

Lion Masella no average punter

By RICH MUKA
Collegian Sports Writer
There's no way Brian Masella can be considered just an average punter. Some punters drop back on fourth down intent on kicking the air out of the ball, often booting it out of the end zone for a touchback in the process and giving the foe decent field position at the 20-yard line. Smart kickers aim for the coffin corner, sacrificing their meaningless punting average to benefit the team.

Masella fits in that category. His 40.7 yards per kick average against Stanford ranks him 23rd nationally. The amazing statistic is that all six times he kicked, Masella pinned the Cardinals inside their own 20-yard line. He kicked to the Stanford 16, 14, 18, 6, 7 and 13-yard lines. "I could have kicked the ball into the end zone," Masella said, "but the idea is to pin them deep." Consequently, Stanford quarterback Mike Boryla had

his back to the goalposts all afternoon thanks to Masella's punts. "Masella doesn't get the distance that impresses people," Coach Joe Paterno said, "but he's a poised, sophisticated kicker." Masella owes his kicking success to assistant coach Frank Patrick. Masella said that Patrick taught him how to punch kick which is different from regular kicks resulting in a good roll. Masella explained that he

tilts the ball so that the end is up in the air and tilted slightly backward for a punch kick. Masella said he tries for a hang-up time of a least four seconds to give the kick coverage men sufficient time to cover the punt. "In a game situation you can't worry about shanking a punt because if you do come out worrying, that's when you do," Masella said. "If you do shank one, you can't worry about it," he said.

You have to shake it off and start all over. Of course, Joe would get a little mad." Although Masella is a right-footed kicker, he has an ambidextrous approach to other sports. "I throw left and write right-handed, bowl left-handed, play golf right-handed and bat left-handed," Masella said. "And when I played soccer I could kick left-footed," he said. "It just turned out my right foot was the strongest." The San Francisco Giants drafted him for baseball, right out of high school, but he told them he wanted to finish college.

Masella then helped lead the Lion baseball team to the National Collegiate Athletic Association District 2 championship this year. He's also a swimmer, and set a Penn State record for the 50-yard freestyle as a freshman. Masella, a 230 junior, has been switched from fullback to defensive end to tight end and back to fullback, and then to tight end again. He relieves starter Dan Natale. "I like playing tight end, but they asked me to concentrate on kicking."

"I would like to play a professional sport, preferably football because of the shorter season." He added that if he had gone into baseball, it would have been when the Giants drafted him. There were 173 colleges after Masella when he graduated from Peddie in Bordentown. He chose Penn State because he liked the approach of the recruiter, an assistant coach by the name of George Welsh, now Navy's head coach. "I always liked George Welsh," Masella said. "He was pretty good to me."



Brian Masella's specialty—digging coffin corners

Photo by Joe Rudick

British play physical soccer

The British like their sports physical. Rugby is evidence of that and soccer is no exception. The English variety of the sport is as rough as legally allowable.

The Birmingham University club emphasizes a fast and aggressive game. "The Blues" managed to edge the MacKenzie University team 1-0 in a battle of conflicting styles earlier in their North American tour.

The Blues attack is led by forward Jim MacNeil. The Scotsman has been called one of the best wingers in the British university system. He

owns a blasting shot and a homing instinct for an opponent's goal.

Also on attack for the Britishers will be Dave Baldwin, Pete Habberton, and John Thornes.

At midfield the Birmingham team is loaded with talent with Alan Worthington, Tom Stenhouse, Dominic Keenaghan, Stuart Naughton, and Dale Chivers.

Worthington is known for his game-long durability while Stenhouse has been known to dazzle defense. Keenaghan is probably the best ball handler on the club.

One of the strong aspects of the British team is their goaltender Neil Cordey. Their confidence in his ability is underlined by the fact he is the only goalie on the roster.

The British net will also be adequately protected by fullbacks Mike Wright, Graham Hardy, and Pete Laurent.

Wright is probably the toughest of the three. A Manchester native, he likes to back up the attack whenever possible.

The Britishers measure up as tough competition for the Lions in more ways than one. —BG



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Women golfers host tri-meet


Penn State's women's varsity golf team, sporting a record of 20 wins and one loss in three years of intercollegiate competition, swings back into action tomorrow for the first of two matches.

The Lady Lions will also send two players to the Eastern Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (EAIWA) Regional Tournament in October, an event Penn State has dominated every year since it began.

Varsity golfers from Madison College and the State University of New York at Brockport visit the University's white course for a 10 a.m. match.

The Lady Lions were 6-1 last year, suffering their first loss in three years at the hands of Ohio State. The golfers play a split season, extending from the fall into the spring. Competition in 1974 is expected to include Ohio State, Cornell, Kent, Bowling Green and William and Mary.

Andrea Dutcher, Penn State's top golfer last year, is student teaching this fall and will not join the team until the spring. Dutcher, a senior, earned a place in the championship flight at the AIAW National Golf Tournament this summer and finished 33rd in the nationwide women's intercollegiate competition.



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