

'SPORTS ILLUSTRATED'

COVER

By Tom Schott

Jack Mollenkopf was worried that sophomore quarterback Mike Phipps might not be able to play against defending national champion Notre Dame on Sept. 30, 1967. That possibility had the Purdue head coach feeling worse than Phipps, who was suffering from a cold that some feared might lead to pneumonia.

But Phipps, who had made his collegiate debut the previous week against Texas A&M at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, felt better by game time.

And following the 10th-ranked Boilermakers' 28-21 victory at Ross-Ade Stadium, everyone on the Purdue sideline was feeling fine. It was Purdue's fourth win over Notre Dame when the Fighting Irish were ranked No. 1 in a span of 18 seasons.

"That was awfully sweet," Mollenkopf said afterwards. "When you have a bunch of kids that fight like that and never give up against No. 1, you've got a real football team."

The victory landed the Boilermakers on the cover of the Oct. 9 "Sports Illustrated," a first in school history. Such exposure in those days was considered incomparable. A four-page article about the game was entitled "Purdue Does A No. 1 Job Against No. 1."

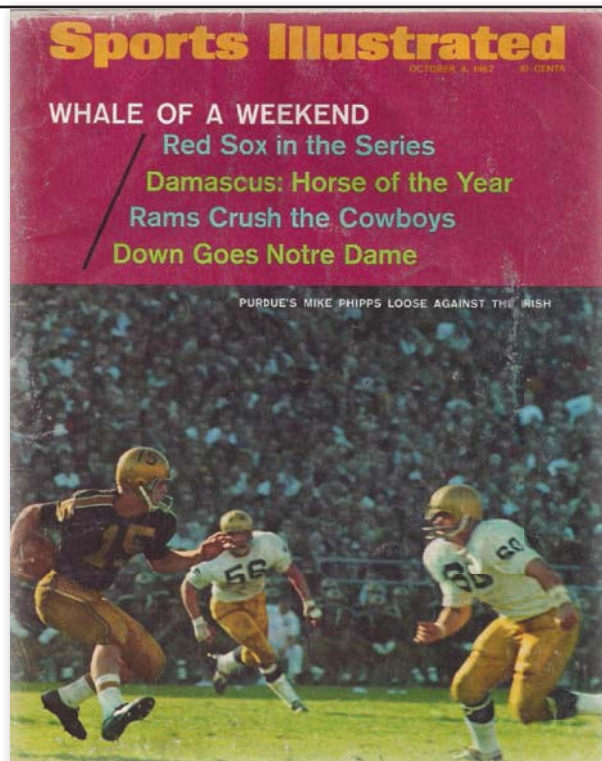
The game was a back-and-forth affair, and the teams were deadlocked at 21-apiece in the fourth quarter. Facing third-and-10 from the Notre Dame 31-yard line, Phipps connected with senior halfback Bob Baltzell on a pass at the 10, and Baltzell waltzed into the end zone for what proved to be the winning touchdown with 10 minutes remaining.



Senior halfback Bob Baltzell scored the game-winning touchdown in the Boilermakers' 28-21 victory over defending national champion Notre Dame on Sept. 30, 1967.

"Baltzell was the prime receiver, and it worked when the defense shot the gap," Mollenkopf said.

Notre Dame had two more offensive possessions, but the first one ended on a failed fourth down play deep in Purdue territory and the second on an interception by junior Leroy Keyes at the Boilermaker 33-yard line with 1:39 to play. The plan had



been for Keyes to play only offense in 1967, but he was sent into the game as a defensive back midway through the second quarter to defend split end Jim Seymour and hopefully curtail the Irish's vertical passing game. Notre Dame quarterback Terry Hanratty threw a whopping 63 passes in the game (then by far a school record), but Seymour only caught one of them after Keyes entered.

Keyes himself had nine receptions for 108 yards, including an 11-yard touchdown that put Purdue ahead 21-14 early in the fourth.

As for Phipps, he passed for 238 yards and topped the team with 33 yards rushing.

In addition to Keyes' game-ending interception, the Boilermakers picked off Hanratty three other times – two by sophomore Tim Foley and one by classmate Don Webster.

On the heels of the victory, the Boilermakers (2-0) climbed to No. 4 in the Associated Press rankings.

Purdue subsequently beat Notre Dame in both 1968 (37-22 in South Bend) and 1969 (28-14 in West Lafayette), with Phipps becoming the first quarterback ever to beat the Irish three consecutive years.