

Weary Lions looking forward to weekend off

By Tom Kinslow
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Jackie Hill has been looking forward to this weekend. However, Nittany Lion Field and the team bus will be empty, and the senior won't be boarding any planes for another invitational.

Instead she'll be enjoying a weekend in State College as the Penn State softball team takes a weekend off before its home opener Wednesday against Saint Francis (Pa.). The time off is something Hill says the team needs at this time of the year.

"Our season is so long, and we're getting tired and what-not, and we just look forward to a weekend where we can catch up."

With the team playing 11 games over spring break and an early morning return to Happy Valley on Monday, coach Robin Petrini gave the team off from practice on Monday and Tuesday.

Petrini said the only downside is the team has to get

itself started again after the relaxation.

Despite the rest, one shouldn't expect the Nittany Lions to be put through the ringer in their limited practice time.

"Focus is not a question for this group," Petrini said. "This group is focused and motivated and driven. "If anything, I need to make sure they're not too focused."

Helping Penn State gather itself and focus on its upcoming schedule is the stability this off week creates.

Since February, the Lions have been crisscrossing the country, heading to California, New Mexico, North Carolina and Florida with no significant time to rest between the trips.

All that time away from friendlier confines is something that isn't lost on Penn State. When thinking about being able to enjoy her own bed for once, outfielder Cassidy Bell couldn't help but smile and let out a sigh of relief.

However, it wasn't as ideal as it could have been for her.



The Nittany Lions' recovery from an offensive slump over spring break to win their last four games is something the team credits to self-confidence: psucollegian.com

"I still had to get up early anyway, so I didn't really get to sleep in," Bell said.

As the Lions take a rest from the grind of constant competition, they know the only thing standing between them and their home opener is time.

With the days ticking away, Penn State can't help but be excited at the prospect of playing in front of its home crowd.

"I feel like next week is gonna be a little more serious," Bell said.

"Everyone's going to be more pumped than just 'Oh, another tournament. It's just another game.' Now is when it really matters."

To e-mail reporter: tpk5016@psu.edu



Petrini

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HOROSCOPES

By Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, March 19, 2010. This year is a very special period in which you evolve to a new level and create much more of what you desire. You discover just how far-reaching your influence might be and who can and will make a difference. If you are single, you'll discover how attractive others think you are. If you are attached, the two of you will connect on a level that you haven't experienced in many years. TAURUS always brings logic to a situation.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have. 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ***** Your perspective is in demand. How you see finances or a business arrangement remains unique to you. Look for the right path for all those who are mutually concerned. Listen to someone who might have different expertise. Tonight: Indulge a little. It's about time. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** You might be on top of your game. Your way of handling a situation could change radically after a meeting or conversation with more than several people. A decision made now could be sound and productive. Worry less. Tonight: Out on the town. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** Working to facilitate a situation could be difficult if others aren't working with you. Know when to walk away from a situation and call it futile. Understanding what is going on could be more important than you realize. Consider yourself first. Tonight: Vanish

if you can. CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** Look at the end result. Listen to others in a meeting. The solution, though evident to many, might not be evident to others. Realize when you have gone too far. Back off diplomatically. Know when you no longer have control and what needs to happen. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Others look to you. Your advice probably means much more than you realize. Understanding evolves because you are willing to listen to an important partner. Your ability to understand someone emerges. Tonight: Assume the lead. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Your ability to grasp what has happened comes out. Reach out for others at a distance. If you want to take off early for the weekend, by all means do. Lunch easily could become an event. Tonight: Don't let a child or loved one mar a happening. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** Teamwork always brings results, be they negative or positive. As your efforts come with positive thoughts and good will, you will draw that type of results you desire. Know when you have had enough. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Others demand control. It would be best to be unusually creative when putting in your two cents. An approach other than the norm will most likely draw the desired results. A brainstorming session produces excellent results. Tonight: Just don't be alone. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** An even attitude, with focus on

getting a project done, could make all the difference in what occurs. You could be tired and wanting to complete the weekend early. Understand what is happening within a relationship. Tonight: Feeling invigorated. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Keep asking questions, knowing full well you are on top of your game. Remember, your words don't fall on deaf ears, and others will respond. Your tone can make or break a situation. Let humor evolve. Creativity flourishes in this atmosphere. Tonight: Hook up with some cohorts. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** If you feel the need to pull back some and play the reclusive, take off early or call in. Everyone needs a break, even you. Schedule some time for indulgence where you can and will enjoy yourself. Know what works for you. Tonight: In the thick of things. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** You say the right words, and others respond. You might have had a problem for a while, but now you loosen up. Others want your views. Express the same type of excitement about others' opinions. Build up more mutuality. Tonight: Hanging out is fun to do.

BORN TODAY Western Marshall Wyatt Earp (1848), actress Glenn Close (1947), actor Bruce Willis (1955) ***

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