

Opinion:
Steelers search for a starting star QB

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sports editor

From the morning of March 5, we all knew our quarterback troubles were starting.

Big Ben was again accused of sexual assault, this time with a 20-year-old girl in a college bar in Georgia. Once again, our franchise quarterback was on every news station all over the country, and was the running headline on SportsCenter for days.

After a questionable public apology and time for the incident to quiet down, commissioner Roger Goodell handed out to not only Ben but also to all of Pittsburgh a dismal four game suspension, meaning it was time to find out who would fill Ben's big shoes.

This question loomed over most of the city until training camp, when the competition between Dixon and Leftwich picked up.

It became rather evident that early on Leftwich would be the first one up for the job. After an MCL sprain during preseason, Leftwich's chance to start was gone and third string Dixon was given the job.

Leading the Steelers to a 2-0 start, the quarterback curse struck again. Dixon was benched for week three with a knee injury. This left 13-year veteran Charlie Batch to be Tomlin's lone option.

Pittsburgh had no choice but to play their fourth string quarterback as they wait for their golden boy Ben to return.

Now we cannot forget that we are sitting pretty at a 3-0 record. All of these guys have stepped up to fill their role, and even if the wins have not been all pretty, it is true that the start of the season could not get better. Batch has been announced again to start in Sunday's game, though Leftwich is released to play. Head coach Tomlin thinks he deserves the start after his performance against the Buccaneers. This is a big chance for Batch to make his mark, seeing as it's probably one of his last hurrahs since he is 35.

But really what is the deal with the quarterback issues? Is it just all a coincidence or could we be suffering the next curse? Could we be the next Red Sox? I for one sure hope not, and have faith that we will bounce back as we see Ben move back into his rightful spot.

This week, the real test will be for Batch to take on conference rivals, the Ravens. This team seems to be the biggest threat in the roster thus far. Leaving the Steelers with a 4-0 record would be the perfect homecoming gift to leave in Ben's hands as he leads the team against the Browns during week six.

Christman: finds success in both doubles and singles

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this year as well, and that has a lot to do with the time I've put in."

Christman has also had success in her doubles game. She achieved team doubles wins with teammate Steph Cattron on September 25th against Penn State Altoona, and D'Youville. Both teams defeated were conference opponents.

"Much of the success I have had with doubles play in the past three seasons can be contributed to my doubles partner Steph Cattron," said Christman. "We have played a lot of good tennis together the past few years and hope to continue that success at the championships this year."

Off of the field, Christman demands the same amount of success from herself in her academic career. She goes on to say,

"As a student athlete, my goal is always to be the best I can at both," said Christman. "I strive to be on the Dean's List every semester, as well as help my team win the conference championship every season."

Student athletes also require poise and dedication to their academic and athletic careers. For Christman, she

believes that tennis and academics go hand in hand.

"Tennis is as much of a game in your head as it is on the court," said Christman. "Staying positive on the court and keeping your head in the game is so important. If I make a few errors, I don't want to let the other player see me get upset. I try to take advantage of this."

Lastly, Christman plans on staying committed to tennis and expects herself to continue to excel in both academics and athletics.

"I always planned on being a four-year athlete at Behrend," said Christman. "Our team has been incredibly successful in the past two years which is attributed to all of our players."

Success continues for women's tennis, and with Christman leading the way, the lady lions will continue their winning ways.

Of course, Christman commends her surrounding teammates:

"We have had success at every position which is really a tribute to our coach, Jeff Barger, who continues to challenge us every year and continuously make us better," said Christman. "We have a great time together when we travel and practice. All of my best friends are on the team so I wouldn't have it any other way."

Ryder Cup: Pavin attempts to lead his team to another win

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said Pavin to **ESPN**, "I know they will this time, but it's nice to have that track record, and they really enjoy being in my company out there. They're very comfortable with one another and hopefully that will continue this week."

One of the more interesting pairings to watch for this week is between long-hitting Americans Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson, and Proven European contenders Lee Westwood and Martin Kaymer. Westwood has been playing these matches since 97 and is always an anchor for the Europeans with a 14-10-5 lifetime record in Ryder Cup history. Mickelson and Johnson conversely approached 'Captain Corey' and asked for the opening slot against the European power-

houses.
Interesting enough, recent 2010 FedEx cup winner and Pittsburgh native Jim Furyk was withheld from the opening matches by 'Captain Corey' in an interesting decision.

"You know you have to sit people out, unfortunately there are four people that can't play and Jim really likes the foursomes' format and you know, we talked about it, and discussed it, and he is very comfortable with it, but he will definitely be playing in the afternoon," said Pavin.

For most golfers, both professional and amateur, the fall is a time to hang up the clubs and reflect on a long, marathon like season. However, for the Ryder Cup athletes, it is some of the most intense and pressure filled golf they will ever play.

Lady Lions: Seniors leading the way to first NCAA chance in Penn State Behrend history

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have improved as well, and he believes that they have contributed greatly to the teams' overall success. Coach Barger is also very impressed with the seniors.

"I'm very pleased with our seniors who have stepped in and led our team in the right direction," he says. "They have all done well when asked to play."

With the help of veteran talent and experience, the team

is able to use their talent on both singles and doubles. Bi-hite and Quigley have been a force to reckon with as they take the court in their pair with an 8-5 record.

The Lions only have a few matches left and they are working very hard and aiming to win the AMCC tournament on Oct. 16 and 17. If they can continue their success in the tournament they win an automatic bid to the NCAAs, where they will compete with the country's best for the first time in school history.

"We have high expectations for the AMCCs and hope to win the automatic bid to the NCAAs," said co-captain Elissa Swartz.

The women's tennis team has shown a lot of success so far. They have the talent to succeed in the AMCC tournament and get to the NCAA tournament for the first time ever, but must stay in touch with their goal in hopes to finish the season as strongly as it was started. They are focused and ready to bring a championship to Behrend.

Men Win: Water polo team look to recover after losses to both Gannon and Mercyhurst last weekend

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and two from Josh Sebrosky.

"Our man down defense worked very well for us," said Tristan. "Our freshman goalie Brian Shapter is doing a tremendous job in the cage and this is another reason our six on five defense is working out."

The Gannon Knights took the win with 22 goals. On the contrary

Shapter made 13 stops, setting his season record high in the cage. Also setting a season high was Hyrne with five goals. Horsch scored two, Loukides one, Pabich one and Chris Dunleavy with one.

"We performed very well. We had some hiccups during the gannon game but overall the team played well over the weekend," said Tristan. "We are drawing the penalties through out the games, we just need to convert and the game dynamics

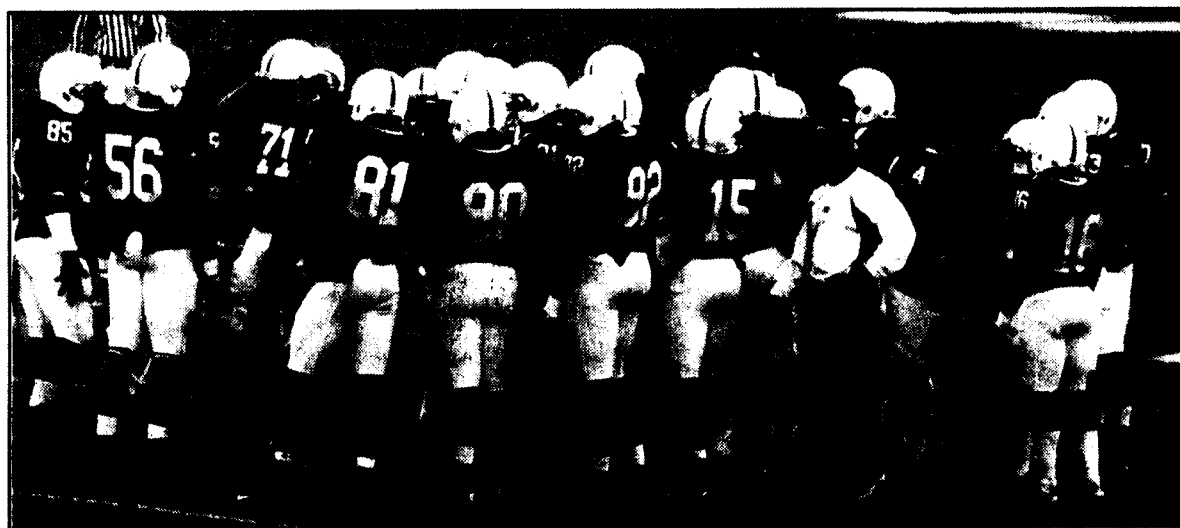
"Our freshman goalie Brian Shapter is doing a tremendous job in the cage..."

Joe Tristan
Head coach

change."
The Lions are 2-9 overall and 1-2 in the conference. The team will look to pick up another win during the rematch against Mercyhurst on October 2.

"Being a young team, this is the best unified team we have had since the 2004 season," said Tristan. "They are coming along very well and we will definitely be a team to look for in the next few years."

After Temple: PSU looks to avenge last year's Iowa loss



Jon Klein / Behrend Beacon
Left: The Penn State football team huddles before a game. Bottom: Wide receiver Chaz Powell, junior, started nine times last year for the Nittany Lions.



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Adrian Clayborn. When looking at what is to come on Saturday night, we could reminisce what we saw three weeks ago in Tuscaloosa.

The Nittany Lion offensive line has been steadily improving, and last weeks game against Temple was a coming out party as they got Evan Royster over 100 yards for the first time all year. Don't get too excited though, as the Lions will be facing the #5 defense in the country. The Hawkeye defense has two key players, those being seniors Tyler Sash, a safety, and Adrian Clayborn who we all remember from last year's game. Clayborn blocked a punt and returned it for a touchdown that was the difference maker in last season win in Beaver Stadium. Robert Bolden showed maturity in the loss at Alabama, and look for him to be smart with the ball this weekend. If the Lions can get Royster going, and a few completions strung together, they could pull off the upset.

Joe Paterno said in his press conference earlier this week when asked about the Hawkeye defense, "Well, they're solid. They come off blocks, line up properly. They read well. They tackle very well.

They're just a good, solid, well-coached defensive team with some kids that are strong. They do a great job in their weight room. Big time football team. And we've got to play better than we've played all year to even stay with them."

Ricky Stanzi should have a field day against the secondary just as Greg McElroy did. He is a yard shy of throwing for 1,000 yards on the dot, and is averaging over 200 a game with two TD's. Yes, the secondary of Penn State is improving, but they will still have matchup problems with the senior driven core. Darren Johnson-Koulianos was a key factor in the win two years ago, just tearing apart the top ranked Lion defense. Expect the Hawkeyes to mix in a heavy dose of running back Adam Robinson, opening up the play-action something Stanzi excels at.

Looking at the history of this matchup, we are in for a game that will have limited offense and the strong defenses will show. The past two seasons, an unranked Iowa team has upset a top five Penn State team. This could be a crucial game with implications at the end of the year in who will be crowned Big Ten champion. Tune in Saturday night at 8 p.m. to ESPN, and see if the Lions can pull out an upset. My call Iowa 24 Penn State 13.