

## OHIO: Next stop for unbeaten Nittany Lions

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a golf cart instead of shuttling back and forth between drills.

"Up until I got this thing, I'd be in there and demonstrating once in a while. I miss that part, but the assistant coaches just picked up, and I'm tough on them," Paterno said Saturday night.

Defensive coordinator Tom Bradley, a Paterno lieutenant for three decades, is the de facto leader on the field when JoePa is upstairs. Veteran defensive line coach Larry Johnson has his unit playing well.

Offensive coordinator Galen Hall has seen 19 bowl games in his 31 years as a coach. Paterno's son and quarterbacks coach, Jay Paterno, has done a good job with breakout star QB Daryll Clark and the Spread HD offense.

If Paterno sees something he doesn't like, he tells his staff. It's exactly what happened at halftime the last three games with Paterno in the box, said center and senior leader A.Q. Shipley.

## Penn St. gets up-close look at Terrelle Pryor

By GENARO C. ARMAS  
AP SPORTS WRITER

The loser in the Terrelle Pryor recruiting sweepstakes gets his first up-close look at Ohio State's freshman phenom.

Penn State coach Joe Paterno doesn't have any regrets or hold any grudges.

"No, no. Everybody's got to do what they got to do. You're dealing with a kid who's got to make a life for himself," Paterno said Tuesday outside Beaver Stadium. "You're dealing with people's lives.

"It's working out for him fine. I hope we beat him, but you know how that goes," Paterno said.

As if Saturday's game at the Horseshoe between the unbeaten No. 3 Nittany Lions (8-0, 4-0 Big Ten) and the No. 10 Buckeyes (7-1, 4-0) needed another storyline.

A year ago, the 6-foot-6 Pryor was THE hot high school recruit, a freakish blend of size, speed and strength who made college coaches drool. The native of the Pittsburgh suburb of Jeannette was the only player in Pennsylvania high school history to rush for more than 4,000 yards and throw for more than 4,000 in a career.

Pryor's reputation was burnished by his western Pennsylvania pedigree, hailing from a region nicknamed the "Cradle of

Quarterbacks" for producing the likes of Dan Marino, Joe Montana and Johnny Unitas, among others.

Suitors lined up outside the front door of his high school. Rich Rodriguez had called, first at West Virginia, then from Michigan. Oregon was one of the finalists.

Adding to the drama was his last-minute and unusual decision to delay committing on national signing day, on Feb. 6, after his father wanted him to take more time to consider Happy Valley.

Penn State defensive coordinator Tom Bradley and quarterback coach Jay Paterno put on a full-court press, crossing paths with Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel and his staff.

Joe Paterno was mistaken if he thought Pryor was locked up to Ohio State as a junior in high school, Tressel said.

"I guess we tricked him, because I'm not sure that was true," Tressel said Tuesday.

During his deliberations, Pryor continued to give signs — unintentional or not — that he was leaning toward Ohio State.

Tressel said his confidence never wavered, though he did not take Pryor's signing for granted.

"So for me to sit back and make the assumption that, well, I'm confident because this is the best place for him, that's a little shortsighted, but I felt that he

felt that way and if he continued to feel that way it would go our way," Tressel said this week.

On March 15, Pryor had the opportunity to put a storybook ending on his recruiting when he won a state high school basketball championship at the Bryce Jordan Center, on Penn State's campus.

Instead, clutching the trophy in his hand, Pryor didn't sound too thrilled with the State College area, though he called Penn State a good school with good coaches.

Four days later, he signed with Ohio State.

"He's going to be a great player. Good kid with a lot of poise. Handles pressure, knows what's going on," Paterno said Tuesday at his weekly news conference. "He'll be one of the really good quarterbacks we've had coming out of this state."

Pryor is off to an encouraging start for a freshman quarterback leading a team with BCS aspirations, though there have been struggles.

He has shown a propensity to take a lot of negative plays, which made the performance last week against Michigan State promising. Pryor went 7-of-11 passing for 116 yards and one touchdown, and ran for 72 yards and an 18-yard score.

Pryor isn't made available to speak with reporters at midweek,

though he does talk to the media briefly after games.

"We're hungry for more. We want more," Pryor said after the Michigan State win. "We got a big fight next week."

Tailback Chris "Beanie" Wells called Pryor a "carefree-type of guy" who is growing into a leader. "He's become more calm and poised out there on the football field. You can just tell."

Apparently, Bradley is still close enough with the quarterback to get a text message from him now and then, including a recent one offering to show the veteran assistant around Columbus.

"I asked him if he had the wrong number," joked Bradley, who said he had no problems with how Pryor's recruiting went down.

There's little time for small talk, though, since Bradley will have to put together a scheme to shut down Pryor and the increasingly confident Ohio State offense.

Things have turned out pretty well, too, for Penn State, firmly in the national championship hunt.

The Spread HD offense is scoring 45 points a game with first-year starter Daryll Clark playing brilliantly under center.

"To tell you the truth we have our own great quarterbacks," Nittany Lions cornerback Tony Davis said. "(Pryor) chose to go to Ohio State."

## Penn State climbs to No. 3 after bashing Badgers

By CHRIS JENKINS  
AP SPORTS WRITER

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Meet Penn State, the scrappy little underdog looking to prove its doubters wrong.

OK, so the no-respect bit might be a little hard to swallow at this point, with Penn State ranked No. 3 and plowing through the opposition on its way to a 7-0 start.

But Penn State quarterback Daryll Clark senses some skepticism.

So after a 48-7 dismantling of slumping Wisconsin on Saturday night, Clark said the Nittany Lions are out to prove they're legitimate national championship contenders.

"We ignore what people say — that we're overrated, that we can't win on the road and things like that," Clark said. "Joe (Paterno) tells us to put that on the back

burner, but don't forget about it."

After winning back-to-back Big Ten road games, the Nittany Lions head home to play struggling Michigan — the next step in what might be shaping up as another title run under the 81-year-old Coach Paterno.

Paterno, whose sore hip forced him to coach from the press box for the second week in a row, said the Nittany Lions "deserve to be considered" in the national championship picture.

"Our goal is to get to the top and there is no room for stumbles," left tackle Gerald Cadogan said. "It was important to keep making a statement and we did against Wisconsin."

Despite dealing Wisconsin (3-3, 0-3) its worst loss since 1989, Nittany Lions players saw room for improvement — especially on offense.

Clark was 16-of-25 for 244 yards

and a touchdown, and ran for another two scores. But running back Evan Royster was held to 60 yards and a touchdown.

The lopsided final score was more about the Nittany Lions' dominant defense. Penn State held the Badgers' once-intimidating running game to a relatively tame 148 yards and delivered four turnovers.

"Wisconsin gave us the ball multiple times," Paterno said.

So to summarize, Penn State beat a team that recently was ranked in the top 10 by 41 points on the road — and thinks it can play much better.

"We didn't play our best game but it was still a dominant performance," wide receiver Jordan Norwood said. "We still have a lot to work on but it was great to quiet their crowd and to play so well in a hostile environment."

Camp Randall Stadium certainly

was a hostile environment Saturday, but much of that hostility was directed toward the home team and its embattled starting quarterback, Allan Evridge.

Badgers coach Bret Bielema pulled Evridge, a transfer from Kansas State who won the job in training camp, in favor of backup Dustin Sherer in the third quarter.

Already on a short leash after disappointing performances in narrow losses at Michigan and against Ohio State at home, Evridge was 2-of-10 for 50 yards and an interception before he was pulled from Saturday's game.

Bielema isn't committing to a quarterback for Saturday's game at Iowa.

"Now it's all about pride," Evridge said. "We've kind of let a lot of things go. We lost those two games by a small margin and today we just got absolutely destroyed. We've got to continue one game at

a time and start next week against Iowa."

It was the second straight home loss for the Badgers, and the first time they'd opened conference play with three losses since 2002.

"Obviously, when you get into the coaching profession, there will be good days and bad days," Bielema said. "Today, our team did some good things at times, but overall, did not do very many positive things."

Wisconsin's struggles didn't seem to be much of a surprise to Penn State defensive end Aaron Maybin.

"We really are pretty confident in our abilities," Maybin said. "We know what we can do. We knew coming in that we had the ability to break this game open. It was a matter of going out and getting it done, as always. We wanted to make sure we sent a message to them and we did that."