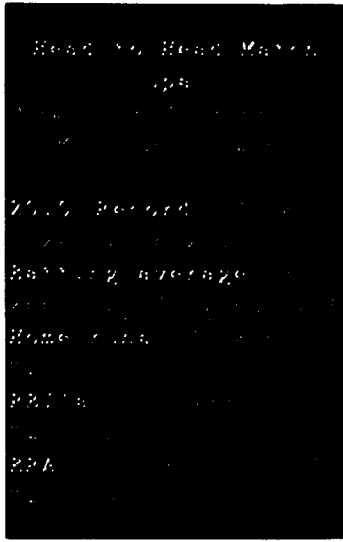


Playoff preview: what games are worth watching

SEAN NEELY
senior reporter

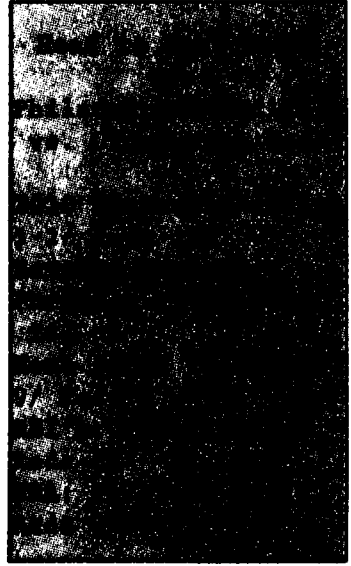
Baseball fanatics are primed and ready year after year come October. The MLB has always been unanimous for this, even in the not so friendly confines of the fall season. This year is no different, the excitement looms as ongoing watchers get to view eight of the best regular season teams go at it, in hopes of winning a pennant. The



from the departure of Johan Santana. However, the Twins have succeeded on a balance of decent pitching and hitting. This particular Twins team has been called the most balanced to date. Of course, it helps when Joe Mauer is behind the plate as well.

Last year's champs (including 27 World Series Championships), bolster the best offensive lineup in the league, along with top-league pitching.

If it's one person that can



story lines and match ups are quite interesting this year.

Three to keep an eye on are: Cole Hamels, Roy Halladay, and Roy Oswalt. However, the Cincinnati Red's also have pitching strength. Their opposing three starter's are Edison Volquez, Bronson Arroyo, and Johnny Cueto. Both teams are capable of stellar pitching and hitting. But, if the Phillies can slow down Cincinnati Red's star player Joey Votto, then

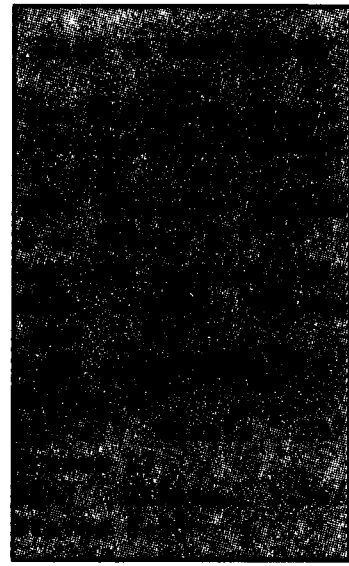
The Phillies have one of, if not the most intimidating pitching staffs in all of baseball. Halladay's no-hitter clearly shows their power on the mound, along with Oswalt and Hamels performances this year.

consider the Phillies to be the favorites.

The Giants have found their way to the post-season due to excellent pitching. While their hitting has been average, they have found a way to muster runs thanks to rookie cleanup hitter Buster Posey. On the other side, the Braves are ravaged with injuries.

However, like the Giants, the Braves also bolster a strong pitching staff. If the Braves can break out offensively and rise above their injury woes, then consider them the favorites.

It's odd to see the Minnesota Twins' ERA (earned run average) above the 4.00 plateau. This could be



take over the series, that would be ace pitcher David Price. If Price and the Rays continue to hit the ball well and manage to contain Angel stars Vladimir Guerrero and Josh Hamilton, then consider the Rays to be the favorite in this one.

Will the Yankees repeat, yet again this year? Or, will a sleeper, such as the Giants or Braves surprise the masses? In due time, everyone will find out in this October for baseball; baseball's greatest moments lie here.

The class that never was: what happened to the class of '06?

CODY BUPP
staff reporter

When National Signing day came in 2006, Penn State had locked up a top ten recruiting class, and looked like the recent success would continue in Happy Valley. A few violations and players leaving early for the NFL, this once highly touted class has disintegrated to what is left in 2010.

Look at what was in the future at that point Penn State was wrapping up another nine win season. Penn State had finally put them back on the college football map. For a class that was to continue Linebacker U, and produce round two of spectacular wide receivers, it was a major let down. One can harp on the coaching staff, but they fielded some of the top recruits year in and year out to try and put a National Championship contender on the field.

Of the class signing class of 2006, there are six of 21 recruits on this year's roster. If a team were to still have these recruits on the field today with some of the young guys, this year's team would be a force to recon with. Let's take a closer look at how good this team could have been.

On the offensive side of the ball, the Lions would not really have a weak part of their offense. Take a look at where this year's team lacks experience. Those positions are quarterback, offensive line, and tight end. Two years ago Penn State fans lost the quarterback of the future, Pat Devlin. Devlin transferred to Delaware University after winning his first career game on the road at Ohio State. On the offensive line, they were supposed to have recruited the next NFL superstar lineman in Antoine Logan-El. He did not last a season in

Happy Valley before transferring to Towson. With him on the this years line, and a senior ridden line that includes fellow recruits, Johnnie Troutman, Stefan Wisniewski, Lou Elides, and Doug Klopacz. On top of that line, it would open up holes for Evan Royster who was also part of this recruiting class.

Then the other weakness on this years team is tight end. Last year we finally saw the potential Andrew Quarless had, but yet he was another that elected to test out the NFL. After putting all those pieces together including the wide receivers unit now, there is an offense that is explosive, and balanced.

Penn State fans salivated when they saw some of the names on the recruit class of 2006. Some of the names among this class were Navarro Bowman, Aaron Maybin, Eric Lattimore, and Abe Koroma. So once again look at the youth of this Penn State team, and it lies on just about every level. The defensive line would be a force with Aaron Maybin, who left two years ago after leading the nation in sacks would be paired up with Ollie Ogbu, Devon Still, any of the other defensive ends would be that defense we are use to seeing in Penn State. The linebackers would be senior ridden like the offensive line. Navarro Bowman was another that left early for the NFL on what could have been another dominating Linbacker U. This year's linebacker core could have been, Bowman, Colasanti, Stupar.

After taking a look at what could have been, one wonders how much different this season would be. A team that is headed for 6-6 or a 7-5 record could have been pushing to run the table and be contenders in the National Championship.



Connor Sattely / Behrend Beacon

ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS, SHOOT!: Due to the poor condition of the Behrend Fields, Rob Wittman hosted a Rock-Paper-Scissors Tournament Wednesday night in the Junker center. The game was ideal for everyone because it does not require a skill set, and the event brought in over 30 people. Wittman also has held a kick ball and dodge ball tournament earlier in the year.

"What don't want kids sitting in a room doing nothing so I'm just giving them something to do," said Wittman. While the event does have a winner, it encourages people to get involved and prizes are not only given to winners. With one more night indoors Wittman is looking for more ideas to get student off the couch and into Junker to get some activity.

NATIONAL NEWS: A WRAP UP OF THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

DOC HALLADAY PRESCRIBES NO-HITTER

ELESE MERKOVSKY
sports editor

Roy Halladay made history in his first play-off appearance, as he threw the second no-hitter in post season play.

Halladay threw his second no-hitter of the year as the Phillies took on the Reds in the first game of the series. In the 4-0 win, Halladay struck out eight batters, and walked only one in his nine innings of pitching.

The accomplishment of a post season no-hitter has only been accomplished once before in the 1956 World Series, as Don Larsen led the Dodgers to win the series 50 years ago.

"It's just one of those special things that I'll always remember," said Halladay to ESPN.

MOSS MOVES TO MINNESOTA MID-SEASON

BRANDON BOYD
opinion editor

Goodbye, New England. Randy Moss is headed home.

Moss, along with a 2012 7th round NFL Draft selection, was shipped from New England to Minnesota for a 2011 3rd round NFL Draft selection.

While some have speculated that Moss was traded due to a rift between Moss and coaches for the Patriots, New England Head Coach Bill Belichick denied it.

Though his contract ends after this season, Moss seems excited to make the move to Minnesota.

"I'm very fortunate to be back home where it all started," Moss said Thursday in a press conference.

RYDER CUP: HISTORY MADE IN RAINY WALES

ALEC ITALIANO
sports editor

The American golfers could not pull off the miracle comeback as they fell just one half point short of bringing the cup back to domestic soil in a 14 1/2- 13 1/2 loss.

Ireland's Graeme McDowell was the man of the moment for the European team as he sealed the deal after taking down American Hunter Mahan in the last singles match on Monday.

It was the first Monday finish in Ryder Cup history due to rain, and a dramatic one at that as McDowell sank a 20-foot putt on the sixteenth green and made a clutch par on 17 to send the European golf fans in frenzy.

LIVERPOOL BOUGHT BY RED SOX OWNERS

ELESE MERKOVSKY
sports editor

Boston Red Sox owners made the move to soccer as they purchased English powerhouse Liverpool.

The ownership group led by John Henry and Tom Werner purchased Liverpool soccer club for a reported \$447 million. Most money would go to the debt ran up by former owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett Jr, who also brought the Texans to bankruptcy. New owners have faith they can restore the club.

"We have a proven track record, shown clearly with the Boston Red Sox," Hicks said. "We will bring the same kind of openness, passion, dedication and professionalism to Liverpool FC."

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