LIVE from Tempe via satellite: It's your hometown sports report

Although it seems oh-so-far away with finals starting in less than four days, it will be Christmas before you know it. Christmas, with Mom's homemade chocolate chip cookies, decorating the tree, and forcing to keep that smile on your face as relatives make the "I can't believe my little granddaughter/niece/cousin has grown up" annual scene.

And then New Year's Eve. New Year's Eve with all its bubbly, parties, hats and horns, music, seeing old friends, making new ones.

And then you can't forget the bowl games.

Or, as some say, THE Bowl Game.

Carol D. Rath

But Penn State won't be the only team from the Keystone State preparing to hit Tempe, Ariz.

Director: Audio, fade up ACTION NEWS theme music (Do do do do doodle-it-do, do do do DO DO, doodle-it-do).

Director: Roll opening video (Shows winter scenes and winter people around the wintery Philadelphia area).

Director: Cut to Jim (Here we see Mr. Garner at the newsdesk).

"The Philadelphia Streets Department continues its clean-up of the mess yesterday's Mummers Parade relievers left behind. And local merchants are calling this one of the most successful sales seasons in quite some time. But the big story on Action News tonight is in Tempe, Ariz. For that story, let's go to the Action News team and Gary Papa, live via satellite in Tempe."

Or that could be the Lou Tilley / Jackie Hays or Al Meltzer's news team.

Or for those of you who hail from the 'Burg, it could be John Steigerwald, Stan Savron or the Sam Nover/Roxanne Stein newsteam.

Or Erie's Mike Ruzzi or John Evans.

Or even Scranton's Tim Carlson/Mike Stevens, Lancaster's Jim Stone or Altoona's John Greggory/Barbara Petito.

And they'll all be coming into living rooms across Pennsylvania, LIVE via satellite. That's right, not "taped earlier" or "file video," but LIVE.

Live telecasts can be done one of three ways:

A) live telephone hook-ups, which strips the audience of video information and racks the station for major bucks.

B) local live shots, which are normally done with "golden rods" mounted on the newsvans. Golden rods enable the news crew to bounce the signal back to the station. Yet signals cannot go through barriers like trees, mountains, buildings or the curve of the earth. (You know these live scenes — your favorite local reporter in front of city hall in your town, or a nearby town.)

C) satellite pickups, which allow stations to broadcast live from any point on the earth.

Although live coverage via satellite isn't brand-spanking new to network affiliates, it's still in the infant stage according to Dean Jordan, Penn State 's Coordinator for Radio, Television and Media.

Jordan even predicts that a few stations which would normally cover a major college bowl game like Penn State's, won't due to how far away the game is being played.

In effect, Jordan said all Pennsylvania stations have the capability to go live from various locations such as Penn State, yet during the last five years only four or five stations have done so.

"Most games end on a different time than when the newscast does,"Jordan said. "It just hasn't been convenient for stations to go live to the game during a newscast."

Besides not being convenient, live shots via satellite aren't cheap.

Producer Jeff Weissbart of Pittsburgh's KDKA-TV said the cost of renting satellite equipment may range from $2500 to $3000 a day. Or a station could buy its own satellite truck for a mere $500,000.

Weissbart added that usually four or five stations work out a deal where each has a different live telecast. Each station receives all telecasts and a simple switch to telephone lines will allow each team to hear its own home control room.

I was able to watch an unintentional piggyback episode outside Beaver Stadium the Friday before the Penn State — Pitt game. Anchor/reporter Jackie Hays, sports anchor Lou Tilley and weatherperson Linda Gialanella of Philadelphia's KYW-TV were on hand with KYW's new Satellite News Gathering (SNG) van that it shares with its sister station WJAZ-TV in Baltimore.

The itinerary was supposed to go something like this:

Noon — 3 p.m. — Hays, special projects producer Shelley Laurence and cameraperson Andy Coff arrive in Happy Valley to put together a package on how Penn State gears up before a big rivalry.

Yeah. Guess again.

I guess I never really thought about it, but Penn State on a Football Friday is a whole other world than it is on a Football Saturday. The crew had absolutely zero video evidence that Pitt would be on our turf in less than 24 hours after combing the campus and town. No banners, pep rallies or special events, but I did manage to show them an "Omit Pitt" button. What a thrill. One button.

3 p.m. — 4:30 p.m. — We arrive at Beaver Stadium and prepare to link signals with the satellite to Philadelphia.

Oops, guess again.

The half-million dollar, three-ton SNG van had sunk into about a foot of quicksand-like mud. From that location, the satellite could not be found. Two tow trucks later, the SNG was ready. But something malfunctioned and again the satellite could not be located.

4:30 — telecast — After discovering KDKA from Pittsburgh was uplinking at a different time, KYW was given the choice to piggyback. With operations given the green light, yet another malfunction permitted only the cameraman, instead of the on-camera people, to hear the countdown and directions of the news producers.

As far as the Fiesta Bowl preparation goes, most of the stations from Pennsylvania are flying to Tempe and then either renting satellite vans or piggybacking. Weissbart said KDKA is even taking its own van and making the trek via highway to Tempe.

The consensus of coverage will be live spots, either opening the show, sports or special reports, during the 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. broadcasts. Laurence and Hays said KYW is even planning to follow a group of Penn State students from their departure to Tempe, through the aftermath of the game.

Most stations are gearing up to begin telecasting each night from Dec. 29 through the day of the game.

Who knows, perhaps Penn State broadcast journalism students will one day be practicing their skills doing live shots via satellite from . . .

And now, back to you, Gar.

Carol D. Rath is a senior majoring in broadcast journalism and a sports writer for The Daily Collegian.

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Icers

Continued from Page 13.

pound junior slid the puck into the net while falling down to the ice, giving Penn State its first score.

Rob Smith gave Penn State a little more momentum at 11:28 when he turned the corner on defenseman Mike Antersol and went in untouched to put the puck up high over Galanti for his 14th score of the season to tie the game.

The Lions drew first blood thanks to the power play in the final period when Yablecki converted a Sipe goalmouth pass for his 14th goal of the year, but ECC came back when Antersol tipped Tim Wroblewski's blueline blast past Guerrero at 6:44. Then D'Aloisio took matters into his own hands and gave the Lions the go-ahead score and erased the bad first period memories.

"Overall, it was a good, intense game," Penn State Assistant Coach Doug Jowdy said after the game. "After that opening period, the guys knew that their play wasn't up to par and they knew what to do to improve it."

Co-captain Sipe, who had a goal and three assists, said that the comeback was vital to the team's morale.

"It was a good comeback for us," he said following his four-point performance. "We knew they were going to be good and that we had to be at our best.

"We came out flat and they seemed to get all the bounces in the first period while we didn't. In the second and third periods things bounced our way and we flooded the net with shots (Penn State outshot Erie, 41-24).

"A loss really would have hurt us because we wanted to go into the break at 12-3. We want to be recognized on this campus and the only way to do it is to produce. People at Penn State will support a winner."

Silence

Continued from Page 13

ing what he would've said last night. This is the season that the Lions are supposed to make their presence felt in the Atlantic 10 and it appeared they were off to a good start after winning the AMI Classic in Miami.

Things have gone downhill since then, but it's not yet time to write off the season. The key now is to see if the team can respond to last night's debacle better than it did to the loss to Loyola. If it doesn't, it could be another long season in Happy Valley.

Parkhill and his assistants have to regroup and try to find out why they haven't been able to motivate their team. It's understandable that the players might be preoccupied by the approach of final exams, but it seems reasonable to expect them to put that out of their minds for the time it takes to play the game.

The players need to shake the rust from their performances and come together as a team. It's likely that some hard feelings exist between the players and Parkhill after last night's marathon team meeting. How both sides respond in the near future will determine the team's direction the rest of the season.

For all concerned, here's one who hopes last night's travesty is never again repeated.

Mark Ashenfelter is a senior majoring in journalism and the sports editor for The Daily Collegian.

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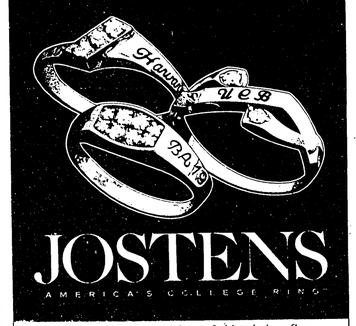

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C LIT 120	ENGL 576	PL SC 014	SPCOM 177G
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COMM 320	FR 203	PL SC 438	SPCOM 305
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ECON 002	HL ED 005	PL SC 449	SPCOM 313
ECON 002H	HL ED 043	PL SC 453	SPCOM 352
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ENGL 202B	H DEV 101	PSY 426	SPCOM 403
ENGL 212	HR&IM 330	PSY 436	SPCOM 414
ENGL 213	HR&IM410	PSY 441	SPCOM 452
ENGL 412	INT U 200	PSY 445	SPCOM 475
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ENGL 417	M E 030	PSY 544	SPCOM 591
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