

SPORTS

PSU Sports @ Glance

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McComas picks the best: week 3

Hey everybody this is my first article for the Capital Times. I have been a Penn State Football fan for many years. My family bleeds blue and white especially on this campus. All of my family members that went to PSU finished on this campus. Now when it comes to the football team quite frankly I am sick and tired of what is going on with the team and their actions. Firstly, Austin Scott should not only be disassociated from the team, but he should also be disassociated with our University. The allegations against him are too much for this University to deal with. I personally feel that he should be withdrawn from his classes and the University while the trial process is going on. If found guilty we should disassociate ourselves with him much like Ohio State did with one Maurice Claret. When he was found guilty the University cut all ties with him and that's what Penn State should do if Scott is found guilty. Now if Scott is found not guilty then by all means he should be welcomed back to the school regardless but maybe put him on academic probation. Now let's look at the situation that happened over the summer. Certain prominent members of the football team got into a fight on the street and committed assault. While at a party, safety Anthony Scirrotto's girlfriend had inappropriate comments made about his girlfriend. He and fellow teammate and cornerback Justin King handled the incident on the street. The players went back to the party and continued to drink. Later on in the night Scirrotto, King, and the other players around them went to this person's apartment. The players in question broke in and beat the hell out this guy for some comments. This was no way to handle it but let's face it Penn State is one of the top 10 party schools in the nation. Even *Playboy* magazine said, "We cannot rank Penn State University against other schools in the party category because we feel it is unfair to rank professionals against amateurs." This should say something to us all. Maybe JoePa does not have the reigns on his team anymore like he used to. His punishment though was a good one for the team. He punished the entire team by making them clean up Beaver Stadium after each and every home game. The real issue I have right now with the team is not its behavior but with its quarterback. Anthony Morelli. Mr. Morelli went to high school down the road from me. I have friends that graduated with him and are Penn State students as well. They informed me that Anthony Morelli misspelled his last name on the SAT tests. Now, no one here doubts his abilities on the field but what we doubt is his decision-making and his ability to be a field general. With some of the bad decisions I have seen so far this year I am of the opinion that we need to bench Morelli and try out Darryl Clark at quarterback he cannot be much worse than the way Morelli played against Michigan or Illinois. Even his decision-making against Notre Dame and Buffalo was spotty, at best. Morelli even manages to get knock-downed by phantom tackles and manages to fall over when someone barely touches him.



Wisconsin @ Ohio State: Playing inside the "Horseshoe" is always a difficult task. The Badgers will be no exception despite their success so far. The Buckeyes' James Laurinaitis creates problems for opposing offenses. He can cover receivers and tackle ball carriers. More importantly, quarterback Tyler Donovan better be on the lookout for this kid. I see Laurinaitis wreaking havoc on Wisconsin, much to the delight of the Ohio State faithful. The Buckeyes will be the team jumping around this week. Sorry, Camp Randall.



LSU @ Alabama: The Crimson Tide has been unpredictable this year, but given my job, I'm trying anyway. The Tigers have been impressive so far, but haven't had many road games. This game has huge implications for the South Eastern Conference. The SEC is a tight race and any loss can move a team from the top to the bottom in one weekend. Tuscaloosa will be rocking, no doubt about that, but LSU is far too disciplined on the defensive side of the ball to allow 'Bama to score enough points to win. LSU quarterback Matt Flynn will have to make plays down the field once again. Tide Coach Nick Saban should start worrying about his own team as the Tigers will hand 'Bama yet another loss.



Arizona State @ Oregon: This contest has the potential to be the game of the day. Ducks quarterback Dennis Dixon will be extremely challenging for the Sun Devils to defend. If the Devils want to stay atop the Pac-10, they obviously need to come away from this game with a win. Unfortunately for State, I think Autzen Stadium will be too much for the Devils to handle. Look for Oregon to get back in the running for a conference title and outscore ASU.



Texas A&M @ Oklahoma: With the unbelievable amount of upsets each week, the Sooners are still vying for a shot in the national championship game, even with one loss. OU quarterback Sam Bradford has been very efficient and will need to be again. The Aggies are not in the national title picture, but are in the Big 12 title hunt. A win over Oklahoma will catapult them to first in the south division. However, A&M shouldn't get their hopes up. I know it has been upset galore, but I really don't see the Sooners losing this game. OU should win and bring in a statement game for Coach Bob Stoops' team.



Cincinnati @ South Florida: A Big East battle, which puts the Bearcats against the story of the year, in the Bulls. Only in their 11th season, USF has climbed the mountain quickly. The Bulls are no longer in the national championship game, but the Big East title coming to Tampa is a very realistic concept. I like USF at home, in front of a passionate crowd.



Vanderbilt @ Florida: Vandy is always lurking in the background to pull off a big upset. A couple weeks ago they did so to the unsuspecting Gamecocks of South Carolina. Can they possibly do it again to the mighty Gators? With the way this season has played out, why not? However, it is not likely with the game being played at the "Swamp." Florida has had, what some may say, a disappointing season, which is the reason they won't be playing in the national championship game again. I'd like Gators quarterback Tim Tebow to lead his team to victory against Vandy. I don't think the game itself will be all that close when it's said and done. Look for the Gators to take a bite out of Vandy's pride.



Wake Forest @ Virginia: The ACC has definitely had a shift in power over the last couple years. Last year it was the Demon Deacons who were ACC champions. This year, the Cavaliers of Virginia are looking to do the same. The Cavs are quite a surprise this year. Then again, who isn't? Virginia doesn't have big names like most other teams who are in their position, but they win and that is all that matters. A lot of experts might put Virginia on upset alert in this game, but I like the Cavaliers. No Miami. No Florida State. This Virginia team is on top of the conference. Look for them to continue their great season with a win over Wake.



Michigan @ Michigan State: The Spartans have once again started off strong, but faded in the latter part of the season. This rivalry game is one where I wish I could take MSU over the Wolverines. Unfortunately I can't. Big Blue has been playing well since their first two games in which they were embarrassed. Being on the road could give the Spartans the edge, but I still like Michigan. The Wolverines will continue their run toward a Big Ten title.



Rutgers @ Connecticut: The Scarlet Knights enter the home of the Huskies with Big East title aspirations on the line. However, Uconn has its own intentions of a Big East title as well. The Huskies have been one of the surprise teams of the year. They are in first place in the conference and have looked good all season. Rutgers running back Ray Rice is going to be challenging to contain let alone stop. In the end, I think he will be too much for the Huskies. Rutgers wins on the road and continues their charge for a conference championship.



Purdue @ Penn State: The Nittany Lions are about as two-faced as a team can be. Luckily, for PSU fans, their better half is at home. At Beaver Stadium the Lions are more aggressive and seemingly play with more passion. The Boilermakers are high-powered on offense, but their defense is lacking a bit. Penn State should be able to keep pace in a high-scoring game, if it comes to that. However, with PSU's defense, the game could be a low scoring. Beaver Stadium will walk away happy as the Nittany Lions come away with a victory against Purdue.



Patriots @ Colts: Both teams look superb. They are definitely the cream of the crop. Tom Brady and Peyton Manning will offer a great showdown of quarterbacks. Indianapolis has the home advantage, but New England wins the game. However, this will not be the last time these two teams meet this year. There is an AFC championship game to play later and I don't see anyone that can keep these two teams from getting there.



Bengals @ Bills: At the beginning of the year, you would have said by now this game would have no meaning and Cincy would kill Buffalo. However, this game does have meaning. The winner can still compete for a wild card bid. The loser will probably be quite a long shot. The Bengals just don't seem to be on the same page and with Trent Edwards at quarterback, the Bills seemingly have new life. The main reason is he's getting receiver Lee Evans involved. I'm taking the Bills in an upset at home.



Packers @ Chiefs: Two stunning performances to date make this game interesting to watch. Green Bay and Kansas City are looking playoff bound at year's end. Which team has enough in the tank to keep it going? I think the Packers play in a harder division, but the Chiefs seemingly have more holes to fix. Arrowhead is always an intense place to play, but the fans won't be able to will their team to victory in this game. I'm taking the "cheeseheads" in what should be a pick game for you gamblers out there.