

Wolverines use bye; Daniels sets record

By WILLIAM KALEC
Collegian Staff Writer

After just four weeks of conference play, one team stands alone unblemished in the Big Ten — Penn State.

In the past two weeks, Top-25 teams have fallen faster than a bowling ball off a 10-story building. Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Ohio State and Purdue each lost during the last two Big Ten weekends, yet all still have remained in the poll.

Heading into this Saturday's contests, only three Big Ten teams have lost more games than they have won.

Hail to the bye weeks

Michigan coach Lloyd Carr knew that a repeat of the Wolverines' close 34-31 loss to Michigan State would not happen.

No matter what, his Michigan football team could not suffer the same fate — Carr wouldn't allow it. Neither would the schedule.

Sandwiched in the Wolverines' schedule was a bye week that, according to Carr, couldn't have

come at a better time for his ailing Wolverines.

"The bye week was very beneficial to us as far as getting rested," Carr said. "We were a tired football team after six grueling games. We will find out this weekend if it was worth it. We are going to find out a lot about our football team."

"With the elimination of 105 to 85 scholarships, there isn't any question that a bye week is necessary."

Ironically the last time Michigan played an entire season without a bye was in 1997.

That year, the Wolverines went 12-0 and won a share of the national championship.

Spartying down

Michigan State's secondary let Purdue wide receiver Chris Daniels catch one pass.

Then another. And another, and another.

Eventually, Daniels had cradled in 10 passes during the first half against the Spartans.

Then he decided to haul in 10 more. And just for fun he added another one for a total of 21 receptions on the day.

"We didn't play the way we are capable of playing," Michigan State coach Nick Saban said. "I think Drew Brees was pretty flawless in the game and well, their wide receivers played relatively good."

Relatively good?

Daniels' performance set a Big Ten record for receptions and yards with 305 along with three touchdowns.

Daniels moved up the Purdue all-time receiving marks from No. 21 to No. 12 — from that single-game "relatively good" performance.

Fortunately for Saban, his Spartans travel to Wisconsin, a team buried in the bottom half of Big Ten in passing offenses.

Cooper's dash

Whether he was trying to dodge reporters or wanted to show off his impression of former Ohio State graduate and Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens, Ohio State coach John Cooper limited his postgame press conference against Penn State severely.

"They have a good defense, hey thanks a lot guys," Cooper said as he used his quick feet to march out



of his press conference.

Yeah baby, Purdue's got it

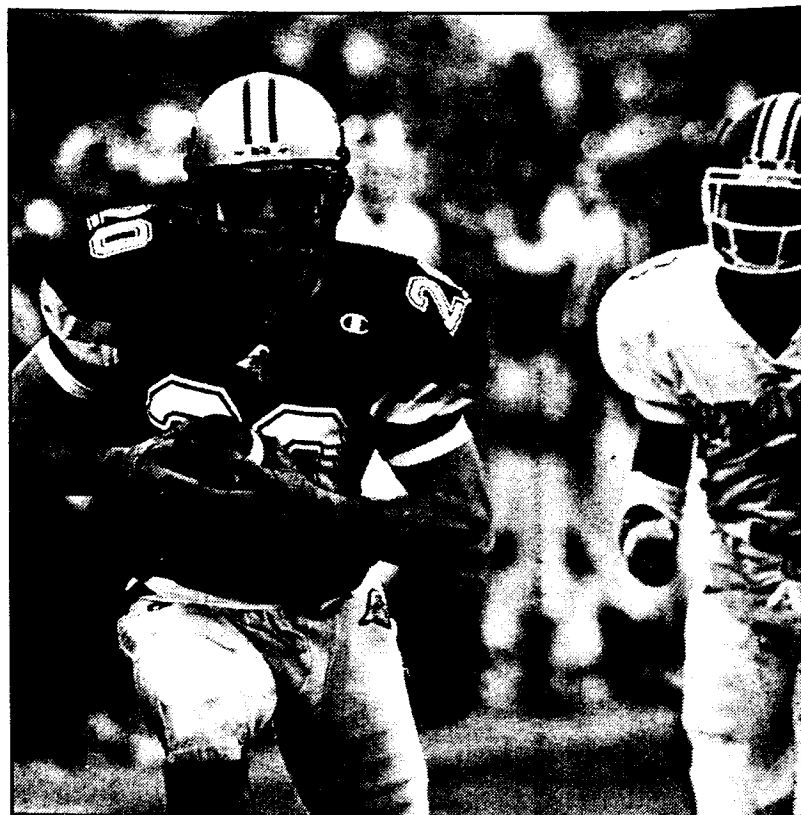
Purdue is dominating many categories of Big Ten numbers.

With Daniels' 310 yards, the Boilermakers move to first in the Big Ten for total offense. Purdue is averaging 464.6 yards per game.

The Lions are second in total offense with 459.3 yards per game.

Purdue quarterback Drew Brees tops off the total offense and passing average per game. The heisman-hopeful has 338.1 yards per game, almost 100 yards more than the second place getter, Indiana's Antwaan Randle El.

On special teams, kicker Travis Dorsch has 66 points, followed by Penn State's Travis Forney, who has 63.

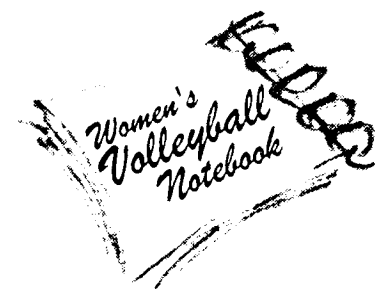


AP Photo/Michael Conroy

Purdue's Chris Daniels heads for the end zone Saturday against Michigan State. The wide receiver set a Big Ten record with 301 yards.

W. Volleyball sitting atop Big Ten

The No. 1 Lady Lions are the only undefeated team in the conference, while Bremner and Schumacher are put up big numbers.



By GWENN MILLER
Collegian Staff Writer

Once again, the Penn State women's volleyball team proved it is deserving of its No. 1 ranking.

The Lady Lions, almost finished with the first part of their Big Ten schedule, are standing at the top of the conference.

Big Ten status report

After eight conference matches, just three Big Ten teams have winning records — Penn State, Minnesota and Illinois. Only the Lions are undefeated.

This weekend at Minnesota, the No. 23 Golden Gophers experienced their last match with a spotless record after falling 3-1 to No. 20 Illinois.

Minnesota had 37 hitting errors to Illinois' 22, a fact Gophers coach Mike Hebert believed determined the match.

"Often the reason a team wins or

women's volleyball coach Russ Rose said.

"We weren't as focused the second day (against Wisconsin), but that was a reflection of how good they were."

Middle hitter Lauren Cacciamani hit .467 Friday with seven kills and a .405 with 15 kills Saturday. Carrie Schonveld, a senior outside hitter, said her goal was to hit in the .300 range, something she accomplished both nights. She added a match-high 17 digs against Wisconsin.

But the offense could not have dominated without the help of setter Bonnie Bremner. The senior had 55 assists against Wisconsin and 23 Friday at Purdue.

Sending in the second line

On Saturday at Wisconsin, Rose utilized 12 of his players, including freshmen Hilary Sexton and Robyn Guokas. Rose, who is usually not benevolent with playing time, said he substituted in order to improve offensive production.

"I was substituting to try to make the team better," he said.

Schumacher said it was a reflection of the overall skill on the team.

"One of our strengths is that we're a deep team," she said. "Our best competition is on the other side of the net at practice."

loses is the number of hitting errors," he said. "I thought the teams were pretty evenly matched."

In spite of the records, coaches assert the Big Ten is still one of the toughest conferences.

Heavy hitters

Two Penn State players recorded perfect hitting percentages this weekend, leading the team to an overall successful hitting weekend.

Against Purdue, opposite hitter Katie Schumacher had seven kills on seven attacks and middle hitter Nadia Edwards had one kill after one attack.

Edwards followed with another 1,000 match against Wisconsin, notching three kills.

"We had an exceptional offensive match against Purdue," Penn State

Martin to break into PGA Tour

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press Writer

By Sunday, the most remarkable comeback in golf this year may no longer belong to the U.S. Ryder Cup team. Casey Martin is four rounds away from becoming a card-carrying member of the PGA Tour.

While everyone was either debating Ryder Cup revenue, salivating over that shot by Sergio Garcia or still wondering what Jean Van de Velde was thinking, Martin quietly put together four top-10 finishes on the Nike Tour to climb to No. 12 on the money list.

The top 15 after the Nike Tour Championship this week are automatically exempt on the PGA Tour next year. Commissioner Tim Finchem will be on hand in Dothan, Ala., to hand out the working papers.

For once the cards are stacked in Martin's favor. Martin declined interviews leading to the Nike Tour Championship but told *Golfweek* last week: "It would be a lifelong dream becoming a reality, especially with the kind of obstacles I've been up against."

Martin has a rare circulatory disorder in his right leg known as Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber Syndrome, which causes severe pain and makes it virtually impossible for him to walk 18 holes.

For that reason, he sued the PGA Tour and won the right to use a cart in February 1998. The tour, which argued that walking is an integral part of

the game, filed an appeal that could be ruled upon by the end of the year.

Martin's talent has never been in question. A teammate of Tiger Woods at Stanford, he won on the Nike Tour last year, qualified for the U.S. Open and nearly played well enough at Olympic Club to get into the Masters.

Timing, however, is critical.

Martin's leg isn't getting any better. His best chance to make the big leagues could also be his last chance.

It is mathematically possible that at least four players from No. 16 on down could play well enough this week and earn just enough money to bump Martin out of the top 15 and relegate him to another year on the Nike Tour.

That wouldn't be the greatest tragedy.

Imagine Finchem handing Martin his diploma Sunday along with the rest of the Nike Tour graduating class. Then imagine the 9th U.S. Circuit Court handing down a verdict in favor of the PGA Tour.

A popular solution is for the tour to ban carts from its tournaments, but grant an exception to Martin.

Jack Nicklaus, who testified on behalf of the tour in Martin's lawsuit and adamantly opposes carts on the PGA Tour, said that's what he would suggest if the tour won the appeal.

"I'd grandfather it in," he said. "I think that's the right thing to do in his case."

Finchem said Monday that wouldn't be an option.

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