

8-12-70

For Use As Desired

Special to the New York Times

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa., Aug. - - - Mike Cooper is a young man with a sense of direction.

The 22-year old Harrisburg native, who enters fall practice as the number one candidate for the Penn State football quarterback job, is also a young man who is used to challenges.

Cooper was not a highly sought-after athlete when he graduated from Harrisburg's William Penn High School in 1966. His college board scores were not overly impressive, so he attended Bordentown Military Institute.

He accepted the academic challenge at Bordentown and was admitted to Penn State the following year. He now carries a 3.33 all-University average as a speech major.

This summer Mike accepted a different kind of challenge. He returned to the ghetto area he was raised in to serve as a summer coordinator of a special Red Cross program called "Reach Out."

"My job was to coordinate the various programs within the community," the articulate Cooper explains. "The Red Cross is trying to reach minority groups and involve the whole community in the programs that are available."

While many college students were at the beach, Cooper was on the hot streets of Harrisburg---getting the ghetto residents involved in programs in water safety, first aid and child care.

"It was an interesting experience and gave me an inside view of what the various community agencies are doing," Cooper says. "Most of the agencies are doing their jobs, but there is some duplication of effort. There needs to be some coordination of these agencies within the community. Each of the agencies should be aware of what the others are doing."

- more -

mike cooper

Has passed for 153 yards this season. Threw for 56 against Navy, completing four of eight passes. And tossed for 44 yards against West Virginia, hitting four of five passes.

Cooper directed two touchdowns against Navy, one against West Virginia and engineered a crucial time-consuming drive in the fourth quarter at Kansas State that didn't result in ~~xxxx~~ a touchdown but ate up valuable time and kept the ball away from Kansas State's explosive offense.

Hit 9 of 15 passes as a sophomore last year for 116 yards and two touchdowns. H

He quarterbacked the White team to a 31-14 victory in the Blue-White spring game.

Mike starred ~~for~~ at William Penn High School, then prepped a year at Bordentown (N.J.) Prep before entering Penn State.

Joe Paterno said of Mike:

"He's a great young man to have around. ^{He} works very hard; he's made steady improvement, and I think he's going to continue to get ~~his~~ better. I have ~~xxxxxx~~ confidence that if something would happen to Burkhardt he could do the job."

THE FOOTBALL LETTER

SEPTEMBER 21, 1970

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PENN STATE ----- 0 28 13 14-55
 NAVY ----- 0 0 7 0-7

Dear Alumnus:

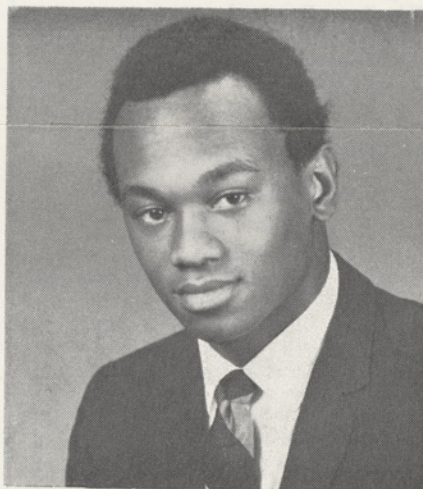
We can't recall a more pleasant afternoon for football in the Nittany Valley. Everything was made to order for the Grand Opening—a balmy late-summer afternoon—Beaver Stadium shining in the September sun and filled to its capacity with eager spectators, few of them bothering to suppress their anticipation and excitement over the unveiling of the 1970 Lions.

Overhead, the Goodyear Blimp "America" gracefully circled the field to lend a kind of sophisticated atmosphere to our mountain retreat. Momentarily fighting the Blimp for pre-game attention was the Bikini—well filled with female curves. How or why she made her sudden entrance, no one seems to know, but strong field glasses (lowered in unison from blimp to bikini) picked out the name of a local bistro crocheted on the seat of her pants. Miss Bikini was captured by our Nittany Lion, who tossed her over his shoulder and delivered her to a handful of campus patrolmen waiting on the sidelines for just such an emergency.

To their pride and credit, members of the well drilled State College Area High School Band, filling in for the Blue Band, did not miss a step—or a toot. The Little Lions gave a full-fledged pre-game and half-time show, aided by their bevy of comely majorettes, a bit of flash traditionally omitted by our Blue Band.

The game itself had special historical significance. Back in post-World War I days, 1919-1922, Lion football teams put together a string of 30 games without defeat—a record some said would never be broken. The winning span was ended in 1922 by none other than Navy (14 to 0 in Washington, D.C.), and here was that same culprit trying to keep our current eleven from reaching the magic 31.

Coach Joe Paterno had some strong feelings when asked to discuss the possible psychological affect on his players of establishing and maintaining the victory string. First, he said, he'd never heard his players discussing it, and second, he would discourage such discussion. "Other teams established that record," said Paterno. "This team had



MIKE COOPER
Passes the First Test

nothing to do with it and shouldn't be burdened with an albatross around its neck. This is going to be an exciting year—a great challenge. Our present team is getting tired of being compared to the 1968 and 1969 squads, especially our defensive unit. Those guys can hardly wait to do their own thing."

Well, it is recorded history now. Saturday's surprisingly easy victory over the Midshipmen was Number 31. The string began in October, 1967, against Boston College. Where it will end, nobody knows. And the defensive unit did its thing! No one around here wants to forget Mike Reid, Steve Smear, Denny Onkotz, Jim Kates, etc., but a new era began at the expense of the stunned Middies who had rolled up 653 yards against Colgate last week.

Of the new Front Four (replacing Reid, Smear, Ebersole, and Hull), none had ever started a game. Two, End Bruce Bannon and Tackle Jim Heller, are sophomores. End Steve Prue is a senior and Tackle Frank Ahrenhold, a junior. Coach Paterno played another sophomore, Doug Allen, almost equally with Ahrenhold and Heller, interchanging the three of them. Allen and Ahrenhold are both under 215—they are of the new breed of mobile interior linemen. This Front Four, together with inside linebackers Jack Ham and Charlie Zapiec, produced a six-man blitz the harrassed Middie quarter-

SCHEDULE	
Penn State 55; Navy	7
September 26; Colorado	(A)
October 3; Wisconsin	(A)
October 10; Boston College	(A)
October 17; Syracuse	(H)
(Homecoming)	
October 24; Army	(A)
October 31; West Virginia	(H)
November 7; Maryland	(A)
November 14; Ohio University	(H)
(Band Day)	
November 21; Pittsburgh	(H)

back, Mike McNallen, hopes he'll never see again. McNallen was nailed at least six times for substantial losses and hurried countless other times, leading to his after-game comment to the press that this year's Lion defense was quicker and perhaps better than last year's. McNallen completed 18 passes against us at Annapolis in 1969 and only five on Saturday.

Coach Paterno had expected his offense to be well-balanced and more explosive than any in recent years, but was happily surprised with the defense. "We were honestly concerned," he said, "whether our defense could do the job. I was extremely pleased with our secondary, and our new ends did well in keeping the play inside."

Mike Cooper, senior, fully justified the confidence of his coach. He won the starting quarterback assignment from Junior Bob Parsons and Sophomore John Hufnagel. All three are good passers and have other attributes, but different styles. Cooper appears to have the edge because of his deft ball handling and "quick feet." Mike threw sparingly (who needs to pass with Harris and Mitchell around?) but completed six in ten, including two expertly placed touchdown passes to Split End Greg Edmonds.

Cooper moved his team well from the very beginning with only a small case of jitters in the opening quarter. A fumble and an interception prevented early scoring, but finally, a drive was mounted that brought the Lions their first score in eight plays, covering 57 yards and sending Franco Harris into the end zone just as the second period commenced. Big Franco, who weighs in at 225, but runs like a halfback, circled left end for eight yards.

Ham picked up McNallen's fumble a minute later and Cooper struck again quickly, tossing an accurate pass to Edmonds (21 yards) and giving the senior split end the first touchdown of his career.

Completing a spectacular quarter, Cooper climaxed a 78-yard drive by scoring himself from the 1, and passing again to Edmonds from the Navy 27. Greg received the pass on the 15, reversed his field twice to fool Navy defenders. Mike Reitz was successful in all of his first half extra-point

