

## Volleyball

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coach said by playing poorly, it allows good teams like the Gators to gain momentum and confidence.

This season Florida is accustomed to grabbing that momentum. The Gators have won the opening set in each of their matches while outscoring opponents, 125-86. Their quick starts have keyed the Gators' perfect start.

"In the past, our concern might not have been to start well, but to finish well," Rose said. "But [the Lions] would be in a better position if they started well."

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## Linemen

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see from Penn State come Saturday. But Paterno wasn't too sure how to

assess his offensive line as it prepares for Alabama.

He said it wouldn't be fair to criticize the left guard spot because he hasn't seen enough from either Pannell or Troutman, given the Lions have played just one game.

Wisniewski added the offensive line likes to think it has all its kinks worked out heading into the game, but said it has a lot of room for improvement before Saturday.

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## Bowl

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and recalling Alabama linebacker Barry Krauss' hit on him that was immortalized on the cover of Sports Illustrated and voted No. 6 in ESPN's list of "100 plays that define college football."

"It doesn't minimize the loss, though," he added.

The ball was placed 10 inches from the goal line, and Guman said his initial plan was to leap over the line of scrimmage. The Crimson Tide defense broke through and took out his legs, so he tried to plow through the line just to the left of the center.

"I was glad they called my number," Guman said.

"You want the ball in that situation. It was, 'OK, do your job and get the title,' and obviously it didn't happen that way."

Krauss was knocked unconscious by the hit, but he never allowed Guman to score. Guman played nine seasons in the NFL and Krauss played 11. But the two will forever be linked in one of college football's most historic plays.

"If I had a nickel for every time I've heard about it," Guman said, "I'd be a very rich man."

But the game's defining play shouldn't necessarily overshadow what Guman said was "no question" the hardest hitting college football game he played in.

The Nittany Lions trailed 7-0 at half-time, and after tying the game in the third, they relinquished the lead again when Lon Ikner's 62-yard punt return

set up a Major Ogilvie touchdown, which proved to be the difference in a 14-7 final.

"We came a couple plays away from winning and losing," said Joe Paterno, who lost all four games he coached against former Alabama coach Bear Bryant. "They were a good team and they made a couple plays and we didn't make them."

The first of those plays came on 2nd-and-goal when Penn State receiver Scott Fitzkee was forced out of bounds just before the endzone at the far corner by Don McNeal, Penn State quarterback Rob Bolden's great uncle. Then, on 3rd-and-goal, Matt Suhey was stopped on a run up the middle.

Paterno said he still isn't sure whether or when those players crossed the line. When asked what he remembers about the game as a whole, his response was simple.

"I remember we lost it," Paterno said. "They had a great goal line stand with Krauss. The thing about that game was that it was a great defensive game."

The game was a long time in the making for Paterno.

In his 13th season as coach, it was his first crack at a national title, despite three previous undefeated seasons. Penn State football historian Lou Prato, who called the game "much more than just a goal-line stand" compared the '78 Lions to if Boise State got a shot at a championship.

It was one of the most killer moments," Prato said. "The game is probably the most devastating loss [for Paterno]." He also said the defeat

fueled Paterno to the '82 title, where, ironically, the Lions' only loss that year came at the hands of the Tide. Prato noted the way Penn State history has cruelly erased the '79 team that came inches away from being immortalized.

"Who remembers that team? It's almost forgotten," Prato said. "The '82 team is seen as a great team, and the '78 team is seen as a team that sucks."

The legend of the '79 Sugar Bowl isn't lost on current Penn State players either. Suhey's son is current Penn State fullback Joe Suhey, and linebacker Nate Stupar has heard stories from his father, Steve, who played defensive tackle in the game.

Senior guard Stefan Wisniewski has heard the tale "quite a few" times from his father, Leo, who played linebacker at Penn State from 1979-81.

"It was 30 years ago," Stefan Wisniewski said. "I think they've gotten over it by now. I'm sure they would have liked to put one of those goal line plays in."

Guman is sure, too. But given the talent of the players involved, playing under what he said may be the top-two coaches in college football history, Guman said the game was about more than the final score.

"You don't realize what that game meant for college football until it's been looked back upon over the years," he said. "The players who were in that game, the coaches who were in that game, the teams who were in that game with their tradition and histories — it obviously makes history."

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## Halus

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time it wasn't. She said she worked extremely hard to become a better goalkeeper for the Nittany Lions and is glad all of her hard work came to fruition. But hard work can never stop.

"It gives me confidence in my play," Halus said. "But I need to continue watching video and going hard and working hard at practice and making the improvements I need so that we can play better and have a great season and come around with some big wins the next couple of games."

Halus knows if the team is going to be successful, she is going to need to play well every second of each game. The Hershey, Pa., native pointed to both awards as a sign the team is on its way to getting some wins.

"I think it just shows that our team has lots of talent and once we work on the things we're working on this week, we can then come out hard," Halus said. "We'll definitely have some big wins and I think it just proved to the other teams in the Big Ten that we have a lot to give. If we work all together and we play the way we know how, we can be a dominating force."

Halus leads the Big Ten in saves (35) and save percentage (.875). She

also leads the Big Ten in saves per game by a large margin with 11.67. The next goaltender atop the rankings is Katie Lynch of Northwestern with 6.50 saves per game.

The Nittany Lions will look to get back on the winning track when they face Lock Haven at 12 p.m., Sunday at AstroTurf Field. Halus knows they have the ability to do so, it's just a matter of execution.

"We know we have great girls on our team," she said.

"And when we support each other, it makes the whole team play even better."

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## Paterno

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"That's something that we look forward [to], and it motivates us to give Joe a win."

The rivalry between Alabama and Penn State took hold in the 1980s, but it began as a result of head-to-head matchups between previous Penn State and Alabama teams of which Paterno and Bryant coached. The two icons last met as head coaches in 1982, when Alabama beat Penn State 42-21, part of a 10-year series that began the year before. Bryant retired after the 1982 season and died less than a month after his final game.

But before there was ever the 10-game series between the two schools, there were the two Sugar Bowls — one being the 1978 national championship.

Paterno had yet to win a national championship at that time and failed in his first national title on January 1, 1979. Bryant had already cemented his legacy with six national titles as the Crimson Tide coach.

Former Penn State radio announcer Fran Fisher said the two coaches weren't necessarily friends but comrades who respected each other. Just like college football coaches look up to Paterno and appreciate his legacy today, Bryant acted as a kind of role model for the Penn State coach.

And like any other pupil, Paterno wanted to beat his mentor, but it never happened. Despite his heartbreak with never defeating Bryant, Fisher said Paterno never let it linger.

"Joe is always looking ahead to the next game," Fisher said.

"He was never looking back."

Paterno has publicly referred to Bryant's death as a reason why he shouldn't retire. As was the case with Bryant, the Penn State coach has no other love but football and figures he'll face a similar fate if he retires.

The unique mentor-protégé relationship was intertwined with the development of Alabama-Penn State rivalry, now coming to the forefront again.

Saturday's Penn State-Alabama game will be the first time the two meet since 1990, but 20 years later, interest has resurfaced about past meetings, and the hype of the crimson and white helmets clashing again has reached its peak.

Right guard Stefan Wisniewski, whose father Leo played during two Bryant-Paterno meetings, said he understands the magnitude of the upcoming game because of the two coaches.

Paterno, though he and Bryant are forever linked with Penn State-Alabama lore, refused to talk about his past relationship with Bryant at Tuesday's press conference. For the Penn State coach, this game is a new and different situation. But his players understand the magnitude.

"There is tradition and a big rivalry there, and I know it's something not to take lightly," linebacker Nate Stupar said.


"We're excited to keep the tradition alive."

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