



Dear Ms. Tiger...


I am a freshman here at Penn State Mont Alto, and I want to get a head's up on the dos and don'ts of the campus – and college in general. I want someone to take me under their wing and show me the ropes. I am a social person, but I'm still adapting to the new environment and transition. Please help!!

Dear Student,

Firstly, congratulations on your acceptance to Penn State Mont Alto! I hope despite your concerns your time here has been enjoyable. While a lot of college has to do with your own personal experiences, I can definitely offer you some advice.

 You **HAVE HAVE HAVE** to attend class! Even though you feel the class might start too early in the morning, or your favorite re-run of Jersey Shore is coming on that night, there is no excuse for not attending class. Studies show that students who attend class perform better than those who don't, and by not attending you could be missing vital information!

 Books are pricy! Not all books have to be purchased. Some professors don't require a textbook for their course. They might recommend it, but it's not always required, so make sure you ask. You can also buy books online, which can save a lot of money. Sometimes the library has books on reserve for courses as well; you may not be able to borrow them, but they are at your disposal while inside the library. Make sure to check with the library to see if they have the book for the course you are taking!! If all else fails, the buddy system can work wonders.

 College is about education, yes, but it's also about expanding your horizons. Attend events! This is the best way to meet new people and get the real college experience. Check the event calendar for what's going on tonight. Who knows, there might be something that interests you.

Beware of your social circle and the "friends" you are making. College is a social scene, and much like high school there are cliques. However much you feel you know someone, the reality is that you just met them. Keep an eye out, and make sure those around you have your best interest in mind.

Have – and keep! – good study habits. Know where and when you can study, as well as whom you can study with. Not all friends are necessarily the best study buddies!

I hope these tips helped. Stay true to yourself and remember: WE ARE PENN STATE!

Submit your own
"Dear Tiger" question to
4thwall.psu@gmail.com

The Year of the Quarterback: Understanding the Total QBR

BRAD KIRACOFE

To commemorate ESPN's 'Year of the Quarterback,' NFL analysts have introduced the new Total Quarterback Rating system. In a controversial move which ousts the current judging of quarterback performance, ESPN has developed a system that grades not just passing, but playmaking statistics as well.

In this new system the quarterback's rating will be determined by what he does, when he does it, and the move's importance. Every action will be taken into account. Not just passing, but running, 3rd down conversions, touchdowns, everything. Positive stats will not be the only factor determining the player's grade, as negative stats will have an impact as well. Interceptions and fumbles will now decrease the player's rating. Furthermore, the importance of the play on the outcome of the game will have an effect on the rating.

For instance, if a quarterback throws a five yard pass that turns

into a fifty yard touchdown, it will have less effect than a forty-five yard pass turned into a fifty yard touchdown. An incompleting to avoid a sack will not affect the rating, but taking the sack will. A six yard completion on 3rd and five will have a higher positive result than the same completion on 3rd and long. An interception in the redzone will have a greater negative effect than one at midfield. And 'padding the stats' of a blowout will not have as great an effect as a crucial scoring play of a tied game.

With all these factors, what are the numerical ratings? The grading scale will be from 0 to 100, with 100 being a great game. A 50 is an average performance, with 75 being above average and 25 below average. According to ESPN, a rating of 75 over the entire course of the season is MVP-caliber. A 65 to 75 should put the quarterback up for Pro Bowl candidacy. In turn, a rating of 35 or lower – let's just say the team should be looking in a new

direction.

To compare their numbers, ESPN went back and looked at the performances of quarterbacks since the 2008 season. The top season of any player was the 2009 season of Peyton Manning, who had a rating of 82.3. This was a year in which Manning passed for 393 out of 571, 4,500 yards, with 33 touchdowns and 16 interceptions. He also ran 19 times for 13 yards, no touchdowns and one fumble. Oh, by the way, he was named the League MVP for the 2009 season. This was his follow up to the 2008 MVP season when he also had the highest QBR of any quarterback that year, with a rating of 79.7. The quarterback with the highest QBR of the 2010 season was again the League MVP, otherwise known as Tom Brady.

Will the Total QBR be the new standard for judging quarterbacks? Only time will tell. There are critiques of it, just as there are of the complicated Passer Rating System. Then again, the creator is ESPN, the worldwide leader in sports.

EVENT CALENDAR

- 9/28- PAWS Session; If You Care: Small Things You Can Do to Help Save the Environment // 2pm, AUD THON meeting // 8:30pm, AUD
- 9/29- Club night, TBA
- 10/3- PAWS Session: Is This You? // 2pm, AUD
- 10/4- **Comedians Samuel Comroe and Tony Baker** // 9pm, AUD
- 10/5- Etiquette Dinner // 5pm, Heritage Room ** THON meeting // 8:30, AUD PAWS Session: Interviewing // 1pm, 313 Sci-Tech
- 10/6- Bowling night // 9pm
- 10/7- Harrisburg transportation bus drop off
- 10/8- All-U Day Game vs Iowa // TBA in the WSC
- 10/10- **Live Performer Jason Lavasseur**
- 10/11- **THON Root Beer Pong** // 9pm, MPR
- 10/12- Feel your Boobies // 12pm, Heritage room ** **Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows Pt 2** // 9pm, AUD
- 10/13- **BINGO** // 9pm, MPR
- 10/14- Walmart/Target Van Trip
- 10/15- Pottery Open House // 12pm-3pm, GS 008
- 10/16- Nittany Leaders meeting // 6:pm, WSC
- 10/17- Orientation Leader Info Session // 12:pm, WSC ** The Life of an RA // 8:pm, WSC
- 10/18- Agricultural Career Fair at University Park
- 10/19- Nittany Leaders Meeting // 2:pm, WSC ** Thon Meeting // 8:30pm, Auditorium
- 10/20- **Quizzo: Trivia Night** // 8:30pm, WSC
- 10/21- Movie and a Mall Van trip
- 10/22- PSU Football Game vs Northwestern // 7:pm, WSC
- 10/24- Novelty Blood Drive // 9:am-4:pm, MPR ** Free Butt Sketch Artist Drawings // 10:am-2:pm, Mill
- 10/25- Thon Candy Count // 12:pm, Mill ** **Name that I-Tune Game Show** // 8:30pm, Auditorium
- 10/26- Nittany Leaders Challenge Think Tank // 2:pm, WSC
- 10/27- Halloween Around the World // 11:am-1:pm, HR in Mill ** Club Night
- 10/28- Wal-Mart/Target Van trip ** **Halloween Dance** // 10:pm-2:am, MPR
- 10/29- PSU vs. Illinois ** **Late Night Block Party** // 8:pm-12:am, GYM
- 10/30- Little Pumpkins Trick or Treat // 4:pm-5:30pm, MAH Lobby
- 10/31- Paws Session: How Credit Works // 2:pm, Auditorium

Stay tuned for our next issue for more info on activities to come. Also, if you don't have one already, be sure to pick up a student activities calendar so you can keep up with the events and be sure not to miss out!