

# PIGSKIN PREVIEW

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THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

## 2010 Schedule

Sept. 4: Youngstown State  
Sept. 11: @ Alabama  
Sept. 18: Kent State  
Sept. 25: Temple  
Oct. 2: @ Iowa  
Oct. 9: Illinois  
Oct. 16: Bye  
Oct. 23: @ Minnesota  
Oct. 30: Michigan  
Nov. 6: Northwestern  
Nov. 13: @ Ohio State  
Nov. 20: Indiana  
(Landover, Md.)  
Nov. 27: Michigan State



## Intriguing storylines highlight football season

By Andrew J. Cassavell, Brendan Monahan and Audrey Snyder  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITERS

Gone are the days of Daryll Clark, Jared Odrick and Sean Lee. With those key departures, the 2010 Penn State football team has unproven talent stockpiled at key positions. The quarterback hasn't been named, Linebacker U will

have three new starters and the focal point of the defensive line is stuck in the shadow of Odrick.

And though the new leaders might not trigger memories of the celebration on a muddy Florida Citrus Bowl field — Clark's postgame speech, the linebackers conducting the Blue Band, a child soaking it all in atop Odrick's shoulders — the 2010 season

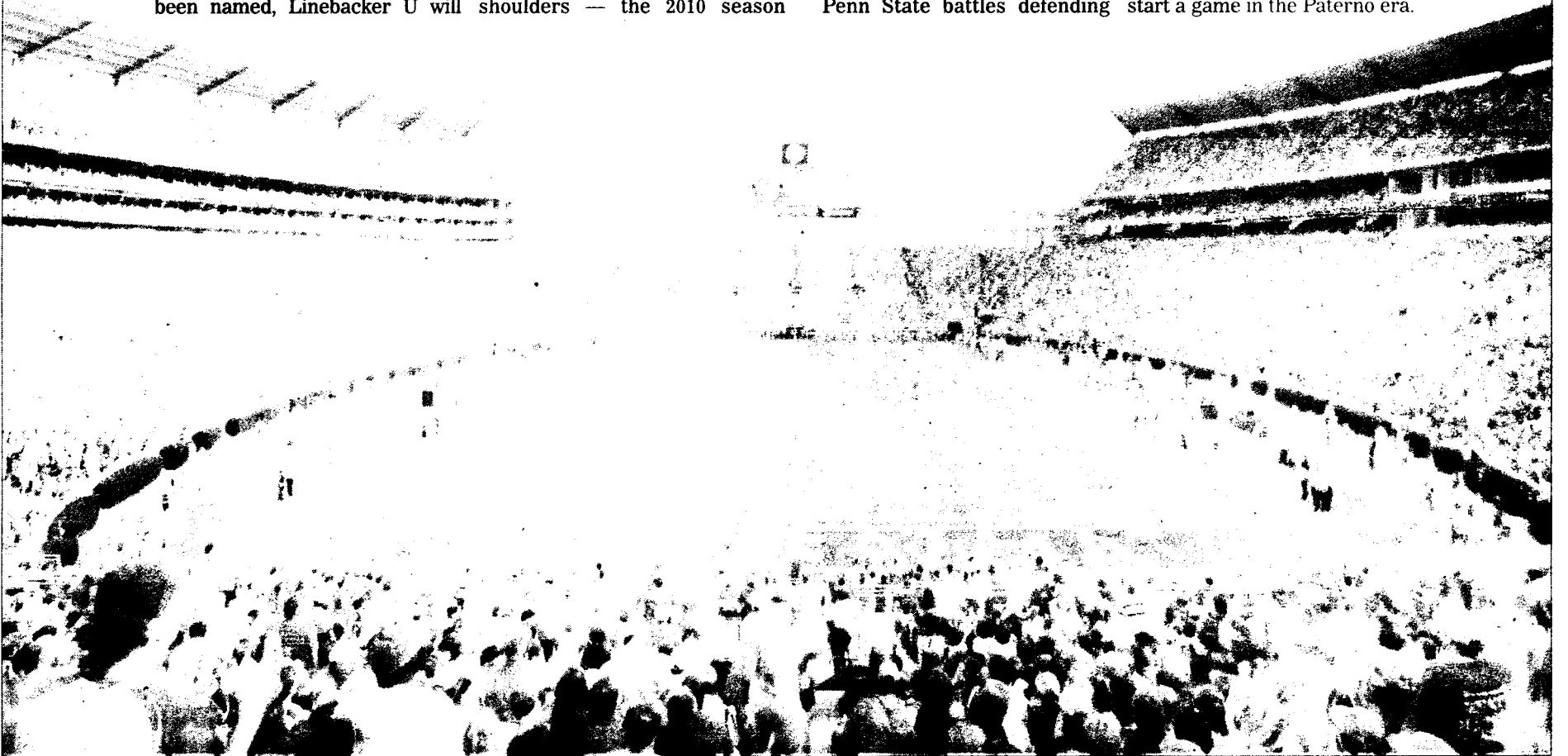
brings some of the more intriguing storylines in the history of the program.

Joe Paterno, six wins shy of 400, hampered by health issues all summer, seems closer to the end of his 61-year career than ever.

Tailback Evan Royster is 481 yards from breaking Curt Warner's all-time rushing record. Penn State battles defending

national champion and No. 1 Alabama — the first time in 33 years the Nittany Lions play a regular season road game against an out-of-conference defending national champion.

And a freshman quarterback has been the darling of fall practice, given a chance to become just the third freshman quarterback to start a game in the Paterno era.



Courtesy of Google Images

Bryant-Denny Stadium, in Tuscaloosa, Ala., plays host to one of the nation's most anticipated nonconference games when Penn State travels to Alabama on Sept. 11. The road game against the defending national champions is one of a handful of intriguing storylines to follow throughout the college football season.

### Royster rushing for record

The redshirt senior running back is 481 yards away from breaking Warner's 27-year-old career rushing record.

"It's kind of hard not to think about it," Royster said. "It's been brought up so much. I want to get it out of the way, so I can just get on with my season. The earlier the better."

Cynics will say Royster had the help of a 12-game schedule. But if Royster reaches the mark — which may come as early as late September — he will have done so in an era of multiple-back offensive schemes.

Either way, he fully understands the extent and history behind

being the school's all-time rushing leader.

"I'll look back on it, and it'll be the greatest individual achievement of my life," he said.

"It's exciting, but I try not to think about it too much."

### A league of his own

Paterno is already the winningest FBS coach, and he's about to be the only one to reach 400 wins.

At the earliest, Paterno can reach the milestone against Illinois at Beaver Stadium, but it may have to wait a week or two later, whether in Minnesota or at home against Michigan in a primetime contest.

Only two college football coaches, John Gagliardi at Carroll College and St. John's University and Grambling State's Eddie Robinson have reached 400 wins.

The feat would only add to an already-cemented legacy that includes two national championships and five undefeated seasons.

"When I'm down and looking up, are they going to put 399 on top of me or are they going to put 401?" Paterno said. "Who the hell cares?"

### 'Bama's bright lights

The Lions will be thrown into the fire after just one tune-up.

The last time they competed against the defending national champions was 2003 against Ohio State, a 21-20 loss at Beaver Stadium.

This time, though, they play an out-of-conference national champion on the road. Penn State will travel to Tuscaloosa against a loaded offense led by defending Heisman Trophy winner Mark Ingram.

The season also features road matchups against two more pre-season top-10 teams, No. 2 Ohio State and No. 9 Iowa, making the Lions the first team to face three BCS winners on the road from the year before.

### Year 1 A.D. (After Daryll)

The muddiest quarterback race in years is winding down, and your guess is as good as any as to who gets the call Sept. 4.

No one seems to have separated from the pack, giving credence to the notion of Robert Bolden becoming the first freshman to open the season as the starting quarterback since Paterno stepped foot on campus in 1950.

Kevin Newsome and Matt McGloin are the other two candidates, both with at least a year's experience with the playbook.

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## Collegian Predictions

### Brendan Monahan

Record: 9-3 (6-2 Big Ten)  
Bowl game: Outback Bowl



Offensive player of the year:

WR Graham Zug

Defensive player of the year:

DE Jack Crawford

Season outlook: Penn State has a demanding road schedule, which could wear on the team.

The Nittany Lions, facing three pre-season top-10 teams away, will find it hard to steal one against Alabama, Ohio State and Iowa, especially with the quarterback position being an uncertainty.

If no quarterback stands out enough, a dual-quarterback system could be implemented, maybe as soon as Youngstown State. Either way in Alabama, whether it's Kevin Newsome, Matt McGloin or Robert Bolden, no quarterback has significant experience.

### A.J. Cassavell

Record: 8-4 (5-3 Big Ten)  
Bowl Game: Outback Bowl



Offensive player of the year:

RG Stefan Wisniewski

Defensive player of the year:

CB Stephon Morris

Season Outlook: Forget September, the season begins October 2 in Iowa. The Lions will handle three non-BCS opponents, and will struggle against No. 1 Alabama.

That will leave the Lions with a make-or-break game in their Big Ten opener, and Kinnick Stadium has been a house of horrors. Expect that trend to continue as the Hawkeyes may have the conference's best defense facing a shaky O-Line with a first-year quarterback.

But the Penn State defense isn't too bad either and will keep the Lions in every game — some of which could be 13-10 or 10-7 affairs.

### Audrey Snyder

Record: 8-4 (5-3 Big Ten)  
Bowl game: Outback Bowl



Offensive player of the year:

RB Evan Royster

Defensive player of the year:

DT Devon Still

Season outlook: An early road trip to Alabama will be a serious wake up call for the Nittany Lions. Add in road games with Iowa and Ohio State and it's tough to see the Lions having a winning record on the road.

Luckily for the Lions, Evan Royster is poised to carry the load and should become Penn State's all-time leading rusher.

The defense shouldn't have a problem plugging in three new linebackers.