

Penn State-Alabama week finally arrives

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Throughout the entire offseason, the Penn State media contingent lobbed football players questions about this Saturday's game against Alabama.

Throughout the entire offseason, those players' responses usually revolved around not looking past their season opener against Youngstown State.

But with the Nittany Lions having easily dispatched the Penguins on Saturday, 44-14, postgame interviews were finally free of the obligatory "one game at a time" response.

"Now it's time," said redshirt sophomore linebacker Michael Mauti, who made his first appearance since 2008 after missing last season with a torn ACL. "We've been waiting for this time to where we could just strictly focus on them. We didn't want to look past Youngstown. They're a good team. Now we can 100 percent focus on Alabama."

Given the Lions early struggles Saturday, Evan Royster said he was worried what might happen if the Lions start the game sluggish for a second week in a row.

"We need to come out stronger," Royster said. "We can't have the slow start, get behind and get down on ourselves. We really need to come out strong and put some points on the board early so we don't catch ourselves behind."

The No. 1 Crimson Tide are the defending national champions, and even without Heisman Trophy winner Mark Ingram in the lineup because of a knee injury, the offense managed to put up 48 points against San Jose State.

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Evan Royster
Running Back



Amanda August/Collegian

Brett Brackett (83) catches a touchdown against Youngstown State

Redshirt junior wide receiver Chaz Powell isn't intimidated by the Tide's reputation, and neither should the rest of the Lions.

"They put their pads on the same way we put our pads on," Powell said. "They have a ring, but that's from last year. This is a new year. Anything can happen. We just gotta practice hard and come ready to play."

Day to remember:

Offense: Senior receiver Brett Brackett, who was named offensive captain last week, set career highs in receptions with eight and yards with 98. In fact, in one game this year he has eclipsed his three catches for 13 yards from all of last season. After struggling being split wide last year, Brackett thrived in the same slot role he played during his sophomore campaign.

Defense: Brackett's fellow captain, Ollie Ogbu, was the only down lineman consistently breaking through into the Penguins backfield. He recorded six tackles (one for a loss) and was a big reason linebacker Chris Colasanti led the team with 13 stops. Ogbu commanded double teams all afternoon, freeing Colasanti to make plays.

Day to forget

Offense: It could be anyone on the offensive line, but DeOn'tae Pannell stands out because he was the biggest question mark heading into the game. Pannell's struggles led to a rotation between him and backup Johnnie Troutman. None of the linemen were able to free any holes for running back Evan Royster.

Defense: The first team really only allowed one bad play, so we'll go with Nate Stupar here. He tackled all right, recording three tackles and the Lions' only sack, but he fell while overpursuing on a first quarter screen pass, leading to Dominique Barnes' 80-yard touchdown.

Did you notice?

No more Blue Royster Cult in the student section, but RoBo's Cops were on display. Corner like they could occupy that locker for a few more years... Feature twirler Matt Freeman took PJ Maierhofer's spot for the first time.

Extra point

At Joe Paterno's press conference a week ago, he said running back Stephon Green was hindered by a neck injury.

This was news to Green. "My mom called me and told me why didn't I tell her I had a neck injury," Green said. "What are you talking about Mom? I didn't even know I had a neck injury. This is news to me." So, no. It was a concussion.

Green said he is fine and wasn't hindered during the game, where he averaged 5.3 yards on his six carries for 32 yards.

He said he was quiet about the concussion for fear of an overreaction, but instead he began hearing

rumors about a neck injury. When asked about it, Green laughed and quelled the discussion. "That is a false statement," he said. "I did not have a neck injury. I had a concussion. It was a concussion. I was out maybe two or three practices. I'm back. I played today, and I'm perfectly fine. I'm 100 percent. Nothing is wrong with me."

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By Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010. This year, you often waver between a low profile and being wowed percent out there. To some of your close friends and associates, this behavior could be confusing. You have a natural abundance about key partnerships with financial ties. Remember to honor who you are. Tap into your innate ingenuity, and solutions will appear. If you are single, you could fall into a very intense relationship. Remember, it takes a year to get to know someone. After you go through the four seasons with this person, then make a decision. If you are attached, the two of you might not be so easy with each other, unless you return to the romantic playfulness of dating. VIRGO often questions your motives.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) *** You could fuss if you don't get your desired results. You have a strong position and understand what is driving others. Creativity emerges in discussions with someone who has clout yet a totally different perspective. Tonight: Put your feet up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) **** Fulfill some of your ideas into your work, and it might make work more interesting. Some of you might choose to flirt with an office associate, adding some extra zip that way. Reach out for more information. Consider signing up for a course. Tonight: Forget your day job, let your hair down.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) *** Consider working from home if you feel more comfortable and/or can

accomplish more there. Revise your thinking about a boss or key associate. Your priorities are changing. Someone at a distance adds a touch of confusion into the mix! Tonight: Make it relaxing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) **** Communication could be awkward, yet unexpected information proves to be enlightening. Take your time assessing a situation, as you still might not have all the facts. Seek out experts. Someone might be quite controlling. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) *** Keep reaching out for more information. Finances seem to be a key issue. Designing a budget needs to become a high priority, especially one that is workable. Someone at a distance or an expert can be very helpful. Listen. Tonight: Pay bills first.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Your energy is high, but the choices you make could be the result of a conflicted process. Pressure builds within a partnership. The unexpected tosses you into strange waters. Tap into your imagination for solutions. Tonight: Meet a friend for dinner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) *** You might feel slightly on edge, not knowing what to expect. Certainly, the unanticipated keeps popping up, making accomplishing certain tasks difficult, at best. Process an issue that doesn't seem to be going away on a deeper level. Tonight: Go for some extra R.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** Others accept your leadership, especially as you are centered and have energy on your team. A brainstorming session taps into an innate creativity, which you often don't manifest. Revise your schedule if need be. Tonight: Where

people are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) **** Others look to you for answers and leadership. You might not be happy with the situation, as there is an implicit demand. A child, as well as one thing, contrasting with a family member who makes nearly the opposite demand. Tonight: The midnight oil.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **** Be willing to dig up more information and get to the bottom of an issue. Your sense of direction could be key in making a decision. Internalize different needs within you, around you and from others. Process, and you will know which way to go. Tonight: Opt for different plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **** Deal with key individuals on a one-on-one level. You could question what is best ultimately. You are juggling personal concerns, creating a demanding day. If you need to, figure out an instrumental decision. Tonight: An intimate discussion over dinner.


PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) **** You might want to defer to a key partner, friend or associate and have a discussion with him or her. This person always provides a lot of insight. Be careful about involving your personal finances in a decision. A meeting opens a door. Tonight: Meet friends.

BORN TODAY
American folk artist Grandma Moses (1860), singer Gloria Gaynor (1949), Elizabeth I, Queen of England (1533)

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