

Serve leading to aces

By Jake Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Toss it — and toss it high — and then explode into the ball.

That is exactly what Alyssa D'Errico, the senior libero on the No. 1 Penn State women's volleyball team, does every time she serves the ball over the net and into the hands of the opposing defenses or onto the floor on the other side of the court.

D'Errico has what teammate Katie Kabbes called "one of the toughest jump serves in the country." And she has used it effectively so far this season. After leading the Nittany Lions with 62 aces in 2009, D'Errico has 15 service aces so far this season, 0.83 per set. The next highest total on the team is a mere four.

"It's a dominating serve," Kabbes said.

For comparison, the highest total on No. 4 Florida (5-0), which Penn State will face Friday night as part of the Nike Big Four Volleyball Classic in Gainesville, Fla., is only nine service aces.

A Byron, N.Y., native, D'Errico said she learned the jump serve from her club coaches while she was in high school, when she was an outside hitter. Having the experience as a hitter helped her learn all the angles, the different types of shots and to develop control, which she then adapted into her serve.

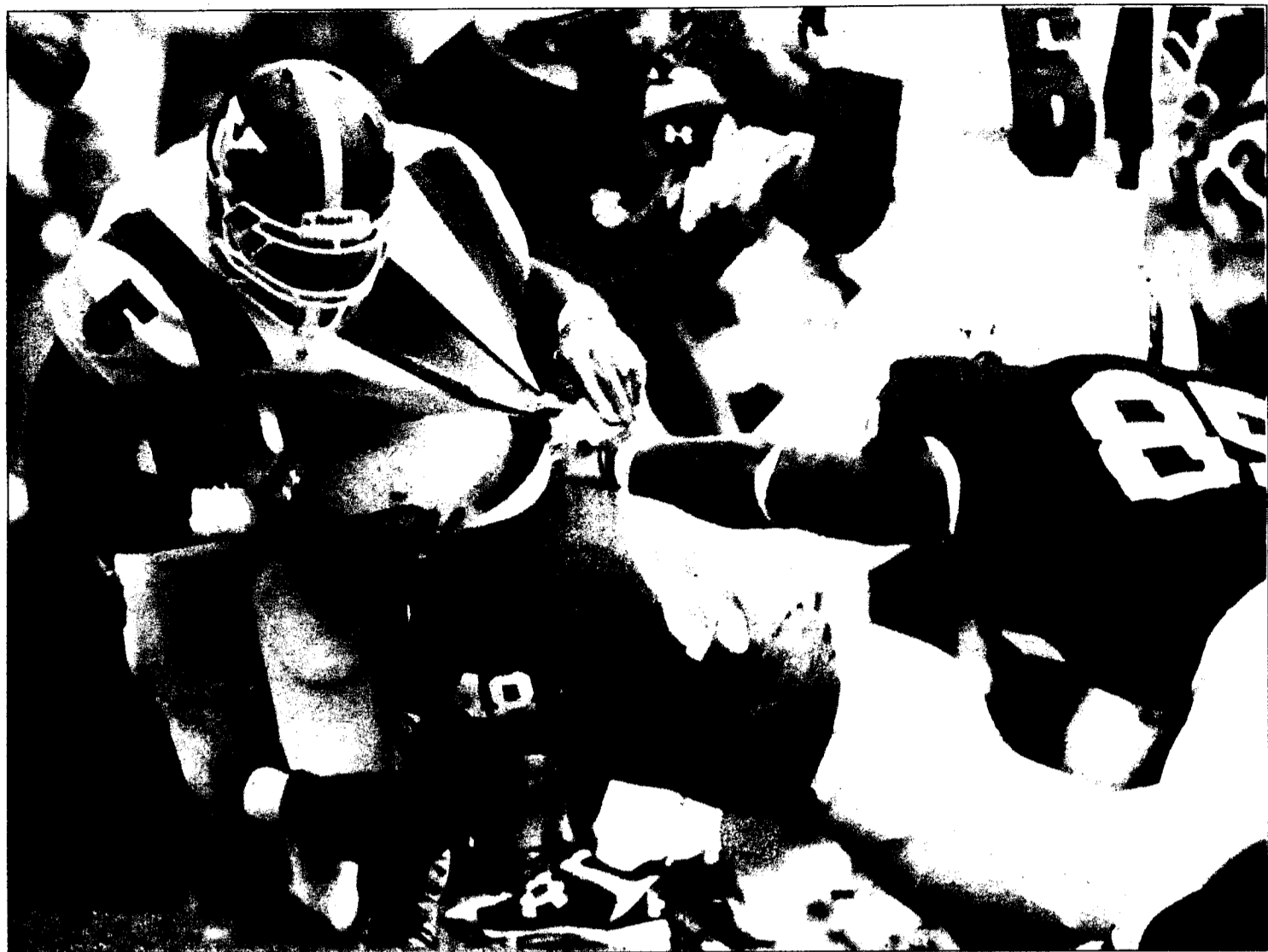
The toss is an important aspect of the serve, D'Errico said. When she tosses the ball up in the air, it almost seems as if the ball is halfway to smacking against the high rafters of Rec Hall.

"It's comparable to ping pong and tennis," said D'Errico, who added it took a lot of time and See D'ERRICO, Page 14.



D'Errico unleashes a serve.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



Lynn McGowan/Collegian

Senior linebacker Chris Colasanti (48) takes down a Youngstown State running back during Saturday's victory against the Penguins.

Colasanti aiming at Alabama

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

No matter who starts at running back for Alabama this weekend, Chris Colasanti understands it will be a challenge for the Penn State linebacking group that rotates five players.

The senior middle linebacker, however, prefers to look at the head-to-head positional matchup in a different way.

Trent Richardson and — if he recovers from his knee injury by the 7 p.m. kickoff Saturday — Heisman winner Mark Ingram will be facing a challenge of their own, Colasanti said, when the two tailbacks will take on a deep Penn State linebacking group that rotates five players.

"Not only from a personal standpoint, but from a defense's standpoint, I just feel like as a defense we're just looking forward to the opportunity," Colasanti said.

"We're gonna be ready."

Colasanti, who recorded a career-high 13 tackles in Saturday's win against Youngstown State, said Alabama's speed on offense will present a task he hasn't faced as a starter.

He added, however, Richardson's quickness doesn't necessarily need to be neutralized by the linebackers' quickness. "His speed is definitely con-

cerning," Colasanti said. "But I think as a defense we're gonna be ready. We're gonna be well prepared with our scouting report. We'll know what they're gonna do, how they're gonna use him."

Al Fracassa, Colasanti's coach at Brother Rice High School in Michigan, noted his former player's work ethic and preparation, saying it makes him "play quicker than he is."

"The more you watch your See COLASANTI, Page 14.

FOOTBALL

Cost's efforts paying off

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Drew Cost's new coach quickly learned what Cost's teammates already knew — the midfielder can play.

But what coach Bob Warming wants the senior to do this year is start using his talent to grab people's attention. Through the first two games of the season, he's done just that.

"I told him he's gotta catch your eye more when he's on the field," Warming said.

"He's gotta catch even the casual fan's eye when he's on the field and he can do that by being more dynamic and, to his credit,



Andrew Dunheimer/Collegian

Drew Cost (left) chases the ball.

he's really tried to do that."

In two games for the Penn State men's soccer team, Cost has tallied two assists and one goal, a fair start for any offensive

player. But consider all of last year Cost had only two assists and three goals, he's on pace for a breakout year in the points column.

Cost has moved up in the midfield, playing more forward than he did in the past, but he doesn't feel he's lost any of his defensive prowess. Playing further up, however, has allowed the senior to add more character to his game, something Warming wanted him to do.

"The thing we've been emphasizing with him is he's got to be more dynamic," Warming said. "He's embraced that, he's trying to be more dynamic, to show his athleticism and show his quickness and sharpness."

Early in the season during See COST, Page 14.

MEN'S SOCCER

Shots, Shots, Shots

The Penn State men's soccer team heavily outshot its opponents in last weekend's two victories.

	PSU	Opponents
Shots	41	7
On target	21	4
Goals	6	0

Source: GoPSUSports.com
Angel Perricone/Collegian

Shots leading to success

By Mike Still
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It's a statistic Bob Warming can't hear enough, music to his ears.

The Penn State men's soccer coach watched his team outshoot its opponents 41-7 in two contests this past weekend in a 5-0 rout of Buffalo on Sept. 3 and a 1-0 victory over the College of Charleston on Sept. 5.

Warming feels the statistic not only shows the Lions' dominance in the possession game over the weekend but is a true testament See SHOTS, Page 14.

MEN'S SOCCER

McElroy has sights set on perfection

By Audrey Snyder
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

He was in the eighth grade, but Alabama quarterback Greg McElroy will never forget the day he lost his last football game.

Tied at six heading into the fourth quarter, a young McElroy was trying to lead his middle school team to victory against Cross Timbers.

But just as the young quarterback was orchestrating a fourth-quarter drive, his center snapped the ball over his head, leaving

McElroy with the bitter taste of defeat.

"We conceded a safety and we ended up losing 8-6," McElroy said. "It was a pretty disappointing afternoon. But fortunately for me, I haven't had that same feeling in quite some time, and hopefully not any time soon."

The Crimson Tide quarterback enters Saturday's game against Penn State with a streak of 31 consecutive wins as a starter, his last loss coming during his middle school days.

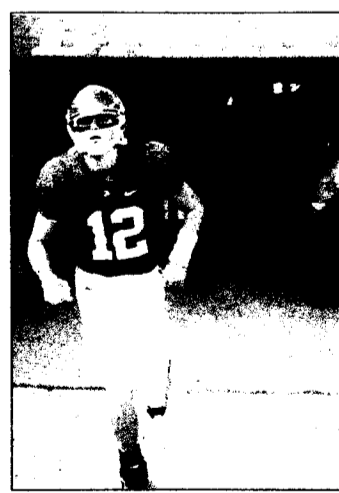
Former Penn State quarterback John Shaffer knows a thing or two about winning streaks.

Shaffer led the Nittany Lions to a national championship during the 1986 season and finished his football career with a 66-1 record, dating back to his wins as a seventh grader.

The link Shaffer found between his success and McElroy's is made up of three components: good teammates, great intelligence and a whole lot of confidence.

"You do what you're told to do, and you do what the coaches ask you to do," Shaffer said.

"It's about understanding your role and realizing that no See MCELROY, Page 14.



Jamie Martin/Associated Press

Greg McElroy runs onto the field before last Saturday's game.

THE LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV

MLB
Philadelphia vs. Florida
7:05 tonight, CSN
Pittsburgh vs. Atlanta
7:05 tonight, FSN

TRIVIA

Q: Before Reggie Bush, who was the last USC tailback to win the Heisman?
Tuesday's answer: 1984 and 1998.

QUICK HITS (AP)

Revis returns to practice

Darrelle Revis is on the practice field for the New York Jets, a day after the All-Pro cornerback signed a four-year deal that ended his 36-day holdout.

Coach Rex Ryan says Revis is expected to be ready to play in the Jets' season opener next Monday night at home against Baltimore.

Revis caught a pass during warmups Tuesday and received some mock cheers from the other defensive backs. He also worked with defensive backs coach Dennis Thurman on individual work during special teams drills.

Revis agreed to the deal Sunday night and signed Monday afternoon.

McNabb to start Sunday

Donovan McNabb said Tuesday his sprained ankle isn't 100 percent, but it won't keep him from starting the Washington Redskins' opener Sunday night against the Dallas Cowboys.

"Yes, I will be starting this weekend," McNabb told ESPN980. "And I look forward to it."

McNabb sprained his left ankle 2½ weeks ago in a preseason game against Baltimore. McNabb said the injury isn't classified as a high ankle sprain — the more severe type that has more significant ligament damage and a longer recovery time — but he said it's "very close to it." He said he's getting multiple treatments each day.

"Is it 100 percent? No. ... But it's getting better," he said.

Broncos still have work to do

After Boise State beat the annually overrated Virginia Tech Hokies Monday night, fans and media alike have been assuming the Broncos' slot in January's national championship game.

But such a prediction is largely premature considering the landmines that still remain on the BSU schedule.

In two weeks, the blue turf boys host talented Oregon State team. In early November, they host a Hawai'i team with a pass attack that will certainly be clicking by then. And two weeks after that, a dangerous Fresno State team comes to town. Finishing a season undefeated is no fluke. But you have to do it first.