

SPORTS

NFL week two studs and duds

By Nick Underhill
assistant sports editor

Week 2 Hits and Misses

Say what you want about Michael Vick. He's not a good quarterback. He's too erratic. He can't learn the offense. Maybe your right, but you're not looking at the whole picture. He's the biggest playmaker in the league and he was completely unstoppable against the Bucs on Sunday. I haven't seen a guy run wild like that since Bo Jackson in Tecmo Bowl, and anyone who played that game knows there was no way to stop the run against the Raiders. Seriously though, it was ridiculous on Sunday, he ran for 127 yards against Tampa's blitz and completed 10 of 15 passes.

Rex Grossman had to be the biggest surprise of week two, lighting up the Lions' suspect defense for 289 yards and four touchdowns. He hasn't had a game like that since he was campaigning for the Heisman in Florida. The game also put him on pace to pass his career high in yards by the third week of the season.

A lot of Eli Manning's early success has to be attributed to the athletic, and sometimes acrobatic, play of receiver Plaxico Burress. The Steelers really let a gem slip through their fingers here. Burress has been a human highlight reel during the first two weeks of the season.

At least it isn't his mouth keeping him off the field this time, but Terrell Owens' broken finger has to be considered a huge disappointment, and his highly anticipated return to Philadelphia on October 8 is now in jeopardy. The injury will require him to have a metal plate inserted into his hand, but barring setbacks, the team insists he will be on the field against the Eagles. I wouldn't count him out for that game yet, we all saw him play in the Super Bowl with a limp two years ago.

Cadillac? Yeah, right. After all the hype Williams received during the off-season, you would expect him to rush for more than 37 yards, but that's exactly what happened last weekend when the Bucs dropped their second straight game. He has a lot of upside, but he needs to start delivering on it now. It would probably help if Chris Simms would settle into this offense and start completing some passes.

Somebody please tell me what's up with Daunte Culpepper. His

play was so bad during the second week it lead his coach, Nick Saban, to say that Culpepper "is not playing like he's capable of playing." Culpepper is working his way back from a serious injury, but everyone is quick to forget that he was horrible last season before becoming injured. He has lost the ability to scramble and run, so he has become somewhat of a target behind Miami's weak offensive line.



Contributed Photo

Michael Vick may not be the most accurate passer in the league, but he is still the hardest guy to game plan for.

Week 3 Picks

We're probably going to lose a few readers with these picks, but how could I let you down by picking a team that is going to lose on Sunday just to appease you. I wouldn't be serving you properly, so I'll start out by saying that Cincinnati is going to hand it to the Steelers. You can still wear your jersey, just pull

out the black one because it will be a day of mourning for you. The Steel Curtain will not come out against the Bengals' high powered

offense, so grab that Terrible Towel and wipe the tears out of your eyes; you look ridiculous. Carolina will win in a rout over Tampa Bay, Chris Simms isn't ready to lead a marching band let alone an NFL team. Chicago's defense will completely smother old man Johnson and the Vikings. Detroit over Green Bay is pretty much a toss up, but I'll take the Lions just because they looked good against Seattle in Week 1. You don't bet against Peyton Manning, and even though Jacksonville has the most vicious front four in all of football I'm still taking the Colts. Chad Pennington has done his part to prove that his arm isn't dead, but JP Losman has been on fire, so I'll ride that flame and take the Bills in a close one. Miami or Houston, well, that all depends on if Culpepper can hold onto the ball. I wouldn't bet on it, but I'm taking Miami. Washington crushes Houston, and Baltimore will bring back nightmares of Art Modell in Cleveland. Alexander runs wild over the Giants as Eli Manning puts up another impressive week statistically. San Francisco has been doing great things offensively, and the Eagles have been giving up points in bunches, so I'm taking the Niners in this one. The Cardinals will get it done in St. Louis, and former Arizona quarterback Jake Plummer will continue to struggle and lose in New England. Atlanta spoils Reggie Bush's Monday Night debut as Michael Vick and Warrick Dunn trample the Saints.

Injury report

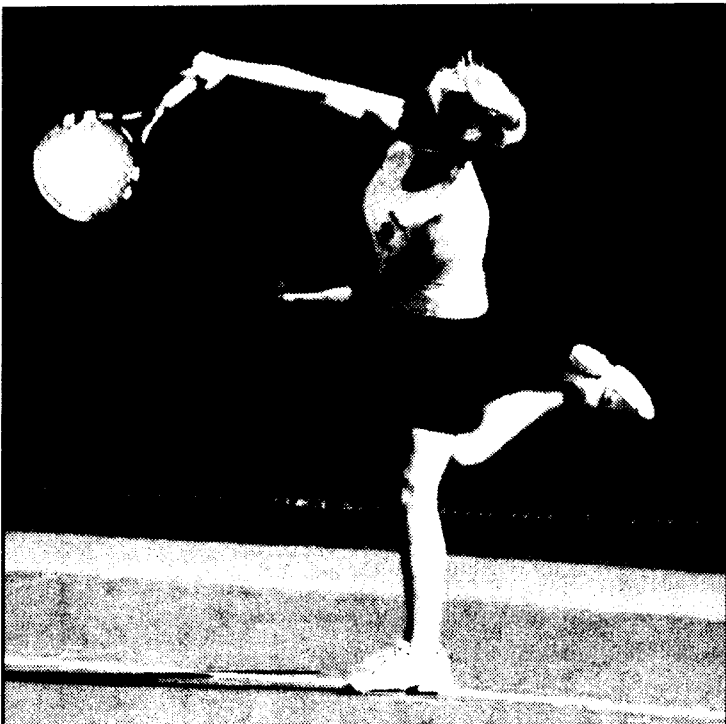
Clinton Portis announced that his shoulder injury is behind him and he plans to suit up against Houston... Cadillac Williams has been suffering from back spasm, but has said that they are not a problem and did not contribute to his sub par performance on Sunday. Maybe he should have taken the easy cop-out for his 37-yard game, at least the blame wouldn't be just on him... Jevon Kearse suffered multiple knee injuries on Sunday against the Giants and will miss the rest of the season... Chad Johnson picked up a concussion and a minor shoulder injury Sunday against the Browns, but he has announced that he will play against Pittsburgh on Sunday. T.J. Houshmandzadeh is also expected back from a heel injury this week as well.

Tennis team gets off to fast start

By Lauren Weaver
staff writer

Behrend's women's tennis team, got off to a fast start last week. With 9 wins already under their belts these girls are standing their ground. Coach Jeff Barger hopes that the season so far is a good indication for what's to come. Two new kids on the block Christy Calvert and Karen Hobough are finding no problem carrying their weight as the number three and number four singles, and the second doubles. The team as a whole played Waynesburg on the 16th winning 7-2, and Bethany on the 17th 6-

3. This week they've already dominated again, playing on Tuesday against Fredonia winning 6-3. Coming up the team is playing at Westminster and Penn State Altoona. Shortly following those on September 24, there will be an opportunity to see these ladies take on the competition first hand at 12:00 P.M. as they take on Penn State Altoona here at home. This season's chief competitors are Penn State Altoona, Westminster and John Carroll. In other words for the next week these ladies need our support bringing home wins.



Michael Sharkey/ THE BEHREND BEACON

The Women's tennis team got off to a fast start, and are hoping to carry on the early success throughout the rest of the season.

Sports Trivia

Marlins rookie Anibal Sanchez threw a no-hitter, the first of the 2006 season. Who was the last player to record a no-hitter and what team was he pitching for?

Last week's answer: Hooks Wiltse won his first 12 games as a rookie in 1904 while pitching for the then New York Giants.

E-mail your answers to Nick Underhill (nru100@psu.edu). The first person to answer correctly will have their name printed in next weeks issue with the answer.

Cross country enjoys success

By Matt Waronker
staff writer

"Finally there was a break from the rain." noted freshman Kevin Gorny.

In fact there wasn't a single dark cloud in the sky this past Saturday when the Penn State Behrend men's and women's cross country teams hosted the annual Behrend Invitational Cross Country Meet. Held at the home course here on campus, the meet played host to thirteen men's and women's cross country teams from around the region. For a third consecutive year Mount Union College captured the men's title, while Case Western University took home the women's title. Finishing in first place for the men was Mount Union's Jeremy Velliquette with a time of 26:03.50, while Esther Erb set a course record with her first place finish of 18:18.25 in the women's race.

Placing 1st for Behrend and 8th overall in the men's contest, senior captain Brad Ruffo

finished with a time of 27:25.95. Moments behind him freshman Kevin Gorny crossed the finish line taking second for Behrend and 21st overall with a time of 28:48.55.

"The race turned out well for being this early in the season," said Ruffo. "You always have a starter race. Everyone will improve from here."

Not to be outdone by Ruffo's finish, sophomore Jenny Bailey matched the 8th place overall finish with one of her own, taking 1st place for the Behrend women's team, and 8th place overall. Bailey, the women's top runner, set the pace for her teammates with a time of 20:01.00.

"Our women's team has a bit more experience than do our men's," noted head coach Dave Cooper. "But both of our teams did extremely well considering their competition. With Case Western and Mount Union both nationally ranked, our finish was nothing short of admirable."

Although both teams are fairly young, the

men's team in particular lacks in experience. Five of the men's seven runners are freshmen, leaving two upperclassmen to guide the team. "We have two really helpful team captains in Ruffo and junior Andy Marshall," noted Gorny. "They are doing a great job at making the transition from high school to college easy. They realize that although we are young, we all have good potential and are improving every meet."

Such improvements are not lost on the team captains.

"With experience they'll improve," said Ruffo. "But as of now the freshmen are pulling their own weight and doing a good job. They're only going to keep improving."

Both of the teams look to continue improving next weekend at The Dickinson Invitational held at Dickinson College.

Hopefully this break in the rain will continue.

The week ahead in Behrend sports

Friday 9/22	Saturday 9/23	Sunday 9/24	Tuesday 9/26	Wednesday 9/27	Thursday 9/28	Friday 9/29	Saturday 9/30
Women's Tennis @ Westminster 3:30 PM	Men's Soccer vs Mt. Aloysius 3:00 Women's Soccer vs. Mt Aloysius 1:00 PM Volleyball vs. Daemen 1:00 PM Water Polo @ Villanova TBA Women's Tennis @ PS Altoona 10:00 AM	Water Polo @ Villanova TBA Women's Tennis vs. Penn State Altoona 12:00 PM	Men's Soccer vs. Medaille 4:00 PM Women's Soccer vs. Medaille 2:00 PM	Women's Volleyball @ Hilbert 7:00 PM	Men's Soccer @ Thiel 4:00 PM	Water Polo vs. Gannon 8:00 PM	Water Polo vs. Washington & Jefferson 7:00 PM Volleyball @ Pitts Greensburgh 11:00 AM & 1:00 Women's Soccer @ La Roche 1:00 PM Men's Soccer @ La Roche 3:00 PM Women's Tennis 9:00 AM & 1:00 PM