

SPORTS

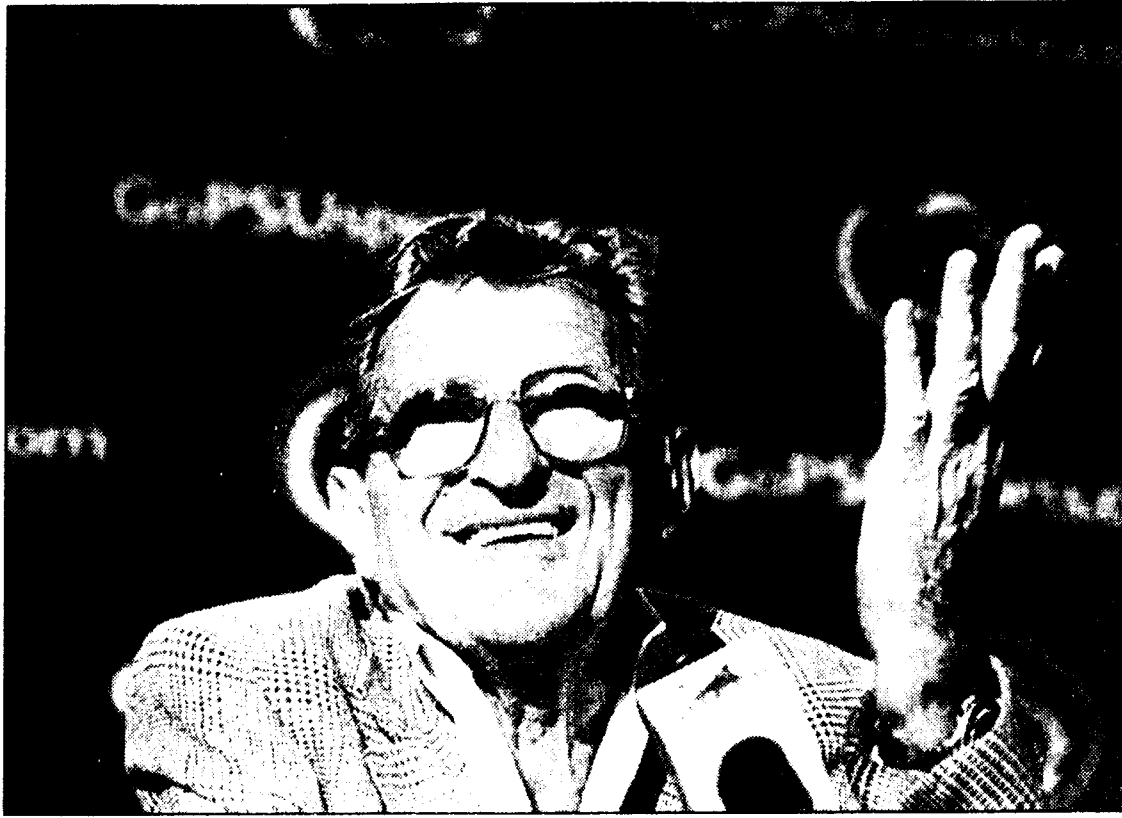
Coach Joe Paterno under scrutiny by National Organization for Women

By Jonathan Evans
staff writer
January 13, 2006

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. Woman'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 even known what he was getting into." The president of the NOW (National Organization for Women)



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.

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 apolo-

gize 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.

Despite setbacks, Lions volleyball make improvements

By Mathew Turner
staff writer
September 23, 2006

This past week has been quite hectic for the Behrend volleyball team. They saw their winning streak come to an end as they competed in the Westminster Invitational. They lost in the second place game 1-3 to Ohio Wesleyan, falling to fourth place. Once they returned home, however, the Lions were greeted with good news. Senior Amanda Evans was named to the all-tournament team. Evans had also been named AMCC volleyball Player of the Week. This marks the second straight week that a Lion has been honored with the award.

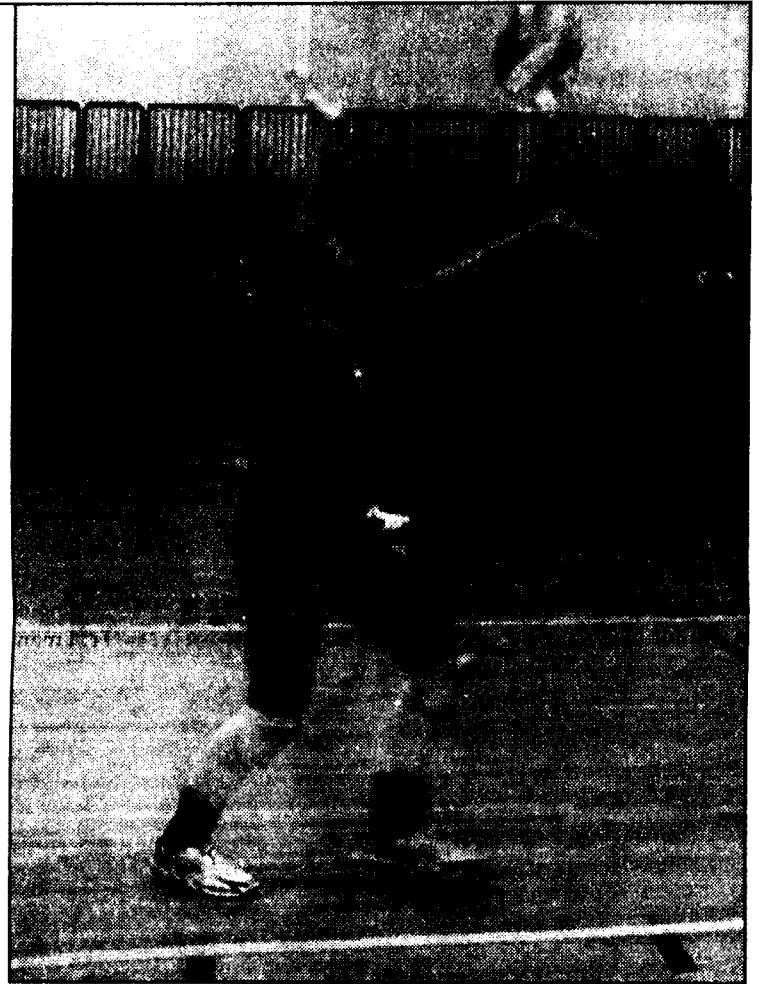
When asked about Evans, Coach Pisano said, "Amanda's improvement over the course of her career has been remarkable. She now

plays with much more confidence and control and has grown tremendously in her knowledge of the game. You can't say enough about how valuable she has been to the program. She's been a four-year starter, she is already the all-time assist leader in Behrend volleyball, and in my opinion she's the best setter in the conference. On top of all that, Amanda is an intelligent, caring, good person who is just going to be great at whatever she does after graduation."

The Lions returned to action at the Junker Center Tuesday night against the Buffalo State Bengals, eager to improve their record. They made quick work of the Bengals in three straight games: 30-19, 30-20, 30-17.

The Bengals fell in a hole that they could never climb out of. Down 14-4 they called a time out, which did little to stop the powerful Lions. Buffalo State never got within 10 points and lost 30-19. In the second game, the Lions roared again. Behrend held the lead for the entire match and won 30-20, with Junior Lisa Wagner slamming five of her game high 11 kills. Behrend finished off Buffalo State in the third game 30-17. They relinquished the lead only once, falling behind 4-3 early on. They went on a 10-2 run and never looked back. With the win, Behrend improved to 8-6.

Many of the Lions contributed to the victory over the Bengals. Freshman defensive specialist Brittany Hennessy had 13 digs and three key service aces. Senior setter Amanda Evans played solid as usual. She accounted for 32 assists that went along with eight digs and



Tiffany Mak/THE BEHREND BEACON

Junior outside hitter Lisa Wagner gets ready to attempt an overhead serve. Wagner and the Lady Lions enjoyed a prosperous season.

seven kills. Junior outside hitter Lisa Wagner tallied 13 digs.

The Lions begin a road trip this weekend that includes the Lycoming College tournament and then at Pitt-Bradford. Behrend returns home on September 29 when they will face Grove City.



Summer 2006

3-week session
May 10-May 31

8-week session
June 14-August 2

4-week session
May 10-June 7

Late summer
3-week session
August 7-August 25

For a complete course listing
visit <http://soc.our.psu.edu>

PENNSTATE



Erie The Behrend College

www.pserie.psu.edu

Men's polo rises above challenges

By Heidi Weismiller
staff writer
September 23, 2005

Penn State Behrend men's water polo team took three unfortunate losses this past week in the pool. "We have a fairly young team," said head coach Joe Tristan, who pointed out that only one senior will graduate this spring.

On Saturday the seventeenth they left Slippery Rock University with a 15-5 loss. "This was our starting point for the next few games," said Tristan. He attributes his team's loss to a few very critical errors. "It could have been a close game," he said. All five Behrend goals were scored by sophomore Anthony Spoto. Behrend goalies had a very productive game with junior Leandro Azevedo saving five shots by the Rock and sophomore Connor Powers saving six.

So far this season the men's water polo team has played 11 games. Tristan feels that his

players are beginning to come together and work well. "We started to play very well as a team," he said. He feels that "when we play them later, we will have a much better game."

Just one day later, Behrend lost to Washington and Jefferson on the road in a very competitive game. "It was an interesting game," said Tristan. Behrend had a strong 4-2 lead in the game in the first quarter. In the second quarter, however, three of Behrend's starters were ejected from the pool for having too many personal fouls. "We lost our number one shooter and two top defenders for the rest of the game," said Tristan. As a coach, Tristan is proud of his team for rising above the challenge presented. "We were still able to come back and score seven more goals," he said. Both goalies had some good saves throughout the game: Powers with 11 and Azevedo with six. Goals were scored by Andre Prancevicius who had six, Spoto, Steve Schleicher, Rody Acelor, Roy

Cho and Mike Hughes. "Overall we played well as a team," said Tristan.

On Wednesday, Behrend was inched out by Gannon University in a 12-10 loss. "This was one of our best games as a team," said Tristan. The score was close throughout the game and was tied in the last two minutes. "It was one of the best team efforts I can ask for," said Tristan. Goals were scored by Justin Thoresen, two; Prancevicius, four; Acelor, two; Spoto and Cho. Once again, both goalies played well. Powers had four saves and Azevedo had seven. Tristan believes that the team did not capitalize on a few opportunities that could have turned the game around, but he was proud of his team and said, "It was a great game all around."

The men's water polo team has an important game coming up this week at home in the Junker Center Pool. They play on Saturday September 24 against Washington and Jefferson. The game will be played at 7 p.m.

Questions or comments regarding this year's Beacon Sports Page? Email csl5005@psu.edu or stop by the Beacon office with your concerns!