

Berryman

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knew she could handle it, and I was so glad and thankful that she could get to the hospital and figured everything out."

Joyce Berryman said Claire was fortunate to have been home when she got sick. Berryman — a Morgantown, W. Va., native — saw her condition begin to improve because medication Claire had already taken for bronchitis started to treat the meningitis, preventing the disease from getting worse.

"We could tell by the way [the doctors] were acting they were expecting her to crash," Joyce Berryman said. "They thought she was just going to get worse, and that's where we were very fortunate — she never really got worse. [The doctors] said it was because of the strong antibiotic she had already taken. They called it 'partially treated meningitis' when they caught it."

Once Berryman had her illness under control, her thoughts scattered to whether she infected others, when she could run again and what kind of shape she could be in by the start of cross country season.

"It was really scary because I had been in front of the whole team," Berryman said. "Obviously, you think meningitis is contagious, but thankfully nobody ended up getting it."

Wanting badly to run again, Berryman

stayed in contact with coach Beth Alford-Sullivan until she was able to finally run on June 9.

"The day I got my I.V. out, I called her and said, 'OK, Coach, I'm running,' but [Alford-Sullivan] said, 'No, you're not. You better take a few more days off. Just relax and get better,'" Berryman said.

Out of commission for more than a month, Berryman was at first able to run for only 15 minutes a day, her tolerance steadily increasing throughout the following couple of weeks. Through the summer, Berryman ran with her mother, West Virginia University runners, her former high school's track team and by herself.

While taking on the burden of overcoming meningitis, training to get back to where she was and the challenge of her doctoral work, Berryman set two personal record times during indoor while feeling better than ever before.

"I'm probably back to normal or better," Berryman says now, seven months after the diagnosis. "I'm glad I got back here for cross country, indoor and outdoor. And I'm looking forward to running the 10k and Big Tens. I'm just happy I got a fifth year, and I could train to come back here."

On Feb. 22 at the indoor Big Ten championships, Claire won her heat of the 3,000-meter race. It was a great feeling, and her parents were in the audience. Not only did Berryman win the heat, but the time was a personal record, the second she recorded during the indoor season.

Berryman credits her doctor, Rashida Khakoo, and Khakoo's staff at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown with saving her life and helping her through the recovery.

"Everything that happened, I was so lucky," Berryman said. "That I went home when I did, that the doctors made me get the spinal tap. They said, 'If you were my sister, I'd tell you to get the spinal tap.' And during the one week of the entire year, [Khakoo], the chief of infectious disease, is on the floor and she was just amazing. I feel so lucky that so many things went right."

Fully recovered, Berryman ran what Alford-Sullivan called a "tremendous" cross country season last fall. She followed that up with an indoor season that featured her two personal-record times, including the 9 minute, 56.79 second 3,000-meter race at the Big Ten championships and a 5:04.74 mile at the Sykes-Sabock meet, both at Penn State in front of family and her home crowd.

Alford-Sullivan said Berryman, the most senior distance runner on the team, overcame her obstacles in great fashion to return to the team the way she has.

"To run as well as she is right now on the track, it's a testimony to her spirit and her will to stay after this," Alford-Sullivan said. "She did a great job, the doctors did a great job with her, and she's a committed and dedicated young lady that just got back in shape and stayed after it."

Dedicated as ever, Berryman is in an

entry study contributing to her thesis research in nutrition. She works as early as 7 a.m. until her 3:45 p.m. practice, where she runs until 6 p.m.

Heading into spring, her final season as a varsity runner, Berryman will run the 5,000 and her best race, the 10,000-meter. And Berryman already has some specific goals for her final season, which she will begin to go after at this weekend's Bucknell Team Challenge.

Berryman doesn't think she's done setting personal-best times. The goal both she and Alford-Sullivan have is to beat her own best 10,000-meter time of 36:41.03 at the Big Ten championships.

Most runners are able to run the 10,000 only a couple of times a season because of stamina concerns. So while holding off on the race until the Big Tens, Berryman is looking forward to other events this season.

"I want to break the five-minute mark eventually or the equivalent in the 1500-meters," Berryman said. "I want to break 17:00 in the 5k, and it would be awesome to hit the provisional mark [16:44], too."

Berryman faced a scary situation but looking back, she said except for the first few hours at the hospital, running never left her mind.

"I felt like the longer I waited to get back, the more behind I was going to be," Berryman said. "But at no point did I think I was never going to run again."

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Jenkins

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University Nationals in Akron, Ohio, Sunday.

Jenkins said he may compete in mixed martial arts after his collegiate wrestler career. With the West Coast a hot spot for MMA competition, Jenkins said being at Arizona State gives him the opportunity to wrestle while training for his possible future career in MMA.

Though Jenkins' mother, Teresa Otero — who couldn't be reached for comment as of press time — wanted her son to remain close to Virginia, her son said she also wanted him to be happy.

Old Dominion, Maryland, Oklahoma State, Nebraska and a Virginia Tech coaching position were Jenkins' other leading options. Jenkins wouldn't be able to commit to Oklahoma State or Nebraska until after graduation because of the Penn State coaching staff's decision to deny his release to Big Ten and Big 12 schools.

Though Jenkins said he didn't understand the Big 12 decision, he is happy to

start anew out West and leave the Big Ten.

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Daniel Bott/Collegian

Bubba Jenkins will finish this semester at Penn State before heading to ASU.

Goas

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setter now realizes and said he began to set up basic setting lessons. So basic, that at first they might have seemed elementary. Then it became easier, and those tendencies began to go away.

"Jay got here and I've gotten a lot better," Goas said.

Backup setter Tor Covello said the more individualized attention they receive from Hosack has benefited the two, and the improvement in Goas' game does not go unnoticed by his teammates.

One of Goas' biggest challenges is running an offense with a big range of heights and jumping abilities. Whether he's setting the 6-foot-7 Joe Sunder — who touches 11 feet, 7 inches — or the 6-foot-3 Ryan Wolf, Goas needs to put the ball in the right place for a potential kill.

Then-No. 9 Penn State played at UC Santa Barbara and Cal State Northridge over the weekend and was swept in both. Despite the losing effort, UCSB coach Rick McLaughlin was comfortable saying Goas would be one of the best setters in his team's very competitive MPSF conference.

The losses this weekend dropped the Lions

"[Goas] can better a ball off of any pass. He has a wide range [of offensive players]. It takes a mature setter."

Rick McLaughlin
UCSB coach

to No. 12, meaning the top 10 teams in AVCA rankings — release Monday — are all from the MPSF.

"He can better a ball off of any pass," McLaughlin said. "He has a wide range [of offensive players]. It takes a mature setter. He knows how to deliver to each guy."

Goas attributes his consistent sets to his follow through. He said last season after a set he would immediately drop his hands and that would lead to inconsistent hang time for the ball. Now he knows where the ball is going and how long it'll be there because of his follow through.

Penn State head coach Mark Pavlik said he also notices his setter's growing consistency. "It's location, it's how he puts his body," Pavlik said.

"He is playing at a high level."

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Gorman

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not return calls for comment, said in a statement. "It has been a tremendous honor and privilege to have been the Penn State men's soccer coach.

"I owe great debt of gratitude to many people for their guidance, help and support over the course of my tenure."

Assistant coach Ryan Defibaugh said he would retain his position while fellow assistant Isang Jacob assumes head-coaching responsibilities for the remainder of the spring.

Regarding next fall, Defibaugh said he could not comment on the search to replace Gorman, saying he and Jacob will sit down with administration to go over the details in the near future.

Defibaugh said he and Jacob told the players their offices will be open and their cell phones will always be on if any of them want to talk.

All of the players were sad to see the man who brought them to Penn State leaving, especially midfielder Matheus Braga, who came to State College in the 2008 season from Brazil.

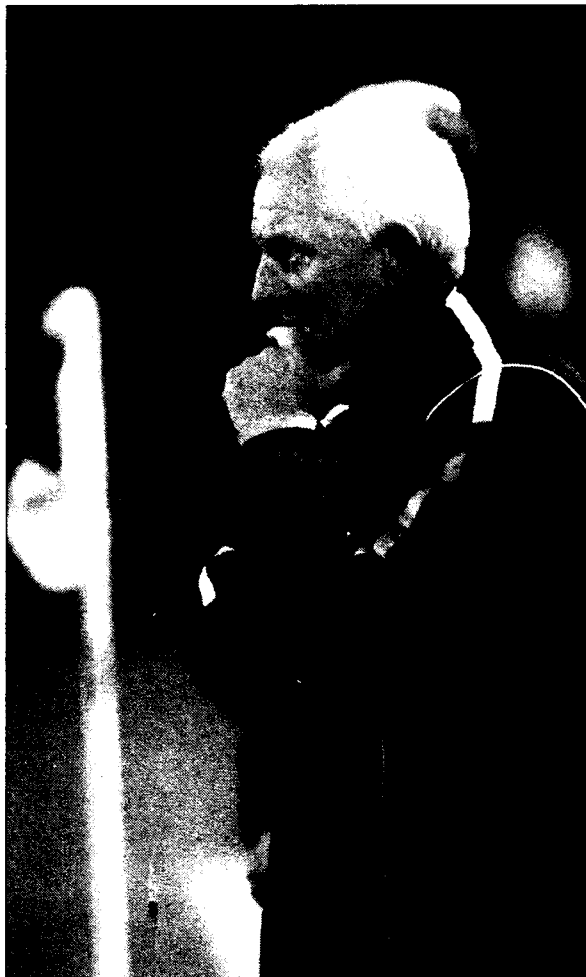
"Gorman was the guy that recruited me, and I became a very good friend with him," Braga said. "I met his whole family, his son. He met my family and all of my family liked him. I especially really liked him and I'm going to miss him."

This past fall, the Nittany Lions made their first NCAA appearance since 2005 and were the runner-up in the Big Ten. They return nine starters for the upcoming fall. After going 2-0 to start the spring, the Lions looked poised to have a successful 2010 season, which also marks 100 years of Penn State soccer.

While Gorman did not disclose why he was leaving to the players, Casais hopes Gorman will reveal his reasons in the future. For now, the players can only rally together to face Bucknell and get through the rest of the spring.

"It's our team now," Casais said. "We're going to overcome this as a team."

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Michael Felleter/Collegian

Barry Gorman watches on from the sideline at Jeffrey Field in 2008 as his Penn State team plays Indiana in its home finale. Gorman resigned as the Nittany Lions' head coach Monday, a move that surprised most of the team.

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