

SPORTS

Swimming and diving compete with small squad

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The Penn State Erie men and women's swim teams are making a splash. Though their swim meet record might not show it, this is a good swim team. Both the men and women's team are very short-handed this year, with the men down to two swimmers and one diver for the spring semester after two other swimmers transferred elsewhere. The women have only six swimmers. This is the reason why they haven't won a meet yet. Head coach Jen Wallace stated that if they would have had a full roster this year, the team would be making a lot more noise and winning most of their meets.

"Everyone on this team has their own specialty and all the swimmers are very good."

-Coach Wallace

To get ready for the second half of their season, Coach Wallace had her team on campus training since Jan. 3, 2006 and she is very excited about their upcoming swim meets.

They swim against Mt. Union at home in the Junker Center on Friday, Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. And then on Saturday, Jan. 14, they travel to take on Edinboro University at 1 p.m. Coach Wallace states that for the remainder of the season, they will be focusing on individual achievements and goals rather than trying to fill events that her swimmers aren't strong in.

The team doesn't care about winning the meet

as a team, as that is basically an impossible goal for such a small team; however, they want to go out and win the events that they do swim and try to place first or second in every event that they compete in.

One meet in particular that they might have an outside chance at winning is a tri-meet Jan. 21 in Altoona, PA against both Penn State Altoona and Frostburg State. "Everyone on this team has their own specialty and all the swimmers are very good," Coach Wallace said about the stand-outs on both the men and women's side.

Four swimmers, two of the men and two of the women, have a very good chance at swimming in the ECAC championships held at the University of Pittsburgh during the last weekend of February. They are Dustin Fairchild, Cindy Morales, Melissa Pilewski and Anthony Spoto.

- Men and Women's swimming roster:
- Men:**
Dustin Fairchild (Sophomore Corry, PA)
- 200 Freestyle and all other events
Alejandro Nieto (Sophomore Lima, Peru)
- Diver
Anthony Spoto (Sophomore Birmingham, MI)
- 50 & 100 Freestyle, 100 Breaststroke
- Women:**
Liz Bross (Senior Erie, PA)
- 50 & 100 Freestyle
Erin Emrich (Freshman Churchville, NY)
- 100 & 200 Breaststroke, 200 IM
Leah Haller (Junior Ottawa, IL)
- all Freestyle events
Ashlee Marchand (Soph. Londonderry, NH)
- 50 & 100 Freestyle, 100 Breaststroke
Cyndi Morales (Soph. Mexico City, Mexico)
- Distance Freestyle, all other events
Melissa Pilewski (Sophomore Cranesville, PA)
- 100 & 200 Breaststroke, 50 Freestyle



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Sophomore Cyndi Morales leads a limited Lions' squad. With only nine women and five men, the Blue and White look to make a splash this year against their larger opponents. Next meet is Jan. 13, 2006.

This Week's Hits and Misses

Hits:

- **Tom Brady** (QB New England Patriots): 15-27, 201 yards, 55.6 completion percentage, long of 63, 3 Tds, 116.4 QB rating in the Patriots 28-3 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars.
- **Carolina Panthers defense:** The Panthers charged into Giants Stadium, where the Giants are 7-1 this season, and allowed only 132 yards of total offense in their shut out of New York. Carolina also forced five turnovers in the game (3 ints, 2 fumbles).
- **Kobe Bryant** (Guard Los Angeles Lakers): After scoring 41 points Wednesday night against Portland, Bryant has maintained his average of 40 plus points per game over the last 5 games. Kobe leads the league with a 34.3 ppg average.
- **Bruce Sutter** (Pitcher): This week, Sutter was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame after 12 seasons in the majors from 1976-1988. Sutter had 300 saves in his career while possessing a 2.83 career ERA.

Misses:

- **Marcus Vick** (QB V-Tech): After blatantly stomping on Louisville defensive end Elvis Dumerville's leg, Vick was arrested and charged with brandishing a weapon after an altercation with three teenagers at a local McDonald's.
- **Sean Taylor** (DB Washington Redskins): Taylor was ejected from last weekend's game against Tampa for allegedly spitting in the face of Michael Pittman. Monday, Pittman was fined \$17,000 by the NFL.
- **Morris Peterson** (Guard Toronto Raptors): Peterson was ejected from Sunday's game against the Nets for retaliating to a slap from former teammate Vince Carter. Peterson claims that he shouldn't receive a fine from the League.
- **The Pittsburgh Penguins:** In regards to their loss to the Oilers, Coach Michel Therrien said it all, "It's a pathetic performance. Half of the team doesn't care. They're doing the best job to be the worst defensive squad in the league. They turn the puck over. They have no vision. The guys don't care. They pretend to care, but I know they don't care. We should take 50 percent of their salaries because they play only 50 percent of the time."
- **Bodie Miller:** Olympic skier who announced to the nation that he has skied drunk before and plans on doing the same in the future. Miller announces his past just before preparation begins for the 2006 Torino Olympics.

Weekly Sports Poll

What sports figure has the best facial hair?

1. Dave Wannstedt- Pittsburgh Panthers head football coach whose moustache has led fans to refer to their coach as "Wannstache."
2. Jake Plummer- Denver Broncos quarterback who uses his face as a palette of tribute to his fallen teammate Pat Tillman
3. Ben Roethlisberger- Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback who began growing his beard due to the cold Pennsylvania weather.
4. Adam Morrison- Gonzaga forward whose moustache has been frequently ridiculed by most adolescent boys.
5. Johnny Damon- the pre-Yankee Damon sported the most rugged-outdoorsman look in his days with the Boston Red Sox.

Email Chris LaFuria at CSL5005@psu.edu with your answer to this weeks poll. Results will be posted in next week's Beacon. Cast your votes now!

LaFuria's power playoff picks

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Favorite

Underdog

Points



12



7



17



3



Odds on winning the Superbowl

Source: USA Today

Team	Odds
1. Indianapolis	1:1
2. Seattle	5:1
3. Denver	7:1
4. New England	7:1
5. Chicago	10:1
6. Carolina	15:1
7. Pittsburgh	20:1
8. Washington	100:1

The Associated Press NCAA Basketball Top 25

Rank	Team	Record	Votes	Previous
1	Duke (72)	15-0	1,800	1
2	Florida	15-0	1,702	5
3	Villanova	11-1	1,578	3
4	Connecticut	13-1	1,575	2
5	Memphis	14-2	1,486	4
6	Gonzaga	12-3	1,382	8
7	Illinois	15-1	1,365	6
8	Texas	13-2	1,209	15
9	Indiana	10-3	1,076	16
10	Louisville	13-2	1,065	9
11	UCLA	13-2	963	17
12	Pittsburgh	12-0	868	22
13	Washington	12-2	772	10
14	Michigan State	13-4	706	7
15	Boston College	11-4	668	11
16	West Virginia	11-3	649	24
17	George Washington	11-1	588	20
18	North Carolina State	13-2	549	13
19	Ohio State	12-1	533	18
20	North Carolina	10-2	529	25
21	Wisconsin	13-2	494	NR
22	Oklahoma	9-4	425	12
23	Maryland	11-4	360	14
24	Arizona	10-4	243	21
25	Cincinnati	13-3	159	NR

2006 NFL Coaching Changes

Team	Coach	Replacement
Detroit Lions	Steve Mariucci	None as of 1/12
Green Bay Packers	Mike Sherman	Mike McCarthy
Houston Texans	Dom Capers	None as of 1/12
Kansas City Chiefs	Dick Vermeil	Herm Edwards
Minnesota Vikings	Mike Tice	Brad Childress
New Orleans Saints	Jim Haslett	None as of 1/12
New York Jets	Herm Edwards	None as of 1/12
Oakland Raiders	Norv Turner	None as of 1/12
St. Louis Rams	Mike Martz	None as of 1/12