

Coach Joe Paterno under scrutiny by National Organization for Women

By Jonathan Evans
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Just one week after Penn State defeated Florida State in what may be considered one of the most exciting Orange Bowls of all time, Joe Paterno is back in the news. Women's rights advocates around the country are speaking out against Paterno and calling for his resignation due to remarks he made regarding the issue of sexual assault. This came after Paterno had made comments during an interview regarding A.J. Nicholson, Florida State star linebacker and a Butkus Award Semifinalist. Nicholson was sent home before the Bowl game on Tuesday, Jan. 3 by Coach Bobby Bowden on accusations of sexual assault charges.

The interview took place the day before the Orange Bowl. This was just one of many incidents that the linebacker has piled up in his history. Nicholson is currently on six months probation for receiving a DUI. He was also arrested and charged with a misdemeanor for resisting arrest without violence after hiding from police in bushes near an off campus apartment complex which was under construction. He has not been charged with sexual assault; however the case is still up in the air.

When asked about the accusations against Nicholson, Paterno stated, "There are so many people gravitating to these kids. He may not have



Ben Maller/ CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Penn State football coach Joe Paterno has been under much scrutiny this past week due to his comments made last week about Florida State linebacker A.J. Nicholson and his alleged sex scandals.

even known what he was getting into." The president of the NOW (National Organization for Women) organization in Pennsylvania, Joanne Tosti-Vasey, stated that the comments "represent an institutional insensitivity that endangers

women," and that the remarks "send a message that this behavior is not serious...that sexual assault or rape or violence against women is acceptable for an athlete." Tosti-Vasey issued a news release for Joe Paterno to step down from

his coaching position and also to apologize for his comments. The statement reads, "Allegations of sexual assault should never be taken lightly," and, "Making light of sexual assault sends the message that rape is something to be expected and accepted." A spokeswoman from the NOW organization headquarters in Washington stated that president of NOW, Kim Gandy, supports Tosti-Vasey's call for Paterno's resignation.

Guido D'Elia, the communications director for Penn State Football, stated that Paterno "did not intend to make light of the assault allegations." Paterno may have made his comments toward the issue in the context of it being an added distraction to the bowl game environment. D'Elia also added, "If you heard his tone, he really thought it was too bad for everybody. He was concerned for everybody." Penn State spokesman Bill Mahon also made similar comments on Paterno's behalf, stating that Paterno's words during the press conference were "taken out of context."

"When someone of his stature makes light of sexual assault, we have a serious problem," Tosti-Vasey said.

This is not the first time the NOW Organization has spoken against the Penn State University Athletic Department. In 2003, Penn State Cornerback Anwar Phillips was accused of sexual assault and participated in the Capital One Bowl. The bowl game took place three weeks after Phillips had accepted a two-semester expulsion from the university.

Sports Trivia 101

The 1966 Texas Western basketball team was the first ever to start five African-American players in a game. Texas Western defeated the Kentucky Wildcats 72-65 and were led by Bobby Joe Hill's 20 points in one of the most historically significant sporting events. What future successful NBA coach led the Kentucky Wildcats with 19 points?

The answer will be posted in next week's Beacon issue. Email your answers to csl5005@psu.edu. The first person to answer correctly will have their name printed next week. Good Luck!



HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICE ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

NAME: Rachel Slomski
SPORT: Women's Basketball
CLASS: Junior
DATE: January 11, 2006

Rachel Slomski (Erie/McDowell) has been named the Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week. The junior forward led the blue and white in two back-to-back AMCC victories last week. Slomski scored ten points and grabbed six rebounds in the win over Penn State Altoona, and came out strong the next night and scored 26 points along with five boards in a win over Mt. Aloysius.

The Behrend Lions play again on Saturday January 14, at home again Pitt-Bradford.

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

January Sports Schedule

Jan. 14, Swimming and Diving	@ Edinboro	1 p.m.
Jan. 14, Women's Basketball	Pitt-Bradford	6 p.m.
Jan. 14, Men's Basketball	Pitt-Bradford	8 p.m.
Jan. 17, Women's Basketball	@ Medaille	6 p.m.
Jan. 17, Men's Basketball	@ Medaille	8 p.m.
Jan. 20, Women's Basketball	@ Lake Erie	5 p.m.
Jan. 20, Men's Basketball	@ Lake Erie	7 p.m.
Jan. 21, Indoor Track Field	@ Slippery Rock Invitational	5 p.m.
Jan. 21, Swimming and Diving	@ Penn State Altoona, Frostburg	2 p.m.
Jan. 21, Women's Basketball	@ La Roche	4 p.m.
Jan. 21, Men's Basketball	@ La Roche	6 p.m.
Jan. 24, Women's Basketball	Hilbert	6 p.m.
Jan. 24, Men's Basketball	Hilbert	8 p.m.
Jan. 25, Swimming and Diving	@ W&J	6 p.m.
Jan. 27, Women's Basketball	Frostburg	6 p.m.
Jan. 27, Men's Basketball	Frostburg	8 p.m.
Jan. 27, Swimming and Diving	Grove City	6 p.m.
Jan. 28, Indoor Track and Field	@ Case Western	9 a.m.
Jan. 28, Women's Basketball	Pitt-Greensburg	4 p.m.
Jan. 28, Men's Basketball	Pitt-Greensburg	6 p.m.
Jan. 31, Women's Basketball	Medaille	6 p.m.
Jan. 31, Men's Basketball	Medaille	8 p.m.

Hockey team no longer slapstick comedy

By Danielle Brown
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The Penn State Behrend hockey team has started off this season with a bang, losing only one league game so far. Before taking a break from games over the holiday season, the Lions pulled off a hard fought victory in overtime against one of their toughest opponents, Saint Vincent College, with a final score of 5-4. Jon Romanelli scored the winning goal for the Lions, which led them to this amazing victory. Penn State will be back in action Jan. 21 at 9:30 p.m. at the Igloo Ice Arena against Case Western Reserve.

Even though most of the Behrend hockey players have to wait one more week to get back on the ice, some lucky players have the chance to participate in the College Hockey East League All-Star Game. These players include: Eric Baluh, DJ Craven, Pat Laskey, Joe Persang and Jon Romanelli. Also, the Penn State Behrend coach, Derek Gates, will be coaching the North Division in the All-Star Game. This game is set to be played on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 3 p.m. at the Johnstown War Memorial. Before the game, the College Hockey East League will be hosting the first ever skills competition beginning at 1:45 p.m. The cost for the All-Star Game and the skills competition is \$7 for adults and only \$5 for students with their ID's.

This season is already turning out to be a great season for the Lions. Including non-league games, Penn State has

a notable record of 10-3. In the College Hockey East League, they are currently leading the North Division with a record of 7-1. The team already has more wins this season than they had throughout their entire season last year, which is something they are all very proud of. Brad Alayon, a center for Penn State Erie, gave a few reasons why he thinks they are playing so much better this hockey season. "We have a couple freshmen that have helped in many ways, but ultimately we are just working better as a team," he said.

There are many players on the Penn State Behrend hockey team that have stood out with their tremendous talent. Pat Laskey, the Lions goalie, is ranked fifth in the

College Hockey East League standings in the category titled goaltender win leaders. DJ Craven, who is a right wing for the Lions, is the high scorer on the team with 14 goals already this season. Center Jon Romanelli leads the team in assists with 11.

The Penn State Behrend hockey team is only halfway through this season and is looking better than ever. There are eight games left with only three of them being home games. The Jan. 21 home game is followed by two other home games, one on Jan. 28 against CCAC-North, and the other on Feb. 4 against the University of Pittsburgh II. Both of these games will be played at the Igloo Ice Arena beginning at 7:15 p.m. Come out and support our

hockey team. They put in many late hours of practice each week, which shows in their performance this season. Hopefully the new year will bring just as much success to the Behrend hockey team as they have had in the past.

"We have a couple freshmen that have helped in many ways, but ultimately we are just working better as a team."

-Brad Alayon

Any Behrend student interested in writing for the Beacon Sports Page, email Chris LaFuria at sportseditor@psu.edu or stop by the Beacon office in lower Reed Union Building. Get involved with the winningest program at Penn State Erie.