## Early deficit too much for Penn State

By Ryan Loy COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Nittany Lion pitchers struggled early to throw strikes, while the Lion hitters couldn't avoid them in

Tuesday's 9-8 loss BASEBALL at Kent State.

Golden The Flashes took advantage of two walks and a hit batter in the bottom of the first, when David Lvon hit a two-run double to left field to give the Flashes the early lead. next inning, Humphreys hit an RBI double and later scored on an error to give run for the Lions' first run. Kent State a 4-1 advantage.

Kyle Hallock, who struck out a double with the bases loaded looked for a fastball." seven of the first 11 batters he faced.

He did a good job of locating in and out and had good speeds," Eramo said of Hallock. "When you have someone like that, offensively vou

Penn State just have to fight him, and we did that."

Eramo connected on a pitch up in the zone and hit a solo home

The Lions (9-13) took a brief

**Kent State** 

that scored two runs. Elliot Searer followed with a

two-RBI triple and later scored on a wild pitch to give the Lions a 6-4 lead

Searer While was on deck, he knew he'd get a chance to bat with Wine runners on base

an area he said he'd struggled with in past situations. When he stepped to the plate, Searer used an observation to his advantage.

'With runners on second and Penn State's Mario Eramo was lead after a five-run fourth inning third, I knew he'd be hesitant to the lone Lion to have early suc- that caused the Flashes to go to throw off-speed stuff," Searer said. play and get themselves out.

cess against Kent State starter their bullpen. Michael Glantz had "I got ahead in the count, 2-0, and

The lead didn't last long, as three walks powered a Kent State rally in the bottom of the fourth inning that resulted in a 7-6 Flashes lead. They added two runs against Mike Pierce in the fifth before being held scoreless in its final three at-bats. Pierce and Steven Hill combined for 4.2 strong innings of relief. After the Lions allowed eight walks in the first 3.1 innings, Pierce and Hill didn't surrender any free passes.

Glantz said command was the key to Pierce and Hill's success.

"They threw strikes. That's all you have to do," he said. "They made the batters put the ball in

The Lions drew within one run in the sixth when Glantz and Searer crossed the plate to make it 9-8, but that's how the game

would remain. Penn State's six through nine

hitters combined for six runs and

Searer said hitters near the bottom of the order are trying to get on base and use their speed to make things happen.

Despite the narrow loss, Searer believes each player battled to get

back in the game. "Early deficits are going to happen," Searer said. "You need to be a baseball player and go out and

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## Ettl handles pressures on uneven bars

By Jared Shanker

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

There was a myriad of thoughts running through Natalie Ettl's

The anchor on the uneven bars for the No. 14 GYMNASTICS State

WOMEN'S

women's gymnastics team, Ettl was the last Nittany Lion to perform Saturday at the Big Ten championships. Caught in a close battle with Michigan, Ettl wondered if her routine could be the deciding factor between Penn State's firstever Big Ten title or Michigan's fourth straight.

She recalled all the trials and tribulations throughout her career, including enduring multiple knee surgeries. And to top it all off, Ettl knew the Olympic gymnast who made one of her bar skills famous was not only in the house but was critiquing her in front of a live TV audience.

The sophomore handled the pressure from all directions, and knee twice and also suffered a tion and done so well, it was so Ettl saved the best for last as the torn meniscus. She never thought sweet," Ray told Gymnastike.org folfinal bar routine performed at the she would be competing at Big lowing Penn State's tri-meet with

winning one. Ettl scored a 9.925 to and stumbling blocks and was secure Big Ten uneven bars gold and help the Lions take second place for the first time since 2005.

'Natalie did a great job," said Lions coach Steve Shephard.

"She handled [the pressure]. She was awesome and deserved

It didn't look as if Ettl would find herself on the medal stand a few hours earlier during warm-ups. Having trouble with the landing mats, calling them "dead," Ettl struggled with her dismount. She didn't land one dismount. To protect her surgically repaired right knee, she doesn't practice her dismount during the touch warm-ups before bar routines start. That didn't matter, though, as Ettl landed the only dismount that counted.

As she stood waiting to hear the results. Ettl couldn't help but reflect on how easily this moment could have been taken from her just a few years earlier. In high school, Ettl tore the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in her right

Big Ten championships was the Tens following the procedures taken aback when Ettl found out she had not only placed, but won.

"It was amazing to go from all of my previous setbacks to overcome all of that and actually win a Big Ten bars title," Ettl said. "I didn't think I'd ever be able to do that, let alone be here doing gymnastics for Penn State. My parents said when they saw me up on that awards ceremony, 'You've persevered through all those setbacks and to say you won a Big Ten bar title, that's pretty cool.'

Ettl's winning routine, which Shephard has referred to as world-class" multiple times, consists of a release move originated by 2000 Olympian gymnast Elise Ray. In 2004, Ray, a former Michigan Wolverine, won the Big Ten bars title with a perfect 10.

Saturday, Ray was on the floor commentating for the Big Ten Network and got a first-hand look at Ettl's personal touch on her extremely difficult skill.

"To actually see it in competi-



Asit Mishra/Collegian

Natalie Ettl performs her routine on the bars March 7.

Alabama and Minnesota on Jan. her former gymnast's move. 30, which she also called for the Big Ten Network. "It was so nicely done, so I was very proud of it."

who coached Ray, caught Ettl's performance during the Big Ten championships. Plocki called Ettl's routine "beautiful" and was impressed with Ettl's rendition of

"She does that skill extremely well - as well as Elise ever did it, Plocki said. "There aren't many Michigan coach Beverly Plocki, athletes in the country that do that skill. It's very pretty when it's done well, and she does it extremely

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## Lions begin tough road stretch against Kent State

**By Tom Kinslow** COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

exactly wide open.

Thursday, includ-

ing one at 8 a.m., SOFTBALL but before that.

Bell has some business to attend to other

The outfielder and her teammates are taking on Kent State tonight as the Penn State softball team continues its nonconference schedule. Despite having all that on her plate, the freshman isn't worried about handling it all.

"It's going to be tough," Bell just, stay focused and get done Cassidy Bell's schedule isn't what you have to get done.

With the warning about her The freshman has two exams exams, Bell's plan to juggle everything is simple.

"Study a lot beforehand," the will be." outfielder said with a laugh.

Adding to the stress on the team team had two twin travel the team has to go through this year.

The team has been busing to and from adjacent airports adding hours onto road trips and following two doubleheaders this past week, the Nittany Lions know the trip will be taxing.

said of the time crunch. "But it's on the bus and when we can," catcher Danee Collett said. "It's

all about mindset. If you go in thinking that it's going to be hard, then it

Though the week, coach

Petrini Robin Petrini made the decision to hold practice Monday in prepa-

ration for the Golden Flashes.

This series with Kent State is

"I just hope that we can get rest Penn State's toughest road this past week, scoring five runs in Purdue this weekend as Penn

State continues conference play. Thinking about it, Collett could solid efforts at the plate tonight.

only let out a sigh.

now," Collett said. "I'm not looking forward to it."

As the Lions hit the road after a now, we're working up to that quick stint at home, they do so trying maintain a consistency they're just starting to find. Penn State struggled to produce runs in the just the first leg of what looks to be first half of its two doubleheaders

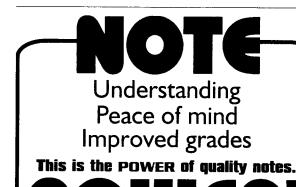
stretch of the season. The Lions two losses, only to rebound with 16 take on the Golden Flashes in the second contests, both victotonight, returning to Happy Valley ries. With another double dip in after the contests, only to head to store for the Lions, they know they can take a huge step forward in their progress as a team with two

"Everything's about peaking," "It doesn't sound fun to me right Bell said. "I feel like we're sloping up right now. You want to peak at the right time. I think that right peak. I think that once you get the consistency going, you keep build-

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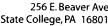


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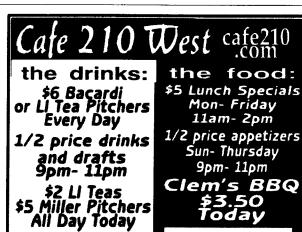




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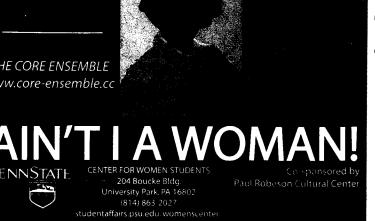


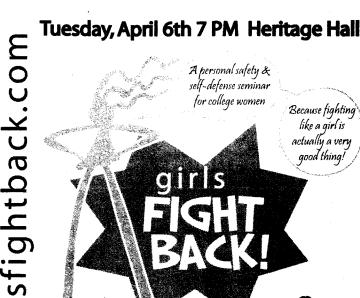




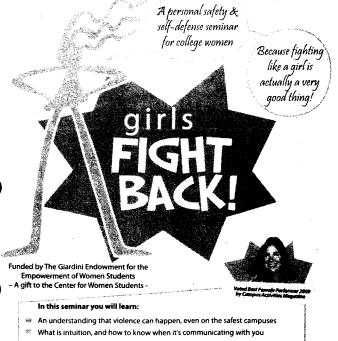
Zora Neale Hurston, Sojourner Truth, Clementine Hunter, and Fannie Lou Hamer Monday, April 5th 7:00 PM







TONIGHT: TWISTED GROOVE 10:30PM



Ways to reduce the risk of being victimized and strategies for staying safe Examples of boundary setting and how to convey strong body language Practical and effective self-defense strategies any girl can use, regardless of size Improvised weapons that every woman carries in her purse, and how to use then

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