

Eye on Sports

Penn State Football Update: Finding an Identity

By Justin Park - Lion's Eye Editor in Chief - jrp5321@psu.edu

Who says you can't teach an old dog a new trick?

As Joe Paterno enters his 45th season as Penn State head coach, he is doing something he's never done before; heading into a season with a true freshman quarterback. Although Robert Bolden has only been working out with the team for a few months, he has been rewarded the starting role over sophomores Kevin Newsome and Matt McGloin. Replacing the graduated Daryll Clark, Bolden has his work cut out for him as Penn State enters the college season ranked at #19. Assisting Bolden with the transition will be seniors Stefen Wisniewski and Even Royster.

Wisniewski, the 6'3", 297 pound right guard will be the strength of the team's offensive line, which was mostly unstable last year. With an inexperienced signal caller taking the field this season, Wisniewski and the rest of the Offensive Line will most likely need to settle down and play consistently to allow Bolden the time he needs.

Evan Royster strongly considered entering the NFL draft during the off-season, but everyone at Penn State is sure glad he's back. The versatile running back will be heavily relied on this season, but no one doubts Royster can oblige. Coming off a season in which he recorded 1,169 yards and six touchdowns, Royster will be looking for another strong season to end his college career.

Finishing the year ranked at #9, Paterno and Penn State know that this will be a challenging year for their football program. With only 13 returning starters (5 on defense), it is no secret that this is a major year of transition, starting with freshman Robert Bolden.



Joe Paterno is in his 45th season as Penn State's Head Coach

(Photo Courtesy of sports.yahoo.com)

Recap: Penn State vs. Youngstown State

Maybe it's no surprise, but Joe Paterno seems to have made the right decision at quarterback. Robert Bolden went 20 for 29 with two touchdowns and a passer rating of 154.1 as Penn State routed Youngstown State 44-14.

After falling behind Youngstown in the opening quarter 7-3, Penn State, led by Bolden, started to hit their groove and with just under two minutes left in the opening half, Bolden connected with Brett Brackett for a twenty yard touchdown.

Leading 16-7 at half time, Penn State's Chaz Powell opened the second half with a 100 yard

kickoff return for a touchdown. Another Bolden to Brackett touchdown and this game was out of reach for Youngstown State.

Although this was an expected win for Penn State, it was still great to see the offense come together and gain some much needed experience and chemistry. Not to mention the defense looked solid holding the opposing offense to just one touchdown before starters were replaced with bench players in the fourth quarter.

Recap: Penn State @ University of Alabama

Entering the game at newly ranked at #18, Penn State knew they were going to be seriously challenged while playing the #1 ranked Crimson Tide in Alabama. Unfortunately, the Nittany Lions couldn't generate any offense against the defending National Championship team as they fell to 'Bama 24-3.

Penn State fell behind early in the first quarter after allowing a 36 yard touchdown reception to Alabama's Kevin Norwood. Then, starting on their own 4 yard line, Alabama pieced together a 96 yard drive that resulted in a touchdown to put them up 14-0 and never looked back. At the start of the fourth quarter, the Crimson Tide scored again to put this game out of reach at 24-0.

Although the defense allowed more than they'd like to, the problem in this primetime matchup was Penn State's inconsistent offense that could not keep them in the game. Although they recorded 17 first downs and over 280 yards, Joe Paterno's young offense could not break Alabama's stellar defense. 'Bama forced four turnovers in the game, and did not allow any touchdowns.

Following a quiet season opener, senior Evan Royster was unable to make any noise in this game as well. Royster recorded only nine rushes for 32 yards. Royster needs to step up and help out his rookie quarterback who, like most of the offense, struggled in the second game of the young season.

Just a week after his solid performance against Youngstown State, QB Robert Bolden was overmatched in Alabama. Bolden went just 13-29 for 144 yards with no touchdowns and two interceptions against the Crimson Tide. He must quickly return to the player he was in the opener if he wants to keep his starting role.

Penn State dropped to #22 in the AP poll following the loss. They face unranked Kent State this Saturday at noon.

New Players, Coach for PSU Brandywine Soccer

By Justin Park - Lion's Eye Editor in Chief - jrp5321@psu.edu

With a new season brings new faces to Penn State Brandywine's soccer program, starting with the team's new head coach, Sky Dumont.

Joining PSU Brandywine from Friends Central High School and Drexel University, Dumont brings in plenty of experience and know-how, for he played for Susquehanna University and is on his way to a master's degree in sports management. He and assistant coach Orlando Greene hope to continue the program's success for this season and beyond.

Aside from the new coach, the team has its annual turnover which brings in new players each season. So far, Coach Dumont is happy with what he sees from the new players and those with new roles.

"Tim Carroll and Dave Vesely have been very impressive stepping into goal for us this season to help us out. Also, CJ Gamber and Gino Baro have been great assets to the team as new players to the team."

Unfortunately, the team struggled to find chemistry early on and dropped their first two games of the season to Eastern University and Washington College. Even through the rough start, the head coach thought the team was on their way to success.

"The team is headed in the right direction, and they are setting themselves up to be very competitive when the league games start. Right now our weaknesses are just learning to play together and become cohesive as a group. Slowly, but surely they are coming together. Our strengths have been their ability to continue to fight in each game and put their best game forward even in the face of adversity. I am very confident that the wins will come, and I feel that

the team has the potential to be very competitive this season and will surprise many teams," Coach Dumont explained.

According to Dumont, the team captains have also been crucial in the efforts of uniting the team.

"Our captains, Andy McSweeney, Justin Cattin, and Ryan Collins have really helped keep the team together, and adjust to the changes that have been made during my first few weeks as Head Coach."

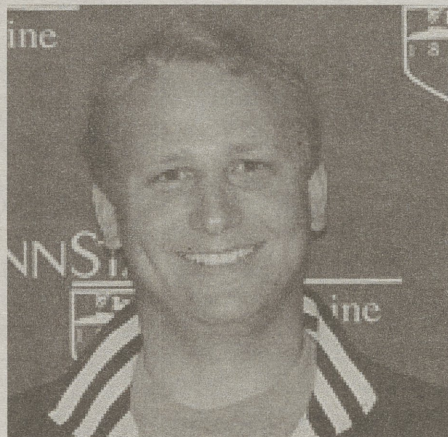
Dumont went on to say, "It has been overall impressive what the entire team has done so far adjusting to a new coach, a new style of play and for many players, the adjustment to varsity college athletics."

Sure enough, progress could be seen as the team picked up their first shut-out of the season in a close matchup against the College of Staten Island. The team played hard through the twenty extra minutes of double overtime and recorded the tie.

Following a weekend road loss to Penn State York, the team picked up their first victory by blanking Penn State Schuylkill 4-0 on this past Tuesday on the road.

In the upcoming weeks, the soccer team will play numerous games here on campus, and coach Dumont stresses the importance of home field advantage.

"I always believe that home field advantage is a great asset to a team, and we hope to use it as much as possible. Unfortunately, we are on the road for our first two league games, and it would be great to come home and for a crowd to support us to our first home win of the season!"



Coach Sky Dumont is confident in his team

(Photo Courtesy of www.psu.bw.edu)

PSU Brandywine Women's Volleyball

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With only eight people on the roster, head coach Melissa Leinen and the Brandywine woman's volleyball team will try and keep the team's momentum going from last year. The team this year consists of sophomore students Kathleen Sheppard, Gurpreet Kaur, Kate Cowan, Kate Algeo with juniors Kimi Gardiner and Melanie Tyson. This season the team welcomes two new freshman—Kate Curley and Amanda Rasley.

The team opened their season on September 1st and took their first game of the season 3-0 in a road game against Valley Forge Christian Academy. Two days later Brandywine played their first home game as they met Valley Forge Christian Academy again. The result was more of the same as Brandywine took the game 3-0. Brandywine's next game was on September 7th against Rosemont College. They took this game 3-1 to improve to 3-0 on the season. Most recently the woman's volleyball team visited PSU Abington and continued their winning ways by shutting them out 3-0 to improve to 4-0 on the year. Brandywine will ride their four game winning streak into a home match with PSU Schuylkill on Wednesday September 15 at 7 p.m.

For a full list of games on their schedule this season, just go onto the Penn State Brandywine homepage, select Student Life, and then athletics. There will be a full roster and schedule on the right hand side of the Women's Volleyball page.