

The Daily Collegian

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30 cents off campus

Team risks streak

By Jake Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

No one on the team likes to talk about it, but it's the topic almost everyone outside of the program — media and fans alike — loves to discuss.

And it's going to be heavily tested this weekend.

The No. 1 Penn State women's volleyball team brings its 108-match winning streak to the Nike Volleyball Big Four Classic in Gainesville, Fla. The Nittany Lions take on No. 4 Florida at 7:30 tonight and match-up against either No. 2 Stanford or No. 5

Texas at 6:30 Saturday night.

Penn State's win streak is the longest active in NCAA Division I athletics and is the second longest of all-time. The Lions have not been defeated since Sept. 15, 2007 and have only lost 18 sets since.

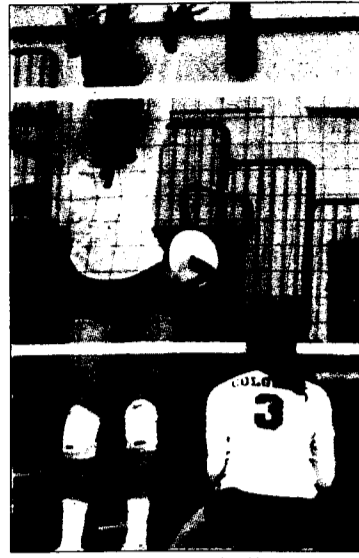
But considering Penn State has three new starters in this year's lineup and because of this tournament's demanding slate — which Florida coach Mary Wise noted you see "more often in December than September" — the Lions have their work cut out for them.

"I think if I were coaching or playing for one of those teams,

that's why you play the game, to measure up against the best," said Karch Kiraly, assistant coach of the USA women's indoor volleyball team and an ESPN volleyball analyst. "And for [108 matches], Penn State's been the best. And they're putting it on the line."

Regardless, there is a good chance the rankings will change in some fashion after this weekend. The last time Penn State, the three-time defending national champions, were not the top-ranked team in the nation was in the Oct. 22, 2007 poll.

"Every team this weekend is See VOLLEYBALL, Page 2.



Blair Brown (9) blocks a shot.

Asit Mishra/Collegian

Trip thrills fans

Students prep for Alabamas

By Mike Hricik
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

250 lucky Penn State students scored tickets to this Saturday's away game at the University of Alabama.

But they're not the only ones who will be representing the university at the game.

Penn State President Graham Spanier will cheer on the Nittany Lions at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Ala. and meet with former Penn State University president Joab Thomas, who also served as president of the University of Alabama.

Spanier wrote via e-mail that he will also be receiving the key to the city of Hoover, Ala.

"It is a nice honor to see that kind of hospitality. I just hope they are as hospitable on the football field," Spanier wrote.

In the meantime, students are beginning the long trek to Tuscaloosa this weekend.

Mike Calabrese and eight of his friends, all Penn State students, rented an RV and traveled to a hotel last night in Nashville, Tenn. in preparation for the game.

"We're all so pumped," Calabrese (senior-management information systems) said.

Fully insured for their rental vehicle, all of the first-time RV drivers are switching off three-hour shifts on a 14-hour drive.

Calabrese said the time has joyfully passed at all as he enjoyed the company of his friends.

The passengers had differing philosophies going into the match-up.

Andrew Hardin said he's hoping for an upset against the reigning national champions.

"I go to Penn State, so I'm not counting on [Alabama winning]," Hardin (senior-golf management) said.

"I wouldn't be going down here if Penn State was gonna be out of it."

Andrew Heinricher was less hopeful, despite injuries to Alabama running back Mark Ingram.

"We're not injured, but we're still a team that hasn't gone against Top 25 competition," Heinricher (senior-security and risk analysis) said.

The fans rose early last week to get their tickets outside the Bryce Jordan Center at 7 a.m.

They began their trip yesterday in similar fashion — hitting the road at 9 a.m. — but Heinricher said Saturday's game will make it worthwhile.

To e-mail reporter: mjh5507@psu.edu

For more football weekend coverage: LOCAL, Page 3.

If you watch

What: Penn State vs Alabama
When: 7 p.m. Saturday
Channel: ESPN

A DAY TO REMEMBER

Terror hits home

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Hijacked airplanes devastate World Trade Center, Pentagon

Attack stuns Americans

Students respond to alleged terrorist acts

Photo illustration: Robin Tiley

Students honor 9/11 victims

By Eddie Lau
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As a New Yorker, Penn State student Arlene Contreras said she will never forget what happened on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

Contreras (freshman-biochemistry) was in class on that seemingly normal Tuesday morning.

But all of a sudden, parents came into her classroom to pick up their children, she said.

"Being a fourth grader, my first reaction was, 'Hey, why am I not going home, too? Why am I still here?'" she said.

When she was picked up, Contreras said, her mother told her a tower fell — near where her aunt worked — in lower Manhattan.

That's when she started to get scared.

Though Contreras lived in the Bronx, she knew something really bad had happened.

"My aunt worked in the building right next to the World Trade Center," Contreras said. "She always gets breakfast in the basement and then goes to work."

Contreras said she went home and tried to call her aunt, but the phone was not working.

The only thing she and her family did that day was try to get in touch with her aunt and watch the news, which replayed footage of the plane crashes, she said.

"Every time I saw the, it

was like a hurt — finally seeing the towers fall, my mother was crying," Contreras said.

Fortunately, her aunt was able to get to safety.

"She finally got home with a [gas]mask on — telling us she had to walk over the bridge — it was pretty scary at the time," Contreras said.

But a few family friends who worked in the World Trade Center did not make it out.

See ANNIVERSARY, Page 2.

THON revisions please leaders

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

One day after the THON Overall Committee announced changes in response to student criticism, student leaders said they're happy to see their voices were heard.

The Interfraternity Dance Marathon Overall Committee announced Wednesday night that it would post the names of organi-

zations coming in sixth through tenth place in each fundraising category on screens to the side of the main Bryce Jordan Center change. This is different from its original decision to announce just the top five organizations in each of the four categories.



Kelly

After receiving feedback, the THON Overall Committee realized that the decrease in announced totals was something many student leaders were concerned about, THON Overall Chairwoman Kirsten Kelly said. The Overall Committee is continuing discussions on how to improve channels of communication between the Overall Committee and those involved in THON, Kelly (senior-marketing) said.

She said one line of communication THON leaders are looking into strengthening is the communication between THON donor relations committees and every organization involved in THON. There has been a positive reaction from the news, Kelly said.

"I find it very encouraging that the THON Overall Committee actually made changes that reflected the concerns of their 2. See THON, Page 2.

Former Pa. governor endorses Toomey for Senate

By Katrina Wehr
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge announced his endorsement of Senate candidate Rep. Pat Toomey Thursday morning during a press conference at the Nittany Lion Inn.

The former governor and Secretary of Homeland Security said he particularly appreciates the commitment Toomey, R-Pa., has demonstrated in the past,

especially when he kept his word on his self-imposed three-term limit while serving in Congress.

"While that kind of commitment isn't in short supply in Washington, we could certainly use more of it, and Pat Toomey will definitely bring it," Ridge said.

Toomey served in the House of Representatives for the 15th District of Pa. from 1998 to 2004 while Ridge was serving as governor. Ridge said he is pleased to support a man he greatly admires

and is proud to endorse Toomey's candidacy.

Toomey said he is grateful for Ridge's endorsement and support, and also said there is a good reason why Ridge is one Pennsylvania's most respected leaders.

"He made the commonwealth of Pennsylvania a place people wanted to come to start businesses and raise families," Toomey said. "In a way, he's still my governor."

See CANDIDATE, Page 2.



Asit Mishra/Collegian

Tom Ridge, left, announced his support for Rep. Pat Toomey Thursday.