SPORTS

8 | WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29, 2008

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

THE -LINEUP

CALENDAR HOMELAWAY

Men's Soccer vs. Akron 7. tonight, Jeffrey Field

QUICK HITS

ACHA DIVISION I

Former Icers captain returns as assistant

Bill Downey knows what a

national championship team looks like: he's been on three of them. During his time as a playmaker for ACHA the Division I Icers, Downey earned a team captain Downey title; but now,



he's trying to lead the team in a dif-

ferent way. Serving as an assistant coach for the Icers, Downey is enjoying spending time with the players while trying to get the best out of them at the same time. The players admire his experience, but it's his zest for the sport that keeps the Icers excited.

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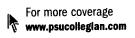
CROSS COUNTRY

Men's XC confident heading into Big Ten

Despite a disappointing start to its season, the Penn State men's cross country team has turned the season around and is finally looking forward to the Big Ten championships.

In years previous, other schools didn't have to worry about Penn State come Big Tens, but the athletes on this year's team feel they are a force to be reckon with.

The Nittany Lions are also riding a wave of momentum after upsetting then-No. 28 Villanova in their last outing.



NCAA VOLLEYBALL

Undefeated record not distracting team

Beaumont gets another honor

By Jocelyn Syrstad COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | jes5210@psu.edu

Senior goalkeeper Jen Beaumont received a congratulatory text message from assistant coach Annie Zinkavich Monday afternoon saying 'you are my hero."

On Monday, the Penn State field hockey team's goalkeeper was named the Big Ten defensive player of the week for her performances against every award that she's getting."

Indiana and Michigan over the weekend. This marks the second time the senior has won the award this season, and the fourth time in her career.

"I think she deserves every award she earns," senior midfielder Allie Scola said. "I mean, she kept us in the game this weekend. She saved saves that probably 99 percent of goalies in college could not save, so I think she's just having an awesome year and she deserves

player to receive the weekly honor multiple times this season, with her first coming on Oct. 13. Alexandra Quinn, a senior forward for Northwestern, is the only person to win the offensive honor twice this year.

Scola is the only other Nittany Lion to be recognized by the Big Ten, receiving the weekly award the same day Beaumont won her first of the season. "She's definitely deserving of the

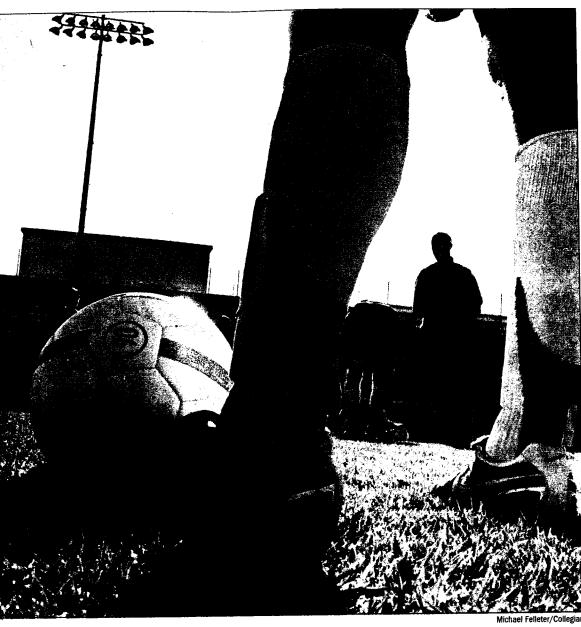
Beaumont is the only defensive recognition this past week and she's really been playing well," Penn State coach Char Morett said. "She does an outstanding job of keeping us in games."

Since conference play began, Beaumont has allowed only one goal, which came against Iowa on Oct. 10. The goalkeeper has nine shutouts this season, six of which were an individual effort.

Practice

facility

See BEAUMONT, Page 12.



Assistant coach James Walker stands on the new soccer practice field recently constructed behind Jeffrey Field.

Shorthanded Lions to face No. 2 Zips

By Matt Fortuna COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | mjf5217@psu.edu

For an Audio Slideshow: www.psucollegian.com



rogram **By Matt Fortuna**

benefits

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As exhausting as it may sometimes be, Ryan Badaracco now looks forward to going to practice every day.

The running, conditioning and simulated playing - all of which can get repetitive from time to time - have been met with a refreshing feel to Badaracco and his men's soccer teammates this season.

"You don't see anything like this when you go to other schools," the senior midfielder said.

"It gets us excited to come out and practice."

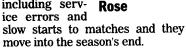
Badaracco is talking about the team's new practice fields, which lie parallel to Jeffrey Field.

Having previously practiced on the smaller field in front of Jeffrey Field and on the school's old baseball field - Beaver Field - the Nittany Lions were cleared to practice on their new field during the week of Sept. 1.

The field has come as a long overdue gift, as it now helps inject the team with an extra jolt of energy and See PRACTICE, Page 12.

At the halfway point in its Big Ten schedule, the Penn State women's volleyball team remains undefeated and is positioned at the top of the conference rankings.

Though their record remains perfect, coach Russ Rose is remaining vigilant, and the Nittany Lions are looking for ways to improve on weaknesses, including serv-



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OUR THOUGHTS

NCAA FOOTBALL

Coaching changes could come for Vols

With Ty Willingham and Tommy Bowden already out of jobs, the coaching carousel is in full swing, and the next victim could be one of the faces of college football.

Philip Fulmer, the man who coached Peyton Manning and brought a national title to Tennessee, is fighting for his job in Knoxville. Fulmer has the Volunteers sitting at 3-5 this year, and in danger of missing a bowl game. In the rugged SEC, coming back to post a winning record will be a tough task.

Even if Fulmer works a miracle and gets the Vols to a bowl, there is no doubt Tennessee is no longer a national power, and the time may have come for the program to move on.

TRIVIA

NHL

Q: Who is the first Alaska native to play in the NHL?

Tuesday's answer: Yogi Berra has played the most career games in World Series history.

Assistant coach Ryan Defibaugh knew his team's game against Akron would be challenging.

After all, the Zips enter Jeffrey Field tonight as the No. 2 team in the nation. But mak-

ing things **Men's Soccer** more diffiat Home cult for the Penn State 7, tonight men's soccer

Jeffrey Field team (4-9-1) is the fact it will be without two of its midfielders.

Frank Costigliola and Matheus Braga will both be out tonight when the Nittany Lions face off with the Zips (13-1-2) at 7 p.m.

Costigliola is forced to sit out after receiving his fifth yellow card of the season at Wisconsin Sunday.

Braga was the recipient of a controversial red card the same game.

The junior spat and it landed on a Wisconsin player, although both Braga and the coaching staff didn't think it was intentional.

Luckily for Defibaugh, tonight's game is an out of conference affair that can't hurt the Lions in the standings

We'll be without some players ... but it's important these guys will be

back for the next conference game,' Defibaugh said. "As much as we wanna come out and see Akron and play very well, it's not a conference game."

That should help the Lions, as they realize their only way of making the NCAA tournament will be by winning the Big Ten tournament.

With a pair of Big Ten games following tonight, the team hopes it can get a head start on its conference tournament competition in full-tact.

That's why Vincent Salvatico feels Penn State has "nothing to lose" tonight.

The junior forward sees this game as an opportunity to improve the team's confidence.

He feels if other players can step up, it will serve as a big momentum boost for the squad.

We just gotta go out and play with pride and just do all that we can do to try and turn it into a good result," Salvatico said.

'It's just a matter of certain people stepping up and doing what they're asked to do and just filling in as best they can.

"It's definitely a benefit that it's not

a Big Ten game." Despite being unable to play,



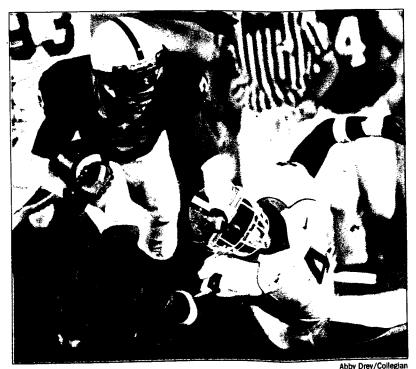
Vincent Salvatico (20) jumps over a Michigan State defender earlier this season. The Lions face No. 2 Akron at Jeffrey Field tonight.

their presence felt throughout the potentially run during the game. week

have been helping the team get pre- and help the team together," he said.

Costigliola and Braga have still prac- pared for Akron in practice by simulatticed and done all they can to make ing formations their opponent may

'When you're outta a game, you just Costigliola said both he and Braga try to help out any which way we can



Deon Butler evades an Illinois defender Donsay Hardeman on Sept. 28.

Butler aiming for title to cap off final season

Editor's note: This is the second in a four-part series featuring Penn State wide receivers coach Mike McQueary and three of the Nittany Lions' senior wide receivers.

By Andrew Wible

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It was just minutes before arguably the biggest game of his career.

With his Big Ten and national championship dreams just moments away from being put to its stiffest test, Deon Butler gathered Penn State's receivers and defensive backs - signs of his present and past -- around him in the southwest corner of Ohio Stadium.

Then suddenly, just before taking the

field for final pregame warm-ups, the often soft-spoken Butler unleashed a fury of emotion.

"Let's go," Butler shouted. "We are Penn State. We are not normal. We are legends, a'ight? People will tell their kids about us, a ight? We are not normal. We are Penn State."

For Butler it was his way of helping his teammates prepare for the hostile environment they were just moments away from entering.

It was his way of using his experience as a four-year starter to serve as a leader for his inexperienced teammates.

It was his way of making sure everyone was ready to do whatever was asked to keep the Nittany Lions' per-See BULTER, Page 10.