

SPORTS

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DBs facing difficult task

By Brendan Monahan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When opposing teams focus on Alabama's running game and not its passing attack, Crimson Tide wide receiver Julio Jones feels explosiveness center stage.

FOOTBALL

Jones is quick, three inches taller and 20 pounds heavier than D'Anton Lynn, the Nittany Lions' lead cornerback and the tallest of Penn State's top-five

defensive backs. Not to mention, Alabama has two other receivers, Marquis Maze and Darius Hanks, also known for their speed.

"It's such a complete offense," Penn State coach Joe Paterno said. "If you don't play one aspect of it, you're going to be in trouble."

Part of the multi-faceted Alabama offense, the wide receiving corps should cause the biggest mismatch for the Penn State defense, especially because the Lions secondary lacks depth, which could be a reason why

Penn State ran its nickel defense — made up of five defensive backs — just once last week. This Saturday, if the Crimson Tide send out three receivers, Alabama may force the Lions to play more nickel.

"I'm not sure how much we'll be in nickel just because they run the ball so much," Lynn said.

The presence of Alabama running back Trent Richardson makes stopping the passing game even more difficult. The Alabama sophomore



Lynn McGowan/Collegian
Sukay last weekend.

Lions open home slate

By Mike Still
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

There's no place like home. Dorothy and Toto had Kansas, the Penn State men's soccer team has Jeffrey Field.

The No. 15 Lions will play two games on their home turf this weekend, Friday at 7:30 p.m. against Bucknell and again on Sunday, taking on Binghamton at 2:30 p.m.

After opening the season with two victories on the road in Columbus, Ohio this past weekend, senior co-captain Andres Casais couldn't be more excited to compete in Happy Valley.

"It's a special thing for any player at Penn State to play at Jeffrey," Casais said. "Not only are you playing in front of your family and your friends, but it's a part of the tradition of Penn State."

Last season, the Lions went undefeated in the regular season at home, finishing 7-0-2.

Their only loss at Jeffrey came in the last game of the season, a 2-1 loss to Maryland in the

See MEN'S SOCCER, Page 16.

Saban finds success

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

In 1995, Joe Paterno didn't know where Nick Saban would be in 15 years.

He had a hunch, however, that success would follow the Alabama coach.

FOOTBALL

The term "success" may be an understatement, with Saban perhaps the best coach in college football today after taking home two national titles and reaching the BCS four times.



Saban

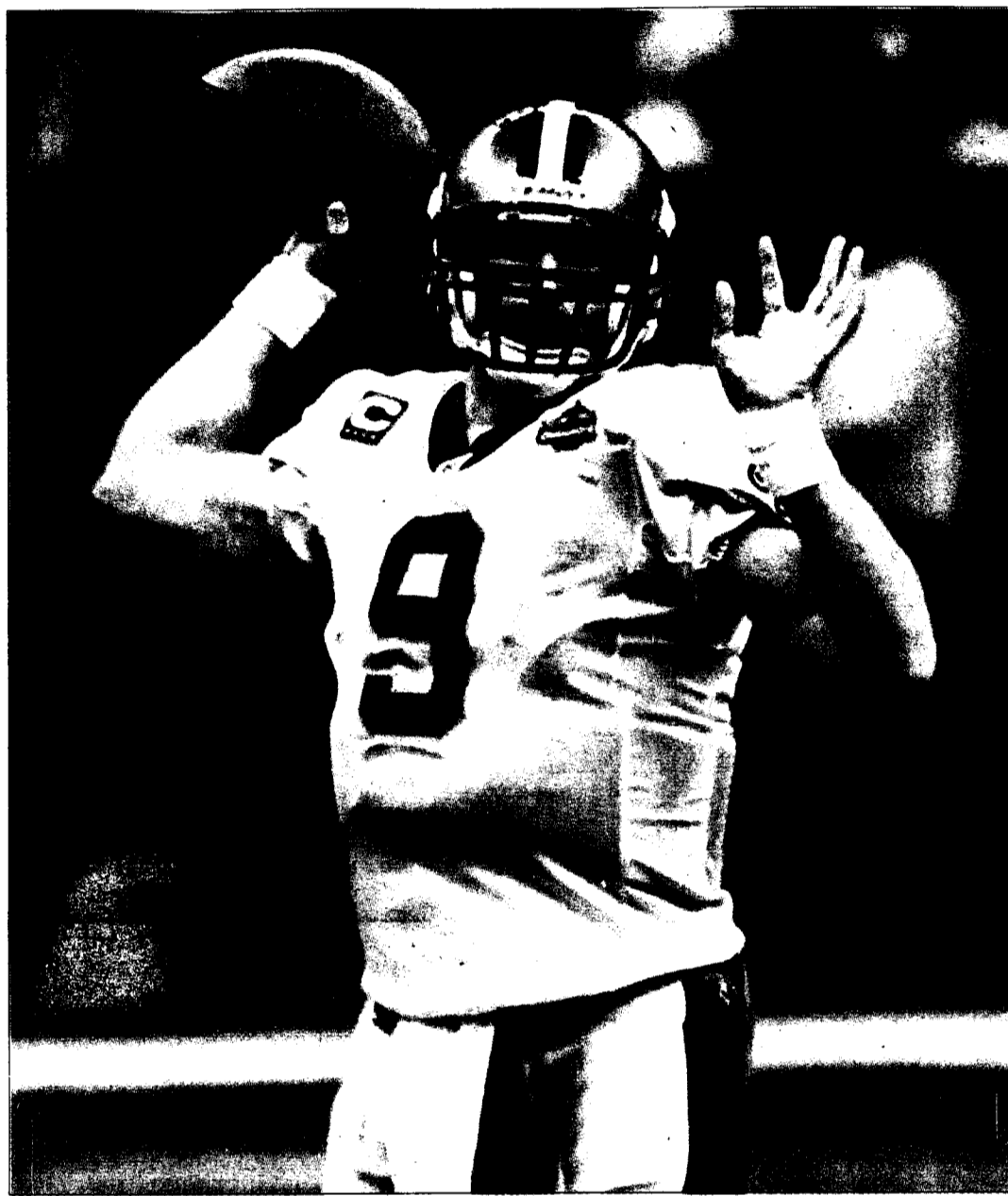
Based on what Paterno saw from Saban when he coached Michigan State during the second half of the 1990s, he said none of those achievements are unprecedented.

"Nick has a way of getting the kids to hustle and drive, and he's a tough guy," Paterno said. "His kids play tough. He's got a little better talent at Alabama than he had at Michigan State, but the same kind of attitude toward the game, the same kind of hustle."

Crimson Tide quarterback Greg McElroy, who has yet to lose a game in 15 starts, said he understands exactly where

See SABAN, Page 16.

TITLE DEFENSE



New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees unloads a pass vs. the Minnesota Vikings Thursday night.

Gerald Herbert/Associated Press



Braga (7) dribbles the ball.

Collegian file photo

Icers hopefuls awaiting decision

By Greg Garcia
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State Icers head coach Scott Balboni stared down toward the ice in his navy blue sweatshirt wondering which of the skaters below would crack his final roster.

ICERS

Four other assistant coaches with scouting reports in their hands surrounded Balboni at the top of the bleachers asking themselves the same question.



Balboni

After already participating in intense drills, the players finished practice with a scrimmage — as the coaches hoped for someone to catch their attention. With the scrimmage underway, a roster hopeful wearing No. 12 streaked down the ice hoping to beat out two defenders to the puck. The end result — a nasty three-way collision that sent the skaters

hard to the ground. Seconds later, they all sprung up off the ice and regained their balance as they continued to finish the play giving everything they had left in hopes of making the team.

Seventeen hopefuls tried out. Only six spots are open. On Monday, the final cut will be announced.

Sophomore defenseman Brian Dolan, who earned a spot on the team last season as a walk-on, remembers the feeling of taking the ice jockeying for a roster spot.

"Going in there, not being recruited, I felt like there was nothing to lose," Dolan said. "I knew I had a chance to make it. It's one of those things where if it doesn't go your way then you did what you could."

The first tryout, which took place Wednesday night at the Penn State Ice Pavilion, was an open tryout for walk-ons and freshman recruits.

The tryout gave new assistant coach Josh Hand his first stint, as he ran the tryout. Periodically he would blow his whistle with all

See ICERS, Page 16.



Darcy Dorton (middle) on the bench earlier this season. The sophomore is recovering from a torn ACL.

Daniel Bott/Collegian

Lions move on without Dorton

By Ryan Loy
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Russ Rose knew he'd be without the services of graduated players Alisha Glass and Megan Hodge this season, but there was one absence he wasn't ready for.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Sophomore outside hitter Darcy Dorton underwent surgery on March 23 and continues to rehab a torn

See DORTON, Page 16.

Lineup changes

Callie Rivers	Libero: Elyse Cusack	Colleen Ward	Callie Rivers	Libero: Erin Fleming	Chanel Brown
	Kelly Murphy			Kelly Murphy	
Lauren Bledsoe		Cassandra Anderson	Lauren Bledsoe		Cassandra Anderson
	Kristy Jaeckel			Kristy Jaeckel	
Megan Hodge	Fatima Balza	Blair Brown	Deja McClendon	Fatima Balza	Blair Brown
	Penn State		Penn State		
Arielle Wilson	Alisha Glass	Darcy Dorton	Arielle Wilson	Kristin Carpenter	Katie Kabbes
	Libero: Alyssa D'Errico			Libero: Alyssa D'Errico	

THE LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV

MLB

Philadelphia at New York Mets

7:10 tonight, CSN

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati

7:10 tonight, FSN

TRIVIA

Q: Who is the NFL's active leader in safeties?

Thursdays' answer: Green Bay won, 17-3.

QUICK HITS (AP)

Brady unhurt in car accident

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady was in a two-vehicle accident near his home Thursday morning but was unhurt and hours later practiced as usual with his team just days before the opener.

The crash, at an intersection in Boston's Back Bay area, knocked over a light pole and sent a passenger in the minivan that collided with Brady's car to a hospital with injuries that were serious but not considered life-threatening, a police report said.

A witness told The Associated Press that the two-time Super Bowl MVP was approaching the intersection on a green light when his black Audi sedan collided with the minivan.

U.S. wins, advances to semis

Kevin Durant scored 33 points Thursday to lead the United States to an 89-79 victory over Russia that moved it within two wins of its first world basketball championship since 1994.

The victory came on the anniversary of the Soviet Union's win over the Americans for the 1972 Olympic gold medal, a game with an ending so controversial the U.S. players refused to accept their silver medals.

No player on the young American team is old enough to remember that game — many are barely old enough to remember the Cold War.

But Mike Bantom, the NBA's senior vice president of player development, played on that U.S. team and is in Turkey with the Americans.

OUR THOUGHTS

James traveling up north

Rumors are swirling that LeBron James will be attending the Ohio State - Miami clash this weekend in Columbus.

If the speculation is true, then James continues to be naive at the impact The Decision had on Ohioans.

And of course, if it isn't bad enough that he's showing his face in the first place, he's doing it for the Miami game of all games.

Makes you wonder who the artist formerly known as "The King" will be pulling for on Saturday afternoon.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves...perhaps he's making this appearance to raise money for the Boys and Girls Club? Yeah, sure.