

Lions still players in recruiting race of '95

Two of the top high school recruits in the nation are still listing Penn State among their possible choices of college programs.

By JAMES REESER
Collegian Sports Writer

In 112 days the dust will settle and the recruiting war will be over. To date the Nittany Lions have 13 verbal commitments and have 20 to 25 scholarship positions to fill.

Here is a look at four of the top offensive recruits in the nation and how Penn State figures into each:

Tim Couch
Couch's options are remaining open according to his coach, Joe Beder.

Couch, from Leslie County High School in Hyden, Ky., holds many all-time passing records in Kentucky and he is also the leading the nation in career completions.

PENN STATE FOOTBALL The Class of 2000

The 6-foot-5, 210-pound quarterback is considering attending Auburn, Tennessee, Penn State, Florida State, Alabama and Kentucky.

Heading into his senior season, Couch has thrown for 8,188 yards and 93 touchdowns.

But football is not Couch's only athletic interest. Last season he was the state's leading scorer in basketball, averaging 37 points per game. He was also named first-team all-state in both basketball and football.

Titus Pettigrew
Pettigrew has taken his only official visit to Penn State. But he plans on taking all five of his visits and next on his list is Tennessee and Florida.

Pettigrew is a 6-foot-2, 192-pound wide receiver from West Forsyth High School in Clemmons, N.C. — the same high school that produced Nittany Lion freshman defensive lineman David Fleischauer.

So far this season he has 42 catches for 630 yards and five touchdowns. Last season he caught 49 passes for 997 yards and 14 touchdowns.

"I think he's leaning towards Penn State," West Forsyth Coach Russell Stone said.

"There's a good chance he may go there, but I can't say definitely. He's good friends with David and Cuncho (Brown)."

Pettigrew, who runs a 4.5-second 40-yard dash, is the top receiver in the state and he is also considered to be one of the top 10 basketball recruits in the state.

Last season he averaged 17.7 points and seven rebounds per game. Some are also considering him the top pass catcher in the nation.

"We had him ranked a little low, because we didn't know much about him," said Bluechip Illustrated Managing Editor Rick Kimbrel. "He was an all-American. But he's outstanding and climbing the ranks fast."

DeAngelo Evans
Last season the Nittany Lions lost the national title to Nebraska and this season they lost one of the nation's top running backs to the Huskers.

Evans a 5-foot-10, 210-pound running back from Collegiate High School in Wichita, Kan., has already given a verbal commitment to the Huskers.

"He verbalized about two weeks ago," Collegiate Coach Mike Gehrre said. "Penn State was his second choice, followed by Notre Dame. But in the end he wanted to stay closer to home."

But the number one running back in Kansas and two-time state player of the year will not be able to finish his senior campaign.

"He has a strained ligament in his ankle," Gehrre said. "He's out for the season."

Dan O'Leary
O'Leary is a 6-foot-4, 230-pound tight end from St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, Ohio, is headed to South Bend, Ind., to play for Notre Dame.

He is considered one of the best tight ends in the country and many believed he would be playing for Penn State or Boston College next fall.

"Penn State was definitely a consideration," St. Ignatius Coach Chuck Kyle said. "He liked Notre Dame ever since he was a little kid, and he felt that is where he wanted to go."

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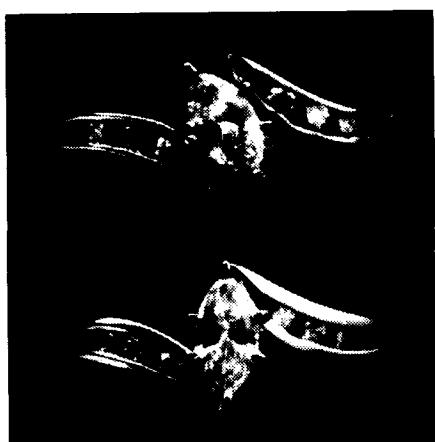
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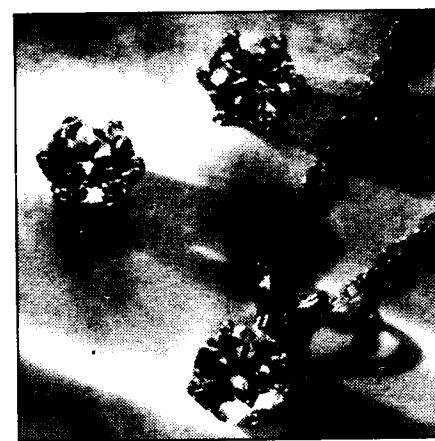
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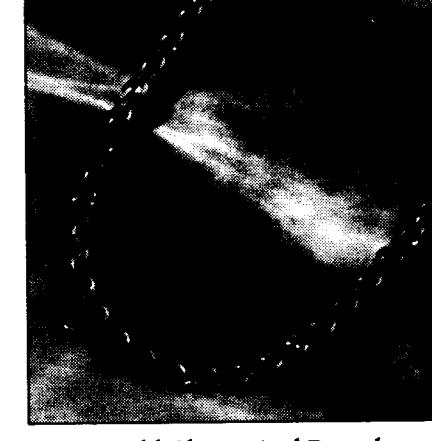


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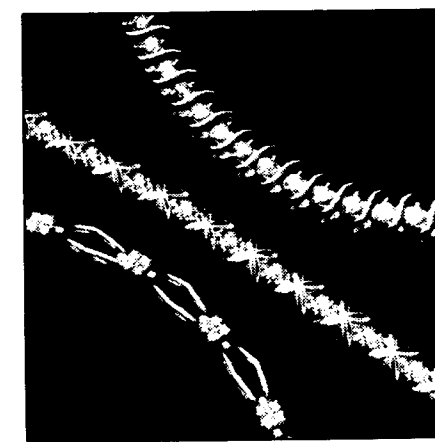


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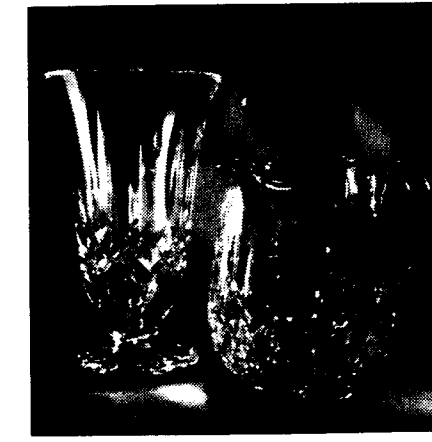
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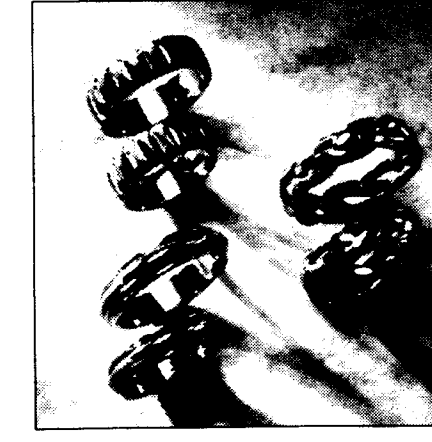
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