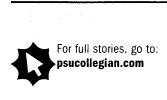


MLB Pittsburgh at Milwaukee 1 p.m., FSP Philadelphia at San Francisco 3:30 p.m., CSN Minnesota at Detroit 7 p.m., ESPN NHL Montreal at Washington 7 p.m., Versus

NBA Milwaukee at Atlanta 8 p.m., TNT Utah at Denver 10:30 p.m., TNT



Sophomore expected

to show leadership Coach Suzanne Isidor anticipates midfielder Theresa Zichelli to emerge as a leader next year.

Birmingham's moxie improves in spring

The goalkeeper gained more confidence after a strong spring season.

Penn State in midst of dismal campaign

This year marked the first time the Lions went winless in the Big Ten since the 2003-04 season.



As the La Salle third baseman swiped his glove across Sean Deegan's cleat Tuesday, the field umpire pumped his fist downward BASEBALL to indicate an out. Deegan was caught stealing for the first time all season, and it served as an omen La Salle ... the Penn State baseball team (17-23, 4-8 Big Ten). A lack of offense

and baserunning Penn State mistakes cost the Nittany Lions as they lost, 3-2, to La

Salle (14-24, 8-7) Tuesday night at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park. Penn State had two men on base with the hot-hitting Elliot Searer batting in the second inning when Deegan was caught stealing for the third out.

When Searer came up to bat to begin the third, he hit a fly ball that PSU's bullpen shines in the loss to La caromed off the right field wall Salle. | SPORTS, Page 10.

away from the right fielder. Searer failed to pick up coach Robbie Wine's stop sign and was thrown out on a close play at third.

They're both aggressive," Wine said of Deegan and Searer. "But yet, you have to honor the other team and respect the other team enough to understand this isn't Little League.

Providing speed on the bases has been a key part of Deegan's and Searer's style of play this season, as they are first and second on the team in steals, respectively.

Forcing opposing defenses to make plays in the field has been a focus of the team, right fielder Mario Eramo said. That proved to backfire Tuesday as La Salle made the necessary plays.

"They're just being aggressive. and that's what we try to do. Eramo said. "Maybe they were a little too aggressive, but we preach being aggressive. It just didn't work out our way."

See BASEBALL. Page 10



Second back was Elliot Searer attempts to catch Student in osulta La Sale on Tuesday



Orange sweep

> By Wayne Staats POHEDIAN STAFFARI

The Penn State hitters was what was coming, so the result made if that much more crustee ing

Facing a pitcher with a big drop on her changeup, the Nittany Lion softball team 328 18) was swept by Syracuse, 2-0 and 64. Tuesday after noon at Niftany

Lion Field. Orange pitcher Jenna Caira Hərb ed both games up the doubleheader.

6-19 St

Syracuse

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2010 | 9

g Crawford claims Sixth Man of Year

After willingly accepting a backup role for the first time in his career, Atlanta Hawks guard Jamal Crawford was named the NBA Sixth Man of the Year in a landslide Tuesday.

He averaged 18 points a game in 31.1 minutes, a de facto starter who played a major role in Atlanta winning 53 games and earning the third seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs. The Hawks are tied 2-2 with Milwaukee in the opening round heading into Game 5 tonight.

Crawford won the award going away with 580 of a possible 610 points, including 110 out of 122 first-place votes. Jason Terry of the Dallas Mavericks, last year's Sixth Man winner, finished second this time with 220 points.

2 THOUGHTS

Pre-draft interviews must be toned down

If Dez Bryant's pre-draft interview is normal for potential NFL players, maybe we need to rethink the process.

According to Yahoo! Sports, Miami GM Jeff Ireland asked Bryant last week if his mother was a prositute. This was done as a procedural background check to see if prospective draft picks would be able to handle the rapid influx of money that comes with a high selection.

These checks may be necessary, but asking that question is not pertinent and far too personal.

TRIVIA

NBA

Q: Who are the only players to win the Sixth Man of the Year award twice?

Tuesday's answer: Adalius Thomas signed a five-year, \$35 million contract with the Patriots in 2007, the highestpriced free-agent acquisition in team history.

Sophomore Morgan Long swings and misses in the second game of Per-Syracuse on Tuesday. The Lions struck out 24 times over the two games, both loosed

Strikeouts silence offense

By Jake Kaplan COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Lisa Akamine stood in the batter's box at Nittany Lion Field with the bases loaded and a count of two balls and two strikes against her.

The sophomore took the next pitch for what she thought was ball three until the umpire rung her up to end the inning, drawing puzzled reactions from the Penn State side.

Akamine's strikeout in the first strikeout during Tuesday's double-

header against Syracuse, though The Nittany Lions (28-18) were punched out 11 times in the second game, a 6-1 loss. It came after the Lions struck out 13 times in the first game, which ended in a 2-0

After the Orange (27-20) took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning of the second game, the questionable strike three call on Akamine in the bottom of the stanza came as a momentum killer for the Lions. It a mixture of good pitching by frame was not the only Penn State would turn out to be their biggest Syracuse's Jenna Caira, who coaching staff figured it made scoring threat of the contest.

Form State bad a scoring opportunity in the line game, also, when second baseman Laaren Rossi stood on second base with no outs in the fifth frame. However, catcher Dance Collett and third baseman Desi Giordano struck out before pitcher Jackie Hill grounded out. squandering the scoring chance.

Left fielder Ashley Griffith said she thought the abundance of Penn State strikeouts occurred as See STRIKEOUTS. Page 10.

OSSING A CON bined 12 stratout. surrendering only the also notched 20 strile e.g.

"It's definitely a herment," left fielder An im said of the cheaperts definitely three by pitel es. But that's access wore not capable or to be a do**in itely capable** or the se We'r e a great feans. We'r e staat adjust quicken!

In the first came, Lasses or ca-Jackie Hill matched visit is a t on the sepretromed as $\frac{1}{2}$. tossed six sequences le te start the stand and business Orange finally not to be r when Hallie Globs his a troopp home run off the seconds received seventh inning to provide a lob runs in Game 1.

In her last two stars, and be given up just three roots on their hits in 14 combined inumas. On Tuesday, the California maiscame through with numbers of base in the first six include as suc stranded 10 runners.

"It means a lot, to be able to rely on her," catcher Dance Colicit said. "Jackie knows what she's got to do, and she gets if douc.

But in the second game, Pena State's offense continued to struggle against Caira. The pitcher sold while it wasn't the game plan for her to start both games, the See SWEEP. Page 10.

Depth in backfield pivotal to success

By Brendan Monahan COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Dukes and Silas Redd how to play the running back position.

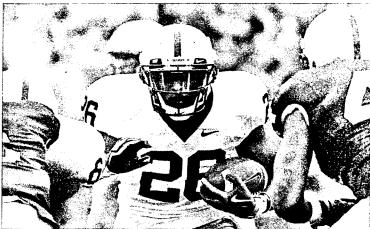
"I'll tell them you missed this, or FOOTBALL you could've done or that." this Royster said.

But the redshirt senior only points things out. He doesn't tell them what to do - they already know how to play the position. The two backs have made several "high school" mistakes such as missing blocks and cuts, but the true freshman Redd and Dukes, a sive line.

redshirt freshman, have the raw talent.

This raw talent, combined with Evan Royster won't tell Curtis experience, gives the Nittany Lions a deep backfield. But with a new quarterback and more switches possible on the offensive line, talent in the backfield may not be enough to carry the offense.

Brandon Beachum knows the pressure is on with a new quarterback but said it's a challenge he, Royster and Stephfon Green are capable of dealing with, which is evidenced by their production last season. Tight end Andrew Szczerba said taking pressure off the quarterback lies with the offen-



Redshirt freshman Curtis Dukes (26) carries the ball Saturday. Dukes and true freshman Silas Redd bolster Penn State's depth at running back.

"I don't think the running backs take a ton of pressure off the quar 481 yards away from bein whole team effort."

Joe Paterno said Roystee terback if the line's not doing its. State's career rushing leader with job," Szczerba said. "I feel like it's a have a productive season - as See DEPTH. Page 10