

Editorial:

Cinderella Forgets Her Slipper

By Tony Arnold
Sports Editor

The Colorado Rockies made an improbable September run to make it into the National League Division Series. The team won 14 out of its final 15 games in the regular season, forcing a one-game playoff with the unsuspecting San Diego Padres to determine who would represent the NL West in the post-season. The game, held in Denver, dragged on for 13 innings but the Rockies came out on top to clinch a playoff berth. Cinderella would get to go to the ball.

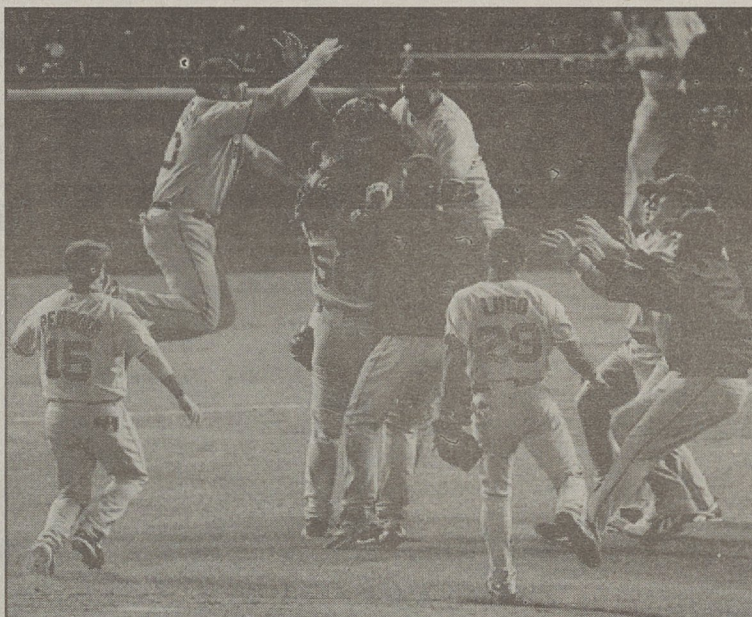
The Rockies went on a rampage in the post-season. The team, as if locked in a cage all regular season, lit up the Phillies in the National League Division Series with an impressive 3-game sweep in which the Rockies took the first two in Philadelphia and outscored the Phillies 16-8, a ratio of 2-1. Did Cinderella really think she had the prettiest dress at the ball? Surely this Rockies team would falter after a couple of games in Arizona.

Apparently not. The Rockies

beat the Arizona Diamondbacks in the NLCS as if by fate, outscoring the upstart D-Backs 18-8 over a four-game stretch and generally looking unstoppable. Colorado had now stretched its amazing run to 21 of 22 games and would head into the World Series with a record eight days rest. Cinderella would get to stay for the last dance.

Enter the Wicked Stepmother. The Boston Red Sox had a tougher road to travel to the World Series. Though it did look like the best team in the more competitive American League the Sox by no means had things locked up. Boston outscored the Los Angeles Angels 19-4 in a three-game sweep of the ALDS, showing off their guns on offense and some fine starting pitching. But the Wicked stepmother got bitch-slapped in the American League Championship Series.

The Sox started out just fine with a 10-3 romp of the Cleveland Indians in the opening game of the ALCS. With this big win over C.C. Sabathia, Cleveland's ace, it looked like smooth sailing for the Sox. But the sailing was anything



The American League East looks to have a new dynasty ready to take over where the New York Yankees have fell short in recent years.

but smooth. Rough seas hit the Sox as Fausto Carmona pitched a brilliant game against the formidable Boston offense and sent the two teams into game three tied at one apiece. Game three was up for grabs on paper with neither of the clubs using prolific starters and the Indians managed to take the coin-toss for a 2-1 lead heading into game four which they

promptly won as well. With a 3-1 lead heading into game 5 in Cleveland the Indians thought it was their series to lose. They were right...and they lost it. Or did Josh Beckett win it? Boston's ace, already 2-0 in the 2007 postseason, pitched a game that can only be described as Herculean. With the pressure on, Beckett pitched eight innings of blissful baseball in which

he allowed only five hits, struck out eleven, and allowed only one run. The clutch 7-1 win sent Boston back into Fenway for game six with the taste of blood in its mouth. The Sox delivered a dominating two-game performance in Fenway, outscoring the beleaguered tribe of Cleveland 23-4 and completing a somewhat improbable comeback to lock up a spot in the World Series.

It looks like Cinderella lost her slipper at the ball as she ran like hell to get away from this bitchy Stepmother. Indeed, it was as if Colorado had never even played. The team was outscored 29-10 (and it honestly didn't even seem that close) in an effortless four-game sweep by the Red Sox for Boston's second World Series in four years. One wonders if it was the case that Cinderella never came back to find her glass slipper. After watching the conquest that was the 2007 World Series, it is the author's opinion that she found it, ran for it, but simply could not grab it before the Wicked Stepmother that was the Boston Red Sox crushed it like an eggshell right in front of her.

Penn State Looks to Improve from 2006

By Tony Arnold
Sports Editor

It looks as if the Nittany Lions are in position to improve upon last year's regular season record of 8-4. The Lions are now 7-3 after a nail-biting 26-19 victory over Purdue and with only Temple and Michigan State left to play the prospects of a 9-3 season seem pretty realistic.

The Lions' stout defense has been marvelously led by Dan Connor, the senior linebacker who eclipsed Paul Posluszny's school record for career tackles (372) on Senior Day and is currently a finalist for the venerable Butkus Award, the trophy given to the nation's top linebacker. The offense is anchored by a one-two punch of Rodney Kinlaw and Evan



Penn State quarterback Anthony Morelli looks the last few games of his senior year the best, ending with a winning record and in bowl contention.

Royster in the backfield. A much-improved Anthony Morelli keeps some options open through the air

as well. Though Morelli is not playing marvelous football he has been playing clean football and,

let's be honest, it is relatively difficult to be a horrible quarterback when you have as dynamic a receiving corps as Penn State.

All in all it seems as if the prospects are looking at least slightly better than last year's team. The Lions are at worst going to be 8-4—barring an absolute upset by Temple—and are likely going to be able to handle the Spartans in the final game of the season. With a 9-3 record the Lions would easily enter a more prestigious bowl game than last year's Outback Bowl and would certainly increase the morale heading into next year's season. It should also be noted that this is a Penn State team in transition. Joe Paterno himself said before the onset of the season that he expected some special things in the coming years but nothing spectacular this season. The

offensive and defensive lines were to be the make-or-break factor for the Lions this season and so far they have held up beyond expectations. So while it is nice to posit what the Lions might do this year it is even more exciting to think what the team will do next year or the year after with what is expected to be a much more solid and established team. Could the next two seasons see Penn State as the Big Ten champion? Could the Lions even return to the national championship picture? These predictions could certainly come true and it is definitely fun to think about. So while we bask in the strides the team has made this season we can be comfortable in knowing that this Penn State team isn't likely to go anywhere but up in the seasons to come.