Ten going into this game and they just beat up the first-place team pretty bad. If you don't come ready to play every week in the Big Ten, this is what happens."

GBI: How disappointed were you that they were able to hurt you with the option, particularly considering who you have to face next week?

Spack: "Yeah they hurt us a couple of times and that was disappointing. We thought we would be able to defend it better than we did. We'll have our hands full against Indiana." ***

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