

PSU Sports @ a Glance

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With this being the final issue of The Capital Times, it seems only logical to take a look back; a look back to the year that was Penn State sports. However, since this is the final issue, why make it predictable? Instead of looking back, let's look ahead. There is a lot to look forward to.

Penn State Football

Penn State football's troubles have been well documented the last few years and to be honest, the team has been really bad. These losing seasons may be acceptable by schools like Temple, but this is Penn State. This is "Happy Valley" and right now, we need this football team to make us happy.

Beyond the negativity that has been heard, there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. The Lions have had a pretty good recruiting season for one thing. In the past few years, the Lions had lagged behind when recruiting the great high school players. So, the recruitment of high school phenomenon Derrick Williams will only help this young team get better.

The defense appears to be solid with players like Dan Connor coming back. There is no question that the defense was the strength of this team last season. With such a young offensive unit, the defense will probably be in the spotlight once again.

Probably the most interesting story of the upcoming season will be the quarterback situation. JoePa has a decision to make. Many would like to see Tony Morelli start, but what about Michael Robinson? Since he has been recruited, Robinson has been on the sidelines behind Zack Mills, though that did not mean that he was not used. Robinson was used as a weapon for Paterno as a wide receiver in some packages, and as a quarterback in others.

And so begins the talk: Will it be Robinson or Morelli? We will have to wait. At this point, the favorite could be Robinson, and why not? Robinson has experience and has some good skills. However, in the starts that he has had, Robinson has been less than stellar.

Penn State Baseball

Summer is right around the corner, and that means that baseball is in full swing. With the disappointment that the football and basketball teams have provided, it is nice to see that the baseball team is doing fairly well.

Through 27 games, the team is 17-10. That includes a perfect record at home and a good record on the road.

Offensively, Matt Lewis and Scott Gummo lead the team. Lewis leads the team in RBIs with 24. His batting average is not too shabby either; .340. average. Gummo is tied with Lewis for the team lead in homeruns and leads the team in walks with 14.

Both of these players will have to continue playing well if the baseball team will have success this summer. Perhaps not The College World Series, but earned respectability is absolutely a possibility.

The Capital Times is looking for a new Sports Editor and sports reporters to cover both local PSU sports and professional and college sports.

Sports

Balls fly everywhere at PSH

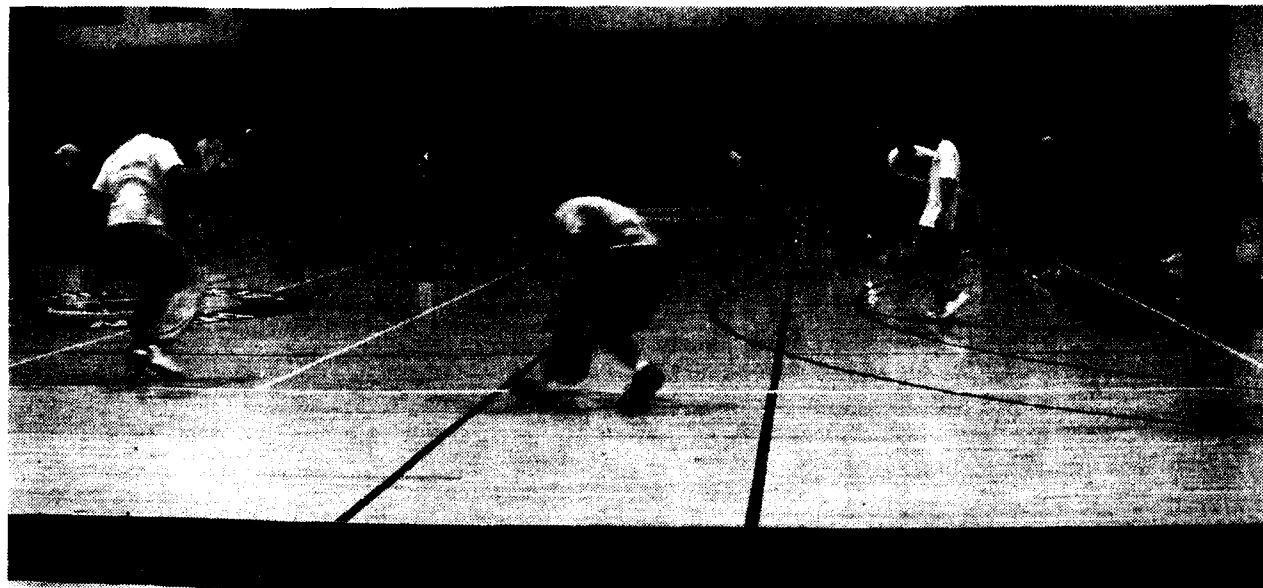
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On Thursday April 14, Penn State Harrisburg students clearly had the balls to help out a charity by participating in an extreme dodgeball tournament. The event, held at the CUB, drew over eighty people and proved to be an enjoyable experience for all. The tournament began promptly at 9 p.m., and by 10:45 p.m., students were still having a "ball" in the gym.

Circle K, a community service

club at PSH, sponsored the event, which cost students \$2 a person or \$10 for a team of five. After teams were formed, students began entering the gym with competitive spirits growing as everyone waited for the competition to begin.

After a short while, the rules were announced and dodgeball began. The rules were simple - if an opponent caught a ball thrown at them, the person who threw the ball would be out. However, if the person missed the ball (or was simply hit), he or she was out, unless someone else from his or



The two winning teams took on the rest of the players for one last match. The match was about 10 people against 25, and they still came out on top.



Chris Kramm of XGI slides into the other team's territory as he makes a play for the first throw of the match. He is defeated by the other team as they peg him with the remaining balls.

Photos by Sharon Furfaro/ Capital Times

her team caught the ball. In this single elimination tournament, the team that successfully removed everyone from the opposing team would be the winners and moved on. Several other rounds were played, including a round for the losers, and a final round that featured the top two teams vs. everyone else in the gym.

Several teams were members of clubs and organizations sponsored by PSH, including The Capital Times (Meet the Press), Circle K (The Do-Gooders), and XGI (XGI #1 and #2). Many teams really got into the event, making their own shirts, painting their faces, playing music, and bringing a score of cheering fans. Others simply stuck to basics and only focused on their competition. Overall, the spirit in the gym was amazing.

In the end, "The Tignons,"

consisting of Jake Toronan, Bob Brown, Derreck Lyne, Andy Jones, and Cory Daniels, were crowned dodge ball champions and received a cash prize. All members were thrilled to participate and had a blast doing so.

Sean Stanton, a Circle K member, said, "I can't believe how many people showed up. This has to be one of the most successful events of the semester." His words were echoed by others who had stated that they love helping charity but at the same time, having fun.

Another student, who wishes to be unidentified, said, "It was nice to see so many people come out for a good cause. We should definitely do this again before the year is over. People get so competitive when it comes to things like this, but it still was a fun night."

Half of the proceeds from the event are going to the Head Start and Early Head Start in Harrisburg. They are comprehensive child development programs that serve children from birth to age 5, pregnant women, and their families. They are child-focused programs and have the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families.

A special thanks to all of the referees, students, clubs, CUB staff, Ms. Nancy Leister, Ms. Nichole Duffy, Eric McCormick, Bryan Sferra, Circle K members, Mandy Davey, Middletown High School, and all who attended. For more info on Circle K or Head Start, e-mail Steve O'Holla at sao142@psu.edu. Hope to see you back at the gym in the fall for "Round Two!"

Herb's sports movie countdown

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15 Best Sports Movies

- 15) 61*
- 14) Eight Men Out
- 13) The Longest Yard
- 12) Major League I
- 11) The Sandlot
- 10) Slap Shot
- 9) Field of Dreams
- 8) Rudy
- 7) Bull Durham
- 6) The Natural
- 5) Miracle
- 4) Rocky
- 3) Friday Night Lights
- 2) Raging Bull
- 1) Hoosiers

5 Worst Sports Movies

- 5) Major League II
- 4) Summer Catch
- 3) D3: The Mighty Ducks
- 2) Caddyshack II
- 1) For Love of the Game

What makes a great sports movie? Realism is a start, and having the movie based on a true story doesn't hurt either. After all, isn't reality better than fiction? That could be the reason the top 3 movies on the countdown were all based on actual events that happened to real, living, breathing people. Seeing an amazing story and knowing it actually happened, not just a vision in a writer's mind, makes the story all the more compelling.

It is important to remember that a sports film, like any other film,

needs a great story and great acting. In addition to that, sports films will have game scenes in them, and it is not easy to pull off a sports scene and make it look authentic. These movies pulled off the scenes flawlessly. All of the movies in the top 15 are not only realistic looks at different sports, but are expertly directed and superbly acted. So, just for one time, I'm going to pretend that I am the Tomfoolery of Cinema and take a closer look inside a few of the greatest sports movies of all time.

In the realm of sports movies, it seems that the list always goes Hoosiers, then every other movie. Hoosiers, set in a small Indiana town, is a great story of a coach and his underdog team that, in 1952, made it to the state championship. It is a great story of overcoming the odds and it is based on actual events, making the story that much more amazing.

Raging Bull is the dark story of boxing great Jake LaMotta. Robert DeNiro and Martin Scorsese team up for this great film, and also brought the world Joe Pesci. Pesci made his film debut in this picture and did outstanding as LaMotta's brother, Joey. The film tells us all about the self-destructive LaMotta who had the world in his hand and lost it. Scorsese showed his genius in this epic and the boxing scenes were as realistic as any ever done.

Coming in at number three is a recent film, Friday Night Lights.

The film takes a look at high school football in Texas and the pressure it put on the boys who played the game. This is another true story and the football scenes made it seem as if you were on the field.

Number four won Best picture in 1976 and launched the career of Sylvester Stallone. While Stallone overall has had more hits than misses with his films, including a few sequels in the Rocky series, he hit it right on the button for this film. Stallone wrote this film after watching Chuck Wepner, a bum fighter; take the very best of heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali before falling in the 15th round. Stallone put his pen to paper and created the story of Rocky Balboa, the "Italian Stallion." Many people seem to forget, after the myriad of sequels, that the original Rocky was based on the idea of Balboa just being happy to go the distance with the champion, making his life mean something. Stallone's skills in writing and acting really shine in Rocky. It brings to mind one question: where did all that talent go?

Rounding out the top five is the biggest upset in the history of sports shown in Miracle. In a time when America was faltering and the Soviets were excelling in all aspects, a bunch of unknown hockey players defeated the greatest team ever to step on the ice. The Soviets were the best hockey team in the world; embarrassing NHL All-Star teams on several occasions and winning

three straight gold medals in 1968, 72 and 76. Herb Brooks, who is played surprisingly well by Kurt Russell, led the team who beat the mighty Soviets in Lake Placid, NY. The film shows the coming together of the American team from different backgrounds for one common goal. Realizing that goal was indeed a miracle. This movie, above all others, is proof that reality is better than fiction, for if it were created, it would be been created as unbelievable and laughed at.

Of course, not all sports movies are home runs. Kevin Costner has shown he can pull off great sports movies with two of his films in the top 15. However, "Robin Hood" missed the boat completely on For Love of the Game. The movie has a nice story: washed up pitcher analyzes

life while throwing a perfect game in Yankee Stadium. But the film is excruciatingly long. What is it with Costner and four hour-long movies? Didn't we suffer enough with The Postman? The bottom five lacks one major thing: they are not realistic. The sports scenes are horrendous and the acting is worse. It takes a special touch to pull off a successful sports movie. And the bottom five are a prime example about what happens when you don't have that touch.

Sports movies in general are an escape. If it's January and you miss baseball, you can put in Bull Durham and see a good story and a realistic portrayal of baseball. And if you have 10 hours to kill, pull out For Love of the Game. If for nothing else, it's good for a laugh.



Photo courtesy of www.nostalgiacentral.com

In Hoosiers, an Indiana high school basketball team triumphs in a classic underdog story based on a real-life incident.