

# Gymnastics names coach

By James Nicol  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Jeff Thompson was named the head coach of the Penn State women's gymnastics team Thursday, the Penn State athletic department announced.

After serving 11 years as the head coach at Auburn, Thompson joins the Nittany Lions with his wife Rachelle, who will act as associate head coach. While at Auburn, Thompson was twice selected SEC Coach of the Year and NCAA Regional Head Coach of the Year. Thompson led the Tigers to eight consecutive NCAA Regional appearances and the No. 2 seed at regionals in two of the past three years.

"Rachelle and I have never been

more excited in our lives," Jeff Thompson said in the press release. "During our visit this week, we were overwhelmed by the history, tradition and overall integrity of the Penn State athletic department."

"The amount of support that the athletic programs receive at Penn State is second to none. Penn State has a long and storied history and we look forward to doing our part in the writing of the next chapter in the gymnastics record book."

Rachelle Thompson served as the associate head coach at Auburn since 2006. She was twice named the Auburn University Assistant Coach of the Year and was 2008 NACGC/W Central Region Assistant Coach of the Year.

The husband-and-wife duo have coached four NCAA All-Americans, four SEC

All-SEC team and three SEC Gymnasts of the Year.

"Jeff has been very successful in his time at Auburn, as well as at the club level," Penn State Director of Athletics Tim Curley said in the press release.

"His leadership and dedication to the sport of gymnastics will make a positive impression on our student-athletes."

"I'm extremely pleased to have Jeff and Rachelle join the Penn State staff and lead our women's gymnastics program."

Thompson is replacing Steve Shephard who resigned June 16 after serving as head coach for 17 years. In 2010, the Lions finished

third at regionals at Rec Hall, failing to qualify for a spot at nationals.

Shephard was 256-144-2 in his 16 years as the head coach of the Lions.

Penn State reached the national championship eight times during the three-time Big Ten Coach of the Year's reign.

Penn State gymnasts earned 23 All-America awards under Shephard.

The coach also had a gymnast named Big Ten Gymnast of the Year six times during his time in Happy Valley.

The Lions return three gymnasts who compete in the all-around: junior co-captain Whitney Bencsko and sophomore Sharaya Musser and Madison Merriam.

Musser is the reigning Big Ten Freshman of the Year and was a first team All-Big Ten selection.



Thompson

**MLB**  
Philadelphia at Chicago  
2:20 p.m., CSN  
Pittsburgh vs Houston  
7:05 p.m., FSN  
**GOLF**  
The Open Championship  
5 a.m., ESPN

## McIlroy 9-under after opening round

In the 137 years since the British Open first came to St. Andrews, the Old Course rarely has been such a pushover. Rarer still was the score Rory McIlroy delivered.



McIlroy

His 63 tied the lowest score in any major, and it was only the second such score at St. Andrews in golf's oldest championship.

## Golden State sold for \$450 million

Golden State Warriors owner Chris Cohan reached an agreement Thursday to sell the franchise for a record \$450 million to Boston Celtics minority partner Joe Lacob and Mandalay Entertainment CEO Peter Guber.

Lacob and Guber beat out Oracle CEO Larry Ellison, who had been considered the favorite to buy the team from Cohan. Ellison has a personal fortune of \$28 billion, according to an annual survey by Forbes magazine, and is the sixth-richest man in the world.

## Team U.S.A unveils new roster

Rajon Rondo, newly acquired Dallas center Tyson Chandler and Phoenix center Robin Lopez were selected and will be among the 21 players who will compete for a chance to play for the Americans in the world championships in Turkey from Aug. 28-Sept. 12.

None of the 2008 Olympic gold medalists were on the list, with many already saying they planned to take the summer off because of injuries or personal reasons.

Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant, the NBA's leading scorer, heads the list of those keeping their commitments to suit up.

## Women's Volleyball snubbed by ESPN

The Penn State women's volleyball team garnered just one nomination for the 2010 ESPY's.

It should have been nominated for three more.

Megan Hodge was deservedly nominated for Best Female College Athlete, but how a team that has won three-straight national championships and 102 consecutive matches was overlooked for Best Team and Best Record-Breaking Performance is baffling.

Even more confusing is how a team that battled back from two sets in the national championship to win 3-2 isn't nominated for Best Game.

This isn't to say the team should have won these awards, but they should have been nominated at the very least.

**Q: How many times has an American won the British Open?**

Thursday's Answer: The New York Yankees won their first World Series under George Steinbrenner in 1977.

# Spikes shutout by Tigers

By Jake Kaplan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Entering the game, Connecticut Tigers starting pitcher Clemente Mendoza had a robust 7.88 ERA.

It didn't show Thursday night.

Mendoza threw eight shutout innings of two-hit baseball, and the Tigers beat the State College Spikes 5-0 Thursday night at Dodd Stadium in Norwich, Conn.

It was just the second time the Spikes have been shutout this season.

Two shutouts in the first inning by second baseman Walker Gourley and another in the sixth by catcher Miguel Mendez, marked the only two State College base knocks off Mendoza, who had not allowed less than five hits in any of his prior five starts.

Matt Curry added a single to left field off Connecticut reliever Antonio Cruz in the ninth inning to extend his hit streak to 12 games.

In all, the Spikes first, third and fifth hitters combined to go 0-for-11 in the game.

Mendoza, a 6-foot right-handed pitcher from Caracas, Venezuela struck out seven Spikes (14-13) and walked just two.

He improved his record to 2-3 on the season and his ERA to 5.91 with his outstanding performance — it was the longest any starting pitcher has gone against the Spikes all season.

It was by far Mendoza's best

## Last 5 Games

7/11 vs. Vermont: 9 hits  
7/12 vs. Vermont: 20 hits  
7/13 vs. Vermont: 8 hits  
7/14 at Connecticut: 13 hits  
Last night: 3 hits

start of the year. In his first five starts, he gave up 24 runs, 21 of which were earned in 24 innings. Opponents were hitting .327 off him and he had already given up four home runs in the young season.

After tallying 41 hits in its past three games, including a franchise-record-tying 20 on Monday, State College veered from its recent form with the poor showing from the batter's box.

Connecticut (14-13), on the other hand, notched 10 hits off three Spikes' hurlers.

Tigers third baseman Matt Perry went 3-for-4 with an RBI and two runs scored, and first baseman James Robbins went 2-for-4 with 3 RBIs.

State College starting pitcher Zack Dodson was responsible for three runs on four hits in four innings.

The 19-year-old struck out five and walked three. He remains winless on the season, with his record dropping to 0-2. Ryan Beckman and Brooks Pounders threw two innings each for State College, combining to give up two runs on six hits.

The Spikes and Tigers will play the rubber match of their three-game set at 7:05 tonight.

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Matt Curry takes a swing during a game earlier this season. The first baseman went 1-for-4 Thursday, extending his hit streak to 12 games.

# Linebacker ready to return from injury

By Brendan Monahan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

This isn't the first time Michael Mauti looked more prepared coming off an injury.

As a senior in high school, he broke a bone in his foot, causing him to miss six games.

But as his Mandeville High School teammates conditioned on

the field, the linebacker rode his bike around the track that surrounded his team practice.

"He wasn't going to sit idle," Mandeville football coach Guy LeCompte said.

He returned to action in Week 7 that senior season, and as LeCompte noted, Mauti started right where he left off. His Penn State teammates are now saying the same thing after an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear in his

right knee sidelined him from play all of last season.

Though Mauti has been held out of contact, the Louisiana native has bulked up by adding about five pounds since spring — making "100 percent healthy" a term he surpassed. He's expecting to fully participate in all drills when the team opens fall camp Aug. 9.

"I'd say better than that," linebacker Nate Stupar said. "110 percent."

Mauti, who went home to train during the summer, has been yearning to play with no restraint since the Blue-White game, when he said his down period stretched to six months.

Mauti's history and anticipation aren't good signs for Stupar. Bani Gbadyu and Chris Colasanti, who are his main competitors for the three starting linebacker spots. The redshirt sophomore practiced at the Sun or strong side, during the spring but has no position preference.

Though the starting contingent isn't set, Mauti was a preseason candidate to start last season before his injury and likely is a lock to start this fall if he doesn't experience setbacks.

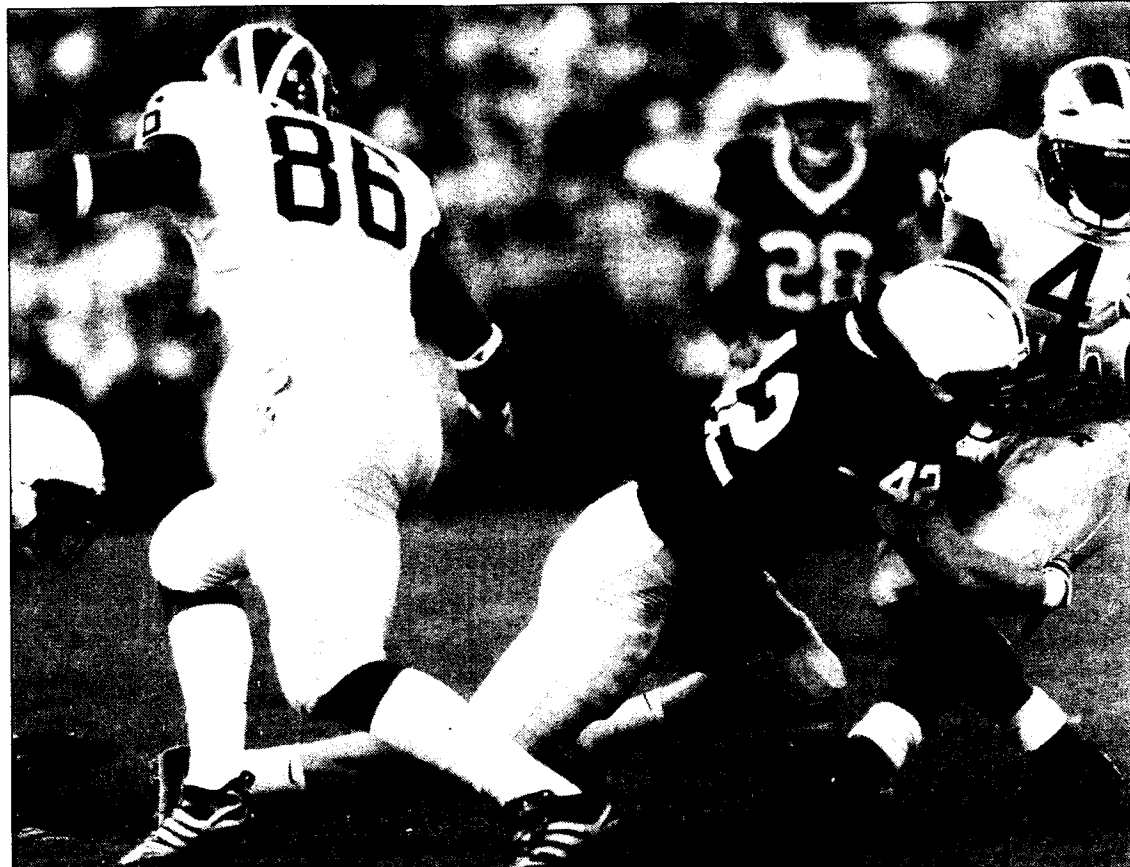
"I'm ready," Mauti said. "The way I look at it is I've had longer to prepare for this season than any other season in my life."

Stupar helped Mauti prepared during his recuperation.

Lee was in a similar situation last offseason while recovering from an ACL tear in his right knee, and gave Mauti advice throughout his recovery.

If all the statements are true about Mauti being ready, Lee's advice paid off — but he is not as much as the work ethic LeCompte said the redshirt sophomore inherited from his father, former Penn State receiver Rich Mauti. Just like when he did upper-body workouts his senior year of high school to make up for his injury-ridden lower body, Mauti seems keen for another comeback.

"He's the best I ever had as far as work ethic," LeCompte said. "I use him as an example."



Michael Mauti (42) makes a tackle in a game against Michigan in 2008.

Collegian File Photo

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