HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Cross Country
Sophomore
Kevin Gorny

Gridiron faceoff: NFL vs. NCAA

By Andy McLachlan
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We are nearing the end of August and that means it is time for football season, or for Pittsburgh fans, it's the end of watching the Pirates play. The college football season began with many teams in the hunt for the national title. The NFL starts up on Sept. 9, with some exciting match ups right off the bat. Even though both are extremely popular in this country, the question is which one is better, NCAA or NFL?

Some might say that the NFL has better qualities than the college ranks. For one, you have the best from the college game, coming over every April to prove themselves on the biggest venue in the sport. Also, the NFL is the sport that brought us fantasy football. I mean, what was the world like before we got together with our buddies, before the NFL season began, and drafted a team that might get us the top prize of 80 bucks in cash and ten dollar trophy that represents how great of a GM you truly are.

I, for one, will stick with the like of Bowden and JoePa and take the college game over the pros any day. For one, you have some of the best games ever played, in any sport. Most of us were too young to watch Doug Flutie stun the Hurricanes in the Orange Bowl or when the band was on the field in Stanford, when Cal took back the kickoff for the game winning touchdown, but I was there to watch Kordell Stewart hit Michael Westbrook with no time left to stun the maize and blue in the big house or when Reggie Bush and Vince Young put on a show in the Rose Bowl in '06.

Not to mention, how boring the NFL game truly is. I know that there is more of a defensive style of play in the NFL, but the punt, after punt, after punt, after punt can and will get old very quickly. I mean, have you noticed that all NFL halftime scores are 10-3? College is high flying, option running football that keeps me watching and wanting more. Just when you think your team is got the win wrapped up, your quarterback throws two picks and you walk away with a bid to the Meineke Car Care Bowl. That is why the college game is far better that the pros. Every game counts in college. In the pros, you can lose seven games and still get an opportunity in the playoffs. In fact, there have been division winners in the NFL that were 9-7 or worse. Most remember the Steelers season as a down or failure of a season, but the truth was that they missed the playoffs by one game.

So, watch our collegiate athletes excel in one of the best and most exciting sports we have to watch around these parts. With the marching bands, outrageous mascots, and every game deciding a team's season, the college game will always be better than the NFL.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
College football or Pro football: Which do you prefer?

What do you prefer: College of Pro?

Send your thoughts to the editors.

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Lions shut down Panthers in Opener

By Jenna Sellitto
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The Penn State Nittany Lions kicked off their 2007 football season in front of a crowd of 107, 678 people at historic Beaver Stadium. The devoted Penn State faithful watched as their Nittany Lions shutout the Florida International Panthers by a score of 59-0.

Even after a long morning of tailgating with free t-shirts, face paint, and carnival food stands, one would think that these devoted students, staff, and alumni would be worn out, however, like true lions, the fans were still energetic and full of spirit for the game. Yelling age old chants such as "WE ARE PENN STATE" and helping the iconic lion mascot crowdsurf throughout the stadium were just a few of the traditions carried out to celebrate this new season of football.

With anticipation at its climax, the game began with Florida International running a total of negative nine yards, and it was downhill from there for the visiting Panthers. Throughout the game the staunch Nittany Lion defense had seven sacks, while the special teams forced several fumbles on returns. Senior quarterback and team co-captain Anthony Morelli completed 23 of 28 passes, one of which was a completion to a wide open Mickey Shuler down the right sideline. Shuler, a sophomore tight end split the defense and raced into the end zone pushing the lead to 14-0.

Right before the half, the Panthers had their first chance to get some points on the board with a field goal from the 29-yard line; however, the field goal was blocked by sophomore defensive tackle Jared Odrick. The blocked attempt denied Florida International's strongest chance to score any points. Penn State went into the locker room leading 24-0 and Morelli went in having broken the record for most passing yards for a Penn State quarterback in the first half when he threw for three touchdowns and had a career high of 231 passing yards. In the second half Penn State scored four rushing touchdowns. Senior running backs Austin Scott and Rodney Kinlaw, freshman tailback Evan Royster, and junior fullback Dan Lawlor each contributed one touchdown respectively to help bring about the shutout and largest margin of victory in a shutout since 1991, when Penn State walked over Cincinnati with a score of 81-0.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Junior Derrick Williams looks to score against Temple.

One of the most anticipated games of the season will take place this Saturday when Penn State hosts Notre Dame. Kickoff time for the sold-out match-up is set for 6:00 p.m. and will be televised by ESPN. History will also be made at Beaver Stadium as this game will mark the first ever all stadium white out. For the first time, all fans in attendance are being asked to wear white for this highly touted match-up with Notre Dame. Official white out t-shirt's are available at any campus bookstore or online.

Top 10 Winningest D-I Programs

1) Michigan (859)	T-6) **Penn State** (781)
2) **Notre Dame** (820)	T-6) Alabama (781)
3) Nebraska (811)	8) Oklahoma (765)
4) Texas (809)	9) Tennessee (761)
5) Ohio State (787)	10) USC (743)

Volleyball set to host Behrend Invitational

By Matt Waronker
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The Penn State Behrend volleyball team opened their season this past weekend by winning three out of the their first four matches en route to capturing the Marietta College River City Tournament. Despite a shaky start in which the Lady Lions dropped their first match to host Marietta College, the team was able to immediately bounce back recording three straight victories against tournament opponents Chatham, Thiel, and division II opponent Ohio Valley.

Although the team's first match was inevitably a tally in the loss column, head coach Phil Pisano cites nerves as possibly the most significant factor in the young squad early defeat.

"Marietta was a tough opponent for our first match," notes Pisano. "Their home crowd established a good environment for them and even though it was a back and forth game there was pressure at the end that we weren't able to handle. I think a large part was due to it being the first match of the year."

The Lady Lions quickly responded, however, and after a few line-up adjustments, were able to dominate the remainder of the tournament, sweeping each of their next three opponents, including Division II Ohio Valley.

"We had some younger players playing early on but after a bit of a line-up switch people started to settle down," said Pisano. "The team really played a lot smarter on Saturday. Overall everyone was able to contribute. The team worked really hard on defense and our offense was very balanced."

Contributing to the team's success was junior defensive specialist Brittany Hennessy who was named to the All-Tournament team. Hennessy recorded an impressive school-record 47 digs in the team's match against Marietta. Freshman outside hitter Danielle Woods was also named to the All-Tournament team after contributing 54 digs, 35 kills and nine aces over the weekend.

The Lady Lions look to add to their win streak this weekend as they host the annual Behrend Invitational tournament. Last years champion, Behrend looks to produce similar results in this season's tournament. The Lady Lions will face visiting opponents in Bethany, D'Youville, Fredonia, Grove City, and Medaille. Behrend will play their 2007 home opener on Friday against D'Youville , followed by a rematch with Grove City. The Wolverines handed Behrend their very first defeat of the year last season. On Saturday, the Lady Lions face Bethany and then finish the tournament off with a match against Fredonia. In similar fashion to last season, the team hopes to capitalize on their home court advantage.

"Last year's crowd was fantastic," says Pisano. "The players really enjoyed the large crowd and the environment they created. Hopefully we'll get the same energy from the crowd again this year."

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