

WEEK TWELVE

PENN ST AT RUTGERS

McSorley throws 2 TDs, No. 16 Penn State D dominates in win

PISCATAWAY, N.J. -- Trace McSorley threw two touchdown passes to tight end Pat Freiermuth and No. 16 Penn State's defense set up two touchdowns with turnovers in a 20-7 victory over Rutgers on Saturday, sending the Scarlet Knights to their 10th straight loss.

McSorley's touchdown passes covered 6 yards in the second quarter and 18 in the fourth as the Nittany Lions (8-3, 5-3 Big Ten, No. 14 CFP) beat Rutgers (1-10, 0-7) for the 12th straight time. Jake Pinegar added field goals of 22 and 19 yards.

The win was No. 30 for McSorley as a starter, making him the winningest quarterback in school history. The senior had been tied with Todd Blackledge (1980-82) and Tony Sacca (1988-91). The two touchdowns increased his total -- running and passing -- to 101.

McSorley credited his teammates for the accomplishments.

"Kind of like today by no means was my best performance, but the team gutted out a win," he said. "The defense played great, the special teams contributed when they needed to and our offense was able to put up enough points to get a win, so a lot of that is on the rest of the team, and in my eyes wins go to the team, not the person."

Raheem Blacksheer, who ran for 102 yards on 22 carries, scored on a 2-yard fourth-quarter run for Rutgers to deny Penn State its first shutout in more than a season.

The dominant group for Penn State was its defense, which forced three turnovers, had four sacks and 11 tackles for losses and held Rutgers to 46 yards passing.

"We (are) one of the better defensive lines in the country and I believe we're one of the best in the Big Ten," said defensive end Shareef Miller, who had seven tackles, including a sack and 2 1/2 for losses.

Safety Garrett Taylor intercepted a horrible pass by freshman Art Sitkowski late in the second quarter to give the Nittany Lions the ball at the Rutgers 28. Four plays later, McSorley (17 of 37 for 183 yards) found Freiermuth for a 10-3 lead with 2:04 left in the half.

Senior Gio Rescigno replaced Sitkowski (3 of 7 for 18 yards and two interceptions) after the bad decision on the screen pass Penn State read from the start.

A Daniel Joseph recovery of an Isaih Pacheco fumble at the Rutgers 46 late in the third quarter set up the second TD pass early in the fourth for a 20-0 lead.

"Our players played with a lot of fight and effort and toughness today," Rutgers coach Chris Ash said. "It's what we needed to do to continue to try to close the gap, and our players did that. The game is about taking care of the football, and some missed opportunities. That was the difference in the game."

The Scarlet Knights should have scored in the third quarter. After moving 82 yards on 14 running plays, they ran a fourth-down flea flicker from the 2-yard line and a wide-open Rescigno dropped a soft pass from Trey Sneed, who had lined up outside and took a toss from Blackshear.

"I told the guys you give me a day to sulk to sulk about it and then you can grill me about it for the rest of the week," said Rescigno, who sparked the offense running for 36 yards on seven carries. "It is what it is. It happened. I have to move on."

THE TAKEAWAY

This was not an impressive performance by the Nittany Lions, who were hoping to move into a position for a possible New Year's Day bowl game. The offense never got going and the only reason it was no contest was the Penn State defense.

The Scarlet Knights are now facing the prospect of their first one-win season since going 1-11 in Greg Schiano's second season, in 2002. Rutgers was 0-11 in 1997, so this isn't rock bottom. The 10-game losing streak is the longest since losing 11 in a row over the end of the 1998-99 season.

UP NEXT

Penn State: Plays host to Maryland next Saturday and then waits for a bowl bid.

Rutgers: Finishes season at Michigan State next Saturday.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
PSU	3	10	0	7	20
RUTG	0	0	0	7	7

Scoring Summary -----

	PSU	PSU
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
PSU FG 2:27 Jake Pinegar 22 Yd Field Goal	3	0
13 plays, 71 yards, 5:06		
<b>second Quarter</b>		
PSU TD 2:04 Pat Freiermuth 6 Yd pass from Trace McSorley (Jake Pinegar Kick) 4 plays, 28 yards, 0:53	10	0
PSU FG 0:00 Jake Pinegar 19 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 79 yards, 1:05	13	0
<b>fourth Quarter</b>		
PSU TD 13:06 Pat Freiermuth 18 Yd pass from Trace McSorley (Jake Pinegar Kick) 8 plays, 46 yards, 3:10	20	0
PSU TD 9:23 Raheem Blackshear 2 Yd Run (Justin Davidovicz Kick) 9 plays, 65 yards, 3:43	20	7

Team Stats	PSU	RUTG
First Downs	19	17
Total Yards	322	234
Total Plays	76	71
Avg Gain Per Play	4.2	3.3
Net Yards Rushing	139	188
Rushes	39	55
Yards Per Rush	3.6	3.4
Net Yards Passing	183	46
Comp-Att	17-37	5-16
Yards Per Pass	4.9	2.9
Times Sacked	0	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-30
Interceptions	1	2
Punts	6	5
Punt Average	48.7	46.4
Penalties	3	5
Penalty Yards	43	62
Fumbles	2	2
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Possession	27:42	32:18

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
PSU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
24 Miles Sanders	27	88	3.3	9	0		
9 Trace McSorley	7	39	5.6	9	0		
4 Ricky Slade	2	10	5.0	7	0		
6 Justin Shorter	1	9	9.0	9	0		
RUTG	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
22 Raheem Blackshear	22	102	4.6	24	1		
10 Isaih Pacheco	18	53	2.9	11	0		
17 Giovanni Rescigno	7	35	5.0	18	0		
23 Jonathan Hilliman	5	29	5.8	23	0		
8 Artur Sitkowski	3	-31	-10.3	0	0		
PASSING							
PSU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
9 Trace McSorley	17	37	183	4.9	2	1	99.9
RUTG	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Giovanni Rescigno	2	8	28	3.5	0	0	54.4
8 Artur Sitkowski	3	7	18	2.6	0	2	7.3
27 Trey Sneed	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
RECEIVING							
PSU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
1 KJ Hamler	5	71	14.2	26	0		
5 Jahan Dotson	4	58	14.5	35	0		
87 Pat Freiermuth	3	47	15.7	23	2		
3 DeAndre Thompkins	1	5	5.0	5	0		
24 Miles Sanders	4	2	0.5	5	0		
RUTG	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
18 Bo Melton	3	29	9.7	17	0		
15 Shameen Jones	1	11	11.0	11	0		
2 Raheem Blackshear	1	6	6.0	6	0		