

# QB move shows assistants' influences

By Brendan Monahan

Joe Paterno tapped lightly on the table in front of him, smiled softly and sighed.

The sigh was probably a tired, foreboding response to the multiple quarterback questions about to be fired at him during his Tuesday press conference. But he didn't seem bothered.

The head coach was introspective, calm, soft-spoken and ready to talk. His steady eyes and calm voice said he enjoyed the pre-season practices up to that point, as if he carried a lesser burden.

"Another year," Paterno said after the 30-minute meeting with the media.

It must seem like another year for the legendary coach, but it's one unlike any other.



MY OPINION

A true freshman, Robert Bolden, will start the season at quarterback Saturday against Youngstown State, the first time that's happened in the Paterno era.

A calm, steady, smiling Paterno, and more importantly, a historic decision to pick Bolden shows the coach has delegated more decision making to his assistant coaches.

No one can blame him, not after the intestinal flu sidelined him from several public events this summer.

"That's obvious that he's been delegating more," Penn State football historian Lou Prato said. "But you can tell over the years that he's been delegating more. Joe has reached the age where he is realizing that his career is coming to an end, like we all do."

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The trend started around 2004, when Penn State named Mike McQueary the recruiting coordinator and continued in 2005, when freshmen Derrick Williams and Justin King were key players instrumental in bringing Penn State back to prominence with an Orange Bowl victory over Florida State.

But the Bolden decision proves Paterno's assistants may now have more influence than ever before.

No one disagrees the quarterback decision was Joe's, just that the assistant coaches may have had more input than in years past.

There is another side to the story, though.

"He's always done it his way, always tried to give the older guy a shot first," former quarterback Todd Blackledge said. "But Joe is a whole lot more flexible and open-minded than people give him credit for."

Which begs the question — has Paterno become more open-minded in the twilight of his career?

Has he delegated more of what used to be his work to his assistants?

Or is it a combination of the two?

Maybe Bolden, though a true freshman, is good enough to convince Paterno to make a historic decision.

"I'm sure he asks the opinion of the staff," former broadcaster Fran Fisher said.

"Probably Galen Hall and Jay [Paterno] had input, but ultimately it's Joe's decision."

Ultimately, Paterno's body language may tell the tale best. On Tuesday, his easy demeanor depicted Paterno carries a lighter burden.

"I don't coach on the field as much as I used to," Paterno said last month, admitting his assistants are probably more involved. "They're doing most of the coaching on the field."

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## Field hockey looking for revenge against UConn

By Joe McIntyre  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Revenge is a dish best served cold. And the Penn State field hockey team has been preparing all week in the hopes of serving that frosty meal Friday night in Connecticut.

In three games against the Huskies since 2007, the Nittany Lions have lost to Connecticut by a combined score of 6-2. In three games, the Lions have scored only two goals. And to prevent that losing streak from reaching four, the Lions have been working hard in practice to improve their discipline on defense, something the team lacked in its 3-0 loss to Virginia last Sunday.

The Lions will face No. 5 Connecticut at 5 p.m. Friday in Storrs, Conn.

Coach Char Morett said the team is working on keeping the ball going in one direction — toward the opposition's goal. Against Virginia, the defense was frequently out of position when it didn't have ball possession and Morett said it led to breakdowns and odd-man rushes and in the end, a shutout loss. If the Lions want to have any chance of beating UCONN this weekend, Morett said all of that needs to improve.

"We got to chasing the ball against Virginia and we got tired out, so we're going to work on that," Morett said. "We need to improve that quickly this week."

The team has been doing a lot of 1-on-1 and 2-on-1 drills in practice this week to prepare for a tough Huskies team that won the Big East Championship last season.

And redshirt sophomore Hannah Allison said the team doesn't plan on losing to Connecticut again, and is practicing like it.

"We're going to practice this whole entire week like we're playing for the national championship game. We're not going to take anything for granted," Allison said. "We're going to work every day competitive and come to practice with things to learn."

To make things even more difficult, not only is Penn State playing a top five team, but it's playing its first road game of the season. And after the team's bout with the Huskies, it doesn't play again for nine days.

Redshirt junior Lauren Alloway said for each one of those nine days, the team will be thinking about the result of the game, win or lose.

So it's important for the team to improve on defensive positioning and discipline in practice, so they can come home with a win and have a positive atmosphere on the bus ride home and in practice the following week.

"A win on the road is huge, because I think it's harder when you're traveling. It's exhausting," Alloway said. "I think against UConn would be amazing... So I think if you have that win in the air brings energy to practice, where as a [loss] it might be harder. It's always nice to have a win during a long break."

Morett knows it will be no easy task to go into Connecticut and get a win, but she knows the team will improve in practice this week and hopefully leave Connecticut with a little revenge in its back pocket.

"It's difficult to play there," Morett said. "But I feel that our team is going to be in the right mindset when we step on the field against Connecticut and play for the win."

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### FIELD HOCKEY



Morett

## Brown finds success in first professional baseball season

By Andrew Robinson  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The first time he stepped to the plate Thursday night, Kelson Brown drove a ball into the gap in right center field.

Brown rounded second but had to stop quickly to dive back to the base, narrowly avoiding an attempted tag.

Thursday night, Brown went 2-for-4 in the State College Spikes 3-2 loss to the Auburn Doubledays at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park. With his second inning double, Brown extended his hitting streak to eight games, just the latest string of success in a strong season.

"I just attribute it to showing up each day with a plan and going about my business and carrying it out onto the field," Brown said.

"Baseball, the great thing about this game is if you have a bad game, there's another day to play."

The second time he stepped to the plate, Brown got that third base.

Leading off the inning, Brown sent an offering from Doubledays pitcher Sam Strickland over the head of the left fielder and off the wall.

During the outfielder's scramble to recover the ball, Brown strode into third standing up.

But as loud as Brown's bat has been on the field, the infielder has been rather quiet with his hosts, the Kilpatrick family of State College.

"He was at the house already when I met him and he's just very quiet," Lisa Kilpatrick, Brown's host, said. "He's a really nice guy. He doesn't go out much. He just comes home after the games and hangs out."

All season, Brown has covered most of the infield, playing third base, shortstop and on rare occasions, second base. Not only is he versatile, but Brown can flash the glove a little as well.

In the fifth inning, a ball looked to get

past Brown at third base, but shortstop Drew Maggi recovered, flipping the ball to Brown who started a run down with Doubledays shortstop Gustavo Pierre. Brown sprinted off third, going almost 90 feet before flipping the ball to catcher Miguel Mendez who made the tag for the out.

Brown said he didn't know what happened to the ball but he went into motion when he heard the crowd and called it an instinct play.

For Kilpatrick, who has hosted Chase D'Arnaud and Tyler Cox in the last two seasons, it's a defensive image that defines Brown in her eyes.

"He does this thing when he's on third base where he makes these amazing catches and in the air will throw to first," Kilpatrick said. "He's mid-air, twisting and throwing, that's the total Kelson Brown moment."

Brown scored both of the Spikes' runs on Thursday and had two of the team's seven hits.

The Spikes have three games left on their schedule and Brown said teams around the league are tired and if he can step his game up, it will be a lift for the Spikes.

Spikes manager Gary Robinson said despite Brown's unorthodox defense, "there's something to this guy."

"The biggest compliment I think you can give any player in any sport is 'He's just a damn winner,'" Robinson said. "He will beat you, he's always around to beat you. I love the kid to death, I think he's going to be a heck of a player. He's going to give our organization value."

Kilpatrick said her family has enjoyed having Brown live with them and talking baseball. Once the season ends, Brown said he plans to go home and rest, but feels his first year in the minors couldn't have happened in a better place.

"I loved it, it was a great first professional experience," Brown said.

"You see other ballparks, other facilities and it's really obvious how lucky we have it. I thought it was an outstanding experience."

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9PM-1AM

Nathan's "All Beef" Hot Dog ..... \$1

Popcorn ..... 75¢ a box

Soft Pretzels ..... \$1.29

David's Large Cookies ..... \$1.59

Chocolate Chip • M&M • Oatmeal Raisin • Peanut Butter

Milk Chugs ..... \$1.39

Skim • 2% • Chocolate



9PM-2AM

Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza..... \$1 a slice

Pasta Special ..... \$1.99

Meatball Hero..... \$1.99

Any Size Fountain Soda ..... \$1.19

9PM-1AM

Island Oasis Fruit Smoothies..... \$1.99

Popcorn ..... 75¢ a box

Soft Pretzels ..... \$1.29

David's Large Cookies ..... \$1.59

Chocolate Chip • M&M • Oatmeal Raisin • Peanut Butter

Milk Chugs ..... \$1.39

Skim • 2% • Chocolate

9PM-2AM

Kenny Rogers Wings ..... 5 for \$1.99

Nathan's "All Beef" Hot Dog ..... \$1

Nachos w/Cheese ..... 99¢

Hamburger ..... 59¢

Any Size Fountain Soda ..... \$1.19

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