

WEEK FIVE
PENN ST at MARYLAND

Penn State rolls in latest pummeling of Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, Md. -- Sean Clifford threw for 398 yards and three touchdowns, ran for a score and carried No. 12 Penn State to yet another lopsided victory over Maryland, a 59-0 blowout Friday night that typified the one-sided nature of this regional series.

Penn State scored on its first four possessions, led 38-0 at half-time and finished with 619 yards in its Big Ten opener. After Jan Johnson got things started by ending Maryland's first possession with an interception, Clifford cruised into the end zone from the 8 and the rout was on.

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After halftime, most of fans remaining from a rare sellout crowd of 53,228 at Maryland were the several thousand cheering for the Nittany Lions (4-0, 1-0).

Because the Terrapins (2-2, 0-1) won their first two games at home by a combined 122 points and Penn State was coming off a tight 17-10 victory over Pittsburgh, the Nittany Lions were favored by only a touchdown.

But past performances held true. Penn State now leads the series 40-2-1, winning the previous three by scores of 38-14, 66-3, 38-3 before adding this romp to the list.

Clifford threw a 58-yard touchdown pass to KJ Hamler for a 14-0 lead, connected with Nick Bowers on a 15-yarder to make it 28-0 and hit Journey Brown for 37 yards for a 35-point cushion.

After making his 14-for-30 performance against Pittsburgh a distant memory, Clifford remained on the sideline with 5 minutes, 45 seconds left in the third quarter and Penn State up 45-0.

Clifford, a redshirt sophomore, made his fourth start following the departure of standout Trace McSorley (now with the Baltimore Ravens). Perhaps the only flaw in his 26-for-31 gem was his first career interception compared to 11 TD passes.

Maryland, meanwhile, has regressed terribly after winning its first two games under coach Mike Locksley. The Terrapins were ranked No. 21 after beating then-No. 21 Syracuse on Sept. 7, but an ugly loss at Temple and this embarrassing defeat has left Locksley searching for answers.

Virginia Tech transfer Josh Jackson, who was so impressive during the first two weeks, has since struggled. His second pass of the night was picked off and he finished 10-for-21 for 65 yards and two interceptions.

The Terrapins garnered only 128 yards in offense. Until late in the fourth quarter, Clifford had more yards rushing (54) than the entire Maryland backfield.

TARGETED

Penn State LB Micah Parsons was ejected for targeting after he ran over Jackson in the pocket midway through the first quarter. Maryland DB Deon Jones was called for targeting on a second-quarter tackle of Justin Shorter and ejected.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

This blowout should get Penn State into the Top 10. Though Maryland was obviously overrated, Penn State dominated from start to finish on the road in a Big Ten game. That's not easy to do.

THE TAKEAWAY

Penn State: The Nittany Lions put together a near-flawless first half and emphatically addressed coach James Franklin's concern about "being better on third down" offensively and defensively. Penn State went 7-for-7 on third down before finally coming up short, Maryland failed to convert 11 of 15 chances on third down.

Maryland: This looks nothing like the team that throttled Howard and Syracuse in the first two games. This loss, on top of the one at Temple, negates all the optimism generated by the 2-0 start that had Locksley looking like a miracle maker.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
PSU	14	24	7	14	59
MD	0	0	0	0	0

Scoring Summary -----

	PSU	MD
FIRST QUARTER		
PSU TD 12:55 Sean Clifford 8 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
1 play, 8 yards, 0:04	7	0
PSU TD 9:36 KJ Hamler 58 Yd pass from Sean Clifford (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
3 plays, 59 yards, 1:12	14	0
SECOND QUARTER		
PSU TD 13:23 Ricky Slade 3 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
11 plays, 95 yards, 4:56	21	0
PSU TD 9:40 Nick Bowers 15 Yd pass from Sean Clifford (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
6 plays, 73 yards, 2:21	28	0
PSU TD 3:04 Journey Brown 37 Yd pass from Sean Clifford (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
8 plays, 88 yards, 2:40	35	0
PSU FG 0:00 Jake Pinegar 21 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 75 yards, 1:51	38	0
THIRD QUARTER		
PSU TD 7:16 Journey Brown 1 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
6 plays, 94 yards, 2:38	45	0
FOURTH QUARTER		
PSU TD 6:37 Will Levis 5 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
5 plays, 33 yards, 3:00	52	0
PSU TD 0:49 Will Levis 8 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
7 plays, 44 yards, 4:44	59	0

Team Stats	PSU	MD
First Downs	30	10
Passes for First	18	3
Rushes for First	10	4
Penalties for First	2	3
Third Down Efficiency	9-13	4-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	1-2
Total Yards	619	128
Total Plays	81	58
Avg Gain Per Play	7.6	2.2
Net Yards Rushing	198	60
Rushes	41	34
Yards Per Rush	4.8	1.8
Net Yards Passing	421	68
Comp-Att	29-40	11-24
Yards Per Pass	10.5	2.8
Times Sacked	0	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-25
Interceptions	1	2
Punts	3	9
Punt Average	41.0	42.8
Penalties	7	9
Penalty Yards	81	85
Fumbles	1	2
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	33:25	36:35

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
PENN ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Sean Clifford	7	54	7.7	1	25		
Devin Ford	7	43	6.1	0	20		
Will Levis	6	38	6.3	2	8		
Ricky Slade	8	28	3.5	1	9		
Journey Brown	5	21	4.2	1	12		
Noah Cain	7	17	2.4	0	6		
Team	1	-3	-3.0	0	0		
MARYLAND	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Anthony McFarland Jr.	9	24	2.7	0	13		
Tayon Fleet-Davis	5	12	2.4	0	4		
Javon Leake	6	10	1.7	0	9		
Lorenzo Harrison III	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Tyrrell Pigrome	2	4	2.0	0	2		
Josh Jackson	11	2	0.2	0	9		
PASSING							
PENN ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Sean Clifford	26	31	398	12.8	3	1	98.6
Will Levis	3	8	23	2.9	0	0	42.9
MARYLAND	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Josh Jackson	10	21	65	3.1	0	2	3.8
Tyrrell Pigrome	1	3	3	1.0	0	0	4.4
RECEIVING							
PENN ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
KJ Hamler	6	108	18.0	1	58		
Nick Bowers	2	70	35.0	1	55		
Journey Brown	2	41	20.5	1	37		
Dan Chisena	1	40	40.0	0	40		
Cam Sullivan-Brown	5	35	7.0	0	9		
Pat Freiermuth	2	22	11.0	0	14		
Ricky Slade	3	22	7.3	0	19		
Jahan Dotson	3	20	6.7	0	15		
Isaac Lutz	1	15	15.0	0	15		
Devin Ford	1	15	15.0	0	15		
Justin Shorter	1	14	14.0	0	14		
Zack Kuntz	1	10	10.0	0	10		
Noah Cain	1	9	9.0	0	9		
MARYLAND	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Dontay Demus Jr.	1	18	18.0	0	18		
Sean Savoy	1	15	15.0	0	15		
Tyler Mabry	2	14	7.0	0	10		
Tayon Fleet-Davis	3	11	3.7	0	6		
Anthony McFarland Jr.	3	7	2.3	0	5		
Brian Cobbs	1	3	3.0	0	3		