

Nairn playing new role

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Christine Nairn is the reigning Big Ten Freshman of the Year, a 2009 first-team All-Big Ten selection, led the conference with 10 assists last year as an attacking central midfielder and was named a preseason 2010 All-American.

WOMEN'S
SOCCER

But through three games this season, Nairn has done a lot of defending thanks to a new role — playing deeper in the midfield. Though the sophomore is no longer as much of an offensive threat in the current formation,

she has grown as a leader on the field.

"Being on the national [level], well everything there is, she's a good role model to look up to," freshman midfielder Taylor Schram said. "She's a leader on the field and she takes care of everyone, she organizes everything. It's really an honor to play next to her, I learn a lot from her."

With the Nittany Lions starting three forwards this season, Nairn has played as a true center midfielder, as opposed to the attacking role she occupied as a freshman. Consequently, Nairn has had to adapt a more defensive presence on the field and said that's been the biggest change from her

mindset as a freshman.

In the U-20 FIFA World Cup this summer, Nairn played the same role for the United States. Against Virginia and William & Mary last weekend, Nairn covered the entire field for the Nittany Lions, chasing down attackers and trying to create offense when the ball went through the middle.

Covering as much ground as she has in the last three games, Nairn said she is learning how to pace herself on the field, too.

"You get to a certain point and a wall where you're like, 'Oh my gosh, I'm exhausted,'" Nairn said. "But as soon as you get past that wall it's just like, 'Let's do this,' See NAIRN, Page 14.



Sarah Finnegan/Collegian
Christine Nairn (10) goes up.

Spikes lose fourth in row

By Jake Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Batavia Muckdogs continued to show the State College Spikes why they are the first-place team in the Pinckney Division.

SPIKES

6
Batavia

2
State College

A 6-2 Spikes' loss to the Muckdogs Monday night at Dwyer Stadium in Batavia, N.Y. marked the fourth-consecutive night Batavia came out on the winning end against the Pittsburgh Pirates' short-season Class A affiliate. It was also the seventh win in the last eight games for Batavia — which owns the second-best record in the New York Penn League — and its 10th victory in its last 12 contests.

The Muckdogs, who tallied 4 hits combined in the first three games of the five-game tilt — the first two games of the series were played in State College — continued to have success from the batter's box Monday night, adding 10 more base knocks to their series total.

"They've been really good," said Spikes second baseman Kelson Brown of Batavia's offense. "They seem to hit the fastball really well, and are really disciplined at not chasing and pitches. It's a good approach and they've been executing, as it seemed like their entire lineup hit."

Batavia opened the scoring Monday night. A single and a double began the third inning, in which the Muckdogs sent eight batters to the plate and scored three runs on three hits.

State College starting pitcher Brandon Cumpston, making just his second professional start, didn't survive the inning as Kevin Decker relieved him to get the third out of the stanza. Cumpston, who was responsible for all three of the runs in the third stanza, was tagged with his first career loss.

Three doubles — two off Decker and one off left-hander Justin Ennis — helped the Muckdogs improve their lead to 6-1 in the sixth inning.

Batavia's pitching staff kept State College (32-37) in check the entire game. John Mast, improved his record to 6- and his ERA to 1.54 on the season with his performance. The left-hander, who was a sixth-round

See SPIKES, Page 14.

A NEW VOICE



Daniel Bott/Collegian

Joe Paterno speaks at football media day on Aug. 12. Paterno will hold the first of his weekly press conferences today at 12:30 p.m., where he's expected to announce Saturday's starting quarterback. For a column by Andrew J. Cassavell on the QB race. | SPORTS, Page 12.

New setter adds energy, enthusiasm

By Emily Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Kristin Carpenter is always willing to help out a teammate — even if it means she'll fall flat on her face.

At a track practice in high school, Carpenter — now a sophomore on the Penn State women's volleyball team — was whizzing through hurdles, but her friend was lag-

WOMEN'S
VOLLEYBALL

ging behind. Carpenter turned around to offer encouragement, but while doing so, took a nasty spill.

The next weekend Carpenter had a club volleyball tournament. With a busted lip, swollen cheeks and a look her father, Curtis, describes as "really, a pretty sight," she arrived in a T-shirt



Carpenter

inked with a slogan she designed herself: "I fell over a freaking hurdle. That's what happened."

It's that light-hearted determination that has made Carpenter one of the most energetic players on the No. 1 Nittany Lions' roster. It has also helped her become the team's new starting setter.

"[Carpenter is] a really critical part of our team's success," junior Katie Kabbes said. "She's a spunky little player."

Last weekend at the Lions' season-opening tournament in North

Carolina, Carpenter played a majority of the first-team reps at setter. And she shined, quarterbacking an offense that attacked at a .461 clip in the weekend's finale against Campbell.

Her performance gave her a See CARPENTER, Page 14.



ON THE BLOG

Read more tidbits about sophomore Kristin Carpenter on the Can You Dig It? blog: psucollegian.com

WR Brackett's role changes in time for senior year

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Team-wise, there are a lot of things Brett Brackett wants to accomplish this season.

Individually, his objectives are simpler and fewer. His father said he has only one.

"His goal has always been to play," Bob Brackett said.

In an offense that figures to use plenty of three-wide receiver sets

FOOTBALL

this season following the departure of a pair of NFL-bound tight ends, a starting spot for Brackett seemed very likely. But when the final summer depth chart was released Sunday, Brackett remained on the second team, with sophomore Devin Smith plugged in for the injured Curtis Drake.

Brackett was lost in the shuffle last season, catching just three passes for 13 yards. In Saturday's season opener against Youngstown State, Brackett will

be back in the H-Back where he played in 2008, when he'll be sent in motion and used as a blocker out of the backfield, while still posing a threat as a slot receiver.

"I didn't have the year I was looking for but luckily I was only a junior," Brackett said during spring practice. "This year I have another opportunity to make an impact receiving the ball."

With the departures of Mickey Shuler and Andrew Quarless, red-shirt freshman Garry Gilliam appears poised to take over the

vacant tight end spot. The inexperience at the position may mean more spread formations, where Brackett could fill the role of the graduated, pass-catching tight ends.

During his sophomore season, See BRACKETT, Page 14.



ON THE BLOG

Read the football writers' preseason BCS projections and hear the newest podcast on the Football: psucollegian.com



Collegian file photo
Brett Brackett (83) runs a pattern.

SPORTS ON TV

MLB
Philadelphia at Los Angeles
10:10 tonight, CSN
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs
8:05 tonight, FSN

TRIVIA

Q: Who was the last Phillie to lead the NL in ERA?
Monday's answer: 1999, his first season.

BASEBALL HITS (AP)

Clemens pleads not guilty

Roger Clemens put his right hand on the lectern, leaned down toward the microphone and made what might be the most important pitch of his life: "Not guilty, your honor."

Those words, uttered Monday in a strong, confident voice by the seven-time Cy Young Award winner sporting a black blazer and blond highlights in his hair, marked the official beginning of a court case that could taint baseball even further and land the "Rocket" in jail.

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton presided over an arraignment hearing that lasted less than 14 minutes in the ceremonial courtroom at the federal courthouse.

Manny era finished in LA

Manny Ramirez captivated Los Angeles when he arrived two years ago, lifting the Dodgers into the playoffs and beguiling the fans with his dreadlocks, his smile and his big swing.

It all ended Monday when the Chicago White Sox claimed the slugger on waivers from the Dodgers, who received nothing in return.

In reality, though, Mannywood had gone into foreclosure a long time ago. Ramirez parted ways with his teammates after the team's flight from Colorado arrived in Los Angeles on Sunday night.

But some remembered him fondly on Monday, believing his short stint among them was well worth everything it brought, both good and bad.

OUR THOUGHTS

Herbie still giving PSU ove

ESPN's Kirk Herbstreit ranked Penn State No. 1 in the "Stay in School/Top Student Sections" category of his 10th Annual Herbie Awards, saying "Penn State's White Out is a sight to behold."

Herbstreit also recognized Evan Royster as a top running back and named Stefan Wisniewski to his "All-Hebie" team. College football is just about back, and it looks as if Herbstreit's adoration for the Lions has returned for yet another season. Unfortunately, though, the Herbie Awards mean close to nothing.

But we can always hope they influence the guys that vote on the real awards in December.