

SPORTS

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

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RB Beachum to sit out 2010 season

By **Brendan Monahan**
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After purchasing his first acoustic guitar this summer, Brandon Beachum will now have time to pursue one of his newest hobbies.

A joint decision was made by the coaching staff and Beachum to have him take a redshirt and sit out the 2010 season, allowing him to further recover from the torn ACL in his right knee

he suffered in late November.

Beachum's father, Lock, confirmed the roster move, which was first reported by Lions247.com early Monday evening. Lock added his son has no bitterness toward the decision.

"It hasn't hit him yet," Lock said. "It probably won't hit him until the first game. That's when the reality will set in."

Lock made his first practice visit a few weeks ago, and when he saw his son wasn't 100 percent,

trusted the coaching staff would make right decision.

Though Beachum was held out of tackling drills all pre-season, the 6-foot, 220-pound junior running back expected to be ready for the Sept. 4 opener against Youngstown State. Now, he likely won't board



Beachum

the plane to Alabama in two weeks, something his father said would be tough to miss.

"He did above and beyond what they wanted him to do," Lock said. "He was a month ahead of schedule."

But the coaching staff felt differently.

"I'm not sure how much my voice affects their decision," Beachum said Aug. 12 at Media Day. "Ultimately it comes down to what they think is best for the

team, but if I can't do the things that I've normally done that I did before the injury, then obviously I'll hold myself out."

All offseason, teammates said Beachum was rehabbing hard to return to action. Despite those efforts, Lock said the joint decision is something he can understand.

Even though his son would rather be playing, making sure he will be able to return to top form

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Spikes drop series

By **Jake Kaplan**
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Mahoning Valley Scrappers managed only six hits off State College Spikes pitchers Monday night, but one pitch made a big difference in the game.

Spikes' relief pitcher Brooks Pounders threw a wild pitch with the bases loaded and two outs in the fifth inning, and two Scrappers crossed the plate to put State College in an early hole it would not recover from.

The Spikes didn't help themselves out from the batter's box, either, managing only three hits in the contest en route to a 4-1 loss at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park. The defeat gives the Spikes (30-32) a 3-3 record for the home-stand.

"I don't know. I really do not know," State College manager Gary Robinson said of the lack of offense.

Two of the three State College hits didn't even get out of the infield, and the team struggled when they did get runners on base. The Spikes were 0-for-6 with runners in scoring position.

"I think it's something that we are concerned about but we're going to get it fixed," Robinson said. "We're just kind of in a little funk. I don't like making excuses. I think we're making some bad choices, but I don't think it's lack of aggressiveness. I don't think that it's an approach issue so much that it is pressing a little bit."

Shortstop Drew Maggi gave the Spikes a chance to tally a run in the sixth inning, drawing a walk to leadoff the inning and advancing to second on an error before stealing third. First baseman Gerlis Rodriguez grounded into an inning ending double play, however, and the Spikes were kept off the board for the sixth straight frame.

The Spikes finally got on the board in the seventh, but they had a chance to put up a crooked number on the scoreboard. The first two State College batters reached base in the seventh before second baseman Gift Ngoepe struck out swinging on a full count. After an error helped State College get its lone run, the next two Spikes were retired to end the threat, leaving runners on second and third.

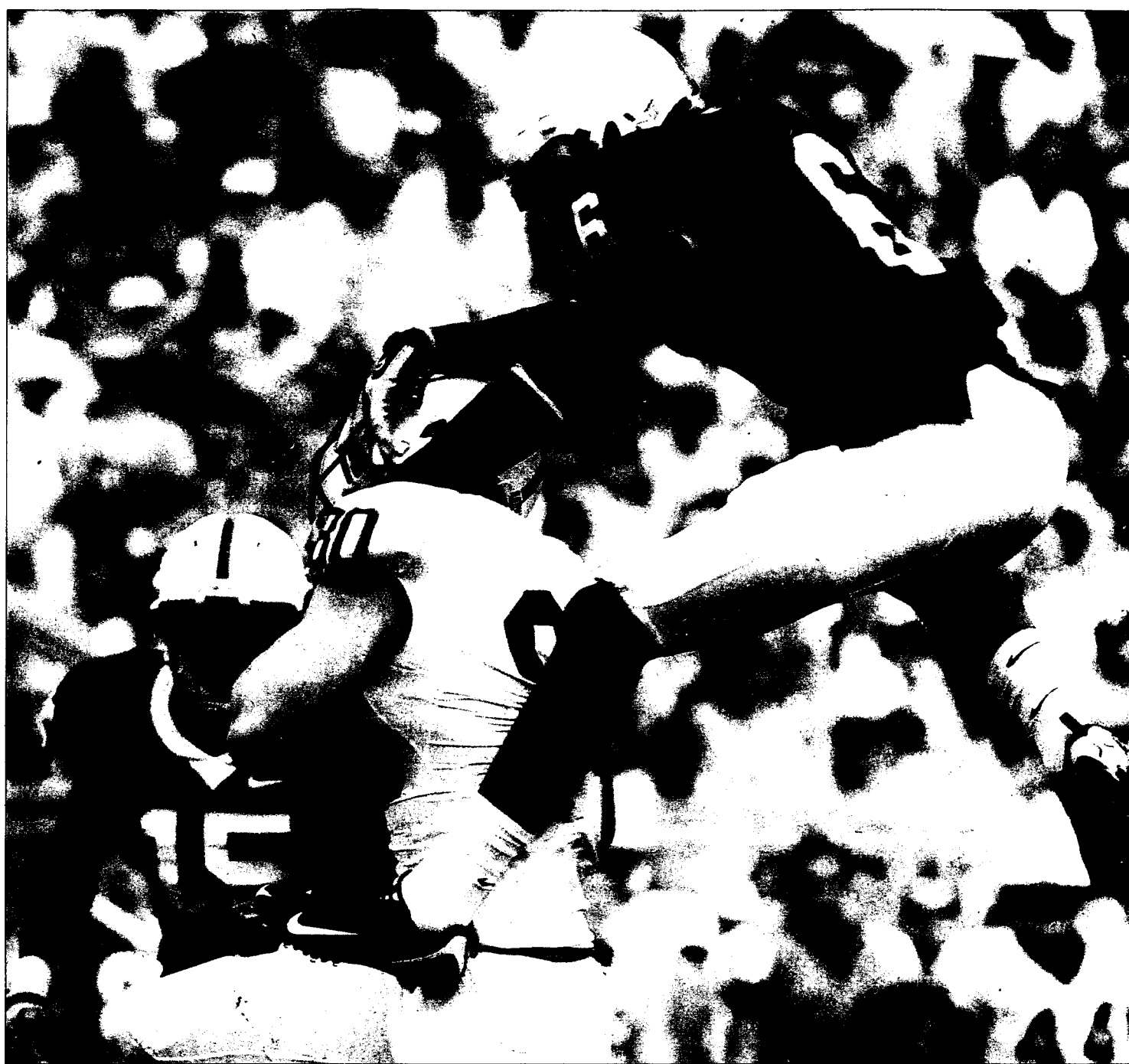
The Spikes finished off the poor hitting performance going down in order in the eighth and ninth innings.

Though Robinson was disappointed with the loss, he was quick to give credit to Casey Gaynor, the Scrappers' starting pitcher. Gaynor (5-2) threw 5.1 innings of shutout ball, and allowed just three hits.

Robinson also admitted that the wild pitch in the fifth inning sapped some of the energy out of his team.

"It's a crazy play. I've never seen it in my life. [Catcher Miguel Mendez] just couldn't find the ball. He should've blocked the ball. He should've blocked the ball."

See **SPIKES**, Page 14.



David Walker/Collegian

Gerald Hodges (6) tries to field the ball from Andrew Szczerba (80) during the Blue and White scrimmage in the Spring of 2009. Hodges is one of six linebackers expected to see significant playing time this season.

Rotation likely for linebackers

By **Brendan Monahan**
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Linebackers coach Ron Vanderlinden never began the season with three new starting linebackers.

But since 2001, when Vanderlinden joined Penn State's staff, there has never been a linebacker corps as deep as this season's.



Vanderlinden

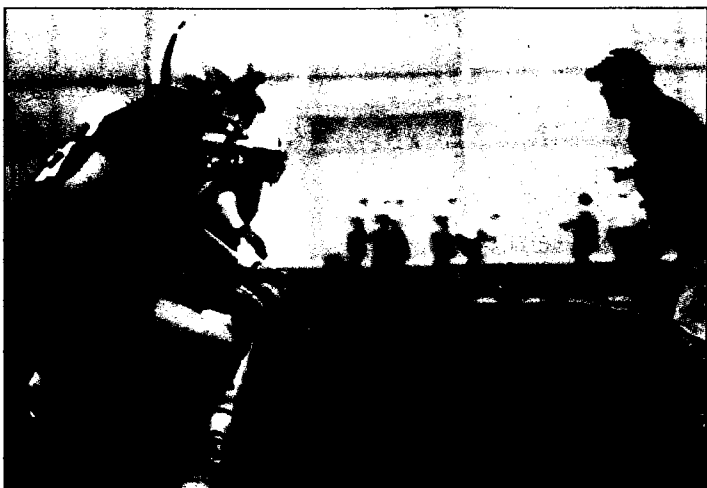
"We have a multitude of guys

that can play at a high level," Vanderlinden said, "so I think this will be the first year in my tenure here that we'll play a lot of guys."

Replacing Sean Lee, NaVorro Bowman and Josh Hull won't be an easy task, but instead of the normal three replacements, Penn State has a contingent six players deep with 186 combined career tackles.

The depth redshirt sophomore Michael Mauti, senior Chris Colasanti, redshirt senior Bani Gbadyu, redshirt junior Nate Stupar, sophomore Gerald

See **ROTATION**, Page 14.



Chloe Elmer/Collegian

An assistant coach runs drills with the linebackers during football practice in Holuba Hall in Spring of 2009.

Mauti set for return to field

By **Audrey Snyder**
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

There's a list of things Michael Mauti wishes he would've been able to accomplish last season.

Tucked in the back of his mind sits the painful reminder of not being able to be a part of last season's linebacker rotation.

Forced to red-shirt because of a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his right knee, Mauti's time on the sideline was anything but easy.

As the season progressed and Penn State played its last three regular season games, being unable to take the field hurt the Louisiana native more and more. Add in his role as a spectator during the Capital One Bowl win against LSU — a program who recruited the 6-foot-2, 231-pound linebacker — and Mauti's frustrations mounted.

"It's just one of those things," Mauti said of the bowl game. "Just add it to another list of things I got to sit out."

But with all the negatives of dealing with the injury, Mauti and his coaches believe the past year

has been instrumental to his development as a player. Having the chance to learn the finer details of the position is something the redshirt sophomore hopes will keep him in contention with Nate Stupar for the starting weakside linebacker spot.

"He's so much more refined than he was as a freshman," linebackers coach Ron Vanderlinden said. "As a freshman he was talented and would run around, some good [plays] and some bad [plays], but I think he's so much more of a complete football player now."

After being held out most of the spring, many of Mauti's teammates and coaches said the linebacker is better and stronger than ever. He added five pounds during the summer, and the linebacker whose slicked-back hair gives him the look of a hard-nosed throw-back, is now seeing the game slow down before his eyes.

Perhaps it was the Xs and Os sessions Mauti and Vanderlinden shared during the winter months that improved his sense of sense of confidence. Or maybe it was the view Mauti had from the sidelines that allowed him to watch Sean

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For a story on LB Colasanti's chance to shine. | **SPORTS**, Page 14.

THE LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV

MLB

Philadelphia vs. Houston

7:05 p.m., CSN

Pittsburgh vs. St. Louis

7:05 p.m., FSN

QUICK HITS (AP)

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Nats' rookie Strasburg going back on DL

Stephen Strasburg is headed back to the disabled list, and his prized right arm will undergo another examination that may determine whether he pitches again this season.

The Washington Nationals rookie gri-

maced after throwing a changeup in Saturday's game at Philadelphia. Strasburg was removed from the game and underwent an MRI on Sunday.

OUR THOUGHTS

NFL

Rose Bowl rematch the focus of MNF QB match-up

Tennessee Titans quarterback Vince Young and Arizona Cardinals quarterback

Matt Leinart faced off again last night in a preseason game in Tennessee.

Call us crazy, but when the best way to highlight an NFL quarterback duel is by noting the players' last meeting in the NCAA title game five years ago, that's usually not a good sign.

TRIVIA

MAJOR LEAGUE

Q: Who was the last Toronto Blue Jays player to lead the league in home runs?