

# Penn

# FOOTBALL

## HEAD COACH CORY YEOMAN

### STATE CHAMPIONS 1983, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000

### Penn Kingsmen

2017 schedule

Home games upper case/All times Eastern

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Fri., Aug. 18	At Valparaiso	L, 7-12
Fri., Aug. 25	MERRILLVILLE	W, 7-0
Fri., Sept. 1	At Brother Rice	W, 38-0
Fri., Sept. 8	ST. MARY'S	W, 38-17
Fri., Sept. 15	S.B. ADAMS	W, 35-0
Fri., Sept. 22	At S.B. St. Joseph	W, 30-14
Fri., Sept. 29	At S.B. Clay	W, 58-6
Fri., Oct. 6	ELKHART CENTRAL	W, 47-3
Fri., Oct. 13	At Mishawaka	7 p.m.
State playoffs		
Fri., Oct. 20	Bye	
Fri., Oct. 27	At Valparaiso	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 3	Sectional	TBA
Fri., Nov. 10	Regional	TBA
Fri., Nov. 17	Semi-state	TBA
Sat., Nov. 25	State championship	TBA

### PENN KINGSMEN (7-1)

vs.

### Mishawaka Cavemen (5-3)

### Northern Indiana Conference Football



Penn  
KINGSMEN



**Date: Friday, Oct. 13**

**When: 7 p.m. EDT**

**Where: Steele Stadium, Mishawaka**

**Twitter: @The\_Pennant**

### Game preview

Penn will win the Northern Indiana Conference North Division title outright with a victory against Mishawaka. ... Penn entered the season with 35 NIC Championships in Football and six league titles in a row. ... Penn leads the series vs. Mishawaka 45-14-1. ... Penn has won six games in a row against the Cavemen. ... The Kingsmen beat Mishawaka 21-14 last season. ... Mishawaka's last victory against Penn was a 14-7 decision on Nov. 5, 2010. ... Penn is averaging 32.5 points a game, and allowing 6.5 points a game.

### Penn High School facts

**Principal:** Sean Galiher

**Director of Athletics:** Aaron Leniski

**Assistant A.D.:** Bridget Williams

**Nickname:** Kingsmen

**School colors:** Black and Gold

**Enrollment:** 3,690

**Conference:** Northern Indiana Conference

**Location:** 56100 Bittersweet Rd.  
Mishawaka, Indiana  
46545

**Penn-Harris-Madison School Corp.:**

**Supt.:** Dr. Jerry Thacker

**Board of Trustees:**

Larry Beehler

Gary Fox

Jim Garrett

K. Jaye Galloway

Angie Gates

Chris Riley

Jamie Woods

### Penn coach Cory Yeoman

Penn head coach Cory Yeoman has a 161-31 record in his 15th season as the Kingsmen head coach. Yeoman has guided Penn to semistate titles in 2015, 2011 and 2003. The Kingsmen have won seven regional crowns under Yeoman's guidance, nine sectional titles and 13 Northern Indiana Conference championships.

Coach Yeoman played at Penn High School, earning all-state honors at defensive tackle. In 1979, Coach Yeoman led a Kingsmen defense that only allowed 33 yards rushing a game. He graduated from Penn in 1980. Coach Yeoman is in the Indiana Football Hall of Fame, the first Penn player nominated for the Hall.

After his playing career at Penn, coach Yeoman played for Miami (Ohio) University.

Coach Yeoman has served as an assistant or head coach with Penn football for 34 seasons.

# GOLDRUSH



## PENN FOOTBALL DEPTH CHART

### GOLD RUSH OFFENSE

POSITION	#	STARTER (Height, Weight, Grade)	#	FIRST BACK-UP
Tight End	96	Jordan Earl (6-2, 210, Sr.)	88	Greg Hurst (6-3, 195, Jr.)
Right Tackle	63	Ty McCaskill (6-6, 310, Sr.)	74	Matt Engdahl (6-0, 220, Soph.)
Right Guard	75	Ryan Williams (6-1, 295, Soph.)	55	Alex Fish (6-3, 240, Jr.)
Center	65	Mitch Bernard (6-0, 255, Sr.)	68	Josh Schrader (5-10, 230, Jr.)
Left Guard	62	Carrington Neal (6-4, 205, Sr.)	67	Ashton Bradley (6-5, 300, Jr.)
Left Tackle	76	Tate Johnson (6-4, 275, Soph.)	54	Payton Humphries (6-2, 238, Jr.)
Split End	2	Zach Usenick (6-2, 190, Sr.)	81	Eric Wood (6-2, 160, Jr.)
Quarterback	3	Ryan Lynch (6-2, 187, Soph.)	15	Ron Powlus (6-3, 225, Fr.)
Running back	34	Ryan Whiteman (5-10, 205, Jr.)	24	Trenton Horvath (5-4, 150, Jr.)
Running back	5	Hunter Whitlow (5-8, 175, Sr.)	14	Brock Zolman (5-10, 175, Sr.)
Flanker	11	George Ohlson (5-10, 150, Jr.)	17	Brock Boynton (6-1, 180, Jr.)

### WILD BUNCH DEFENSE

POSITION	#	STARTER	#	FIRST BACK-UP
Def. End	99	Rockne Hurley (6-2, 190, Jr.)	2	Jalen Alexander (5-1, 205, Jr.)
Def. Tackle	95	James Morris (6-1, 230, Sr.)	91	Alex Kennach (6-1, 235, Soph.)
Def. Tackle	91	Peni Vakalahi (6-1, 256, Sr.)	66	Jared Riffle (5-10, 230, Jr.)
Def. End	94	Leegrand Alovili (5-11, 200, Sr.)	21	Corey Warner (5-11, 180, Jr.)
Outside LB	8	Caden Paquette (6-1, 205, Jr.)	37	Ryan Schmitt (6-0, 190, Jr.)
Inside LB	9	Adam Berta (6-0, 205, Jr.)	49	Camryn Szynski (6-1, 195, Soph.)
Inside LB	47	Gabe Yeoman (5-10, 200, Sr.)	42	Brenden Toombs (5-11, 190, Soph.)
Outside LB	6	Drew Schneider (6-0, 170, Jr.)	20	Bryce Stone (5-11, 170, Jr.)
Corner	22	Colin Wilson (5-11, 170, Sr.)	23	Cian Messner (5-8, 155, Jr.)
Free Safety	13	Paul Moala (6-1, 200, Sr.)	7	
Corner	1	Johnny Ho (5-11, 170, Jr.)	25	Carson Taege (5-10, 150, Jr.)

### SPECIALISTS

FG/PAT kicks	8	Caden Paquette (6-1, 205, Jr.)		
PAT holder	11	George Ohlson (5-10, 150, Jr.)		
Punter	46	Max Chaffee (6-0, 185, Sr.)		
Kickoffs	8	Caden Paquette (6-1, 205, Jr.)		
Kickoff returner	13	Paul Moala (6-1, 200, Sr.)		
Punt returner	17	Brock Boynton (6-1, 180, Jr.)		
Punt returner	13	Paul Moala (6-1, 200, Sr.)		
Long snapper	55	Alex Fish (6-3, 240, Jr.)		

# TCU sponsors Freed Field

By Parker Adkins

Penn High School made a groundbreaking deal in 2015 when it reached a deal for the naming rights of Freed Field with Teachers Credit Union.

TCU/Freed Field is the result of a new sponsorship deal with TCU that brings \$396,000 to Penn-Harris-Madison schools.

Freed Field is the latest Penn field to be sponsored, that's why it has made local and national news and media. Penn has started to let families or businesses sponsor a field, gym, or classroom for a contract, making Penn one of the leaders in the nation for public schools to engaging in corporate sponsorships.

Where does this money go? This money is going to the Penn-Harris-Madison Education Foundation. What this does is give money and grants to school programs that the state can't provide money to. This money does not just go to that sport or program, it goes to the corporation's education foundation to benefit not just the athlete, but the student in student-athlete or just student.

This recent deal is a big deal, because Freed Field brings in the largest crowds through out the year, because it hosts football, band, track, and lacrosse.

The TCU deal will 13 years, and all money goes to the PHM Education Foundation.



Penn Athletic Director Aaron Leniski said, "This is a win-win for our community. TCU has been a proud longstanding supporter of Penn High School and has contributed financial support to many of our academic and athletic programs in the past. This expanded sponsorship further shows their dedication to our community and student body. We look forward to continuing the tradition and success of Kingsmen football at TCU Freed Field!"

## **KINGSMEN ASSISTANT COACHES**

**VARSITY ASSISTANT COACHES:** Brian Grimman, John Hedrick, Kevin Herrity, Brent Laidig, Dave Manspeaker, Bryan Mattison, Jason Pikuza, Pete Riordan, Jeff Thompson, Brandon Tugmon, Gary Yeoman, Todd Yeoman, Trent Yeoman, Tyler Yeoman.

**FRESHMEN HEAD COACH:** Keith O'Connell

**FRESHMEN ASSISTANTS:** Jon Carroll, Todd Crist, Frank Duong, Eric Kline, Jeremy McCaskill, Chris Shelly.

## 2017 NORTHERN INDIANA CONFERENCE STANDINGS

ALL TIMES EASTERN

	Conf.	Points	Opp. Points	All Games	Points	Opp. Pts.
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### NORTH DIVISION

<b>PENN</b>	<b>4-0</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7-1</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>52</b>
Mishawaka	3-1	156	77	5-3	263	209
South Bend St. Joseph	3-1	125	82	3-5	192	201
Elkhart Central	1-3	51	143	3-5	103	226
South Bend Adams	1-3	105	110	206	170	223
South Bend Clay	0-4	32	204	0-8	40	429

### SOUTH DIVISION

New Prairie	5-0	240	52	7-1	367	96
Jimtown	4-1	92	76	4-4	113	179
South Bend Riley	3-2	128	114	5-3	257	171
Marian	2-3	65	76	4-4	135	135
Bremen	2-4	125	167	4-4	201	190
Glenn	1-4	38	124	3-5	81	164
South Bend Washington	1-4	34	113	3-5	118	139

### FRIDAY, OCT. 13

**PENN** at Mishawaka, 7 p.m.

Culver Academy at Bremen, 7 p.m.

Jimtown at New Prairie, 7:30 p.m.

South Bend Clay at Elkhart Central, 7 p.m.

South Bend Riley at Glenn, 7 p.m.

South Bend St. Joseph at South Bend Adams, 7 p.m.

South Bend Washington at Marian, 7 p.m.



**PENN KINGSMEN (7-1)**

DATE	OPPONENT	ET
Aug. 18	At Valparaiso	L, 7-12
Aug. 25	MERRILLVILLE	W, 7-0
Sept. 1	At Brother Rice	W, 38-0
Sept. 8	ST. MARY'S PREP	W, 38-17
Sept. 15	S.B. ADAMS	W, 35-0
Sept. 22	At S.B. St. Joseph	W, 30-14
Sept. 29	At S.B. Clay	W, 58-6
Oct. 6	ELKHART CENTRAL	W, 47-3
<b>Oct. 13</b>	<b>At Mishawaka</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>

**Mishawaka Cavemen (5-3)**

DATE	OPPONENT	ET
Aug. 18	PORTAGE	W, 47-45
Aug. 25	At Valparaiso	L, 7-31
Sept. 1	CHICAGO MARIST (Ill.)	L, 15-42
Sept. 8	SOUTH BEND ADAMS	W, 42-36/ot
Sept. 15	SOUTH BEND CLAY	W, 47-0
Sept. 22	At Elkhart Central	W, 42-14
Sept. 29	At South Bend St. Joseph	L, 25-27
Oct. 6	At Marian	W, 38-14
<b>Oct. 13</b>	<b>PENN</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>

**AP MEDIA POLL**

1. Ben Davis (8-0)  
vs. North Central (Indianapolis) (3-5) Friday
  2. Fort Wayne Snider (8-0)  
at Fort Wayne Luers (5-3) Friday
  3. Warren Central (5-3)  
vs. Detroit River Rouge (Mich.) Friday
  4. Lawrence Central (6-2)  
vs. Carmel (4-4) Friday
  5. **PENN (7-1)**  
**at Mishawaka (5-3) Friday**
  6. Valparaiso (7-1)  
vs. Lake Central (2-6) Friday
  7. Lafayette Jeff (8-0)  
vs. Muncie Central (1-7) Friday
  8. Avon (6-2)  
vs. Noblesville (1-7) Friday
  9. Homestead (7-1)  
vs. Fort Wayne South (1-7) Friday
  10. Center Grove (4-4)  
at Indianapolis Cathedral (3-5) Friday
  11. Carmel (4-4)  
at Lawrence Central (6-2) Friday
  12. Franklin Central (7-1)  
at Terre Haute North (4-4) Friday
  13. Pike (4-4)  
at Lawrence North (2-6) Friday
  14. Lake Central (2-6)  
at Valparaiso (7-1) Friday
  15. Columbus North (7-1)  
at Southport (5-3) Friday
- defeated Lawrence Central, 42-7

**IFCA COACHES' POLL**

1. Ben Davis (8-0)  
vs. North Central (Indianapolis) (3-5) Friday
2. Fort Wayne Snider (8-0)  
at Fort Wayne Luers (5-3) Friday
3. Warren Central (5-3)  
vs. Detroit River Rouge (Mich.) Friday
4. Lawrence Central (6-2)  
vs. Carmel (4-4) Friday
5. **PENN (7-1)**  
**at Mishawaka (5-3) Friday**
6. Avon (6-2)  
vs. Noblesville (1-7) Friday
7. Valparaiso (7-1)  
vs. Lake Central (2-6) Friday
8. Brownsburg (6-2)  
vs. Hamilton Southeastern (3-5) Friday
9. Carmel (4-4)  
at Lawrence Central (6-2) Friday
10. Homestead (7-1)  
vs. Fort Wayne South (1-7) Friday
11. Center Grove (4-4)  
at Indianapolis Cathedral (3-5) Friday
12. Lafayette Jeff (8-0)  
vs. Muncie Central (1-7) Friday
13. Columbus North (7-1)  
at Southport (5-3) Friday
13. Franklin Central (7-1)  
at Terre Haute North (4-4) Friday



## Sectional features Penn vs. Valparaiso rematch

Penn opens the 2017 Football Class 6-A playoffs on the road at Valparaiso on Friday, Oct. 27.

Penn is fourth in the state in most sectional Championships in Football (23).

The Kingsmen have won four consecutive Sectional Championships.

Penn owns five State Championships in Football.

Penn and Valparaiso are each 7-1.

Valpo defeated the Kingsmen 12-7 on Friday, Aug. 18, in the season opener.

Penn has won six games since the season opener.

Chesterton (3-5) plays at Warsaw (5-3) in the other Sectional 2 Game.

The Sectional 2 Championship Game is set for Friday, Nov. 3.

Admission is \$6 a person.

## Faith and family key foundations for Moala's success

By CHINONSO EMENIM  
Pennant Reporter

It was a difficult problem, sure. But it was almost complete, there was just one problem. He pointed to the spot on the page where the mistake had been made. "No, you have to add 9 to both sides to get rid of that negative nine," he said, leaning over his friend's algebra assignment. His friend nodded gratefully and corrected the error, glad that the homework was finally completed. His helper leaned back in his chair and looked up at the ceiling, stretching. He had gotten up early this morning and it would be a while before he could go to sleep.

A couple hours later, his eyes looked skyward again, but this time he wasn't looking at the ceiling of a library. Instead, he was tracking a soaring football framed against the evening sky as it returned to earth.

Though he could hear footsteps pounding against the turf as the opponents swarmed in for the tackle, he resisted the urge to look away from the ball. He had barely caught the ball before one of them dived for his legs. Spinning quickly he maintained his balance, but more tacklers were on the way. Glancing left, he saw his teammate block one would-be tackler, but

as he sprinted past his blocker with the ball, two more were closing in quickly. He had to

make a decision, and fast, but there was nowhere to go. Time was running out.

With no other choice, he stopped on a dime and watched as the two defenders went flying by, unable to stop their momentum. A cheer went up from the crowd as he raced down the left sideline and into the end zone. Penn High School's Paul Moala had just extended the Kingsmen's lead.

Moala, who is being recruited by a number of top Division I football teams, including Notre Dame, is used to long days, and making an impact. Most high schoolers would consider waking up at 6 in the morning on a regular basis to be an insane practice, but Moala was up almost a full hour before that, getting ready for a day that included a game against non-conference rival St. Mary's Prep and another day at school. Neither of these was the reason that he was up almost two hours before the sun would peek across the horizon, though. The Bible class at his church was meeting early this morning, and he couldn't be late.

For much of his life, Moala has been devoted to those two foundations of American society: faith and football. In his experience, he has noticed some overlap between the two. "God has blessed me with the talents and the opportunity to play football," Moala reflected. "And that's what inspires me to work hard and get better."

Along with his faith, Moala's strong family ties have played an important role in his success. "My main purpose for playing is my family, because they've helped me with a lot," said Moala.

At a young age, his older brother Inoke, who now plays defensive end for Indiana State University, introduced him to the game of football, and he's been playing ever since.

"Inoke shaped me into the player I am today," Moala said of his older brother. "He was my first workout partner, and he was always challenging me to do better, whether it was lifting a little more weight, running a little faster or working a little harder."



The hard work has paid off as Moala has become one of the most dynamic players in the Northern Indiana Conference. From the safety position, he racked up 63 tackles to go along with seven interceptions last year, four of which he returned for touchdowns. He also had three kickoff returns for touchdowns last season.

Moala leads the state this season with five returns for TDs.

This year, coach Cory Yeoman has really showcased his versatility by using him in all phases of the game. Already this year, Moala has caught a touchdown pass, blocked a field goal, returned a punt and a kickoff for a touchdown, and intercepted a pass from the safety position. He added a 98-yard kickoff return for a touchdown against South Bend St. Joseph.

"One of the most impressive things about him besides his work ethic is...he's one of the most humble people you'll ever meet," said Yeoman of his all-around senior standout. "He had a great role model in his older brother Inoke, and you can see how he takes after him."

With all of his recent success, Moala has drawn the attention of many colleges, including offers from Notre Dame and Vanderbilt. Not surprisingly, Moala's

approach to the recruiting process is centered on his family.

“I’m really looking for a college that best fits my family,” said Moala. “I really want my family to be okay with where I go for college, a place where they can trust me to go, and a place where I can perform well.”

Though he is still undecided about his college choice, one thing is certain: Moala -- the tutor who helps his friends with math homework, the early riser who gets up

before the sun to fit Bible class into his busy schedule, and the promising recruit who makes plays all over the field--has given his family plenty to be proud of

## Australian force: Alovili makes an impact

By CHINONSO EMENIM  
Pennant reporter

Backed up against the goal line, the Kingsmen defense – accurately nicknamed “The Wild Bunch,” – gets set, trying to force a field goal instead of giving up a touchdown. As darkness begins to fall, the chants of the crowd nearly drown out the quarterback’s shouts as he tries to straighten up the formation. All the way down the line of scrimmage, the biggest players on the field crouch in their stances, tensely awaiting the quarterback’s signal.

At the far end of the line, grass and dirt staining his once-white jersey, is one of the Wild Bunch’s newest additions – Penn High School senior Leegrand Alovili. On this play, he only has one goal – to make sure the quarterback is lying on the ground at the end of the play, preferably with the ball bouncing loose.

For those who know him well, it isn’t a surprise that Alovili has become a regular on the varsity team, despite not having played organized football until two years ago. After all, he’s no stranger to hard work. As a child growing up in Australia, he spent a lot of time working on construction sites.

“Especially when we weren’t in school, we would wake up early in the morning, and stay on site till after dark. That was our daily routine,” said Alovili.

Alovili had spent his entire life in Australia before flying across the Atlantic to



live in the Mishawaka area with his brother in 2016. He left many of his family members

behind, including his mother. He’s been staying with the Vakalahi family here in Indiana. “The thing I miss the most about Australia is probably the family and friends I left back at home,” Alovili said. “But the Vakalahi family has been really nice to take us in.”

Alovili has already noticed quite a few differences between Australian and American culture, especially when it comes to high school sports.

“In America, the high school athletics are a lot more organized,” Alovili observed. “In Australia, we didn’t train as hard or as long as we do here, and we definitely didn’t have as many fans watching from the stands. They didn’t take sports as seriously in Australia as they do in America.”

Since rugby is much more popular than American football in Australia, making

the transition between the two sports is one of the challenges that Alovili faced this season. "It took a while for me to get used to the longer practices, especially since I was learning a new game," Alovili said of the differences he's noticed. "The biggest difference I saw between the two games is that rugby is much more of a continuous sport than football. In rugby I was used to running for about 40 minutes at a time

without stopping in rugby, but in football, a play lasts maybe 10 or 15 seconds at the most."

After a productive debut season of American football, Alovili looks to continue the success in his senior year. So far, he's been a constant in opposing backfields, rushing passers and bringing down runners before they can get started.



## Gabe Yeoman makes an impact as a player and a leader

By CONNER ALLEN

There are six Yeomans listed on the 2017 Penn Kingsmen Football roster.

Five of them are leaders on the sidelines — head coach Cory Yeoman, and assistant coaches Trent Yeoman, Todd Yeoman, Gary Yeoman and Tyler Yeoman.

The sixth is a leader on the field for the Kingsmen, Gabe Yeoman.

Gabe is a 5-foot-10, 200-pound fierce linebacker. The Senior calls the defensive signals and has emerged as an impact player as a player and a leader.

Gabe Yeoman has been making a name for himself with his play on the field. And he doesn't get preferential treatment by his father Todd, uncles Cory and Trent, and cousins Gary and Tyler.

"They don't treat me differently from the rest of the team, but it's still enjoyable because I am surrounded by my family every practice/game," Gabe Yeoman said. "I can trust that they will call me out on my mistakes before any other coach would."

Yeoman appreciates growing up in the Football family.

"I feel like I have a better understanding of packages, formations, than I would have if I hadn't grown up in a football household," Yeoman said.

Yeoman said that he and the other players learn a lot more than football from the Penn program.

"It's bigger than football. They teach us life skills, like how to be a leader, how to be responsible for your actions, to be accountable. These are lessons that will carry on past the football field on to the rest of our lives."



Being a leader on the Penn defense, one player at Penn who helped Gabe become the player he is today is Joey Hedstrom, who graduated after leading the Kingsmen to a 12-1 record last season.

"Joey was a year ahead of me and he actually played inside linebacker as well," Yeoman said. "He taught me a lot and he wasn't just one of those upperclassmen who didn't care about the underclassmen."

In addition to spearheading the "Wild Bunch" defensive attack this season, Yeoman is also a rugby player.

As for his future, Gabe plans on attending Indiana University in the fall of 2018 and playing rugby. He would also like to try and walk on to the football team there as well.

But as far as this year goes, Gabe thinks very highly of the Kingsmen.

"I think this team we have right now is very talented and we have the chance to do big things this year!"



*Penn*  
**KINGSMEN**



## **Penn's Max Chaffee one of the nation's top punters**

By HAYDEN BERG

Max Chaffee started his high school career as a linebacker.

Now, he's the seventh-ranked punter in the nation according to Kohl's Kicking Camp rankings.

Max Chaffee loves hitting, like any linebacker would, but punting is now his focus. Over the summer, he attended many of the nation's top punting camps. He went to Wisconsin, Ohio State, Michigan and Northwestern.

Chaffee said that he would love to attend Notre Dame, but is still not sure yet on what he wants to do. He was the top punter at three punting camps over the summer, including Ohio State, Notre Dame and Michigan, he competed in the National Scholarship Camp in July. He graded out at the 5-star level, and his overall hang time, distance and consistency placed him among one of the top punters in the nation.

Chaffee became serious about punting his junior year. He tried punting as an eighth-grader and always kept it in mind.

Then, as junior, he practiced punting again, and realized his punts were good enough to try out for the varsity.

"I've completely worked on punting since I became really serious about it going

into the summer of my junior year," Chaffee said. "I spend a total of two and a half hours every day working to be a better punter. Every night, to become more flexible, I do 30 minutes of yoga stretches. If I'm not punting, I'm working out. I watch film of great punters and try to learn from them and add that to my arsenal."

Everyday, Chaffee is looking to improve something, and critiques himself on everything possible to make him the best he can. He likes to go out there and take everything he practices and help his team out the best he can.

"Max is a very important part of the team especially when they are backed down in bad field position," Penn head coach Cory Yeoman said. "He can go out there and help his defense out tremendously."

In the first game of the season against Valparaiso, Chaffee had an incredible punt, booming the ball 78 yards. He averages 42.3 yards a punt. Opponents average 30.2 yards a punt.

"I am very grateful to be part of the team," Chaffee said. "It has been a great experience for me and I wouldn't trade it for anything."



## **Center Mitch Bernard anchors Kingsmen offensive line**

By BEN RUSHEMEZA

Starting Center Mitch Bernard takes control when he's on the field for the Penn Kingsmen.

Thanks to Bernard, the Kingsmen offensive line has forged into a shield for quarterback Ryan Lynch.

Center is a key position on the offensive line. Bernard has been Penn's starting center for two years. The Kingsmen are 7-1, and the only loss — a 12-7 setback at Valparaiso — came with Bernard on the sidelines because of an injury.

Being a center is a hard job to do.

"The challenges of being a center are being a focal point and making sure you get the calls down," Bernard said.

The Penn experience for Mitch has been all about brotherhood and the best the team can do for ultimate success.

Bernard appreciates the efforts of Penn's coaches to help him develop into a strong leader.

"Coach-wise, Coach Laidig and Coach Cory have been positive influences for me," Bernard said. "At the beginning they train you hard to help you understand."

To his coaches, Mitch is a good leader that helps improve the Offensive line.

"What makes Mitch an effective center is leadership, that's a huge part," Coach Laidig said. "Also the mental side of him knowing everybody jobs and how hard he works."

## Penn Kingsmen Info

**State Titles:** 2000, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1983

**State Runner-up:** 2015, 2011, 2003, 1999, 1991, 1989

**Semi-State Titles:** 2015, 2011, 2003, 2000, 1999, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1991, 1989, 1983

**Regional Titles:** 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2011, 2008, 2004, 2003, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1991, 1989, 1983

**Sectional Titles:** 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2011, 2008, 2007, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1991, 1989, 1987, 1983, 1979

**NIC Titles:** 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1994, 1993, 1992, 1991, 1990, 1989, 1988, 1987, 1986, 1984, 1983, 1982, 1979, 1978.

**Stadium:** Freed Field (capacity 7,800)

**Enrollment:** 3,690

**Sectional:** Class 6-A Sectional 2

**Location:** 56100 Bittersweet Rd. , Mishawaka, Ind.

## Penn yearly records

2016: 12-1 2015: 12-2 2014: 12-1 2013: 12-1 2012: 9-2 2011: 14-1 2010: 7-5 2009: 10-2 2008: 10-4 2007: 12-1 2006: 9-3 2005: 10-3 2004: 12-2 2003: 13-2 2002: 12-1 2001: 11-2 2000: 14-1 1999: 13-2 1998: 13-1 1997: 14-1 1996: 13-1 1995: 14-0 1994: 10-1 1993: 10-1 1992: 10-1 1991: 13-1 1990: 9-1 1989: 13-1 1988: 10-1 1987: 11-1 1986: 10-1 1985: 7-3 1984: 9-2 1983: 14-0 1982: 9-2 1981: 7-3 1980: 5-5 1979: 11-1 1978: 10-1 1977: 7-3 1976: 8-2 1975: 10-1 1974: 8-2 1973: 5-5 1972: 0-10 1971: 3-7	1970: 0-9-1 1969: 1-9 1968: 3-7 1967: 4-4-1 1966: 3-7 1965: 4-5-1 1964: 5-4-1 1963: 8-2 1962: 5-4-1 1961: 6-4 1960: 2-4-3 1959: 8-2 1958: 3-5
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### PENN KINGSMEN COACHING HISTORY

Tenure	Name	W-L record	Pct.
2003-	Cory Yeoman	161-31	.839
1973-2002	Chris Geesman	310-49	.888
1970-1972	Roger Reynolds	3-26-1	.117
1965-1969	Bob Ward	20-36-2	.362
1964	Ron Meyer	5-4-1	.555
1958-1963	Dale O'Connell	32-21-4	.596

## Penn Kingsmen all-time series records vs. opponents

Anderson Highland	1-0
Auburn	2-0
Brother Rice (Mich.)	3-1
Bloomington South	1-0
Bremen	1-1
Calumet	0-2
Carmel	3-7
Center Grove	1-1
Chesterton	6-0
Concord	2-0
Crown Point	2-0
Culver Military	3-1
Decatur	1-1
East Chicago Central	2-0
East Chi. Washington	0-1
East Gary	0-1
Elkhart Central	47-2
Elkhart Memorial	30-1
Evansville North	1-0
Fort Wayne Carroll	1-1
Fort Wayne Central	3-1-1
Fort Wayne Dwenger	0-1
Fort Wayne North Side	3-2
Fort Wayne Northrop	6-0
Fort Wayne Snider	9-8
Fort Wayne South	3-1
Galien (Mich.)	1-1
Gary Emerson	1-0
Goshen	9-8-1
Highland	3-1
Hobart	1-1
Homestead	0-2
Howe Military	1-0
Huntington	1-2
Indianapolis Ben Davis	4-13
Indpls. Broad Ripple	1-0
Indpls. North Central	1-0
Indpls. Northwest	1-1
Indpls. Warren Central	0-1

Indpls. Washington	1-0
Kendallville	1-1
Kokomo	4-1-1
Lafayette Harrison	3-1
Lafayette Jefferson	3-0
Lake Central	5-0
LaPorte	10-3
Lorain (Ohio) King	1-0
Marian	9-7
Merrillville	7-2
Michigan City	6-0
Michigan City Elston	15-5
Mishawaka	45-14-1
Muncie North	1-0
New Carlisle	5-1-2
Noblesville	1-0
St. Mary's (Mich.)	2-1
Peru	1-1
Plymouth	2-2-1
Portage	8-0
Richmond	1-1
River Forest	2-0
Saginaw (Mich.)	1-0
Saint Ignatius (Ohio)	0-2
South Bend Adams	42-2
South Bend Central	1-0
South Bend Clay	45-8
South Bend Jackson	0-8
South Bend LaSalle	24-7
South Bend Riley	35-7
South Bend St. Joseph	16-16
S.B. Washington	32-1
St. Joseph (Mich.)	5-0
Toledo Cent. Catholic	1-1
Valparaiso	24-6
Warsaw	11-0
Washington-Clay	3-0-1
West Lafayette	2-0

## 2016 Penn vs. Mishawaka

**Game 9**  
**Oct. 14, 2016**

**PENN 21, Mishawaka 14**  
**At TCU/Freed Field, Penn High School**

### Hedstrom, Penn hold off Mishawaka

By Tom Noie/South Bend Tribune

MISHAWAKA — When it was all over but the celebratory swarm from the student body near midfield, Penn senior linebacker Cameron Hedstrom had trouble wrapping his head around the happiest of endings.

He couldn't properly put into words what he was feeling around half past 9 on Friday night. He couldn't remember a similar feeling at any previous point in his life.

He tried to comprehend how the No. 2 (Class 6-A) Kingsmen had delivered a Northern Indiana Conference North Division championship win over rival Mishawaka in the final regular-season home game of his prep career, but it just wouldn't compute. Not yet.

If he looked to his left and spied the scoreboard, which burned Penn 21, Mishawaka 14, Hedstrom would have realized that he was a big reason for those numbers being what they were after 48 minutes of black-and-blue, high-level high school football.

"I'm overwhelmed," Hedstrom said. "I love it. It's amazing. It's unspeakable.

Emotion and enthusiasm accompanied Hedstrom onto TCU Freed Field for Senior Night against the No. 3 (Class 5-A) Cavemen. But it would be execution — by Hedstrom and his fellow Wild Bunch defensive dudes — that made sure they did indeed leave winners, leave division champions.

Down seven with just over three minutes remaining, Mishawaka took over on its own 20 following a Penn punt. Nine plays later, each one a little more nerve-racking than the last, the Cavemen had seemingly stalled at their own 42 with just about the same amount of seconds — 43.7 — remaining.

Prior to the fourth-and-nine from that 42, Hedstrom gathered his fellow defenders for one final huddle. He's had many a dream about how his final regular-season home game might unfold. But never could he have dreamed up a better script — close contest against THE rival, clock draining, fourth down and the game there just begging, pleading for someone to make a play. A winning play.

"It's the best-case scenario you could ever have," said Hedstrom, who also pounced

on a Cavemen fumble early in the fourth quarter. "It was amazing. So much adrenaline. So many big thrills. Best game. I love it.

"I got them all together and said, 'Let's do this, boys!'"

They did it.

A handful to corral much of the night, Mishawaka quarterback Ryan Wroblewski scrambled and flipped the ball to the equally elusive Vernon Daniels, who looked to have a whole lot of real estate on the far side of the field. Daniels broke free for four yards, then six, and then eight. He seemingly was ready to kick it into another gear, get the first down, give the Cavemen a fresh set of downs and keep the Kingsmen on their heels.

Hedstrom had none of it.

Chasing the play after blitzing, Hedstrom tracked down Daniels — no easy task — and smothered him one yard shy of a first down with 38 seconds remaining.

"I ran as hard as I could and got there," said Hedstrom, still breathing hard after the final horn. "I just knew that I couldn't let my brothers down on the field."

Penn took over on downs, ran a play out of the victory formation and claimed another NIC crown when the clock hit zero. It's the third time in the last four years that Penn has gone undefeated overall during the regular season and the sixth-straight year that the Kingsmen (9-0; 5-0) have worked their way through league play without a loss.

"There have been a lot of (NIC) titles, but every one of them is special," Penn coach Cory Yeoman said. "It's special for this group of seniors."

A group, which includes Hedstrom, that has helped Penn go 45-4 and counting during their four years.

While the defense dictated the end of the game, the offense helped Penn pull ahead on the first play of the fourth quarter. Faced with a critical third-and-12 from the Mishawaka 23, quarterback James Iapalucci remained cool and calm in the face of pressure long enough to drop a scoring strike into the waiting hands of Matt Kominkiewicz down the far sideline.

"It was right on the money," Yeoman said. "James did a great job."

Coach Bart Curtis couldn't find much fault in the effort from the Cavemen (7-2; 4-1). They brought it all four quarters. But the execution — a fumble here, another there, a Paul Moala walk-in interception in the second half — could have been cleaner.

#### • At TCU Freed Field

P — Landon Martz 6 run (Jared Hancock kick)

M — Luke Campbell 1 run (Ben Kozlowski kick)

P — Paul Moala 15 interception return (Hancock kick)

M — Devin Wakes 16 pass from Ryan Wroblewski (Kozlowski kick)

P — Matt Kominkiewicz 23 pass from James Iapalucci (Hancock kick)

"Execution didn't happen," Curtis said. "You can't fumble twice and throw a pick-six against Penn and win. Period. I don't care who you are. Can't do it."

"I'm proud of our kids. We've got great kids."

## 2017 Game stories

**Game 1:  
Aug. 18, 2017**

**Valparaiso 12, PENN 7  
At Valparaiso High School**

### Valpo dethrones Penn

By David Funk/Times of Northwest Indiana

VALPARAISO — Seven years.

Valparaiso last topped Penn in 2010. That victory was still the last Region win against the Mishawaka powerhouse.

Until Friday night.

Behind a stifling defense and the will of quarterback Jake Leffew, the Time No. 5 Vikings outlasted the Kingsmen 12-7.

"This is huge for our kids because it allows them to know they can compete," Valparaiso coach Dave Coyle said. "So many times we start our season 0-1. The very few times we start 1-0, it's exciting. It's like Christmas."

Valparaiso held Penn to just 87 total yards of offense.

"(Penn coach) Cory (Yeoman) has a great program and this happens to us only every once in a great while and we're excited," Coyle said. "We worked very hard."

Leffew's 1-yard touchdown run capped 54-yard, two-minute drive for Valparaiso with 10 minutes to play in the fourth quarter. It clinched the game.

"In my four years, it's always been our goal to beat Penn and this time we did

it," Leffew said. "It's always 'You've got big, bad Penn coming in.' Nobody believes in us but we always believe in ourselves."

Leffew finished with 145 yards passing. At one point, he missed on all but three of 15 passes. But he connected with receivers on his last four throws on the critical drive.

"The game's going to be up and down. Coming out at halftime, you want to get off to a strong start, but sometimes it just doesn't happen," Leffew said. "We knew, going into the fourth quarter, that we had to score. From there out, it was just a different mentality, make or break."

The Vikings moved the ball easily early, driving deep into Penn territory on the first drive before being derailed by penalties and an Adam Berta sack.

The Valparaiso defense did its job, too, forcing the Kingsmen to punt in four downs on each of the first two possessions.

"As things were getting tiring for both sides, I thought our kids did a great job with that quick pace," Coyle said. "We worked real hard with conditioning tonight and I

think it paid off. It was humid tonight. It was hot.”

Penn scored on the first play of the second quarter. A Ryan Lynch pass was short, but Paul Moala juggled and corralled it before scampering into the end zone for a 33-yard touchdown.

The answer came about three minutes later.

After Penn bobbled a punt snap, Valparaiso took over at the Kingsmen 24-yard line. A few plays later, Leffew hit Jesse Harper for a 20-yard score. The extra point failed and the Vikings still trailed 7-6, a score that would carry into the break.

“To get a win against a caliber of team like Penn, that’s awesome for us. It’s just awesome for us,” Coyle said.

**Game 2:  
Aug. 25, 2017**

**PENN 7, Merrillville 0  
At TCU/Freed Field, Penn High School**

## **Whiteman's jaunt all Penn gets, needs in win over Merrillville**

By Tom Noie/South Bend Tribune

MISHAWAKA – Room to work that had been but a rumor most of the night Friday surfaced late in the third quarter for Penn's Ryan Whiteman.

Finally seeing something he could work with, Whiteman knew what to do.

Run. Hard. Fast. Long. And when he reached the north end zone, he nearly kept going.

Whiteman's 88-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter gave the Kingsmen, ranked eighth in this week's coaches poll, the spark they desperately needed against Merrillville at TCU Freed Field.

Able to dodge its first 0-2 start since 2010, Penn moved to 1-1 following the grind-it-out, not-easy-on-the-eyes 7-0 victory.

Whiteman's run, which came off a critical third-and-eight call, marked the first

first down for Penn in over four quarters of work.

"I just saw the good block and cut up and just ran my (butt) off and got in there," Whiteman said. "I can't even describe it. All the hard work is finally paying off. It's all because of my line."

Merrillville had lost its last four to Penn over the last three seasons by combined score of 164-58. The Kingsmen won last season's second game, 35-2.

The visitors had two chances in the final 5.8 seconds of the first half to put the first points on the scoreboard. But a Cameron Wright pass into the end zone fell incomplete. And when safety Paul Moala blocked a Meagan Wise field goal attempt from 23 yards at the horn, the teams headed to the locker room scoreless.

Penn managed 26 yards of total offense the first 24 minutes. The Kingsmen

just couldn't figure out how to best move the ball. Spread the field with three wideouts? Play power? Option? Rotate quarterbacks Ryan Lynch and Ron Powlus?

Nothing really worked.

Lynch played the first three series of the first half; Powlus the fourth and final. Lynch returned to start the third quarter.

Penn's best weapon in the first half was punter Max Chaffee. He helped the Kingsmen play a field-position game with four booming boots for an average of 41.7 yards.

Chaffee's first punt of the second half – after another three-and-out – pinned Merrillville back on its own 2.

Penn had the ball four times in Friday's first half, and went three-and-out all four times. Coupled with the previous game's offensive woes that meant the Kingsmen basically played an entire game –

the last two quarters against Valparaiso and the first two quarters against Merrillville – without one offensive first down.

That's territory this program has not been in for a long time. A really long time.

**Game 3:  
Sept. 1, 2017**

**PENN 38, Brother Rice 0  
At Berkley High School (Berkley, Mich.)**

## **Football: Penn decks Brother Rice**

Penn High's Football Team boasted strong contributions from the offense, defense and special teams in a 38-0 victory against Brother Rice on Friday, Sept. 1. The game was played at Berkley High School in Berkley, Mich.

Penn's offense started the game with a sustained drive that resulted in an 18-yard TD run by Ryan Whiteman. Caden Paquette kicked the extra point for a 7-0 Kingsmen lead.

Corey Warner put the ball right back in Kingsmen hands, recovering a fumble on the ensuing kickoff at the Brother Rice 25.

Whiteman scored his second TD, a 10-yard run. Paquette's kick made it 14-0 Kingsmen in the first quarter.

Lightning struck again, as Penn hitman Ryan Schmitt recovered a Warrior fumble on the kickoff.

Caden Paquette finished the drive with a 23-yard field goal.

Brock Boynton then jolted the Warriors with an electrifying 50-yard punt return for a touchdown with 11:03 left in the second quarter. Caden Paquette kicked the extra point to make it 24-0 in favor of Penn.

Penn stung the Warriors to open the second half with a 95-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Paul Moala. The extra-point kick by Caden Paquette made it 31-0 Kingsmen.

A 23-yard TD strike from Ron Powlus to Zach Usenick wrapped up the Kingsmen scoring. Caden Paquette kicked the extra point to make the final score 38-0.

**Game 4:  
Sept. 8, 2017**

**PENN 38, St. Mary's (Mich.) 17  
At TCU/Freed Field, Penn High School**

## **All is right again with Penn over Orchard Lake (Mich.) St. Mary's**

**By Ron Haramia  
Tribune Correspondent**

MISHAWAKA — Even after a victory, football coaches are never completely happy — unless their team had success in all three phases of the game — offense, defense, and special teams.

There was no doubt about Penn boss Cory Yeoman's mood after his Kingsmen used the trio to turn a tight first quarter into a comfortable halftime lead on its way to a 38-17 victory over three-time defending state champion Orchard Lake (Mich.) St. Mary's at TCU Freed Field.

The rumor of Penn's demise appears to be fake news.

The Kingsmen (3-1) have won three in a row, outscoring their opponents 83-17 in the process heading into conference play next week.

"Yeah, happy with all areas tonight," Yeoman admitted. "Our offense is getting better every week, special teams came through for us, had a big return, and the defense made some plays against a heck of a team."

After the offense marched 53 yards in just six plays on its first

possession, Penn put points on the board via a field goal and a long punt return, before turning an interception into a score in about a six-minute span.

Caden Paquette nailed a 30-yard field goal to open the second period. Midway through the quarter, Paul Moala found a great wall of blockers to his left and only had to juke the punter on a 61-yard romp to make it 17-7.

Just three plays later, Andrew Schneider intercepted Eaglets (0-3) 6-foot-6 quarterback Caden Prieskorn (18-of-30, 191 yards) and a minute later, Ryan Lynch connected with Zach Usenick on a 30-yard pass play across the middle.

Lynch finished 10-for-19 for 209 yards. Usenick had four receptions for 112 yards.

The second half was highlighted by a fumble recovery. Hunter Whitlow (91 yards, six carries) was headed for a 70-yard TD run, but was tripped up at the 5 and lost the ball. A hustling Ryan Whiteman was able to recover the miscue in the end zone for Penn's final points.

"A great effort play," said Yeoman. "He never quit on the play."

**Game 5:  
Sept. 15, 2017**

**PENN 35, South Bend Adams 0  
At TCU/Freed Field, Penn High School**

## **Penn dominates Adams in NIC clash: Fast start fuels easy win for Kingsmen**

By Tom Noie South Bend Tribune/Sept. 16, 2017

MISHAWAKA — Dropping into coverage on the far side of the field from his right outside linebacker spot, Penn

junior Drew Schneider had to change gears on the run.

He went from someone looking to make a tackle on third down to someone looking to make a catch — and then a run — and, ultimately, a touchdown.

Schneider snared an interception on the game's fourth play, then raced 40 yards with almost no one around for the first of many Penn (4-1; 10 NIC North) scores as the home team rolled on Homecoming, 35-0, over winless Adams at TCU Freed Field.

The Kingsmen scored twice in the first 6:02 to put this one away early. Following Schneider's snare and score, senior running back Hunter Whitlow scored his first career touchdown on a fourth-and-two scamper from the Eagle seven. He went in from a yard out later in the second quarter.

Penn scored all four times it had the ball in the first half. It now leads the all-time series 42-2.

Adams quarterback Ira Armstead was coming off a game the previous week against Mishawaka in which he threw for 283 yards and five touchdowns. Working with four wideouts on the opening series, Armstead promptly connected with Eric Williams for 18 yards on the opening play, but that drive stalled in the worst of ways — with Schneider's pick.

There were times — albeit too few — when Armstead was able to buy enough time in the pocket to stand strong against a suffocating rush and connect with one of his receivers on a big-time throw and catch. One play in the second quarter saw Armstead withstand a rush, avoid a sack and jump up to throw and find Eric Williams for a big gainer.

That one was wiped out by a holding call.

Penn held Adams to 10 total yards in the second half.

Armstead did not play in the second half. Junior Jaydin Miller and then Williams took over quarterback duties.

Playing its first Northern Indiana Conference game of the season, Penn looks to roll through the league undefeated for the seventh straight season.

The Kingsmen visit South Bend Saint Joseph next week.

After consecutive winning seasons, the Eagles fell to 0-5, 0-2 returning home next week to meet Clay. It's the first time Adams has opened a year 0-5 since 2006 when it finished 0-10.

**Game 6:  
Sept. 22, 2017**

**PENN 30, South Bend St. Joseph 14  
At Father Bly Field, South Bend**

## **Penn runs win streak to five against Saint Joseph**

By Tom Noie South Bend Tribune/Sept. 23, 2017

SOUTH BEND — Various economic equations were scrawled in chalk Friday night across the pavilion outside the Leighton Stadium press box.

Any of them might have been easier to solve than the task put to the South Bend Saint Joseph football team — beat a 10th-ranked Penn squad that has been on a serious roll the last month.

That roll continued.

The Kingsmen scored 23 first-half points en route to their fifth-straight win, 30-14, at Father Bly Field. Penn (5-1; 3-0 NIC North) has not lost since opening game of the year at Valparaiso. Saint Joseph (2-4; 2-1 NIC North) has lost each of its four games to ranked teams. The Indians had won each

of their conference contests the previous two weeks.

Penn had trouble getting going early. Ryan Lynch's first completed pass went to center Mitch Bernard. Oops. The illegal touching resulted in a five-yard penalty and loss of down.

The Kingsmen had trouble getting their passing game going early, but it really didn't matter. Not when the Kingsmen could run the ball behind that big offensive line, a group that just blew open wide running lanes for Lynch and anybody else carrying the ball to cruise through.

And when it came time for the Indians to do the same – run the ball – the Kingsmen would have none of it.

Saint Joseph managed only 43 rushing yards in the first half.

The Indians got a little life with a scoring drive late in the second quarter. Penn then responded with a 78-yard scoring

drive capped by a Ryan Whiteman dive from three yards out to make it 23-7 at the break.

The Indians got a second life with a scoring drive to open the second half. They then kicked it to Paul Moala. Bad idea. Moala races and weaved then raced again 98 yards to bump the visitors back up by 16 – 30-14.

Fall arrived just after 4 p.m., but you'd never know it. Temperatures were still in the low-90s as the teams warmed up – and were likely already warm – an hour before the game.

It was 90 degrees with a heat index of 94 at kickoff.

Saint Joseph closes its three-game home stand Friday when it plays its final home game of the regular season against Mishawaka. Penn remains on the road with a visit to the north side of South Bend and a game against winless Clay.

**Game 7:  
Sept. 29, 2017**

**PENN 58, South Bend Clay 6  
At Clay Field, South Bend**

## **Penn whacks Clay 58-6**

Penn's Football team struck early and often in rolling past South Bend Clay, 58-6, on Friday, Sept. 29.

Penn led 45-0 after one quarter and led 58-0 at halftime. Clay scored on the last play of the game.

Hunter Whitlow got the Kingsmen rolling when he bolted for nine yards for a TD. Ryan Whiteman ran for the two-point PAT.

Penn's Wild Bunch defense struck for the next touchdown. Leegrand Alovili recovered a fumble in the end zone that was forced by James Morris.

Brock Boynton hauled in a seven-yard TD strike from Ryan Lynch to push the Kingsmen lead to 22-0.

Lynch connected with Zach Usenick for a 39-yard TD pass as the Kingsmen lead grew to 29-0.

Paul Moala broke loose for a 48-yard punt return touchdown.

A safety by Rockne Hurley gave Penn a 38-0 lead.

Brock Zolman's electrifying 57-yard TD run finished off the Penn scoring assault in the first quarter and made the score 45-0.

Jeremiah Gosztola scored a touchdown on a four-yard pass from Ron Powlus.

Patrick Maclin raced 18 yards to finish the Kingsmen scoring.

Clay scored a touchdown on the final play of the game.

**Game 8:  
Oct. 6, 2017**

**PENN 47, Elkhart Central 3  
At TCU/Freed Field, Penn High School**

By Tim Creason/South Bend Tribune

MISHAWAKA — Elkhart Central's Blue Blazers took a gamble. Penn's Camryn Szynski called their bluff.

Szynski's pick-6 — a 23-yard interception return for a score, shortly after the second half began — was the catalyst that ignited Penn's 47-3 blowout in Friday's Northern Indiana Conference football game at Freed Field.

The pass from Elkhart Central quarterback Jackson Wiltfong — on second down and 24, deep in Blazer territory — bloomed up in the air as defensive lineman James Morris wrapped him up. It dropped into the arms of Szynski, who rumbled right, and then left, across the field and into the end zone.

"I saw the tip and just settled under it," said Szynski, a sophomore linebacker. "It was exciting, it sure was."

Prior to the interception, Penn's lead was only 14-0, and Elkhart Central was at least making a game of it. But after the TD with 9:36 remaining in the third quarter ...

"We could feel it on the sideline," said Szynski. "You could just see how frustrated they (Elkhart Central) were getting."

Eighth-ranked (Class 6-A) Penn, now 7-1, clinches at least a tie for the NIC North Division championship. It is the seventh straight conference title for the Kingsmen and 36th in school history.

Penn quarterback Ryan Lynch completed 5-of-11 passes for 109 yards, including a perfect 37-yard TD strike to Zach

Usenick in the third quarter. He also rushed for 40 yards.

Hunter Whitlow rushed for 40 yards and two touchdowns. Ryan Whiteman had 42 yards and a TD of his own.

Strangely enough, Penn's biggest offensive weapon emerged during mop-up time, when second-stringers were finishing the game.

Trenton Horvath, a 5-foot-4, 145-pound junior, rushed for 74 yards and two touchdowns on just four carries. On his first running play, he raced, almost untouched, 59 yards for a score, outstripping the Blazer defense.

Elkhart Central coach Josh Shattuck believed the Blazers' only chance to win Friday's game was move quickly and hit short passes all over the field. And for a while, it worked.

On their first possession, Elkhart Central (3-5) moved 48 yards in 14 plays, but fell short of the goal line.

"It wasn't the ideal situation, but we knew we had to keep the chains moving and utilize a quick passing game," said Shattuck. "I was very proud of our first couple drives, I thought we executed the game plan really well."

The interception, however, let the air out of the Blazer balloon. Wiltfong finished the game with 14-of-25 passing for 107 yards.

"Obviously, you can't have that," said Shattuck of the interception. "But that's football. My main concern was how we would respond."

Back-up quarterback Sunrise Price led the Blazers with 46 yards on nine carries.