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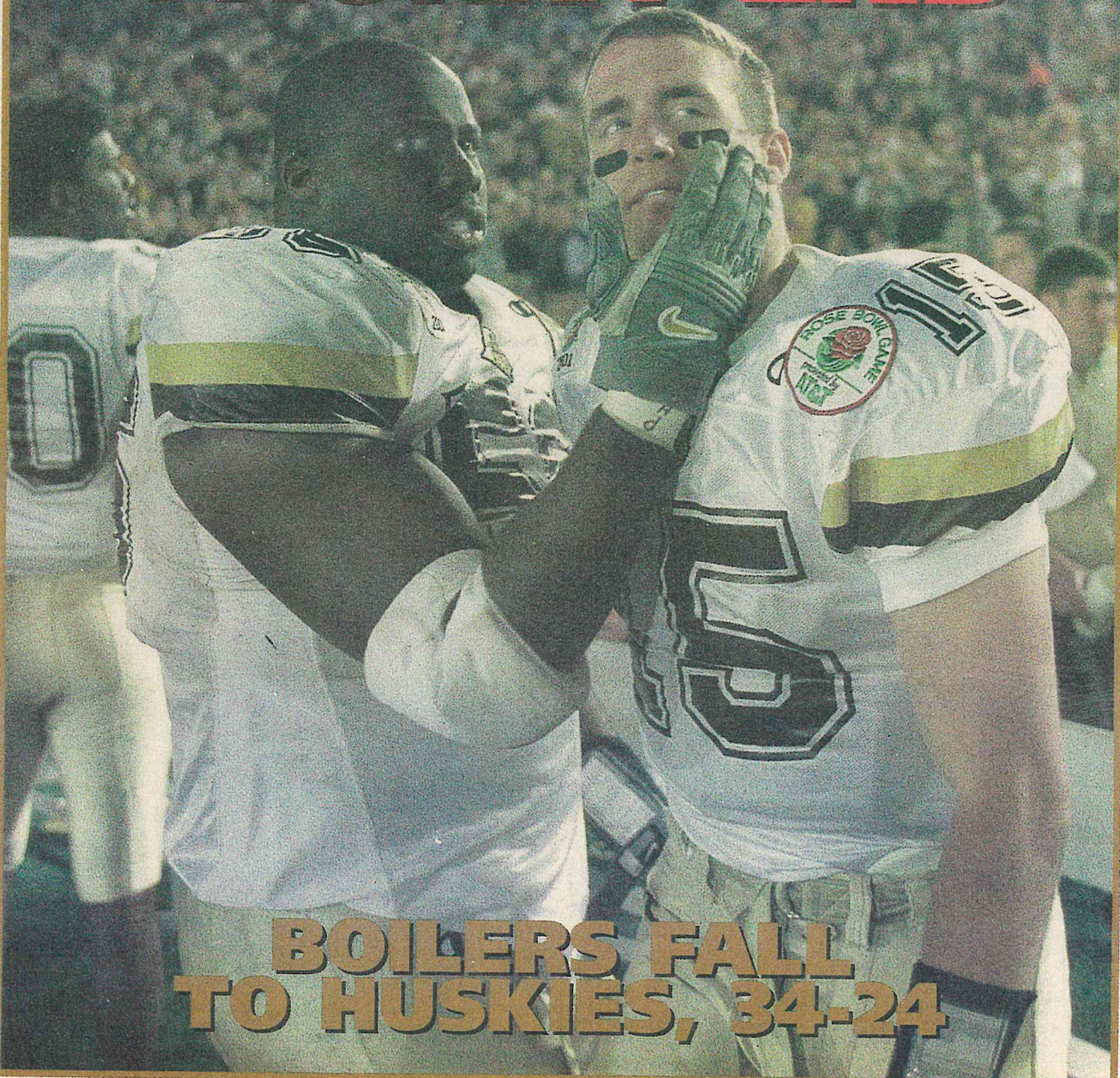
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# GOLD & BLACK

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ILLUSTRATED

## THORNY END



**BOILERS FALL  
TO HUSKIES, 34-24**





NO. 4 WASHINGTON 34, NO. 14 PURDUE 24

# (UN)HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Boilers' Pasadena Experience Didn't Come Up Rosy

BY DOUG GRIFFITHS

PASADENA, Calif. — Coach Joe Tiller hit it right on the head when discussing the keys to the 87th Rose Bowl.

On Dec. 31, Tiller said the two keys to the game would be — turnovers and the kicking game.

The fourth-year Purdue boss was exactly right as his 14th-ranked Boilermakers had a costly turnover and made two critical mistakes in the kicking game. Those three blunders cost Purdue dearly in a 34-24 loss to fourth-ranked Washington Jan. 1 on a picture perfect day in Pasadena before a sellout crowd of 94,392 and an ABC national television audience.

The loss was even more painful considering it marked the end of quarterback Drew Brees' brilliant collegiate career. Brees, howev-

er, went out in style, throwing for 275 yards and a pair of touchdowns without an interception. He completed 23-of-39 passes.

"It was a great road getting here," Brees said. "It was a dream season. Of course, I'm upset that we lost, but I thought we played hard and never gave up."

"I can't say enough about Drew Brees as a player and a person," said Washington quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo, who was voted the Player-of-the-Game after throwing for 138 yards (on 16-of-22 passing) and one touchdown and rushing for 75 yards, including a 5-yard TD run.

Purdue finished its season 8-4 overall, while Washington won its eighth straight to conclude the campaign 11-1. Its only loss came Sept. 30 at Oregon (23-16).

The Huskies gave the Pac-10 its first Rose Bowl victory in five years and just its second in

### SIX OFFENSIVE LINEMEN?

One new wrinkle Purdue showed against Washington was putting offensive tackle Brandon Gorin in motion out of the H-back position and using him as a lead blocker for running back Montrell Lowe. When Gorin was used that way, senior Ian Allen came in to play tackle.

"We felt like we could run the ball on the perimeter against Washington," Coach Joe Tiller said. "We believed the best way to do that was to substitute to what we call 'Giant' where we slip another offensive tackle on the field. We actually had six offensive linemen on the field. We could even audible out of it so we could put either tackle in motion."

### WILL HE OR WON'T HE?

It won't be long until tight end Tim Stratton decides whether to return for his senior season or enter the NFL Draft. Word among Purdue players and coaches is that Stratton will be back in a Boilermaker uniform next fall.

The winner of the inaugural John Mackey Award, presented to the nation's top tight end, said after the Washington loss that he would likely make a decision by the second week in January. Players have until Jan. 12 to announce their intentions.

### BATTERED AND BRUISED

You can bet running back Montrell Lowe woke up Jan. 2 aching.

On several of his runs, he paid the price as the Huskies teed off on him.

In the second quarter, Lowe collided with Washington strong safety Greg Carothers. The result: Lowe's helmet went flying and he split his lip.

"I made contact with him," Lowe recalled. "He was standing there and I ran right at him."

It may come as something of a surprise, but the 5-foot-8, 186-pound Lowe enjoys absorbing such punishment.

"That's football," he said. "If you don't expect to get knocked down, you're in the wrong sport. You get in there, get knocked down, get banged up, your helmet comes off and you go back in there and play some more."

Lowe finished with 79 yards on 20 carries against the Huskies, but fell short of the 1,000-yard mark this season. The LaPorte, Texas, native finished the season with 998 yards.

"I'm proud of that guy," offensive tackle Matt Light said. "He's a competitor and he's fierce."

### ROSE BOWL TIDBITS

● Rose Bowl officials estimated that 164 million people watched the Purdue-Washington game on television. In addition, an estimated 425 million TV viewers in 100 countries watched the Rose Parade.

● You might have seen former Boilermaker All-American Leroy Keyes walking around with his arm in a sling. He injured tendons in his right shoulder while in Southern California. Keyes, a key member of Purdue's 1967 Rose Bowl Championship team, suffered the injury when he was lifting a helium tank during a Purdue function prior to the game.

● Purdue fell to 7-16-3 against Pac-10 teams, including 1-7-1 against Washington. The Boilermakers, who have never played Arizona, Arizona State and Washington State, are 1-3 vs. USC, 0-3-2 vs. UCLA, 3-1 vs. Stanford, 1-0 vs. Oregon, 1-1 vs. California and 0-1 vs. Oregon State.

● Purdue is 2-6-1 in games played in the state of California and 1-4-1 in contests played in the Los Angeles area.

● The Big Ten is 29-29 in the Rose Bowl.

### NEXT TEST

The Boilermakers begin off-season conditioning later this month in preparation for Spring Practice, which begins in April. Also of note is the date Feb. 7, National Signing Day for high school seniors.

For the fourth time in Coach Joe Tiller's five seasons at Purdue, the Boilermakers will open a season on the road. Purdue travels to Cincinnati to face the Bearcats Sept. 1, 2001. Cincinnati finished the 2000 season 7-5 following a 25-14 loss to Marshall in the Motor City Bowl.

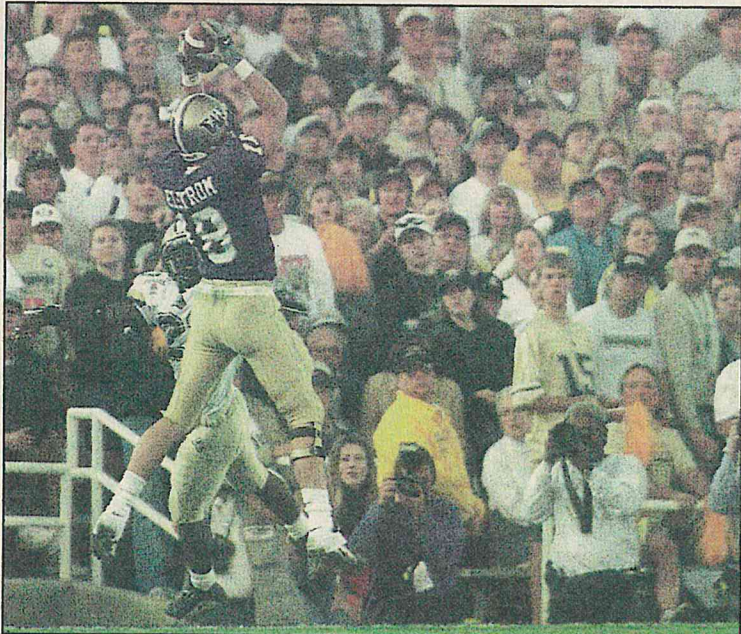
Cincinnati plays its home games in Nippert Stadium, which seats 35,000.

Under Tiller, Purdue is 2-2 in season openers, but 1-3 in season road openers.



Tom Campbell

Washington's hard-hitting defense had quarterback Drew Brees under pressure for much of the game. The Huskies completely shut down Brees' ability to run, holding him to no positive yardage for the first time this year.



Tom Campbell

Husky receiver Todd Elstrom's 8-yard scoring catch from Marques Tuiasosopo gave Washington a 27-17 lead with 12 minutes left in the game. Elstrom utilized his eight-inch height advantage over defending cornerback Chris Clopton.



the last nine games. Washington was playing in its first Rose Bowl in eight years.

The Boilermakers never led in their first Rose Bowl appearance in 34 years, but tied the game at 17 with 11:58 remaining in the third quarter after falling behind 14-0 in the first quarter.

Purdue knotted the score when Brees threw a strike to receiver Vinny Sutherland down the left sideline. Sutherland's over-the-shoulder grab sent the estimated 40,000 Purdue fans in attendance into a frenzy.

"I don't think they're better than us," said a frustrated Sutherland after the game. "We just played horribly."

The score didn't stay tied for long as the Huskies answered with a 42-yard field goal by John Anderson on their next possession.

With 54 seconds to go in the third quarter and Washington up 20-17, Purdue's momentum, which had been building since late in the first quarter, appeared to receive a huge boost when Tuiaosopo left the game with an injury. Tuiaosopo sprained his right (throwing) shoulder on a 1-yard rushing play when line-backer Landon Johnson tossed him to the ground. Tuiaosopo left the game and sprinted off to the locker room. He missed three snaps before returning, which marked the first time in

his Husky career that he had missed an offensive play due to injury.

"I was mad," said Tuiaosopo about having to leave the game. "I was like, 'Can you believe this, the Rose Bowl game?'"

"He is the absolute epitome of what a quarterback should be," Washington coach Rick Neuheisel said. "He hurt his shoulder, came back and said he could play. The rest, as they say, is history."

What soon became history was Purdue's chance to win the game.

Tuiaosopo started the fourth quarter and helped convert a fourth-and-one from Purdue's 35. That critical conversion led to an 8-yard Tuiaosopo TD pass to 6-foot-3 receiver Todd Elstrom.

On the touchdown pass, cornerback Chris Clopton tried helplessly to cover Elstrom. But being eight inches shorter than Elstrom led to an easy score as Tuiaosopo just threw the ball up on the left side of the end zone and Elstrom leaped over Clopton for the touchdown.

Tuiaosopo's lone TD pass gave the Huskies a 27-17 lead with 12:00 to play.

It was no surprise the Huskies started the fourth quarter with a scoring drive. After all, they outscored the opposition 144-68 in the fourth quarter during the regular season.

As it had throughout the game, Purdue responded by marching down the field. With more than 11 minutes to go, the Boilermakers, who were in Husky territory on five of their first six possessions, had a first-and-10 from the Husky 37. But running back Montrell Lowe fumbled after a jarring hit by free safety Greg Carothers. Washington recovered the ball at its own 34. It was the game's first turnover and sent Lowe, who gained 79 yards on 20 carries, to the sideline for the rest of the game with an injured shoulder.

Seven plays later, Husky running back Willie Hurst scored on an 8-yard run and it looked like Purdue would get blown out.

To the Boilermakers credit, though, they didn't give up. Down 34-17 and under seven minutes remaining, Purdue took just 48 seconds to go 61 yards to get within 10. Capping the five-play drive was a 42-yard run down the right sideline by Sedrick Brown on fourth-and-one.

The game really got interesting on the next series. On a third-and-three from his own 25, Tuiaosopo broke into the clear on an option left. He made his only mistake of the game when he tried to pitch the ball to Elstrom, who was trailing on the play, after getting hit by Clopton in the open field. Cornerback Ashante Woodyard grabbed the ball out of mid-air giving Purdue new life at its 49 with 5:31 left.

The Boilermakers drove to the 24, but three incomplete passes forced Tiller to send out the field goal unit to attempt a 42-yarder. Travis Dorsch's kick was wide left. Washington took over with 4:54 to play and never relinquished possession.

"From that point on the field, you have to make that kick," said Tiller, whose team allowed more points than it had all season in a game. "I think if we would have made that kick, we would have taken a real run at them right there at the end."

"It's a kick you've got to make; I just missed it," Dorsch said. "You prepare and you do your best when the time comes, but sometimes, you don't succeed."

If Dorsch had converted to cut the lead to seven, Tiller said the Boilermakers would have tried an onside kick.

As disappointed as the Boilermakers were when Dorsch missed the kick, they were equally perturbed with the way they started the game.

Washington scored on its first two possessions, with Braxton Cleman scoring on a 1-yard run and Tuiaosopo's run.

The second score came after tight end Tim Stratton's snap sailed over the head of punter Scott Kurz, who had to fall on the ball at the Purdue 25.

"I think I put a little too much velocity on it," Stratton said. "The coaches said everything looked good, it was just too fast."

"I thought my snap changed the momentum of the game."

The Huskies took a 14-0 lead three plays later.

The poor snap wasn't the only nightmare in the opening 15 minutes. Purdue committed six first-quarter penalties, none of which was more costly than a pass interference infraction whistled on Clopton. On third-and-nine from its 39, Tuiaosopo overthrew receiver Justin Robbins down the middle of the field, but the back judge threw a late flag. Replays showed that Clopton did not interfere. Instead of a three-and-out, Washington retained possession and got a first down at the Boilermaker 48. The Huskies eventually scored on the drive. Perhaps as important as the score was the fact the Huskies kept the ball for 5:11.

For the game, Purdue was penalized 11 times, which was one more than its regular season high, and only one short of the all-time Rose Bowl record. Washington was flagged for six infractions.

"I personally want to criticize the officials," Stratton said. "That was horrible. Some of the calls were terrible and some of them weren't fair. They were doing the same (stuff) we were, but they didn't get called for it."

Three times, Purdue was called for interference when the Huskies were fielding punts, including once by Stratton. A defender is required to allow the receiver a two-yard halo to catch the ball.

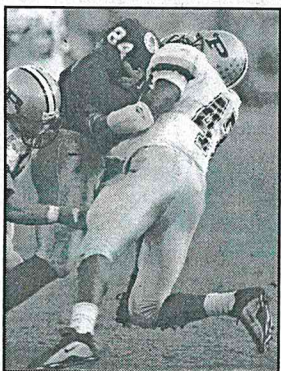
It was the same story last year in the

*Continued on page 11*

## Who's HOT

Redshirt freshman linebacker Landon Johnson enjoyed another outstanding performance against the Huskies. The 6-foot-3, 210-pounder

showed the nation he will be one of the Big Ten's top returning defenders in 2001, especially after he adds 10-15 pounds in the weight room. Johnson was single-handedly, literally speaking, able to bring down Marques Tuiaosopo on a crucial third down play in the third quarter. Johnson finished with nine tackles, all unassisted.



Tom Campbell

Redshirt freshman linebacker Landon Johnson enjoyed another solid outing, recording nine solo tackles.

## Who's NOT

It wasn't a particularly wonderful game for either Tim Stratton or Travis Dorsch. While

each had bright spots, Stratton reeled in a 24-yard reception and Dorsch nailed a 26-yard field goal, both also will have less than thrilling memories of their efforts in the Rose Bowl. Stratton zinged his second punt snap over the head of Scott Kurz and the miscue led to Washington's second touchdown of the game. Dorsch missed a crucial 42-yard field goal with less than five minutes left in the fourth quarter.

## INSIDE SCOOP

The Boilermakers have plenty of talent back on defense but who will direct the offense and provide blocking remains to be seen. Don't be surprised if sophomore tight end Pete Lougheed moves to right tackle to provide an experienced, strong blocker to the line. There's also an outside possibility A.T. Simpson, who weighs almost 235 pounds, could see some action at tight end down the road.

We would have been more concentrated on getting another first down late in the fourth quarter as opposed to going for it all. With the ball on the 24-yard line and less than five minutes left, Drew Brees misfired on three straight pass attempts, two of which were fade routes to Vinny Sutherland. Had Purdue, which was trailing 34-24, been able to pick up five yards on first, second or third downs, it could have gone for it on fourth rather than attempt a field goal.



## KEEP YOUR EYES ON

The Boilermaker linebacking trio of Johnson, Gilbert Gardner and Joe Odom will be one of the best you've seen at Purdue in some time. They have tremendous speed and each has valuable experience under their belt now. Between the three, 20 tackles were recorded in the Rose Bowl, as well as three tackles for losses.

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# GREAT EXPERIENCE DESPITE LOSS

PASADENA, Calif. — Was getting to the Rose Bowl enough for Purdue?

At first blush, coaches and players would probably say no. They thought they could beat Washington. But when one takes a step back and looks at how far Purdue's football program has progressed in the past four seasons, thoughts turn more towards the journey than the destination.

"We wanted to win this game in the worst way," said quarterback Drew Brees, clearly not wanting to take his Purdue uniform off the final time as he was dressed in full pads at the postgame press conference after the 34-24 loss to Washington. "But this loss does not lessen what this team accomplished."

The point is, the football program has not reached its final destination. At least Purdue fans hope not.

For the players, the experience was incredible. To have the opportunity to participate in one of the world's greatest sporting events is something that will last a lifetime. Now the question is will the 2001 Rose Bowl have to last followers of Purdue football a lifetime, or even half of a lifetime? Will it be 34 years before Purdue returns to

Pasadena?

No one knows for sure, but I wouldn't bet against the Boilers at least being in position to return to the Rose Bowl sometime in the next five years. Coach Joe Tiller and his staff saw in their conquerors, the Washington Huskies, the kind of team and program they want to become.

If you look at the glass as half full, the Boilermakers will capitalize climbing the college football ladder to the top rung, knowing they have yet to get on the top step. Purdue has already benefitted greatly with the Rose Bowl experience by having more than 20 recruits verbally commit a month before signing day. They saw in Washington, not unlike Penn State and Notre Dame earlier in the year, a team that beat them with better attention to detail. The Huskies' lone error came after it had a 10-point lead, while the Boilermakers' penalties, special teams mistakes and lone turnover forced them to tread water instead of attack.

Tiller and staff will use this game



as another building block in his program's development. It was great to get there, Tiller will tell his team, but the next challenge is to compete once again for a Big Ten title.

Don't get me wrong, winning the Rose Bowl was important and would have helped Purdue tremendously. Tiller's program has the opportunity to join teams like Iowa in the 1980s and Wisconsin in the 90s as non-traditional Big Ten powers to make multiple visits to Pasadena. Bolstered with three Rose Bowl wins, the Badgers have maintained a high level under Coach Barry Alvarez. Iowa, under former coach Hayden Fry, however, played miserably in three trips to Pasadena and in many ways those performances minimized the impact of the team's overall achievements during Fry's tenure.

Purdue did not play miserably against Washington by a long shot. More likely, its performance left an impression on the nation of a program on the rise, not one lucky to be in

Pasadena.

For most fans that I ran into, the Rose Bowl experience was a very positive one. Blessed with perfect weather throughout its stay, the Purdue contingent reveled in the New Year's Day spectacle. From the parachutists, to the Purdue band and the nearly 40,000 Purdue fans in a simultaneous frenzy, to the stirring fly-over just before kickoff, it was an experience I will never forget.

Couple the sights, sounds and smells of the Rose Bowl with the reunion of family, old college friends and the like, and it was truly a special trip. For the Boilermaker faithful who weren't blessed with the opportunity to attend, all I can say is the color, sights and sounds of the Rose Bowl event exceeded my expectations. Not many things in life do that these days.

## OUR NEXT ISSUE MAILES JAN. 15

### On The Cover

Senior center Chucky Okobi (56) comforts senior quarterback Drew Brees as the clock winds down in the 2001 Rose Bowl. It was a disappointing swan song for the 17 Boilermaker seniors playing in their final game. Cover and University Spirit photos by Tom Campbell.

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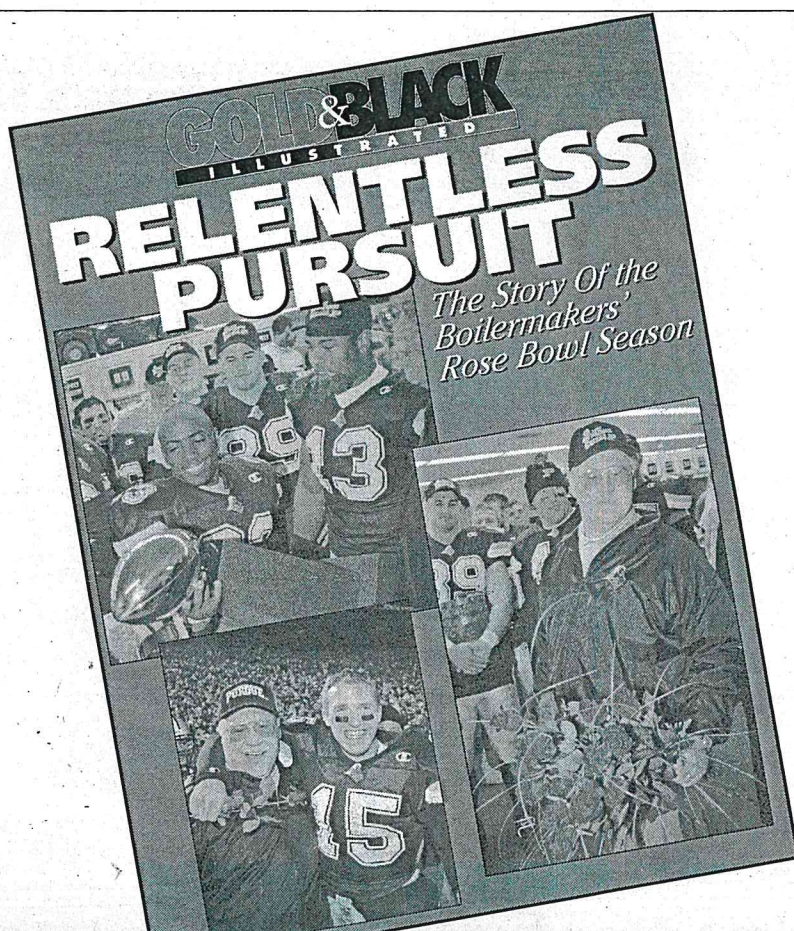


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# WALKING AWAY A WINNER

## Brees' Purdue Career Successful Despite Rose Bowl Loss

BY MATT BRANN

PASADENA, Calif. — It wasn't the way Drew Brees' magical career at Purdue was supposed to end.

A perfect script would have had the Boilermakers' record-breaking quarterback directing Purdue on a game-winning drive late in the fourth quarter against Washington Jan. 1 in the Rose Bowl. But the Boilermakers lost 34-24 to the Huskies, ending Brees' collegiate career.

As he walked off the Rose Bowl field, No. 15 kept his head held high. He waved good-bye to the throng of Purdue fans and raised his gold helmet in the air one final time as he entered the tunnel to Purdue's locker room.

Brees was as disappointed about his team's loss as anybody, but he realized Purdue's accomplishments the past four seasons, including the program's first Rose Bowl berth in 34 years, shouldn't be overshadowed by a 10-point loss to the nation's fourth-ranked team. That's why his head and helmet were held high when he walked off the field for the final time as a Purdue Boilermaker.

"We accomplished what we wanted to do," Brees said following the game. "We got to the Rose Bowl, but we still wanted to win it. Being able to win this would have been great for the program and ourselves, because so many people didn't think we'd be doing this and they didn't believe in us. Coming up short is rough, but we gave it all we had."

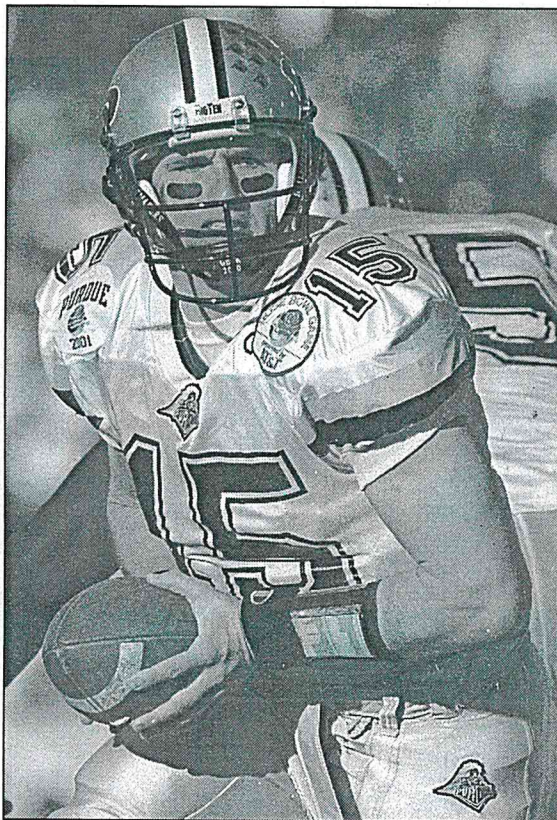
While Brees didn't win his final game at Purdue, he leaves West Lafayette as a winner. He helped resurrect a program that was six feet under in the early 1990s and turned it into a mainstay among the nation's top 25 teams.

He shattered nearly every school and Big Ten record in his three years as Purdue's starting quarterback, many held by former Purdue greats such as Len Dawson, Bob Griese, Mark Herrmann and Jim Everett. In doing so, Brees raised the bar for Purdue's Cradle of Quarterbacks, even though the bar was already extremely high.

Brees' final passing statistics are staggering: 1,026-of-1,678 (.611) for 11,802 yards and 90 touchdowns. He owns 19 school records, 13 Big Ten records and two NCAA marks.

Coach Joe Tiller joked that Brees' departure might force him into early retirement.

"What Drew has done for Purdue is elevate our program from a national awareness standpoint," Tiller said. "He has created aware-



Tom Campbell

**Quarterback Drew Brees has meant everything to Purdue football both on and off the field. He won 24 games as a starter and led the Boilers to two New Year's Day bowl games and a postseason victory over No. 4-ranked Kansas State in the 1998 Alamo Bowl.**

ness of Purdue football all over the country."

Offensive coordinator Jim Chaney hopes Brees has set a standard future Boilermakers will strive to match.

"I certainly hope he has raised the level for quarterbacks at Purdue," Chaney said. "He's a super kid. I hope he's raised the level for every student-athlete that comes to Purdue. He has been everything we've wanted and more from a standpoint of a student-athlete."

Indeed, Brees has been just as successful off the field as he has on it. This season he was named the Academic All-American-of-the-Year and a National Collegiate Scholar-Athlete by the National Football Foundation and the College Football Hall of Fame. The management major owns a 3.42 cumulative GPA, earned a 4.0 during the 2000 Spring semester and made the dean's list three out of the last four semesters.

He was also a spokesperson for the American Lung Association, March of Dimes and Census 2000, and has also been actively involved with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Lafayette Boys and Girls Club, Boy Scouts of America and the Gentle Giants program.

"He's been a leader on and off the field," said sophomore running back Montrell Lowe.

"If any one of our players hasn't taken a piece of him off this field when he leaves, that is very detrimental to them and they have missed out dearly. He has done a lot of things for this program and we'll miss him next year."

Next year Brees plans on taking snaps for an NFL team. He's expected to be a first-round draft selection after finishing in the top five of the Heisman Trophy balloting the past two seasons.

The accomplishments by Brees are nothing short of amazing considering what he had to overcome in order to achieve greatness.

Brees was barely recruited out of high school after blowing out his knee during his junior year at Austin (Texas) Westlake High School. He chose Purdue over Kentucky, and took limited snaps as a freshman.

The next season there were so many questions surrounding Brees' abilities. He was deemed too short, too slow and too weak, so much so that Tiller brought in a junior college quarterback (David Edgerton). Brees won the starting job, and has been winning ever since.

But when Brees was fighting for the starting quarterback position, one of his teammates grew bitter toward him.

"When Drew Brees first got here

I didn't like him," said fifth-year senior offensive lineman Ian Allen. "Clay Walters was here and he was the quarterback I thought would take over. He was in my original class, and I was expecting Clay to be the man. Drew comes here and all of a sudden Clay is No. 3, then No. 4 and then transfers. One of my friends left because of Brees."

"But that first game he started against USC, I saw how composed he was. I got to know him, got to like him and got to love him. One thing that really won me over as far as Brees' abilities was during 6 a.m. workouts, there would be a garbage can 50 yards away and he would run and throw the football and it would fall either into the garbage can or right near it every time. That was how accurate he was."

Behind Brees' accurate arm, Purdue was 24-13 with him starting behind center, including going to three straight bowl games, two of which were on New Year's Day. In the process, Brees forever etched his name alongside Purdue's other great signal callers.

All of the team and individual success was hard for Brees to comprehend minutes after he completed his final game for the Boilermakers.

"No way did I think my career would end with us playing in the Rose Bowl," Brees said. "I didn't even know about the Cradle of Quarterbacks when I first came to Purdue. When I found out about that I thought, 'Gosh, how am I going to stack up against those guys?'"

"I just did everything I could to help us win. My role changed throughout my three years of starting, but I always strived to get to the Rose Bowl. It's been a great run." ■■

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ROSE BOWL VIEW WITH OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR JIM CHANEY

# A MATTER OF INCHES

Boiler Offense Fails To Get Crucial Third-Down Conversions

BY KEVIN KECKLER

PASADENA, Calif. — Following are offensive coordinator Jim Chaney's thoughts on how Purdue performed in the 34-24 loss to No. 4 Washington in the 87th annual Rose Bowl Jan. 1.

**GBI: This is obviously a tough loss to swallow, but isn't this a game you'll never forget?**

Chaney: "I don't think I will, you're right. It's been fantastic. We were involved in a good football game and had we not screwed up a couple of big third down plays it might have been a different outcome. For the year we had been making them by six-to-eight inches and tonight on two critical third downs we missed by six or eight inches. That put our defense back on the field too fast in the third quarter. Our ineptitude to convert those two plays was the difference in the game."

**GBI: Did your offense spoil everyone with its incredible success on third down this year?**

Chaney: "We've been good all year and it's pretty much the nature of our beast. We want to put ourselves in those positions. We did some things that were uncharacteristic like not knowing where the markers were and coming up a little short. They put some pressure on us in our empty passing game today and they screwed us up a little bit. We switched to four-wide receiver sets and that was much more favorable to us."

**GBI: Are the Huskies as good as their No. 4 ranking?**

Chaney: "They are a very good football team. You can't take anything away from them. We did some good things, but when you play a big-time game like this the details are what become most important to winning. Our details were a little off today. The six inches that got us here weren't present in today's game. We lost and the rest is history."

**GBI: Talk about the success your offensive line had against a very talented Washington defensive front.**

Chaney: "I think our offensive line did a fantastic job. We knew going in we would have to negate their defensive line to have any success and I believe that's one thing we did. I don't normally say this, but I felt our o-line dominated them up front. The pressure they got on us was due to different schemes where we had no one to account for their guys."

**GBI: You ran a play we've never seen before where you made Brandon Gorin like a tight end and put him in motion. It worked a few times in the first half. Did you plan on coming back to that more in the second half?**

Chaney: "We could have done it more. We were doing what we wanted to in the second half but then we got backed up too far in our own zone. Then, we were down by 17 points and it was too late."

**GBI: It was critical that you get some kind of points before the end of the first half. You could have had a touchdown if John Standeford would have held on to Drew Brees' pass.**

*"I have never been to any of the other BCS bowls, but I would find it hard to believe any could be better than this one."*

— Offensive coordinator Jim Chaney on participating in the Rose Bowl



Tom Campbell  
Vinnie Sutherland's second touchdown catch of the game tied the game at 17 early in the third quarter.

Chaney: "It looked like a pretty darn good pass to me. John was playing in his first ever bowl game and he's done a great job for us this year. I hated to see him drop that pass, but those things happen. He'll bounce back and be a great wide receiver."

**GBI: You got a huge kickstart from Vinnie Sutherland after halftime with that tremendous kickoff return. Talk about his play.**

Chaney: "Field position was so critical throughout this ball game and for Vinnie to get us back to their 35-yard line after they converted a field goal was gigantic. You're right, he was pretty damn good today. We'll miss him."

**GBI: Montrell Lowe played so tough for you it had to be a terrible feeling to see him fumble at such a crucial point in the game.**

Chaney: "I wish we hadn't turned it over then. We just started to get some momentum coming back our way and we felt good. I'd take that fumble and the two third-downs back if I could do anything. Their safeties were cracking our running backs all game. They were unblocked a lot today and it was our job to make them miss or run over them. Montrell was great today, overall."

**GBI: How thrilled were you to see Sedrick Brown finally bust out for that fourth-quarter touchdown?**

Chaney: "I have never seen that out of the young man and I can't put into words how thrilled I am for Sedrick. I'm just tickled that he took it to the house. It was a big-time football play. It gives us a lot of hope for his future."

**GBI: You were trailing by 10 points and a touchdown might have really put some pressure on them. Was there any thought of going for it on fourth down in the final quarter or was the field goal a no-brainer?**

Chaney: "We thought we'd take a chance at a touchdown on third-and-long. They blitzed us on the first two downs so I really thought they would again and they didn't. We threw a fade to Vinny, the same play we've scored on many times. We didn't get it and we approached it knowing if that were the case we needed a field goal anyway."

**GBI: You tried to go to Sutherland two out of three downs from the 24-yard line. Do you wish you had spread it out or looked for someone else, thinking a first down was just as important as a touchdown?**

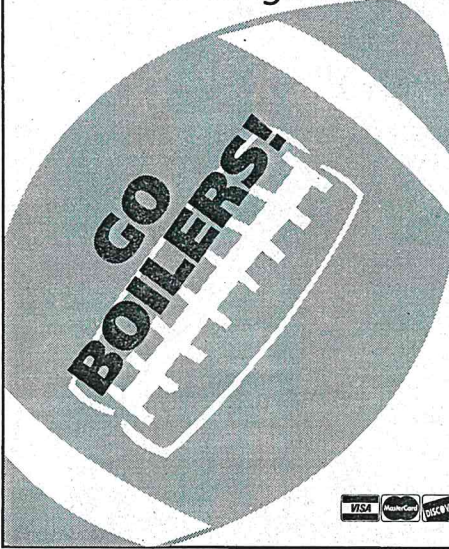
Chaney: "No, I wouldn't have changed a thing. We were going to Vinny."

**GBI: Was the Rose Bowl experience everything you thought it would be?**

Chaney: "Absolutely. In fact, it was totally overwhelming. What amazes me is how many people are involved in the entire production of the Rose Bowl. From the parade to the football game and all of the festivities there within, it's just an unbelievable experience. This was fantastic. I have never been to any of the other BCS bowls, but I would find it hard to believe any could be better than this one." ■■■

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# Battered And Bruised

## Defense Wears Down Against Bigger Huskies

BY MATT BRANN

PASADENA, Calif. — Purdue's defense was battered and bruised by Washington's huge offensive line in the Boilermakers' 34-24 loss to the Huskies in the Rose Bowl Jan. 1. *Gold & Black Illustrated* talked with defensive coordinator Brock Spack immediately following the game to get his thoughts on the game and the experience.

**GBI:** In the third quarter, after Purdue tied the score, did Washington's offense just begin to click and make your defense tired?

**Spack:** "We tried to rotate our defensive guys around a little. I thought with the sun going down in the second half, we'd be well rested. We played a very good first half and held them to 86 yards. But we couldn't get off the field on third downs in the second half and just didn't get it done. We got worn out. At some positions our immaturity hurt us a little."

**GBI:** In the fourth quarter, when the defense was fighting to get the ball back to your offense, did Washington's big offensive line wear the defense down?

**Spack:** "They did. They went to middle

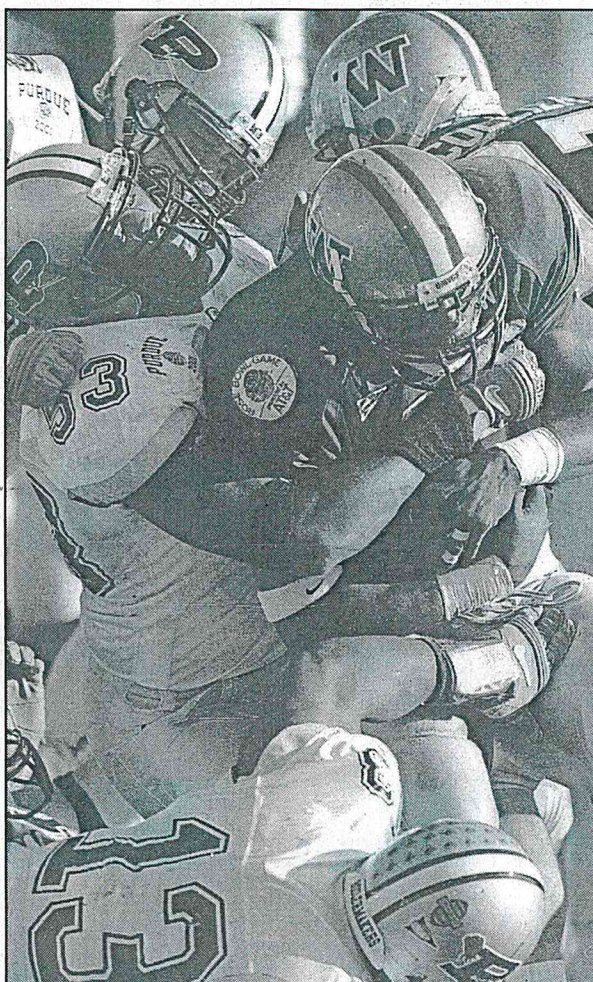
splits, and we tried to pressure them. When you do that, you open yourself up to the running game. We just couldn't make a play. In the first half we did, in the second half we didn't. That was the big issue."

**GBI:** After seeing Washington quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo, what kind of player do you think he is?

**Spack:** "He's a great player. He's as good as I thought he'd be. He's very competitive, a strong runner and he's got good game speed. They do a good job with him in their play calling and keeping the defense off balance. They are 11-1 for a reason. They are a great team."

**GBI:** How did you think the defense defended Washington's option offense?

**Spack:** "In the first half I thought we did excellent. In the second half we made some mistakes on the perimeter when



We've been there before and you've got to fight through adversity. I thought we regrouped OK.

"I didn't particularly agree with the pass interference call, but you've got to live with it. On the punt snap, we've got to make plays down there. It's our job to keep the other team out of the end zone and we didn't get our job done."

**GBI:** It's nothing new for the defense to be put in those situations, is it?

**Spack:** "We haven't done that (punt team breakdown) in a while, but bless their hearts they did it again today. It's hard to overcome those type of errors in a big bowl game against a quality opponent."

**GBI:** Not playing for more than a month, was the defense rusty or did it play well after that long layoff?

**Spack:** "Early in the game we had a couple of things go against us that caused us some problems, but I didn't think we were rusty at all. We played well in the first half and got rolling, but we just got tired in the end. It was a physical contest."

**GBI:** Linebacker Landon Johnson seemed to have a great game. What did you think of his performance?

**Spack:** "He seemed to play real well. But he too got a little tired at the end of the game. But he did make some plays."

**GBI:** Johnson is one of many young, talented players you have coming back on defense. Are you excited about the future of Purdue's defense?

**Spack:** "I saw something in the first half that really excited me. Gilbert Gardner made a great play on a screen pass. Then Landon made a great play on an option. Then Stuart Schweigert sacked the quarterback on a safety blitz. All three of those guys are freshmen and they're going to be pretty good."

"We've got a bright future, but we've obviously got a lot of work ahead of us. We are nowhere near where we want to be. We'll take a little break, then get back into training and hopefully get back to the Rose Bowl again."

**GBI:** Was the whole Rose Bowl experience everything you dreamed it would be?

**Spack:** "It was everything and more. It was very impressive. I'm a racing fan, so I compare it to rivaling the Indianapolis 500. It looks a lot like that because it's a very traditional event with the parade and everything else that goes on. People around here take a lot of pride in it, and that really shows. It was a very impressive experience." **AW**

Defensive ends Akin Ayodele (13) and Shaun Phillips corral Washington running back Willie Hurst. The Boilermaker defense could not stop the Huskies ground game in the second half giving up 245 yards.

Tom Campbell

they would pitch the ball. I was worried about that a little bit. We just missed our assignments on the perimeter.

"In the fourth quarter their fullback (Pat Conniff) really wore us out. He's a big, physical guy and he started pounding the ball against us."

**GBI:** On a few third-and-long plays, Washington was able to convert to tight end Jeramy Stevens. Was the defense playing a soft zone on those plays?

**Spack:** "I remember in the first half they hit him a few times, but I don't remember him catching many balls in the second half. We were actually playing our tightest coverage and we just let him go free on a crossing route over the middle of the field."

"On one play in the first half our linebacker was supposed to follow him over the middle and didn't. But we got off the field on that drive, so it didn't hurt us. But their tight end is very athletic."

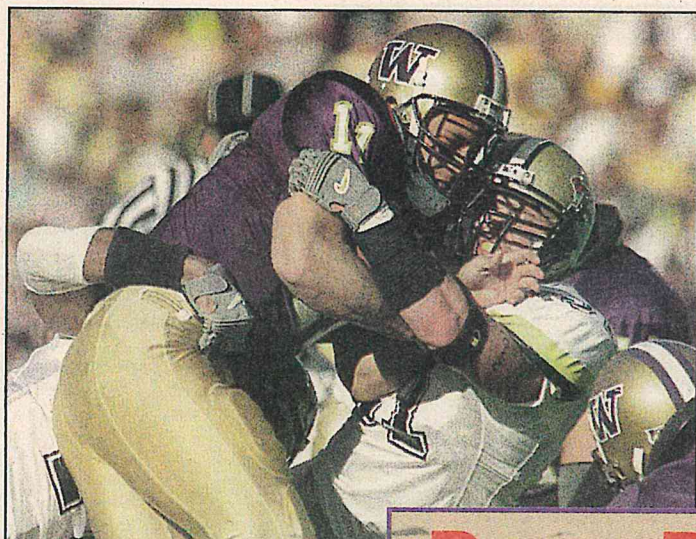
**GBI:** Did you feel that the pass interference call and the bad punt snap put the defense's back against the wall early in the game?

**Spack:** "Yes, but that's part of the game."

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Tom Campbell

Sophomore linebacker Joe Odom had his hands full trying to contain game MVP Marques Tuiasosopo. The elusive Husky quarterback amassed 213 yards in total offense and accounted for two scores.

Continued from page 3

Outback Bowl, when the Boilermakers were whistled for 14 penalties.

"The No. 1 rule is to not penalize yourself out of the game," said Tiller, who has led the Boilermakers to four bowl games in his first four seasons in West Lafayette. "The No. 2 rule is to put yourself in position to win. I didn't think we did that, particularly in the third quarter.

"If you look at the scoreboard, one would suggest our defense struggled. But I really think it was our offense that under-performed. Our third quarter was really a disastrous quarter. I really felt like the third quarter was the difference, not the fourth quarter."

Part of the Boilers' offensive struggles can be attributed to failures on third down. Purdue, which entered the game leading the nation in third down conversions, failed to convert on a couple of third-and-shorts in the third quarter.

On a third-and-5 from his own 31, Brees' pass to Sutherland was 2 yards short. On the next possession, Brees' pass to Standford came up a yard short on a third-and-4 from the Purdue 10. As a result, Purdue had to punt and Washington got great field position. The Huskies then drove 44 yards for a touchdown.

"When we had those two three-and-outs and put Washington's offense back on the field, it put our defense at a real disadvantage," Tiller said.

"Also, I thought Washington smelled it. To their credit, I thought they really turned the dial up."

"I think maybe they went back at halftime and talked things over, maybe cleaned things up, and they found out where our weaknesses were," Boilermaker linebacker Joe Odom said. "We just didn't react quick enough to them and to the changes they made. They really got after it in the second half, maybe more than we did."

One of the changes Washington made was to run more option, which it did on the first play of the second half, to great success.

Running back Rich Alexis, who gained 78 yards on 10 carries, ran 50 yards on the first play of the second half after a nifty late pitch from Tuiasosopo on an option left. Alexis' run set up Anderson's first field goal from 47 yards out.

Washington also used its fullback more in the second half, as Pat Conniff rushed for 45 yards on eight carries.

Purdue was able to tie the score thanks, in part, to Sutherland's 51-yard kickoff return.

## Rose Bowl Stats

### Purdue vs. Washington

#### Rushing

Purdue	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	Lowe	20	79	4.0	15	0
	Brown	3	52	17.3	42	1
	Brees	4	-25	-6.3	0	0
	Team	1	-30	-30.0	0	0
Total		28	137	2.7	42	1

Washington	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	Alexis	10	78	7.8	50	0
	Tuiasosopo	15	75	5.0	26	1
	Hurst	9	53	5.9	15	1
	Conniff	8	45	5.6	17	0
	Tharps	1	12	12.0	12	0
	Clemon	5	11	2.2	5	1
	Team	4	-6	-1.5	0	0
Total		52	268	5.2	50	3

#### Passing

Purdue	Player	Att	Comp	Yds	Pct	TD	Int
	Brees	39	23	275	59.0	2	0
Total		39	23	275	59.0	2	0

Washington	Player	Att	Comp	Yds	Pct	TD	Int
	Tuiasosopo	22	16	138	72.3	1	0
	Pickett	2	2	11	100.0	0	0
Total		24	18	149	75.0	1	0

#### Receiving

Purdue	Player	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	Sutherland	7	88	12.6	24	2
	Standford	5	67	13.4	30	0
	Simpson	3	32	10.7	17	0
	Stratton	2	26	13.0	24	0
	Morales	2	24	12.0	15	0
	Winston	2	14	7.0	9	0
	Brown	1	20	20.0	20	0
	James	1	4	4.0	4	0
Total		23	275	12.0	30	2

Washington	Player	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	Stevens	5	51	10.2	21	0
	Elstrom	4	24	6.0	8	1
	Reddick	3	30	10.0	21	0
	Collier	2	30	15.0	18	0
	Hurst	2	2	1.0	7	0
	Hooks	1	7	7.0	7	0
	Robbins	1	5	5.0	5	0
Total		18	149	8.3	21	1

#### Punt Returns

Purdue	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	None					
Washington	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	Butler	1	1	1.0	1	0

#### Kickoff Returns

Purdue	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	Sutherland	2	68	34.0	51	0
	Clopton	2	45	22.5	26	0
	Lougheed	2	23	11.5	14	0
Washington	Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
	Johnson	2	50	25.0	33	0
	Alexander	2	20	10.0	10	0

Anderson's 42-yard field goal with 6:55 left in the third quarter put Washington on top to stay.

Nothing came easily for the Boilermaker offense. Brees, who entered the game as Purdue's second-leading rusher with 546 yards but finished the game with -25, was sacked twice and forced into several hurried throws. Nonetheless, the Maxwell Award winner had his share of sparkling plays.

One was a 5-yard bullet of a pass to Sutherland in the end zone early in the second quarter. The play, which came on third-and-goal, capped a 16-play, 90-yard drive, put Purdue on the scoreboard, closing its deficit to 14-7.

Dorsch kicked a 26-yard field goal with 26 seconds left before halftime to make it 14-10. The Boilermakers had to settle for three points after freshman receiver John Standford dropped a potential 27-yard touchdown pass from Brees 27 seconds earlier.

"I liked the way we came back in the first half after digging ourselves a hole," Tiller said.

The Huskies' bigger, more physical offensive line wore down Purdue's undersized defense.

"I think their physical offensive line had a big hand in the game, and certainly their quarterback is an exceptional player, without a doubt," Tiller said.

After Purdue outgained Washington 175-86 in the first half, the Huskies amassed 331 yards in the final two quarters.

"Washington did turn up the dial and we weren't expecting it," Purdue defensive end Akin Ayodele said. "By the time we figured it out, they had two touchdowns."

The Huskies rushed for 268 yards — the second-most this season against Purdue. Michigan State rushed for 292 and beat the Boilermakers. Penn State had 221 and also beat Purdue.

Washington dominated time of possession — 35:53-24:07 — and converted a third or fourth down play seven times. Purdue had the ball for just 6:31 in the second half. **MM**

#### Team Statistics

Category	PU	UW
First downs	19	23
Rushing	5	15
Passing	12	6
Penalty	2	2
Total offensive plays	67	76
Rushing plays	28	52
Net yards rushing	76	268
Net yards per rush	2.7	5.2
Passing plays	39	24
Completions	23	18
Net yards passing	275	149
Net yards per completion	12.0	8.3
Total net yards	351	417
Avg. gain per play	5.2	5.5
Kick returns-yds	6-136	4-70
Punt returns-yds	0-0	1-1
Fumbles-lost	3-1	2-1
Interceptions by-yds	0-0	0-0
Third down conversion	7-15	5-15
Time of possession	24:07	35:53
Sacks by-yds lost	1-6	2-11
Penalties-yds	11-69	6-48

Washington: Anderson 42 field goal, 6:55 left; Drive: 10 plays, 42 yards, 5:03

#### Fourth Quarter

Washington: Elstrom 8 pass from Tuiasosopo (Anderson kick) 12:00 left; Drive: 10 plays, 44 yards, 3:54  
Washington: Hurst 8 run (Anderson kick) 7:25 left; Drive: 7 plays, 66 yards, 3:29  
Purdue: Brown 42 run (Dorsch kick) 6:37 left; Drive: 5 plays, 61 yards, 0:48

#### Defensive Leaders

Purdue	Player	Solo	Asst	Total	For Loss-Yds	FR-Yds	Int	Pass Def	Sack-Yds
	Woodyard	7	3	10	0	1-0	0	0	0
	Schweigert	7	3	10	1-1	0	0	0	0
	Johnson	9	0	9	1-6	0	0	0	0
	Ayodele	6	1	7	2-13	0	0	0	1-6
	Gardner	5	1	6	1-5	0	0	1	0
	Odom	4	1	5	1-1	0	0	0	0
	Team	4	0	4	4-6	0	0	0	0
	Turner	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
	Botts	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
	Clopton	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
	Foggio	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Sutherland	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Vaughan	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Terrill	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Dorsch	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Dinkins	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Lougheed	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Loerzel	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Phillips	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Total		56	16	72	10-32	1-0	0	2	1-6
Washington (top seven)	Player	Solo	Asst	Total	For Loss-Yds	FR-Yds	Int	Pass Def	Sack-Yds
	Akbar	8	1	9	1-1	0	0	0	0
	Carothers	4	2	6	0	1-0	0	0	0
	Kelley	5	0	5	2-6	0	0	0	1-5
	Daniels	4	1	5	1-6	0	0	0	1-6
	Alexander	3	1	4	0	0	0	2	0
	Johnson	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
	Massey	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Total		56	10	66	7-25	1-0	4-76	11	2-11



# SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

## HUSKIES RALLY AROUND INJURED TEAMMATE

BY BRIAN NEUBERT

PASADENA, Calif. — For the second time this season, Purdue lost to a team emotionally charged by the hardship of an injured teammate.

Much like the inspiration Penn State seemed to draw from the plight of freshman Adam Taliaferro prior to its 22-20 upset win over Purdue Sept. 30, Washington seemed to rally around the presence of fallen teammate Curtis Williams. With Williams, who has been paralyzed since an Oct. 28 win over Stanford, watching from the press box, the Huskies defeated Purdue 34-24 in the Rose Bowl Jan. 1 in Pasadena.

"We had a chance to give our buddy a chance to win a Rose Bowl ring, and we achieved it," Husky coach Rick Neuheisel said. "I promised him after the Stanford game that we'd try to get it done. It was an absolute thrill

to have him here."

Williams traveled to Pasadena from his rehabilitation center in Santa Clara, to which he was returned almost immediately after the game.



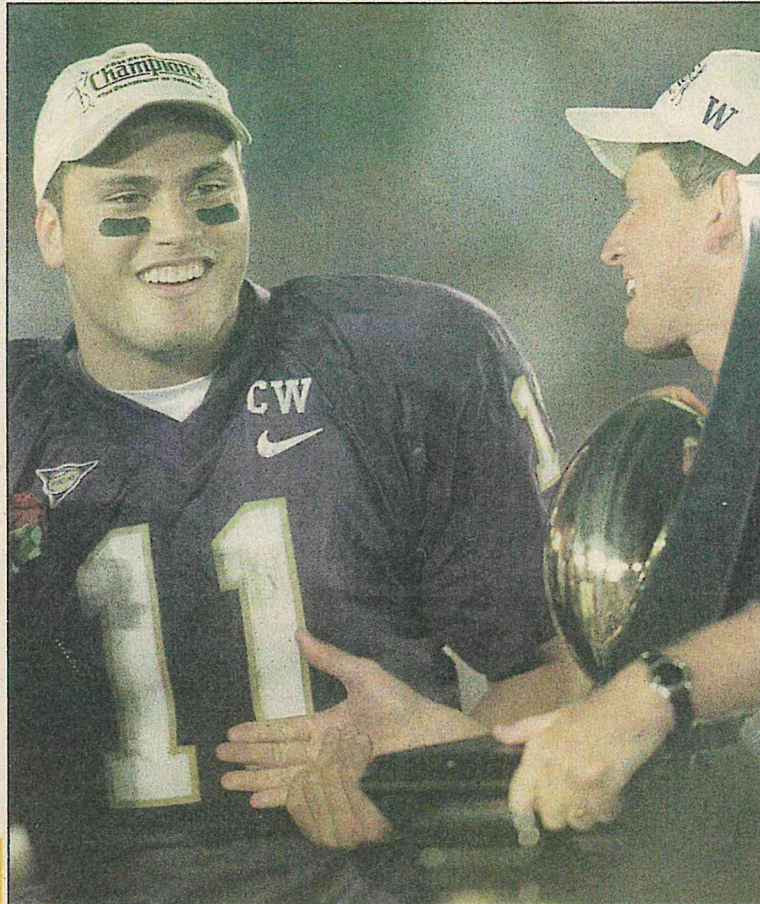
Curtis Williams

Under the circumstances, the trip could have been a stressful one, but Williams, in a prepared statement, said he had little trouble making the journey to Pasadena.

"It was pretty easy," Williams told Washington media relations staff members prior to the game. "I slept most of the way."

Doctors have advised Williams to avoid direct media contact at this point.

Williams rode to the Rose Bowl in an ambulance, and was brought into the stadium on a gurney. Upon entering the stadium, Williams was moved to a wheelchair, then proceeded to pay a surprise visit to the Husky locker room. Wearing his No. 25 jersey, Williams tried to fight back tears while addressing his teammates.



Tom Campbell

Motivated to a higher level by the spinal injury to safety Curtis Williams, the Huskies were very gracious in victory as they celebrated the 2001 Rose Bowl title. Upon winning the Rose Bowl, the thoughts of most Huskies, including quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo (pictured) turned to Williams. Coach Rick Neuheisel (right) later dedicated the 34-24 win over Purdue to his senior safety.

Linebacker Derrell Daniels will never forget Williams' pregame visit.

"He had tears coming down his face," Daniels said. "His tears weren't because he was in a wheelchair but because he couldn't play in the Rose Bowl. All he said was, 'Play your game, play hard and bring back a victory for the UW.'"

Williams' presence at the "Granddaddy of Them All" clearly had an impact on the game. Though some Huskies had managed to visit him in the hospital, the bulk of the team hadn't seen Williams since he was carried off the field in late October.

"It was emotional seeing him," linebacker Matt Rogers said. "I said to myself, 'It's going to be bad for Purdue.' Seeing Curtis like that really got to your heart. It was a huge inspiration for us."

Upon the completion of the Rose Bowl, the Huskies' thoughts quickly turned from the game back to their fallen teammate and

friend who had been named the team's game captain by Neuheisel.

"This was for you, C.W.," Neuheisel shouted from the field upon receiving the Rose Bowl Championship trophy. Many players, meanwhile, halted their celebrations on the field to point to Williams' seat in the press box.

His injury, which occurred in the third quarter of the game at Palo Alto, Calif., was a severe spinal cord trauma following a helmet-to-helmet hit. Since then, he has had no voluntary muscle movement.

Prior to the injury, Williams had started 20 consecutive games for the Huskies.

For one day at least, though, Williams was able to escape his hospital bed, not to mention the gravity of his situation, and smile again.

"It was great to see everyone," Williams said. "I've missed them." ■■■

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