

Nittany Lions off to their best starts in years, focusing on winning the Big Ten

By Mathew Turner
staff writer
mpt5014@psu.edu

Saturday, Oct. 8, at 10:28 a.m. the loud bang of drums, and clear sounds of trumpets blared from my alarm clock as I awoke to Penn State's fight song, which I had downloaded the night before. I had set my alarm for that time specifically so that I could watch College Gameday, which was being broadcasted live from University Park. At 10:30 a.m., I turned my television on, and that's when it really hit me that I would be there in less than eight hours. I would be in University Park, witnessing one of the biggest games in Penn State football history.

Around 6 p.m. my roommate and I arrived at what I was sure had to be football heaven. Once you enter, you honestly lose all track of time. As we walked to the stadium, it was sheer pandemonium. Penn State students had pitched tents at Beaver Stadium's Gate A the day after the Nittany Lions' 44-14 win over Minnesota which positioned them for prime seats for this game. By Thursday afternoon more than 110 temporary residences had been set up at the encampment, dubbed "Paternoville" by the tent dwellers. Students wore nothing but white clothes because the game had been declared a "white-out", and that was the only way they could get in. There were tailgaters everywhere and parties going on up and down the streets. Loud chants of, "WE ARE," were then followed by a loud, "PENN STATE," hundreds of times.

My roommate and I decided that we would check out where ESPN had set up their program "College Gameday." I was shocked to see students throwing things at the set. Then I realized what had happened. An analyst from ESPN, Lee Corso, had picked Ohio State to win, and then said, "The Penn State crowd will not be in full force tonight, simply because it is too cold." I asked Jeff Townlin, a student at Penn State, what he thought about Corso's comment and he replied, "If he wanted Ohio State to win, then he just made a huge mistake. We are going to be so loud that Troy Smith [Ohio State Quarterback] won't be able to think!" This was followed by an explosion of cheers, and screaming. "WE ARE.....PENN STATE!" From there



Senior Quarterback Michael Robinson finds a hole through the Nittany Lions' offensive line and the Minnesota defensive line two weeks ago in Happy Valley. The Lions currently sit at #8 in the nation.

we all marched to the stadium.

As we entered, I was amazed by how loud it was already. The game hadn't even begun and the place was rocking like we had already won. As we took our seats, I noticed something remarkable. Even though I knew that it had been declared a "white-out" I did not expect this. Every single student was dressed in white. If you scanned the stadium, you would see a mix of colors, and then all of a sudden, this huge sea of white. It was amazing. As kickoff grew near, the fans got louder, and when Ohio State came out of the tunnel, 109,839 people booed at the top of their lungs. This was short-lived, however, as Penn State was coming out next. Before Penn State is introduced at every home game, there is a video on the scoreboard. This video thanks the fans for supporting the team, and then said at the end, "109,839 individuals.....I voice," which really summed up the atmosphere was like. As Penn State came out of their tunnel, the stadium was deafening. I couldn't hear the announcer when he introduced the team.

Penn State won the coin toss and elected to kick.

The teams took the field and again the crowd was so loud that I couldn't hear my roommate next to me.

The game began as a back and forth chess match, with both teams trying to get a feel for what the other was going to do. With 6:41 left in the first quarter, Ohio State kicked a field goal. At the end of the first quarter the Buckeyes led 3-0.

Five minutes into the second quarter, the Lions answered. Derrick Williams scored on a 13-yard run that gave Penn State a 7-3 lead.

The Lions never trailed again. On the next possession, Calvin Lowry intercepted Ohio State Quarterback Troy Smith and returned it to the 2-yard line. Michael Robinson, Penn State's Quarterback, punched it into the end-zone on a keeper, increasing Penn State's lead to 14-3. Before the half, Troy Smith scored on a 10-yard run that cut the lead to 14-10.

In the second half, the defenses took over. The only score for either team in the second half came when Lions kicker, Kevin Kelly, kicked a 41-yard field goal that upped Penn State's lead to 17-10.

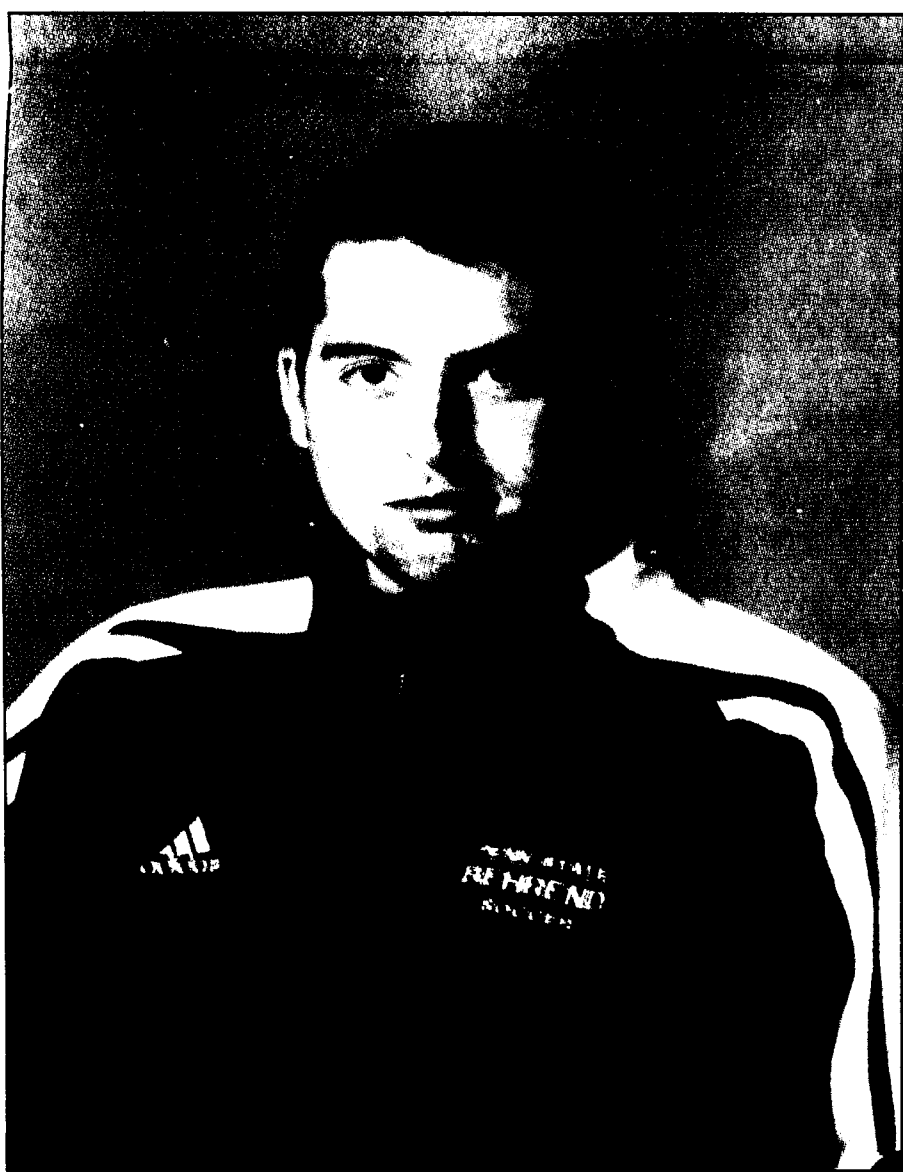
Ohio State had one final chance to score a game-tying touchdown in the final minutes, but Tamba Hali spoiled the Buckeyes' plans, whipping Smith to the turf and forcing a game saving fumble. The loose ball was recovered by Scott Paxon and the Nittany Lions ran out the clock to the delight of a delirious home crowd.

Afterwards, the scene was unbelievable. Michael Robinson led the rest of his teammates over to the student section and climbed in. Students dove over top of one another just to get closer to the players. Everyone stormed the field, much to the dismay of security guards.

The town was crazy that night. It seemed as if every one of the 109,839 people in attendance spilled out into the streets and began to party. Cops were everywhere trying to maintain control, and were forced to arrest

people. Everywhere I turned, people dressed in blue and white were trying to high-five me, or get me to cheer with them. Eventually we turned it in for the evening. The next morning, we were leaving at about 11 a.m. As we walked to our car, we noticed that there were still people partying in the streets. I couldn't believe it, but I guess that is what you have to expect from the Penn State fans that, "wouldn't be in full force," right, Lee Corso? This experience was one of the best of my life, and one that I will never forget. The atmosphere was electric to say the least, and the people down there are amazing. "WE ARE...PENN STATE!"

"The loose ball was recovered by Scott Paxon and the Nittany Lions ran out the clock to the delight of a delirious home crowd."
- Mathew Turner



HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICE ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

NAME: Justin Reese
SPORT: Men's Soccer
CLASS: Senior
DATE: October 11, 2005

Justin Reese (Pittsburgh/Thomas Jefferson) has been named the Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week. The senior midfielder led the blue and white to a 1-1 mark in AMCC action last week. Behrend dropped a tough 1-0 game at home to Lake Erie, but bounced back with a 4-0 road win at Pitt-Greensburg.

"Justin has made steady progress in a new system of play," said head coach Dan Perritano. "He is beginning to play his best soccer of the season." Under Reese's leadership, Behrend has won four of five games and are 9-3 overall with a 4-2 mark in league play. Reese leads the Behrend Lions with five assists.

The Behrend Lions have a pair of home games around the corner. This Saturday, October 15, they host Frostburg State in a key conference match-up followed by Tuesday's non-conference game against Thiel.

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week is selected by the Sports Information Staff.

Intramurals offer glory

By Kyle Woodside
staff writer
kdw1008@psu.edu

Sure, Behrend athletic teams get all the recognition, whether it is through the media guides created by Behrend's sports information department, the local newspapers and TV stations, e-mail distribution, or online press releases. These athletes deserve this recognition, but what about those not on an organized Behrend team?

Behrend offers many intramurals year-round for men, women and coed teams. These teams do not need to spend 10 or more hours per week practicing. Instead, they can just show up to the games, have fun and meeting new people all while simultaneously being competitive. Most intramural competitors were good athletes in high school, but either don't want to commit to an organized team in college or don't have the passion for intense competitive sports as much as they used to.

Intramurals are not limited to just athletes. Anyone is more than welcome to try their hand at a sport, whether it is to learn or play the game or to just have some fun with friends.

There are many parts to Behrend's intramural system. First, there are individual sports. Second, there are team sports. Third, an individual can register under a team; he can then register in the intramural point system to gain "bragging rights" over other teams. Teams compete in a ranking system that allows them to be more competitive. The more games that are won, the more points that are obtained. For more information on the point system, visit: <http://pennstatebehrend.psu.edu/athletics/intramurals/pointssystem.htm>.

All intramural winners get their picture taken, which is posted on the Behrend intramural sports website. Each winner also receives a free T-shirt from intramural director Rob Wittman.

Behrend's extremely popular intramural program is aided by Behrend student officials and statisticians. Many Behrend students have played an intramural sport at some point in their collegiate career. "I would say the intramural program is the most successful program at Behrend in terms of getting as many people as possible to participate," one student remarked. This is truly amazing because of how busy college students' schedules are. Every year, Behrend's intramural program seems to thrive.

The biggest threat to joining an intramural league

seems to be the \$3.00 charge that is added to a student's account. "I know that I would play every intramural if I wasn't so frugal," said one student.

Some teams have carried on a tradition of being a so-called "powerhouse" in their collegiate career and have tried to pass that tradition down to newer students. One current intramural squad that has been very dominant in the last couple of years. Much like Duke has been in NCAA basketball, Project Mayhem, has already swept men's, women's and coed sand volleyball. They are looking to continue their ruthless supremacy over opposing teams.

"Balls Deep looks to be our biggest rival this year," said two Project Mayhem members. "We have fun playing, but we can't wait for the trash talking to ensue. However, in the end Witt, we'll take small size T-shirts."

So far in 2005, slow pitch volleyball, golf, sand volleyball, tennis and cross country intramurals have been completed. Flag football, which is considered as one of the best intramurals in the system, began play this Monday. Upcoming intramurals for the fall semester are dodgeball, bowling, 3-on-3 basketball and indoor soccer, which is brand new to the intramural line-up this year.

In the spring semester, 5-on-5 basketball, ping-pong, swimming, 4 vs. 4 co-ed volleyball, 6 vs. 6 volleyball, an indoor track meet, soccer, a team triathlon and badminton are slated to take place.

Behrend also has special events that are considered to be recreational activities instead of intramurals. Some of these include Texas Hold 'Em Poker, a Home Run Derby, and a 3-on-3 Sunday night basketball "ladder" league.

Personally, I love intramurals. It is great to be striving for that top spot in the intramural you are competing in. I have spent over four years here, and I just recently won my first intramural championship T-shirt last week after all those years of playing a myriad of intramurals without a "title." No, they didn't stop the presses to write a story about how I won the singles tennis championship, but who cares?

The irony in this whole situation is that I played in a flag football game this week and my shirt was grabbed at many times while I ran with the football, and the shirt was basically destroyed. At least by having that champion T-shirt, I had that feeling of glory, even though it was only for a brief time. What a story to tell my kids someday. We all want that glory, and intramurals can supply it in more ways than can be imagined.

Don't like what you see in the sports page? You have the power to change it. If you wish to exercise your journalistic abilities, email Chris LaFuria at sportseditor@psu.edu and put your abilities to action!