

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	W, 48-7
State playoffs		
Fri., Oct. 20	Bye	
Fri., Oct. 27	At Valparaiso	W, 13-0
Fri., Nov. 3	WARSAW	W, 40-0
Fri., Nov. 10	At Crown Point	W, 33-3
Fri., Nov. 17	At Carmel	W, 34-7
Sat., Nov. 25	vs. Ben Davis	7 p.m.

Penn High School facts

Principal: Sean Galihier

Director of Athletics: Aaron Leniski

Assistant A.D.: Bridget Williams

Nickname: Kingsmen

School colors: Black and Gold

Enrollment: 3,300

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 KINGSMEN (12-1)

vs.

Indianapolis Ben Davis Giants (13-0) IHSAA Class 6-A State Championship



Penn
KINGSMEN



Date: Saturday, Nov. 25

When: 7 p.m. ET

Where: Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis

Twitter: @The_Pennant

Notes

Penn owns five State Championships. ... Ben Davis has won eight State Championships. ... Penn's last State Championship was in 2000. ... Ben Davis' last State Championship was in 2014. ... Ben Davis leads the all-time series vs. Penn 13-4. ... The last time the Kingsmen and the Giants played was in the 2010 regular season, a game that Ben Davis won by a 14-10 score. ... This is the fourth meeting in a State Championship Game between the Kingsmen and the Giants. ... Ben Davis beat Penn 27-3 in the 1999 State Championship Game, Penn beat Ben Davis 17-14 in the 1996 State Championship Game, Ben Davis beat Penn 38-14 in the 1991 State Championship Game.

Penn coach Cory Yeoman

Penn head coach Cory Yeoman has a 166-31 record in his 15th season as the Kingsmen head coach, starting in 2003. Yeoman has guided Penn to semistate titles in 2017, 2015, 2011 and 2003. The Kingsmen have won nine regional crowns under Yeoman's guidance, 11 sectional titles and 14 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. He has served as an assistant or head coach with Penn football for 34 seasons.

GOLD RUSH



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	4	Zach Usenick (6-2, 190, Sr.)	86	Nick Favilla (5-11, 160, Fr.)
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.)	50	Joseph Apata (6-1, 210, Fr.)
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	Johnny Ho (5-11, 170, Jr.)
Corner	1	Jackson Weston (5-10, 175, Sr.)	25	Carson Taege (5-10, 150, Jr.)

SPECIAL FORCES

FG/PAT kicks	8	Caden Paquette (6-1, 205, Jr.)	18	Caleb Serwatka (6-0, 155, Sr.)
PAT holder	11	George Ohlson (5-10, 150, Jr.)	17	Brock Boynton (6-1, 180, Jr.)
Punter	46	Max Chaffee (6-0, 185, Sr.)	91	Alex Kennach (6-1, 235, Soph.)
Kickoffs	8	Caden Paquette (6-1, 205, Jr.)	18	Caleb Serwatka (6-0, 155, Sr.)
Kickoff returner	13	Paul Moala (6-1, 200, Sr.)	17	Brock Boynton (6-1, 180, Jr.)
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.)	47	Gabe Yeoman (5-10, 200, Sr.)

KINGSMEN STAT LEADERS

SCORING	Games	TD	PAT/1 pt.	PAT/2 pt.	FG	Total Pts.	PPG
1. Ryan Whiteman	13	15	0	1	0	92	7.1
2. Zach Usenick	13	9	0	0	0	54	4.1
3. Caden Paquette	13	2	35	0	2	53	4.1
4. Paul Moala	13	7	0	0	0	42	3.2
5. Hunter Witlow	13	6	0	0	0	36	2.8
RUSHING	Games	Att.	Yds.	TD	YPG	Ave.	
1. Ryan Whiteman	13	97	773	14	59.5	8.0	
2. Hunter Whitlow	13	68	402	6	30.9	5.9	
3. Ryan Lynch	13	81	395	4	30.4	4.9	
4. Trenton Horvath	13	32	245	4	18.5	7.7	
5. Brock Zolman	13	42	178	3	13.7	4.2	
PASSING	Games	Comp.	Att.	Int.	TD	Yds.	YPG
1. Ryan Lynch	13	90	150	3	16	1260	96.9
2. Ron Powlus	13	10	29	0	2	55	4.2
RECEIVING	Games	Rec.	Yds.	TD	YPG	Ave.	
1. Zach Usenick	13	35	621	9	47.8	17.7	
2. Brock Boynton	13	24	235	2	18.1	9.8	
3. George Ohlson	13	23	193	3	14.8	8.4	
4. Jordan Earl	13	7	70	0	5.4	10.0	
5. Ryan Whiteman	13	2	85	1	6.5	42.5	
DEFENSE	Games	Tackles	For Loss	Sacks	INT	FC	FR
1. Paul Moala	13	72	0	0	1	1	2
2. Andrew Schneider	13	72	2	1	4	0	1
3. Gabe Yeoman	13	67	6	1	1	0	0
4. Adam Berta	13	65	1	3	0	0	0
5. James Morris	13	50	6	9.5	0	1	0
6. Colin Wilson	13	46	0	0	2	0	0



QUICK KICKS

COACH CORY YEOMAN'S COMMENTS

On Ben Davis: "They've had a heck of a year. They've been rated No. 1 in the state most of the year, and there's good reason why. They have a quarterback, Reese Taylor, who is a D-I commit (Indiana), they have a tailback, Johnny Adams, who is a D-I commit (Ball State). Their wide receiver, Broc Thompson (undecided), is a D-I prospect. They have speed offensively, and then on their defense, they have D-I prospects Elijah Ball (Purdue) and Jontae Dobson (undecided) in their secondary, and a big-time defensive end, Willie Ervin (undecided) as well.

On the Kingsmen season: "Our reaching the State Championship Game has a lot to do with the legacy that our Seniors are leaving behind as far as how to handle adversity and how to pick yourself back up once you've been knocked down, and move forward. Our Seniors circled the wagons, came together and they led. It would have been easy to point fingers after we lost the season opener. It was a team loss. We weren't playing that great as a team. Our guys continued to work and tried to get better every day. That's what I'm the most proud of, how our Seniors decided to lead when adversity came their way.

CLASH OF CHAMPIONS

Penn and Ben Davis rank as two of Indiana's elite football programs. The Kingsmen own five State Championships (1983, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000), six State Runner-up finishes (1989, 1991, 1999, 2003, 2011, 2015), and now has 12 Semi-state Championships. Ben Davis has eight State Championships (1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2014), two State Runner-up finishes (1992, 1996) and now has 11 Semi-state Championships.

PAUL MOALA COMMITS TO NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL

Paul Moala, a 6-foot-1, 200-pound defensive back for the Penn Kingsmen Football Team, announced that he will continue his Academic and Athletic careers at the University of Notre Dame. Moala said that the outstanding academics and elite status of the Notre Dame Football program led him to choose to suit up for the Fighting Irish.

Proximity to his home was a key factor, but Notre Dame Football also gave Moala some very compelling vibes. "There was a vibe you got with the players, that it was a family and everyone looked out for each other."

Moala chose Notre Dame over Nebraska, Iowa, Utah State, Vanderbilt, Hawaii, Air Force, Western Michigan, Ball State, Bowling Green, Northern Illinois, and Indiana State.

Tackling the recruiting process was tough for Moala.

"The process was hard to keep up with," Moala said. "So many coaches hitting you up and wondering how you were doing, it truly was a blessing though, to be gifted with talents that next level coaches recognized daily."

This season, Moala has returned two kickoffs and two punts for touchdowns, and he leads Penn with 61 tackles. He has recovered two fumbles, intercepted one pass, and scored two defensive touchdowns. He has blocked two kicks. Moala has also scored two receiving touchdowns this season. Moala intercepted seven passes last season, four that he returned for touchdowns. Moala also returned two punts and one kickoff for touchdowns. He blocked three kicks.

TY McCASKILL COMMITS TO ILLINOIS STATE FOOTBALL

Ty McCaskill, a towering presence at 6-foot-6, 310 pounds, recently committed to Illinois State to continue not only his academic career, but also his football career.

McCaskill is a right tackle on the Kingsmen offensive line.

"The atmosphere of the games (at Illinois State) are awesome and the campus all-around was just a good fit for me," McCaskill said.

RYAN LYNCH COMMITS TO NOTRE DAME BASEBALL

Penn quarterback Ryan Lynch, a 6-foot-2, 187 pound sophomore, has committed to play Baseball at the University of Notre Dame. The hard-throwing left-hander picked the Fighting Irish over Indiana University, University of Louisville and Louisiana State University, as well as other numerous Division I schools. Last season as a freshmen, Lynch posted a perfect 7-0 record (including a no-hitter against Bremen High School) along with 64 strikeouts and a 2.86 ERA and helped the Kingsmen reach the State Championship game. As Penn's quarterback this season, Lynch is 90-of-150 (60 percent) for 1,260 yards, 16 TD's and two interceptions. He has rushed for 395 yards on 81 carries, an average of 4.9 yards a carry, and has scored four touchdowns.

WINNING THE TURNOVER BATTLE

Penn enters the State Championship Game with a plus-20 in the turnover category. The Kingsmen have only lost the ball four times – three times by interceptions and once by a fumble. Penn's defense has forced 24 turnovers – nine fumbles and 15 interceptions.

CLASS 6-A RANKINGS

- Penn is ranked No. 4 in the Associated Press Poll, No. 4 in the IFCA Coaches Poll, No. 10 in MaxPreps ratings, and No. 15 in the Sagarin ratings.
- Ben Davis is ranked No. 1 in the Associated Press Poll, No. 1 in the IFCA Coaches Poll, No. 1 in the MaxPreps ratings, and No. 1 in the Sagarin ratings.

STATS OF NOTE

- Penn has won 12 games in a row.
- Penn's defense ranks No. 1 in the state (all classes), allowing only 5.1 points a game.
- Penn's defense has allowed one touchdown in the state playoffs (16 quarters).
- Penn has outscored its opponents 120-10 in four playoff games.
- Penn has only allowed more than one touchdown in three games this season (Valparaiso, Orchard Lake St. Mary's and South Bend St. Joseph each scored two touchdowns in games against Penn).
- Penn's offense averages 32.9 points a game and is ranked No. 9 in Class 6-A.
- Ben Davis has won 13 games in a row.
- Ben Davis has outscored its opponents 600-199 in 13 games.
- Ben Davis has score 40 or more points in 10 of its 13 games.
- Ben Davis has outscored its four playoff opponents 176-76.
- Ben Davis' offense averages 46.2 points a game and is ranked No. 9 in the state.

FAMILY OF CHAMPIONS

Penn quarterback Ryan Lynch is playing in a state championship in a second sport. Lynch was the starting centerfielder on Penn's Baseball Team in the 2017 State Championship Game. He also pitched for Penn in the regular season and the playoffs. Ryan Lynch's sister, Kristina Lynch, owns three State Championship appearances, including two State Championships, in Girls Soccer. Penn won the Girls Soccer State Championship in 2016 and 2017. Penn Girls Soccer was named the 2017 National Champion by topdrawersoccer.com. Kristina Lynch is a Florida State University commit for Women's Soccer.

THE FAMILY BUSINESS

Football is the Family Business for the Yeomans. There are six Yeomans listed on the Penn roster – Head Coach Cory Yeoman, Assistant Coaches Trent Yeoman, Todd Yeoman, Gary Yeoman and Tyler Yeoman, and Senior Linebacker Gabe Yeoman. Cory Yeoman, Trent Yeoman and Todd Yeoman are brothers. Their father, Wally Yeoman, came to Penn as an assistant coach and started the fabled Kingsmen coaching tree. Gary Yeoman is the son of Cory Yeoman. Tyler Yeoman is the son of Trent Yeoman. Gabe Yeoman is the son of Todd Yeoman.

VAKALAHY LEGACY

Peni Vakalahi is the last of five brothers who have worn the Black and Gold. Paul, Sifa, Cedric and Will each played football for the Kingsmen.

THE AVENGERS

- Penn avenged its only loss of the season when the Kingsmen knocked off Valparaiso, 13-0, in the first round of the Class 6-A playoffs. Valparaiso defeated Penn, 12-7, in the 2017 season opener.
- The Kingsmen also avenged their previous loss, a 21-10 setback to Carmel in the 2016 North Semi-state Championship Game. Penn beat Carmel, 34-7, on Carmel's turf for the 2017 North Semi-State Championship.

COMEBACK KID

Jackson Weston suffered a fractured hip in the second game of the season, but was able to return to the Kingsmen line-up by the first game of the playoffs.

FAMILIAR FOES

Ben Davis and Penn will be meeting for the 18th time. Ben Davis leads the series 13-4.

- Ben Davis 14, Penn 10, Aug. 28, 2010, at Lucas Oil Stadium (Horseshoe Classic)
- Penn 7, Ben Davis 6, Aug. 28, 2009, at Penn
- Ben Davis 35, Penn 27, Aug. 29, 2008, at Ben Davis
- Penn 15, Ben Davis 7 (OT), Aug. 24, 2007, at Penn
- Ben Davis 35, Penn 32 (OT), Aug. 25, 2006, at Ben Davis
- Ben Davis 20, Penn 0, Aug. 26, 2005, at Penn
- Ben Davis 21, Penn 7, Aug. 27, 2004, at Ben Davis
- Ben Davis 27, Penn 24, Aug. 29, 2003, at Penn
- Penn 30, Ben Davis 14, Aug. 30, 2002, at Ben Davis
- Ben Davis 13, Penn 6, Aug. 24, 2001, at Penn
- Ben Davis 28, Penn 21, Aug. 25, 2000, at Ben Davis
- Ben Davis 27, Penn 3, Nov. 27, 1999, at RCA Dome, Indianapolis (State Championship Game)
- Ben Davis 14, Penn 7, Aug. 27, 1999, at Penn
- Ben Davis 24, Penn 21, Oct. 10, 1997, at Penn
- Penn 17, Ben Davis 14, Nov. 30, 1996, at RCA Dome (State Championship Game)
- Ben Davis 24, Penn 0, Oct. 11, 1996, at Ben Davis
- Ben Davis 38, Penn 14, Nov. 30, 1991, at Hoosier Dome, Indianapolis (State Championship Game)

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS LINE-UP

Here is the line-up for the IHSAA Football State Championships at Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the NFL's Indianapolis Colts.

FRIDAY, NOV. 24, 2017

Class 1-A State Championship

12 p.m. ET | Pioneer (14-0) vs. Eastern Greene (11-3)

Class 3-A State Championship

3:30 p.m. ET | Brebeuf Jesuit (10-4) vs. Evansville Memorial (13-1)

Class 5-A State Championship

7 p.m. ET | Kokomo (9-4) vs. Columbus East (13-1)

SATURDAY, NOV. 25, 2017

Class 2-A State Championship

12 p.m. ET | Woodlan (12-2) vs. Southridge (12-2)

Class 4-A State Championship

3:30 p.m. ET | Lowell (14-0) vs. East Central (11-3)

Class 6-A State Championship

7 p.m. ET | **PENN (12-1)** vs. Ben Davis (13-0)

SENIOR CLASS LEGACY

Penn's Seniors will be making their second trip to the State Championship Game. Penn reached the Class 6-A State Championship Game against Center Grove in 2015. Defensive Tackle James Morris and Safety Paul Moala were starters for the Kingsmen as Sophomores in the 2015 State Championship Game. Center Mitch Bernard was the Long Snapper in the 2015 State Championship Game.



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.
NORTH DIVISION						
PENN	5-0	218	30	12-1	428	69
Mishawaka	3-2	163	125	6-5	362	299
South Bend St. Joseph	3-2	139	101	5-7	271	296
Elkhart Central	2-3	121	149	4-6	187	247
South Bend Adams	2-3	124	124	3-7	208	277
South Bend Clay	0-5	38	274	0-10	46	570
SOUTH DIVISION						
New Prairie	6-0	287	65	11-2	574	162
South Bend Riley	4-2	176	121	7-4	381	227
Jimtown	4-2	105	123	6-6	177	261
Marian	3-3	90	83	9-5	236	186
Bremen	2-4	125	167	4-6	234	257
Glenn	1-5	45	172	3-7	88	220
South Bend Washington	1-5	41	138	3-7	125	220

SATURDAY, NOV. 25

PENN vs. Indianapolis Ben Davis, 7 p.m., at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis



PENN KINGSMEN (12-1)		
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
Oct. 13	At Mishawaka	W, 48-7
Oct. 27	At Valparaiso	W, 13-0
Nov. 3	WARSAW	W, 40-0
Nov. 10	At Crown Point	W, 33-3
Nov. 17	At Carmel	W, 34-7
Nov. 25	vs. Ben Davis	7 p.m.

Ben Davis Giants (13-0)		
DATE	OPPONENT	ET
Aug. 18	At Indianapolis Tech	W, 49-7
Aug. 25	AVON	W, 52-20
Sept. 1	PIKE	W, 69-34
Sept. 8	At Center Grove	W, 40-7
Sept. 15	WARREN CENTRAL	W, 45-16
Sept. 22	At Lawrence North	W, 41-8
Sept. 29	CARMEL	W, 28-10
Oct. 6	At Lawrence Central	W, 42-7
Oct. 13	NORTH CENTRAL	W, 58-14
Oct. 27	At Lawrence Central	W, 33-20
Nov. 3	WARREN CENTRAL	W, 36-29
Nov. 10	At Fishers	W, 50-7
Nov. 17	AVON	W, 57-20
Nov. 25	vs. Penn	7 p.m.

AP MEDIA POLL

- 1. Ben Davis (13-0)
vs. Penn (12-1) Saturday**
2. Fort Wayne Snider (11-1)
Eliminated from playoffs
3. Warren Central (7-4)
Eliminated from playoffs
- 4. PENN (12-1)
vs. Ben Davis (13-0) Saturday**
5. Valparaiso (8-2)
Eliminated from playoffs
6. Lafayette Jeff (10-1)
Eliminated from playoffs
7. Avon (10-3)
Eliminated from playoffs
8. Lawrence Central (6-4)
Eliminated from playoffs
9. Homestead (8-2)
Eliminated from playoffs
10. Carmel (8-5)
Eliminated from playoffs

IFCA COACHES' POLL

- 1. Ben Davis (13-0)
vs. PENN (12-1) Saturday**
2. Fort Wayne Snider (11-1)
Eliminated from playoffs
3. Warren Central (7-4)
Eliminated from playoffs
- 4. PENN (12-1)
vs. Ben Davis (13-0) Saturday**
4. Valparaiso (8-2)
Eliminated from playoffs
6. Avon (10-3)
Eliminated from playoffs
7. Lawrence Central (6-4)
Eliminated from playoffs
8. Brownsburg (8-3)
Eliminated from playoffs
9. Homestead (8-2)
Eliminated from playoffs
10. Carmel (8-5)
Eliminated from playoffs

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 recently committed to 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.”

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 emerges as a Kingsmen 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'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 a 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."

McCaskill adds to family legacy

By HAYDEN BERG

Football has been an immense source of pride in the McCaskill family and Ty McCaskill is keeping the legacy going on.

McCaskill, a towering presence at 6-foot-6, 310 pounds, recently committed to Illinois State to continue not only his academic career but also his football career.

"The atmosphere of the games there are awesome and the campus all-around was just a good fit for me," McCaskill said.

McCaskill's father, Penn assistant football coach and ex-Penn player Jeremy McCaskill, and his older brother, former Kingsmen force Payne McCaskill, have taught him more than just playing football, they've taught him what it takes to become a leader on and off the field. With both his brother and dad being on the offensive line they taught him that you have to trust the people next to you to do your job and that you will also do your job to become a better line together.

Throughout the season, the Penn offensive line has gone through a lot of

injuries, including their starting center, Mitch Bernard. Left tackle Tate Johnson has also missed significant playing time.

But that didn't McCaskill and the offensive line from doing their job. Everyone who has needed to has stepped up and they are bringing that mindset into the playoffs - just trust the guy next to you.

McCaskill said that the coaches are big part to Penn's success.

"It shows that the coaches really care about you, and that everyone is a family and helps each other," McCaskill said.

Penn is now looking to take that mindset into the playoffs and complete their ultimate dream every year a State Championship.



Jackson Weston is a third-generation Kingsmen player

By CHINONSO EMENIM

"Pedigree" is a term used by genealogists, referring to family lineage.

Penn High School senior defensive back Jackson Weston has a Gold and Black pedigree — he represents the third generation of Westons to play football for the Kingsmen. Both his grandfather, Jerry, and father, Mike (who played on the 1983 state championship team in his freshman year) played on the defensive line, while Jackson has roamed the secondary from the cornerback position for the last four years.

One would think that being the third generation in a family that has been doing anything for two generations would come with a certain amount of pressure, but for Weston, that hasn't been the case.

"I've wanted to play football since I was a kid," Weston said. "The fact that football was something my family has been doing for fifty years only motivated me even more to play the game."

The gridiron isn't the only place Weston has excelled in his high school career. A two-sport athlete, Weston has



also run track for the Kingsmen since his junior year.

"Running track helped me with football," Weston commented. "It helped to get me in shape and work on my speed."

From an early age, Weston took it upon himself to learn as much as he could from his family members who fought for the Kingsmen before him, and he's applying those lessons to his life today.

"The most important things they taught me were to never quit and the value of hard work," Weston reflected. Those values are especially crucial these days, as Weston recently return to act for the playoffs after suffering a fractured hip.

As any injured athlete would tell you, the worst part of being injured is having to watch the team play from the sidelines. It's been no different in Weston's experience,

but he's taken the change in stride, drawing the attention of his coaches.

"We have a saying here that it's not about the player that's in the game, but it's about how the player is playing that position," said Kingsmen football coach Cory Yeoman. "And Jackson has been great talking to (his replacement) Johnny Ho on the sideline or in practice, so he's been our extra set of eyes on the field."

Even though Weston the end of fall this year means that Weston is going to play his last games of high school football for the Kingsmen, Weston is certain it won't be the last time a Weston puts on the black and gold.

"If I have a son, he's definitely going to play football here," he said without hesitation.

Three-year starter James Morris relentless for the Kingsmen

By CORBIN WHITNEY

Penn defensive tackle James Morris lined up at the five-yard line across from the South Bend St. Joseph offensive line, and locked his eyes on the Indians' quarterback.

As soon as the Indians snapped the ball, Morris blasted through the Indians' front line.

Morris hammered into the St. Joe quarterback as he dropped back into the end zone.

Then, the 6-foot-1, 230-pound avalanche wearing Gold and Black pounded down on the St. Joe quarterback for a safety, putting the Kingsmen on their way to a key Northern Indiana Conference victory.

Now, Penn's Kingsmen are rolling in the Class 6-A state football playoffs, and one of the biggest forces for the Kingsmen is Morris.

Morris is a three-year starter, which is very rare for Penn Football. He helped lead Penn to the State Championship Game as a sophomore. In his three seasons, Penn is 33-3 and the Wild Bunch Defense has been ranked in the Top 5 in the state.

"James Morris is a relentless player for us," Penn Head Coach Cory Yeoman said. "He's plays really fast on every play. There aren't many who can do that. And he's been an outstanding leader for us."

From the early days of Flag Football, starting in first grade, James fell in love with the sport.

Encouraged by his father and grandfather, Morris pursued his passion for Football. He played Rocket Football and played middle school Football.

Now, Morris is a defensive horror for opposing teams.

Morris, though, puts his relationship with the team above his personal accomplishments.

"I love the team part about it," Morris said. "I've met so many of my friends and awesome people through football."

Earlier this year, Morris was offered a scholarship from Dayton University, and has seen interest from other college football teams.

Still highly considering Dayton, James is trying to decide if he wants to continue his football career into college.

Morris said that he has benefited from his football experience.

"It's really taught me discipline and time management," Morris said. "It has given me a strong work ethic as well."

Morris has been a difference-maker at Penn in many ways. In addition to being a First-Team All-State candidate, he is a two-year member of the Penn Student-Athlete

Leadership Council, he is a Peer Leader, he is a leader in service to the exceptional education community, and as one of Penn's top students, he is going to graduate with an Honors Diploma. Morris is also a gifted

graphic designer, and has created starting line-up gifs and the Penn Football Team poster that has earned praise as professional quality.



James Morris sacks the St. Joseph quarterback for a Safety.



James Morris forces a fumble that Penn recovered for a touchdown.

Ryan Lynch strongarms Kingsmen opponents in Football and Baseball

By CHINONSO EMENIM

Ryan Lynch remembers readjusting the cap on his head and focusing on the kid squaring up in the batter's box 60 feet and 6 inches away.

The catcher flashed a signal and Lynch gave a slight nod as the bright south Florida sun cast shadows across the field at JetBlue Park in Fort Myers Beach.

It was a picture of precision, and Lynch recounted. As he wound up, his weight on his back foot, his arm whipped through its motion. Less than a second later, the ball that was once in his hand smacked into the catcher's mitt, painting the bottom corner of the strike zone. Nearby, a man paying close attention to the game glanced down at his radar gun. The numbers flickered onto the screen: 87 miles per hour.

Strike three.

Lynch has already experienced much success in his still-young athletic career. With his sophomore season not yet underway, the hard-throwing left-hander has already accepted an offer to play Division 1 college baseball at the University of Notre Dame, picking the Fighting Irish over offers from Indiana University, University of Louisville and Louisiana State University, among others. The baseball field isn't the only place he's excelled, though. Lynch is also the starting quarterback for the Penn High School Kingsmen football team that is currently competing for a state championship.

From early on, it was clear that Lynch was different from his peers. One of his favorite early memories of the game is when he hit his first home run at Harris Baseball field when he was seven years old, becoming only the second player to achieve that feat, the other being Penn High School graduate and current Notre Dame baseball player Niko Kavadas, who played an important role as Lynch went through the recruiting process. "He helped me out a lot



throughout the process," said Lynch of Kavadas. "If I had any questions about the school or the coaches, he would always give a helpful response."

Like many successful athletes, Lynch comes from a family full of them. His mother was a two-sport athlete in high school, playing basketball and softball, and his father played Division I Baseball at the University of Wisconsin. In fact, Ryan wasn't the only one in the Lynch household competing for an IHSAA state championship this fall. His sister Kristina, a fellow Division 1 prospect committed to play soccer at Florida State University next year, led Penn to a second consecutive State Championship in Girls Soccer. The record-setting Kristina Lynch helped Penn finish the 2017 season as the National Champions.

With a pedigree like this, Ryan Lynch's athletic accomplishments shouldn't come as a surprise.

Ryan Lynch credits his sister's experience in the recruiting process as one

of the important factors that prepared him for his involvement in the process.

"It was kind of exciting to watch her go through the process and seeing the different schools showing interest, and I couldn't wait for that to start happening to me," Ryan Lynch reflected.

Getting the opportunity to play at a big-time college is the dream of many high school athletes. Navigating the recruiting process can be tricky, though. Lynch had his sister's prior experience to rely on for advice when deciding where to play his college baseball.

"I told him the main key is keeping your options open and giving every opportunity a chance, because you only get to have this experience once," Kristina Lynch said of the advice she gave her younger brother. "Even if he wasn't super interested in a certain school, I just told him to take the opportunity. The schools are going to treat you well, anyway."

Ryan Lynch enjoyed an outstanding freshman season in Baseball. He finished with a perfect 7-0 record (including a no-hitter against Bremen High School) along

with 64 strikeouts and a 2.86 ERA, Lynch made an impression on teammates and coaches alike.

"I've never had a player so focused--not only in games, but also the way he approaches practices as well," said Penn High School baseball coach Greg Dikos. "And that means a lot, because he really made an impression on me in his freshman year."

After a year like that, expectations are sky-high for Lynch in the upcoming baseball season.

"My expectation is that our best athletes be our hardest workers," said Dikos. "I know that I'm going to be able to count on him as one of our hardest workers."

Off the field, Lynch is a good student who can often be found in the library before school. With this work ethic, it's not hard to imagine him rising to or exceeding the expectations set for him this year. As for the football season, though the Lynch family already has one blue ring on the way, a second one would be readily welcomed.

Hunter Whitlow helps Kingsmen blast off

By ALEX FADELY

Penn football has seen great success this season. A big part of their explosive offense is Senior running back Hunter Whitlow.

Penn started the season with a 12-7 loss at Valparaiso. Since then, the Kingsmen have won 11 in a row and are averaging 32.8 points a game.

Whitlow, who is 5-foot-8 and 175 pounds, punishes opponents for 6.2 yards a carry. He has scored five touchdowns this season.

"It's definitely been a journey from where our offense was at the beginning of the season to where it is now," said Whitlow as the Kingsmen prepare for the Semi-state. "Things were not how we wanted them and we knew our habits needed to change.

"It starts with intense focus in practice and taking in all the the tips our

coaches give us and implementing them into our individual games and game by game everyone started getting better and now we're playing Gold Rush football."

The team's apparent change during the season was highlighted as Penn was able to take down Valpo 13-0 in the playoffs.

Whitlow says his favorite part of this season was playing Brother Rice, as he thinks that game was the big turning point of this season.

Whitlow has truly enjoyed his experience with Penn football, as he talked about how much he has loved the bond between him and his teammates. They've shared many ups and downs and Whitlow claims he wouldn't want those memories with anyone else.

Whitlow has now spent four years under head coach Cory Yeoman, and claims the coaching staff is "by far the best

in the country.” He says being part of the football team is about a lot more than playing football.

“Coach Cory creates a system that is far more than just learning to be a good football player,” Whitlow said. “He always says that if the only thing we take away from our time at football was how to be a good football player then he has failed as a coach. He tries and turns us into the best

men that he can and I appreciate him and all that the coaches do for us.”

As Whitlow’s time at Penn gets closer to its end, he says he does in fact plan on playing football at the next level. Any team at the next level would count themselves as lucky as the Kingsmen to have a hard working, successful player such as Whitlow on their roster.



Hunter Whitlow, left, and Brock Zolman with the Sectional Championship Trophy.



Rockne Hurley always pursues excellence

By BEN RUSHEMEZA

Whether Rockne Hurley is in a classroom, on the football field, or on a wrestling mat, the objective is always the same — excellence.

Hurley has made an impact as a student and an athlete. The 6-foot-2, 190-pound Junior is a major reason the Kingsmen Football Team has advanced to the State Championship Game. He's also a three-year starter in wrestling, and is an exceptional student. Hurley is also one of two Juniors on the Student-Athlete Leadership Council at Penn.

Being a two-sport athlete and a top student can be difficult, but Hurley manages to excel in Football, Wrestling and school.

"I always make sure school is my top priority," Hurley said. "No matter how hard of a practice I have, I always have to get my work done at home. I have to be very proactive about my time management and taking advantage of the all time I have to finish assignments.

"It's all a mentality, really," Hurley said. "If I tell myself that I can do something, I'll do it, whether it be in sports or academics."

Hurley said that the skills he develops in Football, Wrestling, and as a student crossover into the other areas.

"There's a certain physical and mental toughness that you have to have in football, and it carries over well into wrestling," Rockne said. "As both a wrestler and a defensive lineman, you have to be able to physically battle with another person for the entirety of a match with 100 percent effort at all times. You also have to know your opponent—their game plan, tendencies, abilities, and more—before game time so that you can have the upper hand."

Hurley's work ethic is a key factor in his success.

"My body never gets a break," Hurley said. "I always have to be working out and practicing year-round. It's hard, but it's the only way to be the best I can be."

"I challenge myself because it's the only way I can get better," Hurley added. "This applies to all things in life. If you stay in your comfort zone, you'll never be able to reach your goals. So I have to challenge myself in order to achieve everything I want to achieve."

Rockne pushes himself to the best of his ability, and for that his teammates respect him for it.

Penn Kingsmen Info

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

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

Semi-State Titles: 2017, 2015, 2011, 2003, 2000, 1999, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1991, 1989, 1983

Regional Titles: 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2011, 2008, 2004, 2003, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1991, 1989, 1983

Sectional Titles: 2017, 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: 2017, 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

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

PENN KINGSMEN COACHING HISTORY

Tenure	Name	W-L record	Pct.
2003-	Cory Yeoman	166-31	.843
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	4-7
Center Grove	1-1
Chesterton	6-0
Concord	2-0
Crown Point	3-0
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	46-14-1
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	25-6
Warsaw	12-0
Washington-Clay	3-0-1
West Lafayette	2-0

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**

Pick-6 sparks Penn rout of Elkhart Central

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 —

blooped 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, outsprinting 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.

**Game 9:
Oct. 13, 2017**

**PENN 48, Mishawaka 7
At Steele Stadium, Mishawaka**

No. 5 Penn overwhelms Mishawaka, 48-7, to win NIC North Division

By John Fineran Tribune Correspondent/Oct 14, 2017

MISHAWAKA – Sophomore Ryan Lynch’s left arm and two feet have the No. 5 Penn Kingsmen feeling good about their next visit to the region to face No. 6 Valparaiso in the Class 6-A playoffs.

Lynch, who suffered a concussion in a 12-7 season-opening loss to the Vikings in August, totaled 210 yards and three touchdowns as the Kingsmen won their seventh Northern Indiana Conference football title in a row with a 48-7 victory over crosstown foe Mishawaka Friday night at Steele Stadium.

“Growing up, this has always been the game I’ve looked forward to,” said the 6-foot-2, 187-pound Lynch as Penn, winners of eight straight since the loss to Valparaiso, gets a week off to mend any bumps and bruises from their battle with Mishawaka, which finished the regular season 5-4 and now must get ready for a Class 4-A, Sectional 18 contest at home against 0-9 Clay next Friday.

Lynch finished 8-of-9 passing for 144 yards and two touchdowns – a 60-yarder to senior Zach Usenick and a 7-yarder to Brock Boynton in the second

quarter – and he rushed for 66 more yards on eight carries, including a 12-yard score in the second quarter.

After Mishawaka took an early 7-0 on junior quarterback Sam Shively's 1-yard run, Lynch connected with Usenick on the touchdown pass that tied the game and got the Kingsmen rolling.

"I think we're just more comfortable playing with each other," said Usenick, who caught three passes for 99 yards and has seen huge growth from Lynch during the winning streak. "And I think Ryan is more comfortable back there with our offensive line."

It was 34-7 at halftime and Lynch and the first team sat out most of the fourth quarter.

"I'm going to enjoy this tonight – we all will," Penn head coach Cory Yeoman said after Penn's seventh straight win in the series clinched the North Division title with a 5-0 record. Mishawaka finished 3-2 in the division. "We'll think about Valparaiso later."

Junior running back Ryan Whiteman finished with 78 yards on six carries, three of them touchdowns, including a 64-yard burst in the second quarter.

For Mishawaka, junior fullback Chris Harness had 147 yards on 18 carries.

"It's extremely disappointing," Mishawaka coach Bart Curtis said. "But we'll get back to work Saturday. Congratulations to Penn – they've been doing this to people for almost four decades."

Lynch used play action to freeze the Mishawaka linebackers and hit Usenick on a slant and the Penn receiver went 60 yards to tie the game at 7 early in the first quarter.

After Whiteman rumbled eight yards for a touchdown following a recovery by Penn safety Paul Moala, Lynch scored on a 12-yard run on a fourth-and-one play to make it 21-7 with 10:26 left before half. He then connected with junior Brock Boynton for a 7-yard scoring play with 5:33 left, and Whiteman then closed out the first-half scoring with his 64-yard touchdown run.

Whiteman had a 1-yard scoring run in the third quarter to make it 41-7 and reserve Brock Zolman closed out the scoring with a 4-yard run in the fourth quarter.

Penn outgained Mishawaka 354-236 despite having the ball just 22:10.

**Game 10:
Oct. 27, 2017**

**PENN 13, Valparaiso 0
At Valparaiso High School**

Second time is a charm for Penn in victory over Valparaiso

- By Tom Noie South Bend Tribune

VALPARAISO — A concussion kept sophomore quarterback Ryan Lynch from finishing Penn's season opener against Valparaiso.

On Friday, Lynch tossed a pair of first-half touchdowns to help the No. 4 Kingsmen (9-1) deliver the knockout punch — a 13-0 victory — over the No. 5 Vikings (8-2) in a Class 6-A sectional semifinal at Viking Field.

Valparaiso beat Penn, 12-7, in the season opener. It was the first time since 2010 that the Kingsmen opened a

year with a loss. That also marked the last time Penn lost twice in one year to the same team. That year, it was Mishawaka.

Penn has never lost twice in one season to Valparaiso. The Kingsmen lead the all-time series 25-6.

After managing only 87 total yards and no first downs in the second half of the first meeting, Penn found its offensive groove early Friday. It finished with seven first downs and 154 yards

with the two scores over the first two quarters.

Kickoff back in August saw temperatures in the 80s. On Friday, it was 39 degrees with a wind chill of 31 at kick. Around Porter County, this one was billed as the biggest game for Valparaiso since its postseason semistate run of 2010.

The Vikings needed a big effort. But it was the Kingsmen who delivered in almost every area — offense, defense, special teams.

Penn jumped to a 7-0 lead midway through the second quarter thanks to special teams. Punter Max Chaffee pinned the Vikings on their own one-yard line and the Kingsmen defense limited the home team to four yards on three plays before a punt.

Paul Moala's 22-yard return took the ball all the way to the Valpo 17. Four plays later, Ryan Lynch rolled to his left and found Zach Usenick in the back of the end zone from three yards out. Moala added a 36-yard scoring play in the first half.

Penn's defense delivered a big stand late in the second half. Valparaiso ran six plays inside the Kingsmen eight, but never did get into the end zone. The Kingsmen simply gave the Vikings nothing.

Valparaiso entered postseason having won its first outright Duneland Athletic Conference title since 2010

following a one-loss season. But it's been a couple of weird weeks since the Vikings closed regular-season play with a 42-8 victory over Lake Central.

Barely 48 hours before the sectional semifinal, sixth-year coach Dave Coyle abruptly resigned from a program seemingly in turmoil. Though details have remained largely unknown, there reportedly was a verbal altercation between Coyle and a Viking player on Oct. 13 — the night of the win over Lake Central — that led to many of the team's seniors being unhappy with the head coach. Last week, during the bye week, those seniors stacked their equipment in front of Coyle's office door as a sign of protest.

Coyle, who teaches at the high school, was not at practice Monday or Tuesday of this week before his resignation was made official Wednesday. School officials offered little comment as to the reason why.

Defensive line coach Bill Marshall served Friday as the interim coach.

Back from a cracked kneecap suffered in Week Three, senior quarterback Jake Leffew told the Times of Northwest Indiana in a story Thursday that there had been great energy in practice this week.

"It's a whole new mentality," Leffew told the Times.

**Game 11:
Nov. 3, 2017**

**PENN 40, Warsaw 0
At TCU/Freed Field, Penn High School**

Kingsmen dominate Warsaw for title

BY BOB OPPENHEIM

Penn football coach Cory Yeoman was left with some unfinished business Friday after his team blanked Warsaw, 40-0, in a Class 6A Sectional final.

He orchestrated the team picture with the sectional championship trophy.

It's a scene the Kingsmen are used to as Penn claimed its fifth straight and 24th overall sectional crown.

The Kingsmen (10-1) visit Crown Point (7-4) in a regional final next Friday at 7:30 p.m. (EST).

"It never gets old," said Yeoman about winning another sectional title. "Everybody's quest is to try to win a championship and these guys pulled that off. Every year it's new and every year it's exciting. The expectations don't change, but the people do. I'm very happy for these guys."

All the scoring was done in the first half as Penn scored on offense, defense and special teams.

Highlighting the scoring was touchdown runs of 69 and 58 yards from Ryan Whiteman. Whiteman finished with 158 yards rushing on just four carries.

"You don't have runs like that without the big guys up front," Yeoman said. "They did a great job. The hogs came to play and that was great."

Penn rushed for 204 yards in the first half and providing those holes up front were tight end Jordan Earl, tackles Ty McCaskill and Tate Johnson, guards Ryan Williams and Carrington Neal and tight end Jordan Earl.

The Kingsmen got great field position to start the game after Paul Moala returned the opening kickoff 38 yards to give Penn the ball at Warsaw's 48-yard line. The Kingsmen methodically move the ball down the field with the final play of the drive being a five-yard touchdown pass from Ryan Lynch to George Ohlson.

Penn also got a four-yard touchdown run from Brock Zolman, which gave the Kingsmen a 33-0 lead with 3:41 left before halftime.

"Our offense had a great first half," Yeoman said.

A Warsaw miscue helped Penn score on special teams. At its own 29-yard line, the Tigers had a snap go over the head of punter Harrison Mevis. Near the goal line, Mevis squib kicked the ball a short distance, which Moala scooped up and ran in for a score. That touchdown gave Penn a 26-0 lead with 6:43 left in the second quarter.

The final touchdown of the game came on defense, as Caden Paquette

turned an interception, off a deflection, into a 37-yard score.

"(Warsaw) is tough and they got a great young quarterback (Tristan Larsh)," Yeoman said. "He's a heck of an athlete. We knew he was fast, a 100, 200-meter finalist (in track), and a big strong kid. They hurt us some, but we were able to rally and shut some of those drives down."

Larsh rushed for 103 yards on 18 carries. His 50 yards rushing and 35 yards passing in the first two drives helped the Tigers reach Penn's 38 and 21 yard line. But Warsaw couldn't get any points as the Kingsmen stopped them on downs and got a fumble recovery from Johnny Ho.

Penn, which recorded its fourth shutout, has allowed only 59 points this season.

"We were doing a good job of getting (Larsh) into spots," said Warsaw football coach and Penn graduate Phil Jensen. "But their team speed is something. He's the fastest kid in the NLC and they had guys running him down. We couldn't get too much going inside. It's a credit to their defense. They're a fantastic group. They play great team defense. Everybody plays their responsibility on every play and they play it very fast."

"Another thing about Penn. We can't duplicate them in practice. They have 100 kids and they're practicing offense at one end and defense at the other end, probably against their No. 2's. How good do their No. 2's get by the end of the year because they're practicing against their No. 1's all year. It's just a different beast."

The Kingsmen received a scare in third quarter when offensive lineman Alex Fish was injured. He laid on the field for several minutes, while being attended to by medical personnel. He was carted off the field on a stretcher, giving a thumbs-up sign.

"I think he's going to be OK," Yeoman said. "He had some soreness in his upper neck area, but he was moving everything fine. But, precaution, precaution, precaution. We're not going to take any chances."

**Game 12:
Nov. 10, 2017**

**PENN 33, Crown Point 3
At Crown Point High School**

Lynch's four TD passes send Penn to Semistate over Crown Point

By Tim Creason

CROWN POINT – It was cold, really cold. And Ryan Lynch just wanted to get his teammates off the field.

So Penn's sophomore quarterback threw four touchdowns to blow open Friday's Class 6A football regional at Crown Point, just as quickly as he could.

"The offensive line gave me time, and our receivers made big plays," Lynch said after Penn's 33-3 victory, sending the Kingsmen into next week's semistate at Carmel.

Lynch completed 9-of-15 passes for 168 yards as the Kingsmen (11-1) opened a 26-7 lead at halftime. Penn coach Corey Yeoman sent in his subs midway through the third quarter.

With frigid winds and temperatures in the 20s, chilling fans and players alike, the Kingsmen did exactly what they needed to do after they finally received the opening kickoff.

"Finally" because of a bizarre sequence in which the Crown Point kicker, James Priddy, booted the opening kickoff out of bounds three consecutive times. Penn made him re-kick each time, and on the fourth try, he finally kept it in, with the Kingsmen starting their first drive near midfield.

Moving 52 yards in six plays, Penn scored on a one-yard Hunter Whitlow run with 7:11 remaining in the first quarter. Keeping the drive alive were pass completions of 19, 14 and 19 yards from Lynch.

As the second quarter began, Penn scored again on a 65-yard drive, with Lynch collecting his first TD pass, a six-yarder to George Ohlson.

He then hit a beautiful 64-yard TD pass to Ryan Whiteman with 3:21 before the half, and completed a 14-yarder to Zach Usenick following a Paula Moala 38-yard punt return.

"Being able to pass in the cold weather really helped with the running game," Lynch said.

**Game 13:
Nov. 17, 2017**

**PENN 34, Carmel 7
At Carmel High School**

Kingsmen capture semistate road win over Carmel, 34-7

Penn faces Ben Davis in title game Nov. 25 in Lucas Oil Stadium

By Tom Noie/South Bend Tribune

CARMEL, Ind. – Somewhere inside the four charter buses that sat behind the visitor's stands of Carmel Stadium on Friday, Penn made sure to unload its defense and special teams after a long ride south.

When those two areas travel in postseason, visiting teams have a chance.

Case in point, the Kingsmen.

Penn (12-1) got solid play in both areas while the offense took advantage of excellent opportunities afforded it because of big plays in those other areas during Friday's 34-7 Class 6A semistate win over Carmel (8-5).

Winners of 12 in a row and semistate No. 12 in school history, Penn advances to the Class 6A state

championship game over Thanksgiving weekend at Lucas Oil Stadium. It will play Ben Davis. Kickoff next Saturday is 7 p.m.

The Kingsmen got there thanks to four interceptions, including a pair from junior outside linebacker Drew Schneider.

Penn last played for a state title in 2015 against Center Grove.

Up two scores at halftime, Penn's opening drive of the third quarter cracked Carmel's spirit. The Kingsmen needed eight plays to go 63 yards. That included two crusher third-down runs by quarterback Ryan Lynch. He raced for 15 on third-and-nine for a first down, then finished the drive with another third-down run, this one up the middle and into the end zone from 23 yards out.

And if that didn't do it, Caden Paquette intercepted a tipped pass in the red zone on the following Carmel drive, then followed a convoy of blockers 92 yards for another score.

Penn last won at Carmel Stadium in the 1996 semistate championship. It went on that year to win its third state championship.

Penn headed to the locker room up 14-0 after Lynch found Zach Usenick in the corner of the end zone late in the second

quarter. The score was set up by a Jackson Weston interception that he returned down the far sideline to the 12 with 36.8 seconds remaining before intermission.

This one turned early in the second quarter on special teams. One team — Penn — came through with a big one on it. Another — Carmel — didn't.

Penn punter Max Chaffee pinned the Greyhounds back on their own one-inch line with a 71-yard rocket with the wind at his back. It bounced and rolled about 20 yards just shy of the goal line. Penn's defense held Carmel to seven yards on the plays before the Greyhounds had to punt.

Working out of his own end zone, Conner Coghlan attempted a rugby-style punt after moving to his right. Only he forgot to hit the ball cleanly. The shank shot travelled all of one yard to the 7.

Two plays later, following a first-and-goal from the five, Penn took a 7-0 lead following a Ryan Whiteman touchdown run off the left side.

Chaffee later pinned the Greyhounds back at their own 4 with another perfectly-placed punt late in the half.

Everything the Kingsmen needed to go right early did.