

WEEK ONE
IDAHO at PENN ST

Clifford stars, No. 15 Penn State’s defense hammers Idaho

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. -- Sean Clifford completed 14 of 23 passes for 280 yards and two touchdowns to lead No. 15 Penn State over Idaho 79-7 on Saturday.

Making his first career start, Clifford chipped in 57 rushing yards on seven carries and hooked up with receiver KJ Hamler for scoring strikes of 36 and 21 yards.

Journey Brown and Noah Cain both added a pair of touchdown runs while Ricky Slade, Devyn Ford and Nick Eury each ran for scores. Jake Pinegar kicked two field goals and Jordan Stout made another for Penn State (1-0). Will Levis threw a touchdown pass to tight end Brenton Strange in the fourth quarter.

The Nittany Lions overcame early sloppiness before coasting the rest of the way to their biggest point total since an 81-0 win against Cincinnati in 1991.

A botched handoff and a misfire from Clifford forced them to settle for a pair of field goals on their first two possessions. But Penn State scored touchdowns on five of its next eight drives and went into halftime leading 44-0.

Idaho didn’t cross midfield until halfway through the second quarter, managed just one first down in the first half, went 1 for 15 on third down and finished with just 145 yards, compared with Penn State’s 673.

Mason Petrino got the Vandals on the board with a 1-yard touchdown pass to Logan Kendall in the fourth quarter.

THE TAKEAWAY

Idaho: The Vandals didn’t have much success with either Petrino or Colton Richardson at quarterback as their offensive line was outmatched and manhandled by what is expected to be one of the Big Ten’s best front sevens. Idaho will get a better look at what it has when it hosts Division II opponent Central Washington in a week.

Penn State: Although the Nittany Lions were shaky in the red zone early, their defense was anything but. With the game out of hand as early as the first quarter, defensive coordinator Brent Pry used the opportunity to get some of his younger players -- most of whom he expects to play big roles this year -- into action. In total, the Nittany Lions played nearly every player listed on their three-deep depth chart.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Beating up on an FCS opponent probably won’t propel Penn State much higher this early.

Final	1	2	3	4	T		
IDAHO	0	0	0	7	7		
PSU	20	24	14	21	79		
Scoring Summary -----							
FIRST QUARTER				IDAHO	PSU		
PSU FG 11:30 Jake Pinegar 28 Yd Field Goal							
6 plays, 23 yards, 2:00				0	3		
PSU FG 8:35 Jordan Stout 53 Yd Field Goal							
4 plays, 0 yards, 0:51				0	6		
PSU TD 5:03 Journey Brown 23 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)							
5 plays, 54 yards, 2:00				0	13		
PSU TD 1:50 Ricky Slade 1 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)							
5 plays, 35 yards, 1:43				0	20		
SECOND QUARTER				IDAHO	PSU		
PSU TD 10:28 KJ Hamler 36 Yd pass from Sean Clifford (Jake Pinegar Kick)							
3 plays, 55 yards, 1:01				0	27		
PSU TD 4:27 Devyn Ford 81 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)							
3 plays, 95 yards, 1:11				0	34		
PSU TD 1:39 KJ Hamler 21 Yd pass from Sean Clifford (Jake Pinegar Kick)							
4 plays, 76 yards, 1:19				0	41		
PSU FG 0:00 Jake Pinegar 38 Yd Field Goal							
4 plays, 40 yards, 0:42				0	44		
THIRD QUARTER				IDAHO	PSU		
PSU TD 13:11 Journey Brown 2 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)							
5 plays, 75 yards, 1:49				0	51		
PSU TD 11:28 Noah Cain 3 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)							
4 plays, 6 yards, 1:30				0	58		
FOURTH QUARTER				IDAHO	PSU		
PSU TD 14:51 Brenton Strange 4 Yd pass from Will Levis (Jake Pinegar Kick)							
14 plays, 72 yards, 5:51				0	65		
IDAHO TD 12:35 Logan Kendall 1 Yd pass from Mason Petrino (Cade Coffey Kick)							
2 plays, 25 yards, 0:41				7	65		
PSU TD 7:48 Noah Cain 9 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)							
10 plays, 75 yards, 4:47				7	72		
PSU TD 2:17 Nick Eury 8 Yd Run (Jake Pinegar Kick)							
7 plays, 54 yards, 3:45				7	79		
Team Stats			IDAHO	PENN ST			
First Downs			5	35			
Passes for First			3	18			
Rushes for First			1	15			
Penalties for First			1	2			
Third Down Efficiency			1-15	1-8			
Fourth Down Efficiency			0-2	2-3			
Total Yards			145	673			
Total Plays			54	82			
Avg Gain Per Play			2.7	8.2			
Net Yards Rushing			4	331			
Rushes			28	45			
Yards Per Rush			0.1	7.4			
Stat Name							
Net Yards Passing			141	342			
Comp-Att			16-26	25-37			
Yards Per Pass			5.4	9.2			
Times Sacked			7	0			
Yds Lost To Sacks			-53	0			
Interceptions			1	0			
Punts			12	2			
Punt Average			35.1	22.5			
Penalties			10	3			
Penalty Yards			67	30			
Fumbles			0	3			
Fumbles Lost			0	1			
Time of Poss			27:04	32:56			
Individual Stats							
RUSHING							
IDAHO	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Aundre Carter	14	32	2.3	0	14		
Kiahn Martinez	3	16	5.3	0	8		
Logan Kendall	1	0	0.0	0	0		
Colton Richardson	4	-19	-4.8	0	0		
Mason Petrino	6	-25	-4.2	0	7		
PENN ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Devyn Ford	6	107	17.8	1	81		
Sean Clifford	7	57	8.1	0	25		
Noah Cain	9	44	4.9	2	9		
Nick Eury	6	44	7.3	1	10		
Journey Brown	5	38	7.6	2	23		
Will Levis	5	21	4.2	0	12		
KJ Hamler	1	16	16.0	0	16		
Ricky Slade	5	9	1.8	1	5		
Michael Shuster	1	-5	-5.0	0	0		
PASSING							
IDAHO	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Mason Petrino	11/17	91	5.4	1	1		
Colton Richardson	5/9	50	5.6	0	0		
PENN ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Sean Clifford	14/23	280	12.2	2	0		
Will Levis	11/14	62	4.4	1	0		
RECEIVING							
IDAHO	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jeff Cotton	6	83	13.8	0	38		
Nick Romano	3	28	9.3	0	24		
Michael Noil	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Kiahn Martinez	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Cutrell Haywood	3	7	2.3	0	5		
Jed Byers	1	4	4.0	0	4		
Logan Kendall	1	1	1.0	1	1		
PENN ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
KJ Hamler	4	115	28.8	2	36		
Justin Shorter	3	36	12.0	0	17		
Journey Brown	2	31	15.5	0	18		
Daniel George	2	28	14.0	0	20		
Weston Carr	3	27	9.0	0	11		
Ricky Slade	1	26	26.0	0	26		
Pat Freiermuth	1	25	25.0	0	25		
Jahan Dotson	1	13	13.0	0	13		
Cam Sullivan-Brown	2	13	6.5	0	14		
Justin Weller	1	10	10.0	0	10		
Zack Kuntz	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Devyn Ford	3	6	2.0	0	4		
Brenton Strange	1	4	4.0	1	4		