

Kicker No. 1 Hero for Iowa

By John Jeanson

Iowa City, Iowa — There were problems with waiting for the usual format of a hero emerging from the gathering darkness to win the big game yesterday. First of all, big games no longer have any gathering darkness from which to emerge; television rents portable lights and everything is clear as day. And, beyond that, the game between No. 1 Iowa and No. 2 Michigan — the 19th meeting in 50 years between The Associated Press' top two — never really caught its classic mood, mostly being a slow dance between tackler and tacklee within two or three yards of the line of scrimmage.

Michigan was getting by with that hoary Big Ten device known as defense, while its offense flinched behind a quarterback afraid of the noise of the record crowd of 66,350. Iowa was prancing occasionally, mostly because of the tip-toeing, whirling runs of Bay-side High's own Ronnie Harmon (32 carries, 120 yards) and the sure pass-catching of Bill Happel (9 catches, 107 yards) and Scott Helverson (5 for 60). But quarterback Chuck Long made some bad decisions at the worst times.

Plus there was that building Iowa annoyance, as the afternoon wore on, over a lost second-period touchdown. Helverson believed he had flagged down an 18-yard pass before he slid out of the back of the end zone to give Iowa a 7-0 lead, but the officials believed otherwise, so otherwise kept the game scoreless for the time being and Iowa never did get a TD.

At last a junior transfer placekicker named Rob Houghtlin did show a nice sense of drama, chipping a 29-yard field goal on the last play of the game to give Iowa a 12-10 victory. And there was some delicious anxiety for all involved during the last seven minutes or so. But if, by looking at the final score,

one assumes a match for the ages — an epic such as Johnny Rodgers and Nebraska over Oklahoma in 1971, or Texas' James Street throwing a fourth-down winning pass against Arkansas in 1969, or Southern Cal treading water just long enough to survive the mad Ron Vanderkelen-Wisconsin comeback in the 1962 Rose Bowl — forget it.

Naturally, Iowa coach Hayden Fry, and the state of Iowa in general, were thrilled with the result. However much the state of Iowa weighs, with all the cornfields and so forth, it could be said that all that weight was on Houghtlin's shoulders as he waited, on second-down-and-six at the Michigan 12-yard line and with the clock stopped at 0:02, for his winning kick.

"The best thing I did for Rob, and for Chuck Long," Fry said, "was to pull 'em real close and tell 'em, 'You do your thing the same as if this were practice. You relax and do it the way you feel most comfortable.'"

Thus relaxed, and having waited though a timeout each by Iowa and Michigan, Houghtlin said, "I didn't even think about the kick. If you think about it, you'll miss it. I don't even remember hitting [kicking] it."

As soon as he hit it, about 20,000 spectators rushed onto the field to whoop and holler and, in a surprisingly polite way, celebrate. The other 46,000 stood in the rain at their seats for almost a half-hour, just bubbling a bit over the event.

But the truth is, until the fourth quarter — maybe even until the last couple of possessions — there was no raging fire of a grand football exhibition burning out of control. Long's final statistics — 26 of 39 pass completions for 297 yards — appeared dangerous. But his one interception was more indicative of Iowa's day.

That came with six minutes to play —Continued on Page 20



Ronnie Harmon picks up a first down before being stopped by Mark Messner

Irish Shut Down Army, and Critics

By Dave Rosner

South Bend, Ind. — The Fighting Irish were fighting mad. They were tired of hearing how beleaguered Notre Dame was going to be invaded yesterday by undefeated Army and its tanklike wishbone offense. And about how their beleaguered coach, Gerry Faust, was a couple of losses away from his dishonorable discharge.

"The criticism we've received is nationwide and it comes from all angles," all-America tailback Allen Pinkett would say later. "When we're subjected to that and we have to read in the papers about how bad a football team we are, it plays on us, it works on our nerves. And we come out on the field with a lot of pride and determination."

"This was our chance to shut the critics up." That they did by shutting down Army and its nation-leading ground attack, 24-10. By handing the nationally ranked Cadets their first loss in six games, the 2-3 Irish may well have granted Faust a reprieve. And, in the spirit of the occasion, no questions were permitted about this week's published report that losses to Army and Southern Cal next Saturday would result in the coach's dismissal before his five-year contract expires at season's end.

"A lot of people are writing about the coaching situation, about our inability to win games or put the ball in the end zone," Pinkett said. "We've been subjected to a lot of adversity, but this team's had a way of coming out fighting when you put our backs up against the wall. There was a tremendous pride factor involved. An undefeated team was coming into our stadium, and we took the initiative to defend our stadium because it's a very special place."

The Irish tried everything to rekindle their glory days here. They even staged a recreation Friday night of the world premiere of the film "Knute Rocke — All-American." But the actor who played the Gipper himself did not attend the latest premiere. Imagine that: Even President Reagan sent his regrets before this game.

No matter. The best way to evoke the past was through their play on the field, before the customary



Allen Pinkett, who broke the Notre Dame career rushing record, is chased by Bob Kleinhample.

sellout crowd of 59,075. And the Irish played, as Army coach Jim Young said, "errorless football." They held Army's rushing game, which led the nation with a 393.6-yard average, to 196 yards. Their offense, which had sputtered through their first four games, resembled the Army offense that had averaged 42.6 points in its best start since 1950.

Why, they even outrushed Army by 11 yards — thanks to Pinkett. The Heisman Trophy candidate, who needed only 50 yards to surpass Vagas Ferguson as Notre Dame's all-time leading rusher, gained 133 yards on 27 carries to bring his career total to 3,556. "If you are going to beat them," Young said, "you have to stop him."

The Cadets didn't stop much after their first possession ended quickly. William Lampley fumbled a pitchout over to Notre Dame, which needed to drive only 16 yards for Pernell Taylor's 1-yard touchdown run. On its next possession, Notre Dame drove 86 yards on 11 plays for a touchdown on Tim Brown's 19-yard reception. That made it 14-0, not bad for a team that hadn't scored more than one touchdown in the first half this season.

"We approached the game with the right attitude," said Steve Beuerlein, who completed 12 of 20 passes for 186 yards. "Coach Faust all week long has told us, 'Forget everything that's happened. This is a new season.'"

Never mind that it started to look like the same old season as the Cadets, helped by a roughing-the-kicker penalty on a punt from their own 20, drove for first-and-goal from the 8. The drive stalled on fourth down when Tory Crawford's 2-yard touchdown pass to diving Rob Dickerson was ruled out of bounds, but they got the ball back needing to drive only 41 yards for a touchdown. Lampley scored it on a 4-yard run. And then they pulled within 14-10 in the third quarter on Craig Stopa's 22-yard field goal.

But the Irish never flinched. They ate up the rest of the third quarter with a 14-play, 82-yard drive that culminated in Pinkett's 1-yard plunge for a 21-10 lead. And after having difficulty with Air Force's wishbone in a devastating 21-15 loss, they effectively broke Army's for their 10th straight victory over the Cadets dating back two decades.

"We are very pleased with the win because we thought we played against a bona fide football team," Faust understated, his voice hoarse, his smile wide. For one week, at least, he had quieted the critics. Said Faust, "I never felt better."

