

Despite Loss on Saturday, Penn State Football Fans Support Team

In a football game between two schools burdened by scandals, an energetic crowd of 107,818 watched the No. 9 Ohio State Buckeyes beat the Penn State Nittany Lions, 35-23, on Saturday evening.

It was a game that meant nothing in the standings, but meant the world to the players and fans. Penn State TE Garry Gilliam tweeted prior to the game, “Today's game means nothing, yet it means everything.”

The rivalry between the two schools is seasoned. The scandals that have hit both the schools have not taken the passion out of the players and fans.

Penn State student Kelly Brown, 20, was a resident of Nittanyville for the past week. 1,200 students camped out in tents outside Gate A of Beaver Stadium in preparation for the game. “I’ve been waiting so long for this game and it’s finally here. It’s crazy how much I want to win,” Brown said.

A record total of 144 different groups participated in Nittanyville, destroying the previous record. All of the Penn State football players and coaches, among other Penn State athletic teams, visited campers numerous times throughout the past week.

But on Saturday, the tailgate lots were filled, and excited fans filed into the stadium before the 5:30 P.M. kickoff.

Many Ohio State fans traveled to State College for the game, but the majority of the sold-out crowd in Beaver Stadium on Saturday evening all sported one color- white.

In the first “white-out” of the season, Penn State students and fans illuminated the stadium from start to finish, despite the final outcome of the game.

The rain held off on a brisk October evening.

The atmosphere was truly magical, and the stadium was loud.

Really, really loud.

Penn State fans haven't lost any reason to cheer despite receiving the NCAA sanctions and losing several key players earlier this year. The Nittany Lions were riding a 5-game win streak going into Saturday night's battle.

Penn State scored first, and fast, on a blocked punt by Mike Hull. The touchdown, scored by Michael Yancich, ignited the already fired-up crowd.

"We are Penn State!" could be heard throughout Beaver Stadium, as every fan screamed and cheered from the top of their lungs.

The only time students sat was during halftime. Besides that, every student was on their feet cheering, with pom-poms in hand.

Despite trailing throughout the entire second half, Penn State capped off the high-scoring game with a touchdown by Kyle Carter. The fans cheered just as loud as they did at the beginning of the game.

And although Penn State couldn't hand the undefeated Buckeyes their first loss, nearly everyone stayed until the end.

Karisa Maxwell, 21, is currently a senior at Penn State and has been a Penn State football fan for her entire life. "I'm really sad we lost, but this game had an awesome turnout. Every Penn State fan is behind them whether they win or lose, because this game was about a lot more than that, and I think that's why most people stayed," Maxwell said.

