

# Bolden's reigns could be loosened

By Brendan Monahan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As a senior, Daryll Clark's season-long performance won him the Big Ten's Most Valuable Player award. By the end of his Penn State career, true freshman Rob Bolden could have the same fate.

## FOOTBALL

"Once he gets a little more experience and a few more games under his belt, he's going to be doing a lot of great things," wide receiver Derek Moyer said. "You're not going to be able to tell the difference [between Bolden and Clark]."

Bolden may grow into the quarterback Clark was or even greater. Running back Stephfon Green had said he believes Bolden will break every Penn State passing record in years to come. But records or not, the true freshman will eventually have to gain something Clark possessed a year ago — free reign of the Penn State offense.

Bolden has seen progression in throwing the ball for longer yardage with at least 12 of his 29 attempts going for 10 yards or more against Alabama. This weekend, with the running game struggling, the number of longer-yardage passes could increase.

Bolden has had a big burden to bear this season, which means

opening up the playbook further may be a gradual process.

So far, he has taken on a role greater than expected for a true freshman under the reigns of Joe Paterno.

Though throwing two interceptions on longer passes this season, Bolden had 16 of 33 completions go for 10 yards or more, showing why the reigns may be loosened more this weekend. The coaches even used a few designed runs at Alabama, something not seen against Youngstown State.

He'll have to keep at the same pace, or an increased one, until the running game kicks in, but Paterno said the play selection, which was equal run-pass distribution against Alabama, can also be improved upon.

"You've got to adapt to what people can do," Paterno said. "We may have asked him to do too much down there in Alabama."

Increasing the number of longer-yardage passes on the road shows the confidence the Penn State coaching staff has in Bolden. The true freshman is often described as poised, cool and collected.

With those characteristics and his success in longer-yardage passing, Bolden may find himself unloading deep balls even if the running game starts picking up.

"I definitely think he'll contin-

ue to have the opportunity to throw downfield," Moyer said. "I don't think we hold anything back with the offense with him."

Penn State's two lead returning rushers, Evan Royster and Stephfon Green, have combined for only 117 yards in two games.

Those statistics may cause a quarterback to not do too much, but Moyer said he doesn't believe Bolden, who is known as quiet, lets the numbers affect him.

"He looks at it as an opportunity," Moyer said, "because he's going to get more throws."

The adversity Bolden experienced last Saturday because of the running game and blitz blocking is an experience he shrugged off — at least according to his teammates.

Just one day after the biggest game of his young career, the Penn State quarterback looked ahead to the next matchup, taking place now Saturday against Kent State. When Moyer approached the true freshman after the Alabama game to tell him to look ahead to the rest of the season, Bolden had already put the loss behind him.

"That's rare that you get a freshman like that," Moyer said. "Usually they're just thinking about what just happened in the game."

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Rob Bolden walks off the field at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Alabama.

# Paterno looking for leaders

By Andrew J. Cassavell  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

get some leadership," Paterno said.

During the offseason, Joe Paterno said he couldn't possibly be sure about the leadership on his young football team until it faced adversity.

He said he couldn't be sure which players would step up vocally until the Penn State lost a game and faced the questions that come with a difficult defeat.

Following Saturday's 24-3 loss in Alabama, a loss that raised questions about both toughness and talent, that time may be now.

"I've been nervous about how young they are and where the leadership would come from," Paterno said. "We played the first half down in Alabama just about the way I was afraid we'd play it: very tentative. We weren't aggressive. I think we'll find out more about the football team this week and from here on in."

Concerns about leadership were raised this offseason with the departures of captains Sean Lee and Daryll Clark. In 2009, Lee and Clark were selected in mid-May, but the coaching staff opted to wait until the first week of September to let players vote this year.

This week, Paterno said the response of the current captains, Ollie Ogbu and Brett Brackett, impressed him, and senior guard Stefan Wisniewski is "coming around a little more" as a leader.

But Paterno wants more than just three seniors to take initiative.

The reason he hasn't seen much from the rest of the team, he said, is because of a lack of confidence and experience.

"When you get a lot of guys that are just not quite sure about some things and they lack that all-out attitude, it takes a while to

Ogbu and Brackett held a team meeting before Monday's practice to address the Alabama game before turning it behind them for good.

"I just let them know that we have to work harder," Ogbu said. "We have to take our mistakes that we had on Saturday and use it as a positive. And we have a loss, but don't let that be the lesson that we take away from this."

Ogbu said he was nervous about the meeting, but he was glad to see the captains take the lead. "I think they did a great job of leading the team," Paterno said.

When asked if Paterno's desire to see more leadership was a sign of a lack of confidence in the seniors, Paterno said, "I don't know."

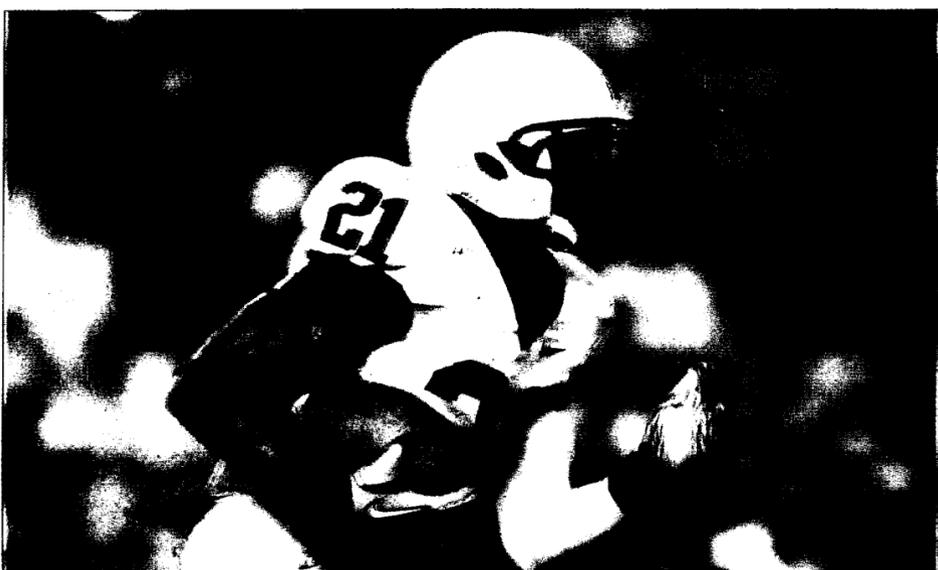
Pateno said he was looking for more leadership from the younger players. "I want to see guys step up and take initiative," he said. "I want to see guys who are confident and experienced."

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Stephfon Green runs during Penn State's 24-3 loss against Alabama last Saturday in Alabama.

# Running game hopes to change fortunes

By Audrey Snyder  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

To be fair, Joe Paterno doesn't want to jump to any conclusions.

With Evan Royster yet to rush for 100 yards this season, Paterno is tired of hearing about the struggles of Penn State's running game.

Left guard changes, quarterback pressures and a young team forced Paterno to bite his tongue, but when it comes to discussing the Nittany Lions' slow start to the running game, Paterno is the first to defend his team.

"Let me put it this way, we have too many people that are analyzing everything and sometimes they don't know what they're talking about," Paterno said.

Whether or not it's fair to say the offensive line has struggled to open holes for Royster, Paterno doesn't believe the running game has been as stagnant as people make it out to be. With a Kent State defense that held Boston College to 87 yards on 40

carries, the Lions will once again have their hands full trying to pave the way for Royster.

The Golden Flashes defense will challenge an offensive line Paterno said has a more difficult task than in years past. With a freshman quarterback and red-shirt freshman tight end earning starts, the Lions' offensive line is slowly starting to take form.

Johnnie Troutman has a slight edge over DeOn'tae Pannell at left guard, and having Troutman on the field is something defensive tackle Ollie Ogbu said greatly benefits the Lions' run game. "He's responded ever since they put him on the second team," Ogbu said. "He kind of felt like he had a chip on his shoulder because he's honestly one of our most talented offensive linemen that we have here. Being on second team, that wasn't doing him any justice."

With Troutman playing most of the game against Alabama, Paterno said he doesn't want to pin the running game's struggles on either the offensive

line or the running backs.

"I think the effort's fine," Paterno said of Royster. "I don't know whether you really have established the kind of running game that Royster would do well in. Royster is a kid of a pick'em and spot 'em, give me a crack and I'll go-kind of runner. He's not a guy that's gonna run over you."

While Royster may not be the type of runner that plows through defenders, freshman Silas Redd has taken full advantage of the right carries he's received. Redd's 46 yards have made him the second highest rusher, but Paterno is hesitant to give him more carries.

The experience of Royster and redshirt junior Stephfon Green makes Redd the third option, although Paterno believes the freshman has a lot of potential.

"I think Silas will be a good back," Paterno said. "I think he's done well when we've played him. We've not asked him to do too much."

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Saturday (9/18) @ 7:00pm vs. WASHINGTON

**WOMEN'S SOCCER**  
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