

## Linemen looking to move on

By Audrey Snyder  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Ollie Ogbu is tired of hearing the same question year after year.

Asked if Penn State's defensive line would take a step back after Jared Odrick was selected in the first round of the 2010 NFL Draft, the defensive captain didn't hesitate.

"Well, Aaron Maybin was a first round draft pick [in 2009] and so was Jared. And they both came year after year," Ogbu said. "So we kind of build off that."

While Ogbu is reminded he's the

only senior on the Nittany Lions' defensive line every time he walks into the meeting room, he's certain the team's young talent will make the line just as good as last year's.

"Every year I feel like people say the same thing, 'How good is your D-Line gonna be? You lost this All American or that All American,' but every year we keep having guys step up and play," Ogbu said.

Part of the reason for Ogbu's optimism comes from the amount of praise defensive tackle Devon Still received.

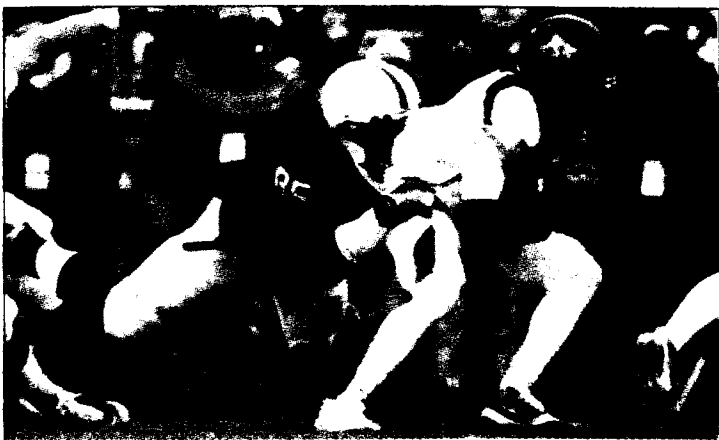
Even Joe Paterno, who isn't one to just hand out compliments, said the redshirt junior was already a good player last year.

Despite playing in the shadow of Odrick, the 6-foot-5-inch, 311-pound tackle spent the offseason doing something Odrick did so well: getting off the ball fast.

"If I can get off the ball fast enough, I can create more havoc in the backfield," Still said. "And whenever you can create havoc in the backfield, it's a good thing."

With Ogbu expected to see more than his share of double teams at nose guard, Still said he hopes he can capitalize on his one-on-one matchups, and like Odrick, make a name for himself at a position that receives little accolades.

Redshirt sophomore James See LINEMAN, Page 12.



Daniel Bott/Colegian  
Ollie Ogbu (85) makes a tackle against Minnesota last season.

## Monroig taking new role

By Alex Angert  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Maddy Evans took a seat on the field, lowered her head and placed it in her lap following last weekend's disappointing loss to William & Mary.

Senior Megan Monroig would have none of that. She walked over to Evans, reached out an arm and pulled her younger teammate up from off the ground.

For Monroig, a simple act like this hasn't been uncharacteristic so far this year. As one of only two seniors on a young team, Monroig's coaches and teammates have watched her raise the bar for the rest of the team and step into a position of leadership on and off the field.

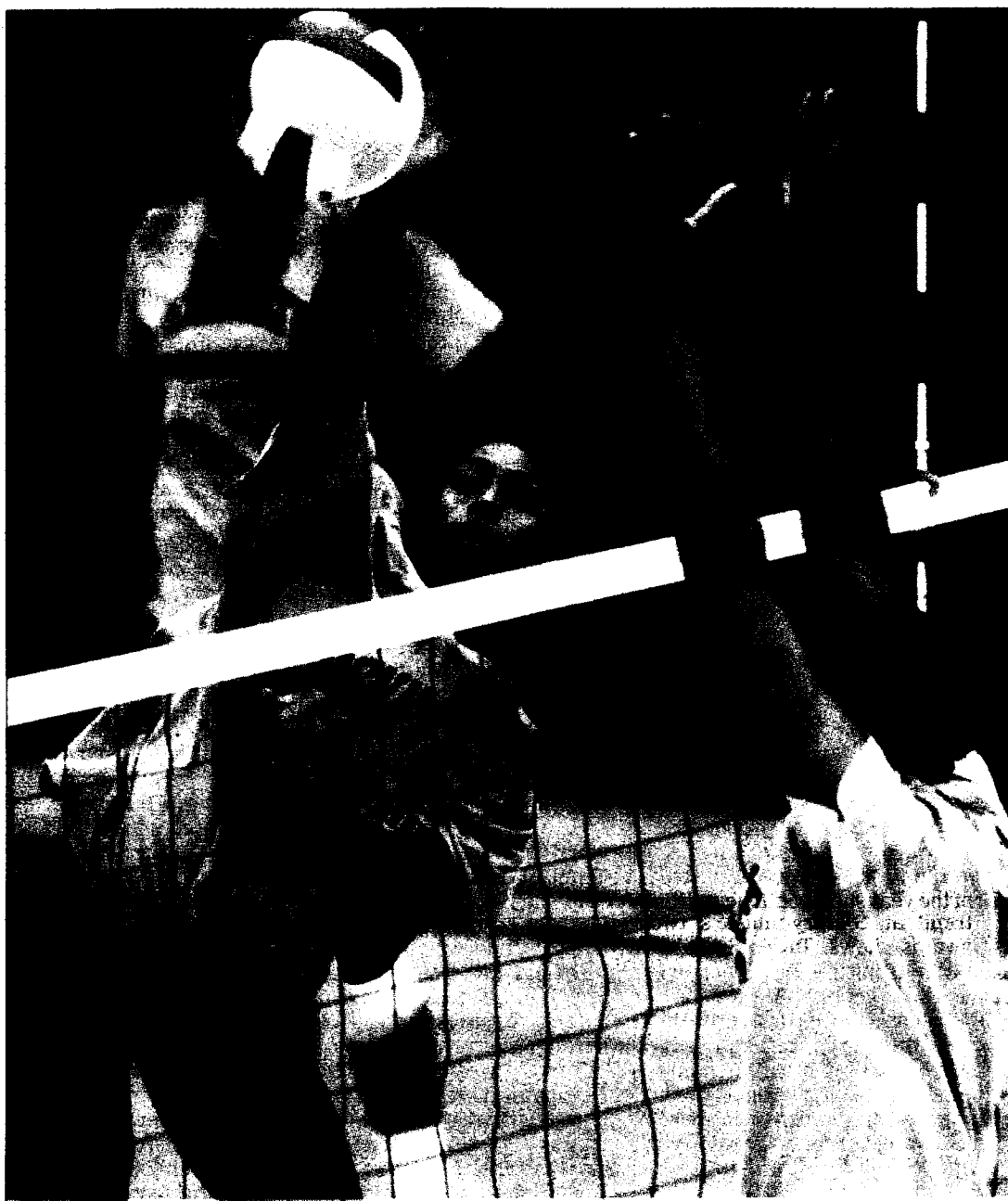
"She's been fantastic," coach Erica Walsh said. "She was out here [Tuesday] having her hardest training session of the year and she completely set the standard. She's got a better psychological dimension and she's going to bring this team up with her."

With her patented black headband and armbands on, Monroig roamed through the backfield during last weekend's games with her sights on the ball. And as soon as it entered her zone, in the blink of an eye she cocked her foot back and cleared it right back out of danger.

But it's not just her ability to defend that makes her so valuable, but also her ability to lead on the field too. Barreling after forwards like a freight train, Monroig shouts out to her fellow defenders and helps lead the communication on the field amongst the players.

A leadership she has developed over time, Monroig knows how to pick up on things during a game and relay them to her coaches and teammates.

"She's leading it in different See ROLE, Page 12.



Tyler Sizemore/Colegian  
Ariel Scott (left) goes up for a kill during practice Wednesday. Scott may redshirt this season.

## Freshmen could redshirt

By Emily Kaplan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Blair Brown sat on the sideline her entire freshman year.

At practice, she would blend in with the other 16 players on the Penn State women's volleyball roster.

Dressed in navy spandex and a light-colored gym shirt, she would push through

drills and sweat through grueling weight room sessions — just like everybody else.

Come game time, however, the 6-foot-5 outside hitter's home was on the side of the court, where her contribution to the team was limited to just vocal encouragement.

But ask Brown to describe the 2006 season, and she'll say one thing — it was the best thing that happened to her volleyball career.

As the 2010 season shifts into full swing, the Penn State coaching staff faces a familiar dilemma: From the crop of new freshmen, who can benefit from an experience like Brown's?

The answer, at least for now, is still up in the air.

"At this point, until further notice, I'm probably redshirting the girls who haven't played," coach Russ Rose said. "Whether or not that changes [depends on] See REDSHIRT, Page 12.

## Spikes streak at six

By Jake Kaplan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The State College Spikes took a complete 360-degree turn Wednesday night.

One night removed from an 11-run and 13-hit performance, the Spikes mustered a mere two hits, and were shut out by the Auburn Doubledays. The 1-0 defeat in front of 3,324 fans at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park extended the Spikes' losing streak to six games.

It probably goes without saying that the Spikes are frustrated right now. With the loss, State College (32-39) dropped to fifth place in the Pinckney Division standings, one game behind Auburn (33-38).

"I know they know they're better than that," State College manager Gary Robinson said. "I know that there is not one guy in that room that wants me to sit here and make excuses for why we're not winning games. We've been in the games."

The Spikes were held hitless for the final four innings Wednesday night as a Drew Maggi infield single in the third inning and a line single to center by Kelson Brown in the fifth were the only two Spikes' base knocks all night.

Only once the entire game did a State College base runner reach third base as the Spikes See SPIKES, Page 12.

Spikes' pitcher Zac Fuessner had his best outing of the season. See [psucollegian.com](http://psucollegian.com)

### SPIKES

1  
Auburn

0  
State College



Steph Witt/Colegian  
Monroig (yellow) runs after a ball during practice last spring.

## Lions trying to focus on Youngstown State

By Andrew J. Cassavell  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It may seem strange the words "Youngstown State" were not included in any question asked of Joe Paterno at his weekly press conference. After all, the Lions open their season at noon Saturday against the Penguins.

But, given that nine days from now Penn State heads to No. 1

Alabama for its first game against a defending national champion since 2003, Nittany Lion fans and media alike have overlooked Youngstown State in the weeks leading up to the opener.

The players are trying to avoid falling into a similar trap.



Paterno

Doing so, however, isn't easy, senior guard Stefan Wisniewski said. The Crimson Tide have been the first thing on his mind throughout the offseason. But in the week leading up to Youngstown State, Wisniewski said his sole focus will be on a brighter shade of red.



Wisniewski

"In the offseason, the game we thought about was Alabama — more than Youngstown," Wisniewski said. "But this week, the team's done well of being focused on the game we have this week, which is Youngstown. I don't think we'll be thinking about Alabama until we finish our game with Youngstown."

See FOCUS, Page 12.

For more coverage on the football team. | SPORTS, Page 13.

## THE LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV

MLB  
Philadelphia at Colorado  
7:10 p.m., CSN

### TRIVIA

Q: When was the last time the Pittsburgh Pirates lost 100 games in a season?

Wednesday's Answer: Bruce Arena coached U.S.A. soccer before current coach Bob Bradley

### QUICK HITS

#### Player collapses on court

The scene was simply scary: Victoria Azarenka, a 21-year-old on the rise in the WTA rankings, paused about a half-hour into her second-round match Wednesday at the U.S. Open, then staggered, stumbled and collapsed to the court.

Azarenka, seeded 10th in the Grand Slam tournament, rolled over to rest her head on her arm, and a trainer rushed over.

Someone covered Azarenka's legs with a white towel. She eventually was helped into a wheelchair, her yellow visor askew atop her head, then taken to a hospital, where tests showed she had a mild concussion. Azarenka herself later revealed she fell in the gym while warming up.

#### Clarett confident of success

Maurice Clarett sidestepped questions about his past Wednesday in his first comments since signing with Omaha's United Football League team, saying he wants to discuss what lies ahead.

The former Ohio State star said that he hoped for but was unsure he would be given a chance to play again. He said his legs are fresh and he's confident he can be successful once he readjusts to the demands of football.

Clarett hasn't played in a game since helping lead Ohio State to the 2002 national championship. He broke NCAA rules for accepting gifts, lost a bid to enter the NFL after his freshman year, got cut by the Denver Broncos once he was drafted, and then served 3½ years in prison for his role in a robbery.

### OUR THOUGHTS

#### 'Bama starter matters more

Congratulations to Robert Bolden on being named starting quarterback. But despite all the history that goes along with him being the first true freshman to start a season under center, this week isn't the one that matters.

Youngstown State essentially serves as a glorified scrimmage. If Bolden struggles on Saturday and in the next week of practice, being named starter on opening day shouldn't guarantee him the starting job in Alabama.

Matt McGloin and Kevin Newsome likely aren't too thrilled with Joe Paterno's decision and will be waiting for a chance in case Bolden stumbles.