



Kelsey Morris/Collegian

Redshirt sophomore defensive end Pete Massaro (59) fights off a block from Kent State offensive lineman Brian Winters during the Lions' 24-0 win on Saturday. Massaro missed last season after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his knee in the 2009 Blue and White game.

DE healthy and contributing

By Brendan Monahan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

His first season starting at Marple Newtown High School, defensive end Pete Massaro burst onto the scene.

In Marple Newtown's third game of Massaro's sophomore season, he Massaro's Springfield High School's quarterback three times and relished the hits.

"He's always been a pretty

intense guy," Marple Newton coach Ray Gionta said. "He's a guy that has a high motor."

That high motor has taken him from the greater-Philadelphia area to State College, where he became a Penn State football player. It's pushed him through an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear suffered during the 2009 Blue-White game.

It's given him a chance to press for more minutes this season, something coaches say was inevitable last year if the redshirt

sophomore hadn't gotten injured. "It's been a haul back for him," Penn State defensive coordinator Tom Bradley said, "and he's back where he was."

His speed was the asset that first showed Gionta of Massaro's potential. After Massaro's freshman year, he ran a 4.7-second 40-yard dash in spring mini camp.

Because of Massaro's quickness, Bradley said he likes to use the defensive end in drop-back zone plays, and Massaro's style is something that fits the philosophy

of defensive line coach Larry Johnson.

"What he kind of grades us on is how fast we play in practice," Massaro said. "You got to practice fast in order to play fast."

His quick play has earned him six tackles in three games. He also had one of the two sacks against Alabama's Greg McElroy, which came in the second quarter.

But Massaro's speed took a back seat after he tore his ACL. Gionta was at the Blue-White. See MASSARO, Page 10.

Icers name capt.

By Anthony Barton
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Looking at Coach Scott Balboni's choices for the Icers' captain and assistant captains for the 2010-2011 season, it's safe to say he looked for a variety of qualities to lead the team.

Senior forward Marek Polidor is the captain, with senior forward Tim O'Brien, junior forward Paul Daley and sophomore forward Eric Steinour being the assistants.

"My initial reaction was I was honored and proud to be the captain," Polidor said. "I think we have a real exciting year ahead of us. I'm going to work hard to lead by example on and off the ice."

Balboni said this year more than ever he wanted to see how his players returned following the offseason. He looked at the physical shape they were in, and how the younger players reacted to different leaders on the team. Following a team vote, he put his input into the decision and made the final call.

"The other three guys will do great for us, but I think they were just a step behind Marek," Balboni said. "I wanted to make sure he was recognized for that."

Balboni said what he saw in Polidor was an intelligent player, who with leading by example, was the best choice.

"He's the one on and off the ice, See ICERS, Page 10.



Balboni

ICERS

Lord ready to bounce back

By Zack Feldman
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A 12th-place finish in a runner's first meet of the season doesn't usually place them high up in a team's plans, but to Nicole Lord, it is motivation to get back to the top.

Lord immediately became one of the top success stories at Penn State last fall, bursting onto the scene with a second-place finish in her first collegiate race, finishing in the top three of each race she participated in and ultimately winning the Big Ten's Freshman of the Year honor.

But while most of the outdoor track team finished running after the June 9-12 NCAA Championships or earlier, Lord and Brooklyne Ridder ran until early July, competing at the USA

See LORD, Page 10.

WOMEN'S
CROSS
COUNTRY



Lord



Chloe Elmer/Collegian

Cornerback Derrick Thomas (5) pursues Kent State's Leneric Muldrow (13) on Saturday. Thomas intercepted a pass in the win.

DBs making adjustments

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Tom Bradley's nickel package has improved significantly since it first trotted onto the field against Youngstown State.

Given its first play of the 2010 season resulted in an 80-yard touchdown on a screen pass, felled with missed assignments and poor pursuit, how could it not?

Bradley, Penn State's defensive coordinator, joked after Saturday's shutout there was nowhere to go but up after that breakdown, but he said aside from the obvious improvement since that play, the Lions' secondary is starting to take form.

See SECONDARY, Page 10.



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Braga leading nation in assists

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The man with the most assists in American college soccer happens to be Brazilian.

After six games, Penn State senior midfielder Matheus Braga leads the NCAA with eight assists after picking up one in both of the men's soccer teams wins this weekend. Braga's torrid start to the season has quickly caught the eyes of his teammates.

"Matheus is playing ridiculous right now," junior defender Mark Fetrow said after Sunday's 4-0 thrashing of Denver. "Everyone is extremely confident whenever he has the ball."

It didn't take the Rio de Janeiro native long to get going this season, chalking up three assists in the win over Buffalo. Braga has been held assist-less in just one game this season, a 2-1 loss to Bucknell on Sept. 10.

Last season, the senior tallied a goal and two assists in the Nittany Lions 5-0 win over St. Francis and went on to total seven assists and seven goals for the year. While Braga has already surpassed his assist total, which led the Big Ten last year, his goal scoring has just started.



Sarah Finnegan/Collegian

Braga (7) dribbles up the field.

Going into the weekend, Braga said he had hoped to start scoring and Sunday he finally did, netting a header off a corner kick. The senior's effort this weekend earned him Big Ten Co-Offensive Player of the Week honors with Michigan State's Ceyrus Saydee.

For Braga, setting up his teammates has always been a focal point of his game dating back to when he learned the game.

"Since I started playing soccer, even in Brazil, it's been my tactic to play in the [midfield] and find those guys up top," Braga said. "I led the team [in assists] my second year here and I'm leading them this year so hopefully I keep See BRAGA, Page 10.

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN SPORTS

MLB

Philadelphia vs. Atlanta
7:05 tonight, CSN
Pittsburgh vs. St. Louis
7:05 tonight, FSN

TRIVIA

Q: Where does Donovan McNabb rank on the all-time passing yardage list?
Monday's answer: January 2009

Revis dealing with hamstring

The New York Jets' shutdown cornerback isn't being shut down just yet.

An MRI exam Monday revealed that Darrelle Revis has a strained left hamstring, but he would not rule himself out of New York's game at Miami on Sunday.

"They just said it's strained and it could take one to two weeks, or it could take a week," Revis said. "It depends on how my body recovers."

Revis, who was limited in practice last week with tightness in the hamstring, immediately grabbed at his leg after Moss made a spectacular, one-handed 34-yard touchdown grab with 53 seconds left in the first half of New York's 28-14 win over New England.

He was examined on the sideline, then taken to the locker room for treatment.

OUR THOUGHTS

Collins back under center

Despite benching Vince Young for former Penn State signal caller Kerry Collins in the Tennessee Titans' 19-11 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday, Titans' coach Jeff Fisher insists there's no quarterback controversy in Nashville.

Nevertheless, it's impressive that the ex-Lion Collins, now the ripe old age of 37, continues to push the de facto 2005 Heisman Trophy winner five years into his own NFL career. It's clear Collins has found a fountain of youth somewhere.

Collins, 12th all-time in NFL passing yardage with 38,767, is only 1,472 yards shy of passing Johnny Unitas for 11th and 1,784 short of Joe Montana for 10th.

Dixon out with knee injury

The Pittsburgh Steelers aren't saying yet how long quarterback Dennis Dixon will be out with a left knee injury, a problem that typically sidelines a player for multiple games.

Dixon, who started the first two games of the season for the suspended Ben Roethlisberger, was examined by doctors Monday and might have additional tests Tuesday. Dixon, who injured the same knee at Oregon in 2007, might not return before Roethlisberger's four-game suspension ends.

Charlie Batch, No. 4 on the depth chart, finished up after Dixon was hurt Sunday during a 19-11 victory at Tennessee.