

LINEUP

NBA

New York at Philadelphia
7 p.m., CSN
Detroit at Boston
8 p.m., ESPN
L.A. Lakers at Golden State
10:30 p.m., ESPN

NHL

Boston at New Jersey
7 p.m., Versus

SPORTS WEB

To read full stories:
psucollegian.com

Lions still winless after weekend loss

Sloppy conditions didn't help the Lions' chances in a 7-4 loss to Rutgers, dropping their record to 0-5.

Bucci's five goals pace PSU in win

The senior midfielder finished with six points against Delaware.

No. 6 Penn State upset by No. 9 Cal

A lack of preparation due to the travel schedule contributed to the loss in California.

Lions tie for third in year's first tourney

Penn State's tie for third comes despite leading the table during the competition's first two days.

PSU qualifies max for championships

The Nittany Lions qualified a maximum of 12 fencers for this year's NCAA championships.

Tomlinson, N.Y. Jets agree to 2-year deal

LaDainian Tomlinson is bolting for the Big Apple. The New York Jets signed the former Chargers running back to a two-year contract Sunday, adding an aging star to the NFL's top-ranked rushing offense last season. Tomlinson's agent, Tom Condon, confirmed the signing Sunday night. The Jets had not yet announced the deal.

OUR THOUGHTS

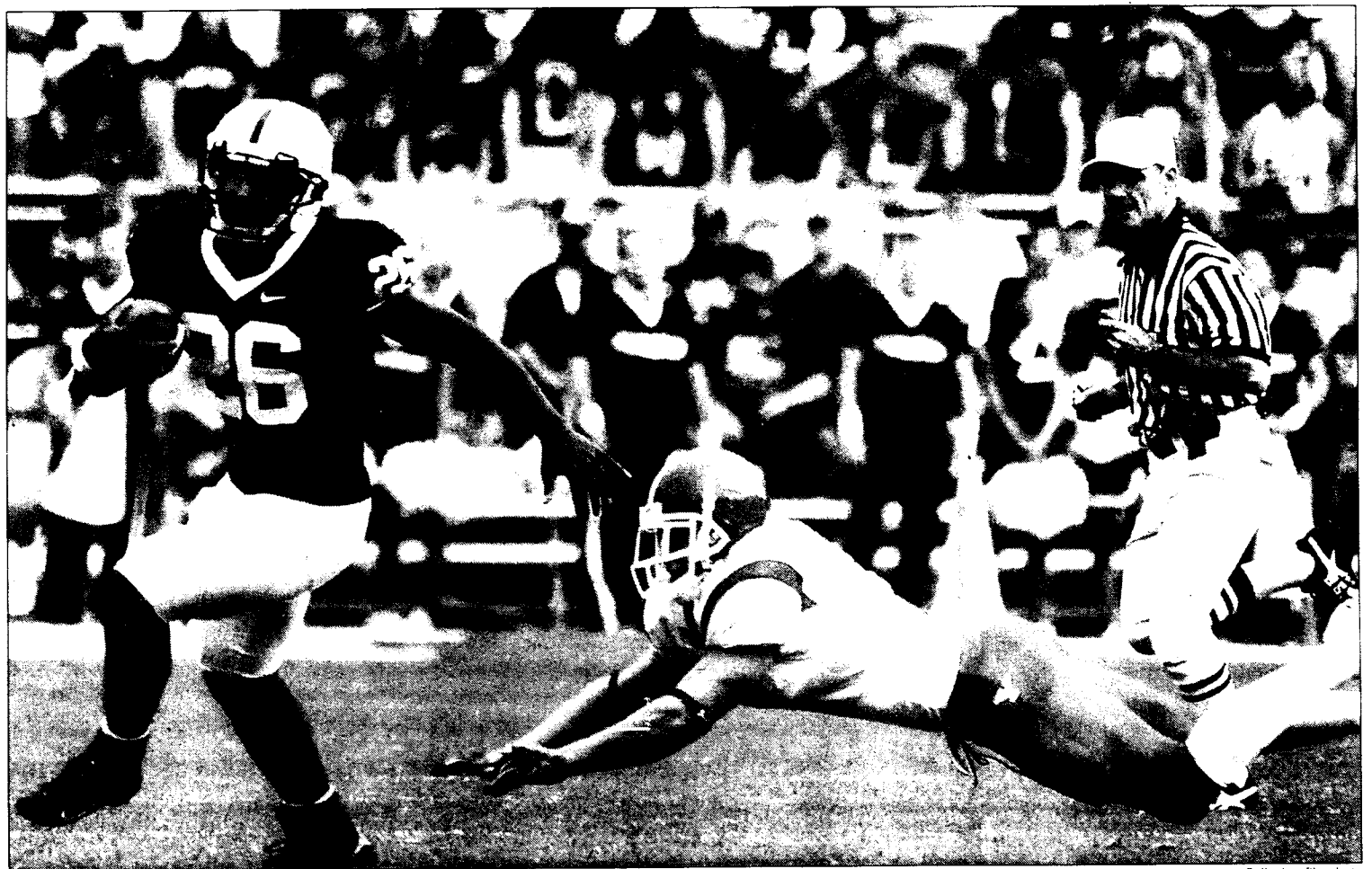
Howard-Pujols swap sort of makes sense

The Phillies and Cardinals swapping sluggers doesn't make sense realistically. But when you think about it, the rumored trade of Ryan Howard for Albert Pujols would kind of work out for both teams. After all, Pujols would fit in with the Phils' recent moves for big-name players, echoing their virtual switch of Cliff Lee for Roy Halladay. As for the Cards, they know all too well how well Howard plays in his home town of St. Louis. That said, there's no way this deal happens outside of fantasy baseball.

TRIVIA

NCAA BASKETBALL
Q: When was the last time Arizona did not make the NCAA tournament?

BLUE AND WHITE



Former Penn State running back Tony Hunt (26) escapes Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) school Youngstown State's Bob Perez in a 2006 game at Beaver Stadium. The Nittany Lions open the 2010 season against the Penguins on Sept. 4.

AND GREEN

FCS foes help fund athletics

By Quinn Roberts and Jocelyn Syrtad
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITERS

Some people say college football has recently turned into a business.

However, the first "guarantee" game for Penn State football can be dated back to 1887 against Dickinson College.

According to Lou Prato's book, "The Penn State Football Encyclopedia," the Nittany Lions paid Dickinson \$50 to play at Penn State on Nov. 22 of that year.

Though guarantee games were not common practice then, nearly every college football team participates in them now.

These guarantee games continue to have an effect on Penn State athletics and its opponents.

This coming season, the Lions will face off against Youngstown State, which they last played in 2006, when they paid the Penguins \$350,000 to play at Beaver Stadium.

"It is all a balance," Penn State athletic director Tim Curley said. "You want to have a schedule that is fair and challenging to your team, is attractive to your fan base and helps balance the budget."

"That budget not only represents football, but our entire department because we are a self-supporting university."

Yet, for the Penguins, the second time around means a heftier paycheck.

Penn State has never paid a team more than \$800,000 for a guarantee game, Curley said, with its usual range somewhere between \$200,000 and \$800,000.

For Penn State, the amount of money it pays for guarantee games pales in comparison to the total amount of money it makes per game.

According to Curley, depending on whom it plays, Penn State nets between \$4-\$4.5 million through tickets sold, concessions and parking.

Forbes magazine claims Penn State's football program has a value of \$99 million, which is the third-highest value, behind Texas and Notre Dame.

Laying out the season

During a season, that specific amount of revenue grossed during home games has a direct effect on Penn State's sports budget for the entire year.

Curley said this year's budget reached upwards of \$95 million, with nearly half coming from football.

The budget supports all 29 Penn State varsity teams, which is the second-highest in the Big Ten, behind Ohio State's 36.

"We are one of the larger schools

in regard to the number of sports we sponsor, so we have more bills to pay, and football is the primary revenue source for that," Curley said. "It becomes very important to fill up Beaver Stadium to the overall budget process and other Penn State teams."

Every year, Penn State schedules at least seven home games to create enough revenue to meet the annual budget.

Fewer games would be detrimental to Penn State athletics.

"We need the money from these home games and couldn't do it with just six," said associate athletic director for football Fran Ganter. "We would probably have to cut a sport if we didn't have that seventh game."

While Penn State has bounced around the idea of playing two home games and one away game against the same opponent or playing a home-and-home series, its ability to get seven home games isn't as certain with those options.

Every year, the goal of the Penn State football program is to have seven home games to balance the budget.

Occasionally, Penn State has the luxury of playing eight home games a season, which occurred in 2002 and 2009. However, the flip side is six home games a season, which happened in 2001 and 2004.

The general trend, which was shown in last season's schedule, includes three to four nonconference home games, followed by eight conference games, home or away.

Specific non-match ups with Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) schools — which in the past five years have included Youngstown State, Eastern Illinois and Coastal Carolina — have become a bigger deal since 2005.

That year, the NCAA passed legislation allowing Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) programs the use of one win each year against an FCS opponent for bowl eligibility. The NCAA Board of Directors also voted to add a 12th regular

season game in April that same year, which was implemented during the 2006 season.

"We are expected to play at least one a year and we understand that," Eastern Illinois coach Bob Spoo said Oct. 10, after his team lost to Penn State, 52-3.

"This was it for this year. We go to Iowa next year and Northwestern the year after that, so we anticipate it and hope we can be competitive."

Before 2005, FBS programs were only allowed to count victories against FCS opponents once every four years.

"Guarantee games have increased dramatically over the years," Curley said. "Some of us thought the dollar amount increases would slow down a bit, but we haven't seen that happen. We have seen it increase dramatically."

Both of these new rules meant Penn State would have an easier route to winning six games and becoming bowl eligible while also making more revenue with an extra game at home.

"Having a 6-6 record used to be called mediocrity. Now you are getting rewarded for having a .500 record," Prato said. "It's ridiculous."

Joe Paterno went 5-5 in his first season as Penn State's head coach and people were calling for him to be fired."

Penn State's perspective
While Penn State sees guarantee games as a benefit to its athletic department, many of its opponents feel the same way.

It is obvious the teams coming in see a financial benefit to playing Penn State. However, the gains go beyond their pocketbooks.

"All of the regional and national publicity in playing a Penn State is great for our school," Youngstown State athletic director Ron Strollo said. "Our student-athletes also enjoy playing games at Penn State, and it helps with our recruiting in the state."

For many of the athletes at schools such as Youngstown State, Akron and Kent State, the trip to

Happy Valley is within hours from their hometowns, enhancing the trip for them.

At Akron, the Zips play in front of 31,000 fans. Yet when they make the trek to Happy Valley, they play in front of as many as 107,282 people. This can be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the student athletes from these teams.

"It's obviously a fantastic environment for our student athletes," Akron athletic director Steve Wistrick said. "Many like Penn State a lot because they are from Pennsylvania. It's a memorable experience for them."

Even though it is a fun game for the opposing schools, coaches and players alike understand the situation they've been put into.

After Penn State's 52-3 trouncing over Eastern Illinois on Oct. 10, Spoo said his players understood the circumstances and that they got their "fannies kicked" but were resilient enough to look ahead to conference play and not dwell on the loss.

"We know it's a difficult game to win, but we know Penn State won't embarrass us either," Wistrick said. "We know it's not a death march."

The teams also understand the difficult game will provide lasting effects to their programs.

Youngstown State coach Eric Wolford, who will coach his first collegiate game Sept. 4 against Penn State, says playing at Beaver Stadium helps with recruiting throughout Pennsylvania and other surrounding states.

The trip to State College also allows the teams to receive exposure they wouldn't normally gain while playing at home or against other conference opponents, thanks to the amount of Penn State games televised by ESPN, ABC and the Big Ten Network.

"It gives them good exposure because most times we will be on television," Curley said.

"So if you are a school like Akron or Kent State, you can be on national television or the Big Ten Network, which is in 43 million homes."

"From a recruiting standpoint, that is great, as opposed to playing someone where they will not be guaranteed to play on television."

For Penn State, it is also appealing to bring in such schools because of the close proximity to central Pennsylvania, Curley said. Since the opposing schools are in nearby states, it is easy for them to get to Penn State on a bus rather than a plane, which would be more costly.

Wolford, who helps determine Youngstown State's schedule, said the team looks to play schools in a

See SCHEDULING, Page 14.

\$95M
Penn State's athletic budget

\$4-4.5M
Net profit per home game

3rd most valuable
football program, according to Forbes magazine

\$200-800k
Payout to the FCS teams for guarantee games