

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 -----

	PSU	MSU
FIRST QUARTER		
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 TD 14:30 Pat Freiermuth 19 Yd pass from Sean Clifford (Jake Pinegar PAT failed)	7	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)	13	0
4 plays, 45 yards, 1:10		
THIRD QUARTER		
PSU TD 10:10 Pat Freiermuth 6 Yd pass from Sean Clifford (Jake Pinegar Kick)	21	0
1 play, 6 yards, 0:06		
MSU TD 7:34 Anthony Williams Jr. 4 Yd Run (Matt Coghlin Kick)	28	0
8 plays, 75 yards, 2:36	28	7

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