

WEEK TWO  
PENN STATE AT PITTSBURGH

PITTSBURGH -- Trace McSorley threw for two touchdowns and ran for another as No. 13 Penn State pulled away for a 51-6 victory over sloppy Pittsburgh on Saturday night.

KJ Hamler ran 32 yards for a score and hauled in a 14-yard touch-down pass from McSorley as the Nittany Lions (2-0) bounced back from an opening week scare against Appalachian State to dominate their 99th meeting with the Panthers (1-1). McSorley finished 14 of 30 for 145 yards in the rain at soggy Heinz Field.

Penn State running back Miles Sanders ran for 118 yards, and DeAndre Thompson returned a punt 39 yards for a touchdown.

That was more than enough to beat Pitt in what could be the Nittany Lions' last trip to Pittsburgh for the foreseeable future. There are no plans for the rivalry to continue beyond next year's game at Beaver Stadium.

Considering how things went in the second half that might not be a bad thing for either side. Penn State's margin of victory was the third-largest by either team in a series that dates to 1893. The chants of "We Are ... Penn State" rang throughout the stadium in the final minutes.

Pitt senior Qadree Ollison ran for 119 yards and a 13-yard score for Pitt, but went nowhere after halftime. Neither did the Pan-thers. Sophomore quarterback Kenny Pickett struggled in the steady rain, completing just 9 of 18 passes for 55 yards. Pickett also ran for 30 yards, but spent most of the night under heavy pressure. He was sacked four times and took a handful of jarring hits when he was able to scramble for positive yardage.

The blowout finish seemed unlikely late in the first half. Penn State led just 7-6 with a minute to go before Pitt began self-de-structing. Punter Kirk Christodoulou dropped a snap and the Nittany Lions took over in Pitt territory. McSorley needed just three plays to find Hamler to put the Nittany Lions up 14-6 at the break.

It was all Penn State after that. McSorley scored on a 4-yard touchdown run early in the third quarter, Pickett was sacked for a safety minutes later, and when Thompson took a punt at the 39 and veered to his left to race untouched to the end zone, the Nittany Lions were firmly in control.

Pitt did plenty to help Penn State pull away. The Panthers were flagged 14 times for 116 yards -- including an unsportsmanlike call on head coach Pat Narduzzi -- turned it over three times and pro-vided no response when the Nittany Lions got serious.

THE TAKEAWAY

Penn State: The Nittany Lions have found a capable replacement for Saquon Barkley. Sanders spent two years patiently waiting for his turn and he seems more than equal to the task. His numbers would have been even more impressive if not for an illegal block in the back in the first half that nullified a significant chunk of what would have been an 80-yard gain.

Pitt: For all of Pickett's moxie, the sophomore quarterback is going to need receivers who can get open to take some of the pres-sure off the running game. He completed just two passes -- for 17 yards -- to wide receivers through three quarters. The rest came in garbage time.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

The Nittany Lions slid three spot last week after needing overtime to escape Appalachian State. They could possibly tick back up a bit for the way they completely shut down Pitt in the second half.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
PSU	7	7	16	21	51
PITT	6	0	0	0	6

Scoring Summary -----

	PSU	PITT
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
PSU TD 12:14		
KJ Hamler 32 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
3 plays, 63 yards, 1:09	7	0
PITT TD 7:09		
Qadree Ollison 13 Yd Run (Two-Point Run Conversion Failed)		
10 plays, 75 yards, 5:05	7	6
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>	PSU	PITT
PSU TD 0:26		
KJ Hamler 14 Yd pass from Trace McSorley (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
3 plays, 35 yards, 0:33	14	6
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>	PSU	PITT
PSU TD 8:36		
Trace McSorley 4 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
8 plays, 40 yards, 2:39	21	6
PSU SF 7:38		
Team Safety		
1 play, -8 yards, 0:58	23	6
PSU TD 0:28		
DeAndre Thompkins 39 Yd Punt Return (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
3 plays, -1 yard, 2:11	30	6
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>	PSU	PITT
PSU TD 11:40		
Mac Hippenhammer 11 Yd pass from Trace McSorley (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
5 plays, 64 yards, 2:29	37	6
PSU TD 6:17		
Mark Allen 4 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
12 plays, 61 yards, 4:00	44	6
PSU TD 4:21		
Brandon Polk 34 Yd pass from Sean Clifford (Jake Pinegar Kick)		
1 play, 34 yards, 0:11	51	6

Team Stats	PSU	PITT
First Downs	23	15
Total Yards	390	300
Total Plays	64	70
Avg Gain Per Play	6.1	4.3
Net Yards Rushing	211	245
Rushes	33	52
Yards Per Rush	6.4	4.7
Net Yards Passing	179	55
Comp-Att	15-31	9-18
Yards Per Pass	5.8	3.1
Times Sacked	1	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	-8	-31
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	5	6
Punt Average	42.6	33.7
Penalties	4	14
Penalty Yards	45	116
Fumbles	3	4
Fumbles Lost	2	2
Possession	25:38	34:22

Individual Stats

RUSHING

PSU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Miles Sanders	16	118	7.4	0	41
Trace McSorley	5	36	7.2	1	20
KJ Hamler	1	32	32.0	1	32
Ricky Slade	4	13	3.3	0	4
Mark Allen	7	12	1.7	1	10
PITT	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Qadree Ollison	21	119	5.7	1	63
Shocky Jacques-Louis	2	39	19.5	0	38
A.J. Davis	6	38	6.3	0	13
Kenny Pickett	14	30	2.1	0	11
Darrin Hall	7	28	4.0	0	8
George Aston	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
Kirk Christodoulou	1	-7	-7.0	0	0

PASSING

PSU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Trace McSorley	14	30	145	4.8	2	0	52.0
Sean Clifford	1	1	34	34.0	1	0	100.0
PITT	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kenny Pickett	9	18	55	3.1	0	1	13.1

RECEIVING

PSU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Brandon Polk	2	45	22.5	1	34
KJ Hamler	3	40	13.3	1	18
Jonathan Holland	2	25	12.5	0	22
Juwan Johnson	2	23	11.5	0	12
Danny Dalton	2	17	8.5	0	9
Mac Hippenhammer	1	11	11.0	1	11
Mark Allen	1	7	7.0	0	7
Miles Sanders	1	6	6.0	0	6
Pat Freiermuth	1	5	5.0	0	5
PITT	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Shocky Jacques-Louis	2	21	10.5	0	13
George Aston	2	14	7.0	0	8
Taysir Mack	1	9	9.0	0	9
Darrin Hall	1	4	4.0	0	4
Dontavius Butler-Jenkins	1	4	4.0	0	4
Qadree Ollison	2	3	1.5	0	3