

cause Gold Cup), and this was much more never more than two in a row.

## Louisville may have seen last Purdue Parents' Day

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**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

With time to kill in the locker room prior to taking the field at Purdue, the University of Louisville's Chris Thieneman thumbed through the game program.

He noticed that Saturday's game had been designated, among other things, Parents' Day.

Initially, he figured it was because it was the Boilermakers' home opener. Then he looked at future schedules and saw that upcoming Parents' Day foes included East Carolina and Indiana State.

You get the idea. Pick the weak sister on the schedule and invite the moms and dads to town so they can watch you beat up on some poor, outmanned opponent, thereby looking good in front of your folks.

"They just pick the first team they think they can kill," U of L's starting defensive tackle said, a note of disgust in his voice. "They weren't even looking at us."

Maybe not prior to the game. But by halftime, staring at a 14-3 deficit, the Boilermakers certainly were casting a wary glance in the Cardinals' direction.

And at the end of the day it's safe to assume a lot of Purdue moms and pops went home disappointed after seeing their sons struggle to a 22-22 tie with the upstart visitors.

If nothing else, Louisville earned Purdue's respect and admiration with its gritty performance before a mostly hostile gathering of 63,125.

"Louisville got in the trenches and battled with us," said quarterback Doug Downing. "They played their rear ends off. I think we underestimated them. They're a good team."

"Give them credit," said fullback James Medlock, who rushed for 126 yards. "They came in and put up a real good fight. We may have taken them lightly and they were for real."

Before, U of L would have been grateful to escape West Lafayette without a sound thumping. Take the money and run. A tie against a Big Ten team would have been cause for celebration. No longer.

"We expected to win," said down-cast quarterback Jay Gruden. "We should have won."

The game was an emotional roller coaster for U of L coach Howard Schnellenberger. He liked the Cards' spirit in the first half and their refusal to fold under Purdue's barrage of 19 points in a row. But he was chagrined at their inability to hold the lead and their second-half mistakes.

Taking advantage of a fumble recovery and a pass interception, Purdue exploded for 19 points in just 12½ minutes for a 22-14 lead.

In a way, it was the Tulane and Cincinnati games rolled into one. Purdue coach Fred Akers had wondered which Louisville team would show up, the determined bunch that erased a 37-14 deficit to defeat Tulane 42-40 or the listless one that was dominated by Cincinnati 25-0.

The answer was both.

"I was proud in the first half and terribly disappointed in the second half," Schnellenberger said. "Our offense was spasmodic, and it's disturbing not to be able to run the football a lick. Yet to fight back and tie, to see the defense grow and mature and to see the special teams get better was very encouraging."

Or, as Thieneman put it:

"Maybe the next time we play, they won't be so eager to make us the Parents' Day game."

## Chris Thieneman on Last Purdue Parents Day game 9 21 1987

