

WEEK NINE  
PENN ST at MICHIGAN ST

No. 6 Penn State handles Michigan State 28-7

EAST LANSING, Mich. -- Sean Clifford threw four touchdown passes -- three to Pat Freiermuth -- and No. 6 Penn State had little trouble shutting down Michigan State's anemic offense in a 28-7 victory Saturday.

The Nittany Lions (8-0, 5-0 Big Ten) avenged close losses to Michigan State from each of the past two seasons. The Spartans (4-4, 2-3) wrapped up a dreadful stretch in which they lost to Ohio State, Wisconsin and Penn State by a combined score of 100-17.

Penn State now moves on to a surprising matchup of undefeated teams on Nov. 9 at Minnesota. The Nittany Lions had lost five of their previous six against Michigan State.

Clifford's first touchdown pass to Freiermuth, a 16-yarder, opened the scoring in the first quarter, and those same two players gave Penn State a 13-0 lead with a 19-yard strike in the second. KJ Hamler's 27-yard TD catch with 1:20 left in the half -- plus a successful 2-point conversion -- made it 21-0.

A fumbled punt by Michigan State set up Clifford's 6-yard touchdown toss to Freiermuth in the third quarter. Then the Spartans finally scored for the first time in 2 hours, 31 minutes, 2 seconds. Brian Lewerke found Cody White for a 49-yard pass, and Anthony Williams scored on a 4-yard run.

THE TAKEAWAY

Penn State: The Nittany Lions haven't won the Land Grant Trophy that often lately, but they had an easy time Saturday. Last weekend, Penn State nearly let a 21-point lead slip away in a win over Michigan. The Nittany Lions had no problems holding on to their big advantage against the Spartans.

Michigan State: The Spartans might not be as bad as these past three opponents made them look, but they're struggling just to reach a bowl, and the offense is showing no signs of being able to function effectively against good teams.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

No. 5 Oklahoma's loss to unranked Kansas State gives Penn State a chance to move up.

| Final | 1 | 2  | 3 | 4 | T  |
|-------|---|----|---|---|----|
| PSU   | 7 | 14 | 7 | 0 | 28 |
| MSU   | 0 | 0  | 7 | 0 | 7  |

Scoring Summary -----

| FIRST QUARTER  |  | PSU | MSU |
|--|--|-----|-----|
| PSU TD 6:54 Pat Freiermuth 16 Yd pass from Sean Clifford (Jake Pinegar Kick)                     |  | 7   | 0   |
| 8 plays, 62 yards, 3:56  |  |     |     |
| SECOND QUARTER   |  | PSU | MSU |
| PSU TD 14:30 Pat Freiermuth 19 Yd pass from Sean Clifford (Jake Pinegar PAT failed)              |  | 13  | 0   |
| 13 plays, 86 yards, 4:26   |  |     |     |
| PSU TD 1:20 KJ Hamler 27 Yd pass from Sean Clifford (Sean Clifford Run for Two-Point Conversion) |  | 21  | 0   |
| 4 plays, 45 yards, 1:10  |  |     |     |
| THIRD QUARTER  |  | PSU | MSU |
| PSU TD 10:10 Pat Freiermuth 6 Yd pass from Sean Clifford (Jake Pinegar Kick)                     |  | 28  | 0   |
| 1 play, 6 yards, 0:06  |  |     |     |
| MSU TD 7:34 Anthony Williams Jr. 4 Yd Run (Matt Coughlin Kick)                                   |  | 28  | 7   |
| 8 plays, 75 yards, 2:36  |  |     |     |

| Team Stats             | PSU   | MSU   |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| First Downs            | 18    | 18    |
| Passes for First       | 9     | 10    |
| Rushes for First       | 7     | 5     |
| Penalties for First    | 2     | 3     |
| Third Down Efficiency  | 4-14  | 5-17  |
| Fourth Down Efficiency | 1-1   | 2-2   |
| Total Yards            | 302   | 265   |
| Total Plays            | 69    | 74    |
| Avg Gain Per Play      | 4.4   | 3.6   |
| Net Yards Rushing      | 113   | 83    |
| Rushes                 | 37    | 31    |
| Yards Per Rush         | 3.1   | 2.7   |
| Net Yards Passing      | 189   | 182   |
| Comp-Att               | 18-32 | 19-43 |
| Yards Per Pass         | 5.9   | 4.2   |
| Times Sacked           | 2     | 2     |
| Yds Lost To Sacks      | -13   | -14   |
| Interceptions          | 1     | 2     |
| Punts                  | 8     | 7     |
| Punt Average           | 44.3  | 31.0  |
| Penalties              | 9     | 4     |
| Penalty Yards          | 104   | 31    |
| Fumbles                | 2     | 4     |
| Fumbles Lost           | 0     | 2     |
| Time of Poss           | 31:40 | 28:20 |

Individual Stats

RUSHING

| PENN ST              | Rush | Yds | Avg  | TD | LONG |
|----------------------|------|-----|------|----|------|
| Journey Brown        | 12   | 45  | 3.8  | 0  | 11   |
| Devyn Ford           | 6    | 25  | 4.2  | 0  | 16   |
| Noah Cain            | 6    | 21  | 3.5  | 0  | 8    |
| Ricky Slade          | 4    | 12  | 3.0  | 0  | 9    |
| Sean Clifford        | 7    | 11  | 1.6  | 0  | 14   |
| KJ Hamler            | 1    | 4   | 4.0  | 0  | 4    |
| Team                 | 1    | -5  | -5.0 | 0  | 0    |
| MICHIGAN ST          | Rush | Yds | Avg  | TD | LONG |
| Elijah Collins       | 17   | 53  | 3.1  | 0  | 9    |
| Brian Lewerke        | 8    | 22  | 2.8  | 0  | 12   |
| Anthony Williams Jr. | 2    | 7   | 3.5  | 1  | 4    |
| Brandon Wright       | 2    | 5   | 2.5  | 0  | 4    |
| Theo Day             | 1    | 0   | 0.0  | 0  | 0    |
| Team                 | 1    | -4  | -4.0 | 0  | 0    |

PASSING

| PENN ST        | Comp | Att | Yds | Y/A | TD | Int | QBRat |
|----------------|------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-------|
| Sean Clifford  | 18   | 32  | 189 | 5.9 | 4  | 1   | 77.9  |
| MICHIGAN ST    | Comp | Att | Yds | Y/A | TD | Int | QBRat |
| Brian Lewerke  | 16   | 34  | 165 | 4.9 | 0  | 1   | 31.8  |
| Theo Day       | 2    | 3   | 12  | 4.0 | 0  | 0   | 42.0  |
| Rocky Lombardi | 1    | 6   | 5   | 0.8 | 0  | 1   | 0.5   |

RECEIVING

| PENN ST             | Rec | Yds | Avg  | TD | LONG |
|---------------------|-----|-----|------|----|------|
| Pat Freiermuth      | 5   | 60  | 12.0 | 3  | 19   |
| KJ Hamler           | 5   | 57  | 11.4 | 1  | 27   |
| Nick Bowers         | 2   | 44  | 22.0 | 0  | 38   |
| Jahan Dotson        | 2   | 14  | 7.0  | 0  | 7    |
| Justin Shorter      | 1   | 9   | 9.0  | 0  | 9    |
| Daniel George       | 1   | 7   | 7.0  | 0  | 7    |
| Noah Cain           | 1   | 2   | 2.0  | 0  | 2    |
| Ricky Slade         | 1   | -4  | -4.0 | 0  | 0    |
| MICHIGAN ST         | Rec | Yds | Avg  | TD | LONG |
| Cody White          | 3   | 66  | 22.0 | 0  | 49   |
| Matt Dotson         | 4   | 37  | 9.3  | 0  | 19   |
| Tre Mosley          | 4   | 37  | 9.3  | 0  | 14   |
| Darrell Stewart Jr. | 1   | 11  | 11.0 | 0  | 11   |
| Elijah Collins      | 3   | 11  | 3.7  | 0  | 7    |
| Matt Seybert        | 1   | 10  | 10.0 | 0  | 10   |
| Julian Barnett      | 1   | 4   | 4.0  | 0  | 4    |
| Laress Nelson       | 1   | 3   | 3.0  | 0  | 3    |
| Max Rosenthal       | 1   | 3   | 3.0  | 0  | 3    |