

Editors, students, PSU notables to pick NFL winners

The St. Louis Rams will not go 16-0 this season. But don't tell that to Paul Casella, the Daily Collegian's Sports Chief. When he takes on some popular Penn State names in the Collegian's new weekly feature "Penn State Pick 'Em,'" Casella, a die-hard Rams fan, plans to pick the Rams to win every week — just as he has done his whole life.



Casella

This will be a season-long friendly competition in which Casella, Collegian Sports Editor Steve Hennessey and Sports Copy Desk Chief Bill Landis will take on the following members of the Penn State community: Jim Regan, Nittany Lion Fund president; Zack Krieger, executive director of Student Programming Association (SPA); Alex Cohen, Paternoville president; Christian Ragland, University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) president; a Penn State athlete, which will rotate weekly; and a Penn State student, which will also rotate weekly.



Hennessey



Landis

The last spot, a Penn State student, could be you. While this week's student spot will be occupied by senior Jack Gashi, the sports editors will be picking a new student, at random, each week. To be considered for the spot, e-mail Casella at plc5032@psu.edu. This week we will be picking the student who sends the best caption for the picture to the left.

The deadline for sending your captions is at noon on Tuesday, Sept. 14.

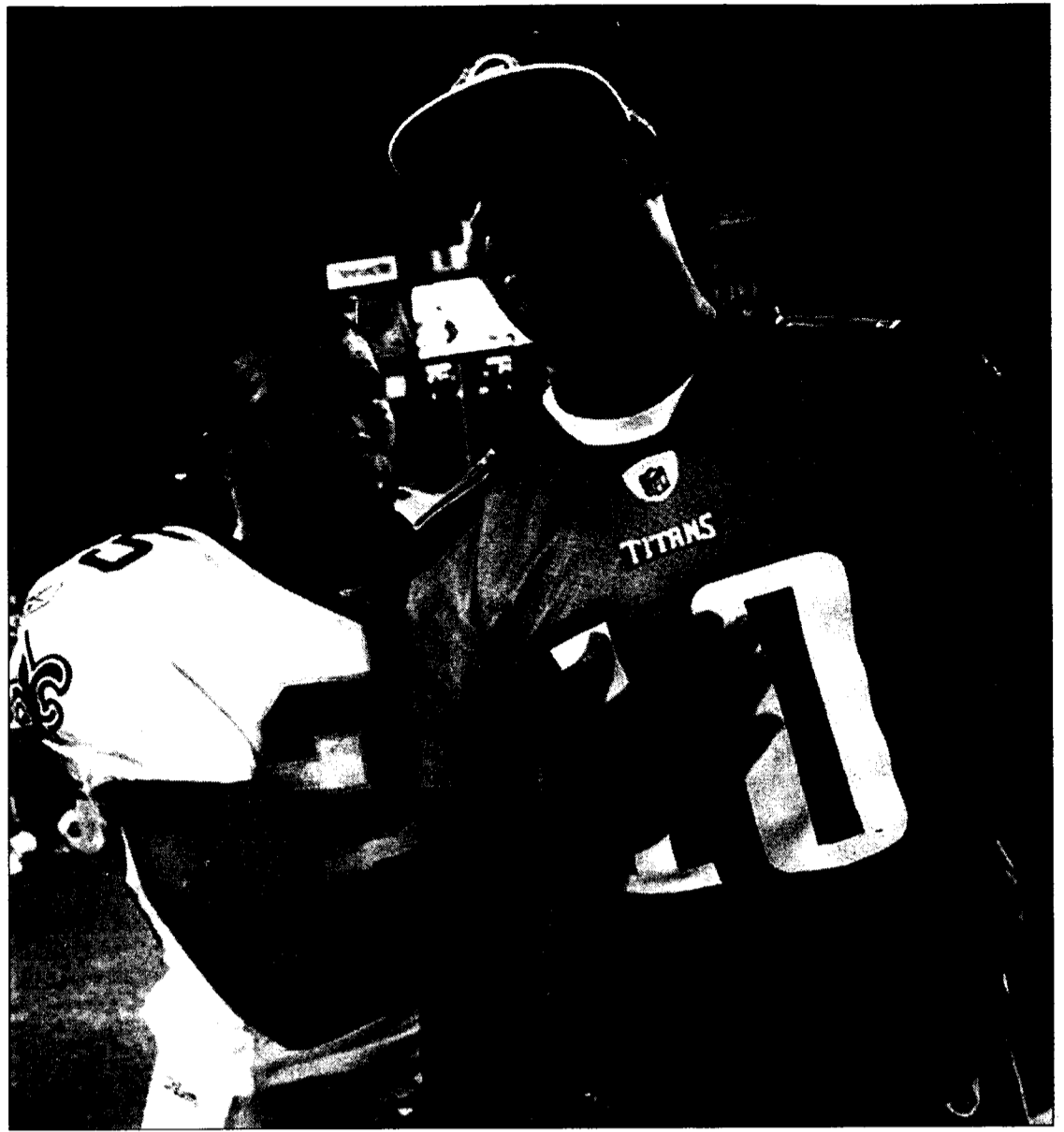
To follow the weekly picks, go to the Make Plays blog on the Collegian's website, psucollegian.com, where the picks and overall records will be updated weekly.

The format will be easy to follow — pick every game each week, not factoring in the spread, just simply which team you think will win each game.

And despite Paul putting himself at a distinct disadvantage by picking the Rams religiously, his hope is that his other picks — or Rams' rookie quarterback Sam Bradford — will help bail him out some weeks.

And while Hennessey and Landis enter the competition with more of an open mind regarding their picks, all three editors expect a competitive season-long battle with some of the more recognizable names on the Penn State campus.

So when the New Orleans Saints and Minnesota Vikings kick off the 2010 NFL season at 8:30 tonight in New Orleans — the "Penn State Pick 'Em'" kicks off along with it.



Dave Martin/Associated Press

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By Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Thursday, Sept. 9, 2010!

This year, unprecedented creativity emerges from you. What would be the most appropriate manner in which to use this unusual energy? You will want to take a strong stand with finances, and not take unusual risks in this realm. Your professional status could be enhanced with perhaps a seminar or an image and/or resume change. Be open. If you are single, romance always is on the horizon. Will it be with the same person? If you are attached, avoid getting into hassles over little issues. You could have an unusually intense and romantic year. LIBRA encourages you to enjoy life more.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
*** You might wake up on the wrong side of the bed, but by late morning, you will have regained your sea legs. Pressure builds around your performance and direction. Fatigue floats through midday. If you cannot take a power nap, opt for a brisk walk. Tonight: Go with another person's ideas.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
*** Weight the pros and cons of a risk. If you keep thinking, you might not be all that happy about the option. A boss or older relative adds some confusion into the mix. Your sense of organization comes out tonight. Choose something relaxing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
***** You might have a difficult time getting started, but once you get going you relax. A partner could be a tasty and difficult. Don't go into open combat! Be more creative with your thinking, and bypass others' resistances. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
*** You might have a lot going on this morning. Your instinct might be to play the reclusive, despite the impact. Pressure builds on the home front. Deal with issues directly with the party involved. You cannot keep a secret much longer! Tonight: Head home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
*** Be aware of the costs of doing something differently. You might change your mind, as a mini-revolution rises around you. A stern approach might be necessary. Others inspire a change of pace and perhaps a more cerebral approach. Tonight: Hang with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
*** After recent events, wind down and look at the costs of behaving in a certain manner. You could be very tired and drawn from a financial problem. Get past rigid thinking, and you'll find an answer. Tonight: Stop and meet a friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
*** You could rain on your own parade of you're not careful. You are hardest on yourself. Turmoil appears where you least want it. Let it go rather than worry. It might transform itself. Tonight: Get into the weekend spirit early.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
*** Take a backseat, knowing other people can handle any problem that might turn up. Avoid spending too much time alone, as you could become depressed. You need the company of a trusted friend. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
***** Emphasize the positives of a friendship. This person could be older or a friend of many, many years. Sometimes you might be annoyed with the innate demands of this friendship, but it is worth it. Tap into your sixth sense if you think someone isn't telling you the full story. Tonight: Where you want to be, with the person you want to be with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
*** Take a stand with a boss who could be tough, rigid and somewhat limiting. Be ready for a strong discussion. Though you might be irritated, you gain an understanding of why this person has made the choices that he or she has made. Tonight: Working to the wee hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
***** Sometimes you limit your perspective and view without intending to. What could be a near argument might open up new ideas and allow you to gain a better perspective. Remember to ask others to play: devil's advocate sometimes. Tonight: The world can be your oyster, if you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
*** Pace yourself and understand what is happening behind the scenes. How you handle a difficult meeting or associate might be more important than you realize. Your instincts guide you within an agreement and a partnership. Tonight: Follow a partner's lead.

BORN TODAY
Comedian Adam Sandler (1966), singer Otis Redding (1941), actor Hugh Grant (1960)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com.
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