

Daylight, then gloom

Michigan State pinches in on Long, Hawks' title hopes

By DAVE HYDE
Press-Citizen Sportswriter

So it comes to this. Iowa quarterback Chuck Long hobbles from the sidelines on his bum knee to one huddle and shouts "Suck it up, guys, we've got to get this one," and Michigan State linebacker Jim Morrissey stands in the other, bouncing on his feet, hyper as can be, and yells to his guys, "Look at the clock. Look at the clock."

So they all do. Michigan State 17, Iowa 16. Forty-four seconds left. And they all turn back to Morrissey, who is still bounce, bounce, bouncing and he makes them do it again. "Look at the clock. Look at the clock."

So a few turn again. The ball is at the three. That's where the refs put it after tight end Jonathan Hayes caught a three-yard touchdown pass from Long smack in the middle of the Iowa helmet painted on the AstroTurf, to bring the Hawkeyes within this two-point conversion try of victory and, possibly, probably, certainly, the Big Ten championship and Rose Bowl.

So it's down to this. Long calls the play, a

quarterback option to the right side, something coach Hayden Fry has used frequently since coming to Iowa six years ago and, more importantly, hasn't used all game. Long's to take the snap and go down the line, keeping the ball if he sees a hole, or pitching to tailback Owen Gill if he doesn't. Fry says later that is his play all along if it comes down to a two-point conversion.

There's talk of it in the Spartan huddle. "We'd seen it on films a lot," says linebacker Shane Bullough, "so we're thinking option at first." But time passes slowly in the huddle and talk comes fast. "Then we're thinking Long might roll out and pass or run it in, so we weren't really expecting anything. Or we were expecting everything."

Morrissey stops the talk and calls the defense, a goal-line setup. Right cornerback Lonnie Young will blitz, and afterward, coach George Perles admits, "That wasn't the right thing to do. Looking back, we wanted him to stay home, to protect his area in case of a pass."

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It was high drama in horror for QBs

They were the two main characters in Saturday's drama played in four quarters at Kinnick Stadium. They were the rookie and the veteran. They deserved a better script. They deserved Frank Merriwell. They got Stephen King.

The rookie in the horror show was Mark Vlasic, a redshirt sophomore quarterback from Pennsylvania. It was his moment, his first starting assignment for Iowa in place of the injured Chuck Long. Vlasic's family came to watch: his mother and father, Mary Ann and Al Vlasic, and his 18-year-old brother, Michael.

Michigan State kicked off into the end zone. Iowa began with the ball at its 20. In came the offense; in came Vlasic.

"When he went in there," Al Vlasic said, "my heart went with him."

Vlasic, the player, knew the situation. Either he got the club moving or Long would come in, sprained knee and all. Long stood on the sidelines, bundled against the cold in a long, black cape and stocking cap and mittens. A headset kept him in touch with coaches in the press box.

How the line must have sung straight off when Iowa, looking disorganized, was penalized five yards for illegal procedure. Vlasic didn't throw his first pass until midway through the quarter. Then he badly

Nolan Zavoral



overthrew Robert Smith crossing the goal line, and Iowa had to settle for a field goal.

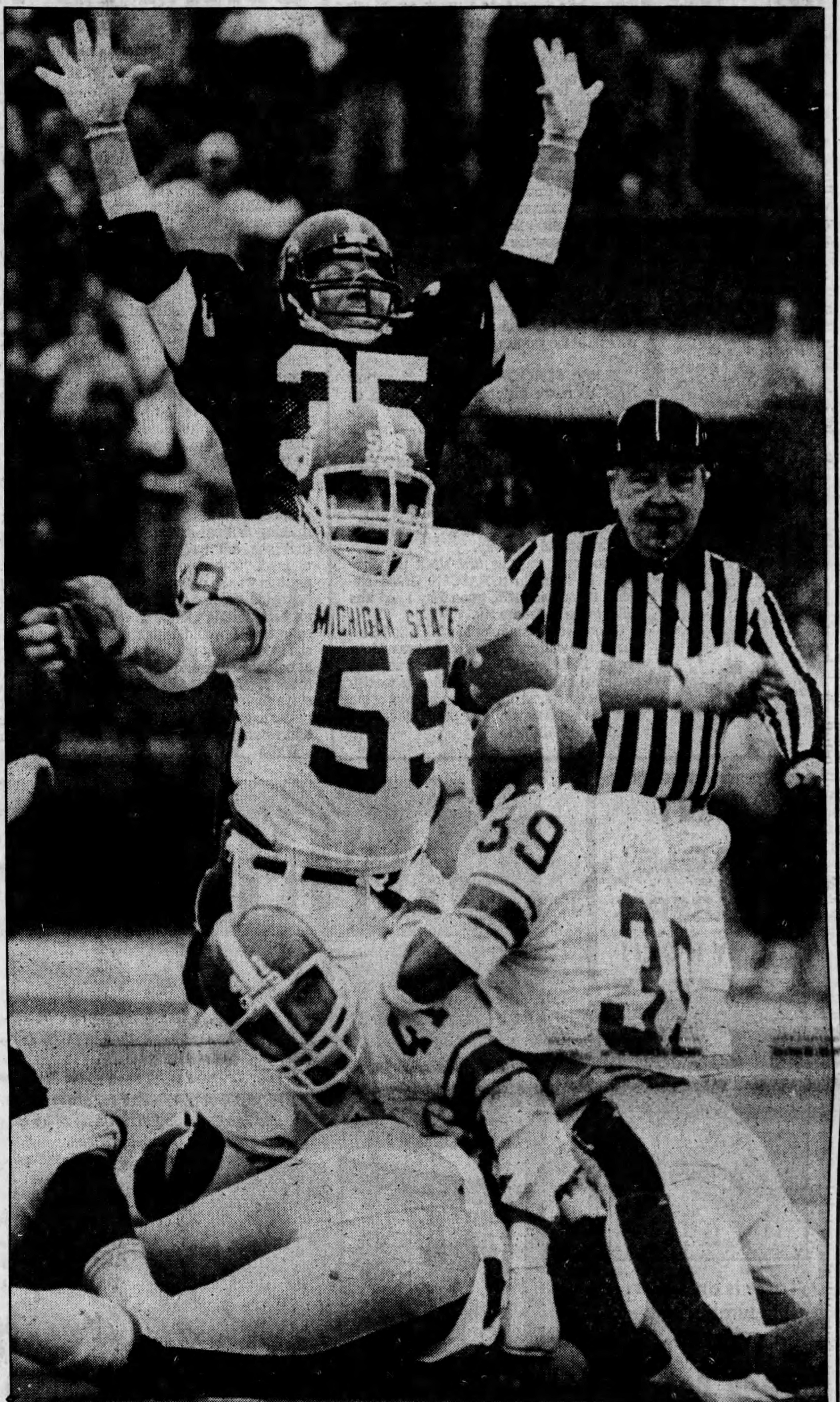
Vlasic would think back on the pass after the game, and be disappointed all over again. Six points, he believed — gone.

Vlasic's best stretch came on the first series of the second quarter, when he made three straight completions for 33 yards and whisked 14 yards around left end on a keeper.

That drive, however, would end with tailback Owen Gill's fumble at the MSU three. Vlasic missed on his next four passes, and Iowa trailed at halftime, 14-3.

Both Vlasics — father and son — wanted a longer leash from Iowa coaches, which was

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Press-Citizen/Jeff Myers

Iowa quarterback Chuck Long struggles underneath Michigan State's Paul Bobbitt (39) and Jim Morrissey (41) while a debate rages above them whether Long made it across the goal line on a two-point conversion try Saturday. Iowa fullback Fred Bush signals Long made it while Michigan State's Tom Allan says he didn't score. The official, meanwhile, appears to be looking away from the play. The Spartans won, 17-16 when the referees ruled Long didn't score.

'Phil right, Phil left' puts Lions in finals

By TED PEIFFER
Press-Citizen Sportswriter

PRAIRIE CITY — The map may have shown 80 miles from Prairie City to Cedar Falls, but for the Lone Tree football team it was a matter of 155 yards.

That was the distance covered by halfback Phil Forbes in two fourth-quarter touchdown runs — one of 86 yards, the other of 69 — that made the difference in the Lions' 12-0 victory over Alden Saturday in the semifinals of the state class A playoffs.

The next stop for the Lions is the state title game in the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls Friday at 1:30 p.m. Lone Tree will play either Graettinger or Schleswig — their game was postponed until today because of snow in Graettinger.

Lions coach Lonnie Powers, whose team had battled to a 0-0 tie for three quarters with Alden, made the two plays sound easy.

"We went outside with Phil right and then Phil left," he said.

"Phil right" came with two minutes gone in the fourth quarter. Forbes took a quick-pitch from quarterback Bruce Kout, got a good block from cousin Neil Forbes, then sailed into a strong head wind for the game's first



Press-Citizen/Bryan Kelsen

Lone Tree senior quarterback Bruce Kout (14) and Alden's Tom Heinzerth (14) race for a loose ball during the second half of Saturday's semifinal playoff game in Prairie City. Lone Tree won 12-0 and advances to the finals Friday afternoon in the UNI-Dome.

score.

"The wind was so strong it felt like I was hardly moving," Forbes said.

The Lone Tree defense, which limited Alden to 33 yards rushing for the game, quickly forced the Redskins to punt, setting the stage for "Phil left."

On third-and-nine from the Lone Tree 31, Forbes went around left end, shook loose from a tackle, and

raced the final 69 yards that sealed the victory and a spot in the state finals.

"We were in a stunt and just didn't have a lot of linebackers out there to stop him," Alden coach Brad Van Rooyen said of Forbes' second TD. "Once he gets to the outside, he's gone."

"It really hurt us on defense when we lost (Herman) Jass. He is the quickest of our linebackers."

Jass suffered stretched and torn ligaments in his knee late in the third quarter. He was also the Redskins' tailback and had rushed for more than 1,400 yards this season.

"They had a letdown both offensively and defensively when Jass was helped off the field," Powers said. "It really hurt them defens-

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3 more preps lean toward UI

By DAVE HYDE
Press-Citizen Sportswriter

Iowa's basketball program is close to ending its recruiting efforts by receiving commitments from three recruits, two of whom led Lanphier High School in Springfield, Ill., to the state championship in 1983.

Kevin Gamble, a 6-foot-7 forward at Lincoln (Ill.) Community College, said Sunday night he'll "probably make a verbal commitment" to Iowa Wednesday, the first day of the early signing period. Gamble, who would have junior eligibility at

Iowa next year, said he won't visit Iowa until the spring, but said he likes the program and would enjoy playing with high school teammate Ed Horton again.

Horton, a 6-7 forward at Lanphier, has narrowed his choices to Iowa and Purdue. Coach Bob Nika said Horton and Gamble are "very good friends and I know they've been talking to each other about colleges."

The third recruit, Roy Marble, a 6-5 guard from Flint, Mich., also said Sunday that Iowa is a strong

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Colloton, West swim to third

By JACQUELINE DUTTON
Press-Citizen Sportswriter

The Women of Troy did it again at the Iowa Girls State Swimming and Diving Meet this weekend at Fort Dodge. They beat the odds to finish in the top three for the third straight year.

West, always an underdog because of its small team and lack of facilities, proved how far a little talent can go by finishing third out

of 47 teams with 155 points. Cedar Rapids Washington, which had tied West for second last season, was first with 223 points while Des Moines Hoover, the 1983 champ, was second with 187.

Leading the Women of Troy was junior Ann Colloton, who was a bit disappointed despite earning a third state title in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1 mi-

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