

## PSU wins on walk-off walk

By Paul Casella  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Trailing by a run entering the last inning of Tuesday night's game, the Penn State baseball team failed to record a hit in the bottom of the ninth.

### BASEBALL

But the Nittany Lions (12-15) still managed to push two runners across the plate and walk off with a 7-6 win, their 16th-straight against the in-state rival Bucknell Bison (12-17).

### Penn State

### Bucknell

With the game tied in the bottom and ninth and runners on second and third, Bucknell issued consecutive walks, including a free pass with the bases loaded to Bobby Jacobs to end the game on Penn State's fifth walk-off victory of the season.

"When you've done it before, it's in the back of your mind that you can do it again," said freshman Elliot Searer, who went 3-for-4 and scored a pair of runs. "So this team is never going to give up, and we knew we had a shot to win it going into that last inning."

Of the seven Penn State hitters who went to the plate in the ninth, five walked — one intentionally — and the other two flied out, one on a game-tying sacrifice fly.

After back-to-back walks to start the inning, a fly out by sophomore first baseman Joey DeBernardis — who also pitched a scoreless ninth inning for the win — moved the runners to second and third with one out.

Bucknell intentionally walked Jordan Steranka, bringing backup first baseman Jack Greenberg to the plate, who had not recorded a hit this season. Greenberg lifted the first pitch he saw into right field for a sacrifice fly, allowing Steve Snyder to tag up from third and tie the game.

"I was looking for a pitch on the outer half of the plate, to drive it the other way," said Greenberg, who picked up his first RBI of the season on his game-tying sac fly. "I just didn't want to be the guy to put a ball on the ground and let them get a double play to end the game. It just worked out for us this time."

Though Penn State finished the game with nine hits and had another nine runners reach base on walks, the Lions scored only one of its seven runs off a base hit — an RBI single by Searer in the sixth.

The other six runs came off two bases-loaded walks, a fielder's choice, two wild pitches and Greenberg's sacrifice fly.

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Freshman Steve Snyder speeds into second base during Tuesday night's game against Bucknell at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park. Penn State won, 7-6, on a bases-loaded walk in the ninth inning.

## Position players take hill

By Ryan Loy  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Fans of the Penn State baseball team may look twice when they see who's listed in the box score as the winning pitcher from Tuesday's victory against Bucknell.

Regular first baseman Joey DeBernardis pitched a scoreless ninth inning to help the Nittany Lions (12-15) defeat Bucknell in come-from-behind fashion, 7-6.

DeBernardis wasn't the only position player to pitch. Heath Johnson, who normally plays right field, didn't allow any runs and struck out one while pitching the fourth.

Lions coach Robbie Wine said the two players were a crucial part of the win.

"I wonder if we would have won the game without the two of them," Wine said. "Those guys stepped up and did some things to help us."



Michael Glantz evades a tag by Bucknell's catcher Tuesday night.

Tuesday's win over the Bison wasn't the first time DeBernardis has pitched this season. He pitched a scoreless inning in the Lions' March 13 loss to Texas State. However, DeBernardis was in a **See PITCHING, Page 10.**

### MLB

Philadelphia at Washington 7 p.m., TCN

L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh 7 p.m., FSP

N.Y. Yankees at Boston 7 p.m., ESPN2

### NBA

Philadelphia at Miami 7:30 p.m., CSN

Utah at Houston 8 p.m., ESPN

### NHL

Toronto at N.Y. Rangers 7 p.m., Versus

For full stories: [psucollegian.com](http://psucollegian.com)

### Women rise 8 spots to No. 6 in rankings

Penn State's women's squad moved into the top-10 in the USTFCCCA polls.

### Rankings mean little when title at stake

Don't count the Nittany Lions out of the national title chase yet, writes Jim Mauro.

### Defensive middies step up vs. UMass

The short-stick defenders help the Lions play their ideal six-on-six defense.

### Woods' tee time set for 1:42 p.m. Thurs.

Thousands of fans are following Tiger Woods around Augusta National during practice rounds.

Millions more around the world will be able to watch when he officially makes his return to golf at the Masters on Thursday.

Woods was put in the next-to-last group for the opening round — his first meaningful shot since his private life unraveled in sordid tales of infidelity five months ago. His 1:42 p.m. tee time fits perfectly into ESPN's live television coverage.

Joining the world's No. 1 player will be K.J. Choi and Matt Kuchar.

### Barcelona's Messi's performance unreal

Lionel Messi scored four goals yesterday and made it look easier than a game of football.

F.C. Barcelona's Messi, arguably the best player in Europe, had a hat trick in the first half of his team's 4-1 victory over Arsenal. He single-handedly ensured that his Spanish club advanced to the semifinals of the UEFA Champions League.

Arsenal's defensemen looked silly trying to guard Messi, but it was expected. He deked a defender from 10 feet outside the goal and it didn't even result in a goal.

His first goal was a ridiculous strike to the top of the net. "FIFA 2010" goals don't look nearly as good.

### Q: Which program has the most NCAA championships?

Tuesday's answer: The Cleveland Indians' Bob Feller threw the only Opening Day no-hitter in 1940.



Freshman Kailyn Johnson connects on a pitch against Pittsburgh on Tuesday at Nittany Lion Field. The Lions and Panthers split Tuesday's doubleheader, with Pitt winning Game 1 and Penn State taking the nightcap.

## Akamine's arm yields victory

By Wayne Staats  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Lisa Akamine just kept climbing the ladder.

The pitcher went up in the zone and struck out nine batters while giving up only four hits to help Penn State win the second game of Tuesday's doubleheader, 5-1, and split with Pittsburgh.



Akamine

"That's kind of how I attacked their hitters," Akamine said. "It just depends on the day. Today, my rise ball just happened to be working well.

Other days, if my rise is working well, then I'll just go low, you know?"

Akamine, handed a 3-0 lead after the first inning, won her seventh-straight start and, for the third time since March 24, won the latter game of a doubleheader after the Nittany Lions (23-11) lost the first. In fact, the sophomore had thrown 14 consecutive innings without surrendering an earned run before Yvette Bravo hit a solo home run in the seventh inning Tuesday.

Plus, in these three recent starts in the second half of a doubleheader, Akamine has given up just four runs — three earned — in 20 innings.

When it comes to explaining her success in such games, Akamine

said it didn't have a lot to do with watching the other team's hitters in the first games, when starter Jackie Hill takes the mound. Instead, it seems to be just about the basics. Akamine's strong second-game performances in doubleheaders has also coincided with her overall improvement. She has given up only one earned run in eight of her last 11 starts.

Coach Robin Petrini summed up the pitcher's success as confidence and simply hitting spots. Against Pittsburgh (18-15), those spots were often the advantage.

"She took advantage of some of their weaknesses and thought they might chase a few high pitches," Petrini said. "If you think they're **See AKAMINE, Page 10.**

## Lions take one of two vs. Pitt

By Jake Kaplan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With Pittsburgh runners on first and third base and just one out, the Penn State softball team found itself in its first jam of the game.

Moments later, Niki Cognigni broke from first base to try and get two runners in scoring position. But the Panthers' steal attempt backfired.

Nittany Lion catcher Dane Collett fired the ball to shortstop Alyssa Renwick, who promptly tagged out Cognigni.

That swung the momentum in Penn State's favor on its way to a 5-1 win on Tuesday at Nittany Lion Field. The Nittany Lions split their doubleheader against Pittsburgh — losing the first game, 6-3.

Penn State pitcher Lisa Akamine's ensuing inning-ending strikeout killed Pittsburgh's threat in the third stanza of the second game and preserved the Lions' three-run lead.

"Now instead of having second and third, we've got a runner on third, two outs," left fielder Ashley Griffith said of the third-inning momentum shift.

**See SPLIT, Page 10.**

### SOFTBALL

5 Penn State

1 Pittsburgh