

SPORTS

10 | FRIDAY, SEPT. 24, 2010

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN



Kyle Mills (4) looks to get around a Drexel player while controlling the puck during a game against the Dragons last season.

Collegian file photo

Junior taking injury well

By Jocelyn Syrstad
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Frank Molinaro doesn't like to lose, and he definitely doesn't like to be told he can't do something.

But when his dreams of becoming a national champion are in jeopardy, he will do whatever it takes to achieve those goals — even if it means being told he can't practice or compete for the time being.

WRESTLING



Molinaro is out for an undetermined amount of time with an injury he suffered at wrestling practice on Sept. 16 that the Penn State Athletic Communications office could not disclose because of competition issues. With wrestling being a one-on-one sport where grapplers look for their opponent's weaknesses, the team kept specifics of Molinaro's injury under wraps.

The Barnegat, N.J. native is a returning two-time All-American and was ranked the No. 3 wrestler by WIN Magazine in the 149-pound weight class for the upcoming season. After finishing fifth at nationals last year and eighth as a 141-pounder in 2009, as well as finishing fourth in the Big Ten last year, Molinaro is considered a legitimate contender for the title this season.

Assistant Communications Director Pat Donghia said the wrestler visited a team doctor earlier this week and the injury will not require any surgery.

"It's really nothing too serious," Molinaro said in an e-mail. "As long as I keep doing the things the medical staff tells me, my time out will be minimized. Right now, I'm still lifting and doing as much cardio as I can. Overall, I'm not worried because I'll be in shape and ready to win when I come back."

The redshirt junior has been doing hand bike workouts, as well as lifting weights to keep himself in the best shape possible while he waits to be cleared to return to competition.

His coaches and teammates know Molinaro will do whatever it takes to get back on the mats.

"Absolutely I know he's frustrated right now, but I know he's also accepted it," former teammate and Nittany Lion Club coach Dan Vallimont said. "He's in practice every day and he's

See MOLINARO, Page 12.

Icers prepare for scrimmage

By Greg Garcia
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The road to a championship begins tonight.

The Penn State Icers will play their annual Blue-White game at 9:15 p.m. Friday in the Greenberg Ice Pavilion. The scrimmage will give Icers' players their first chance to skate competitively against one another in front of an audience, all while trying to crack coach Scott

ICERS

Balboni's starting rotation.

Within the past two weeks, much of the hockey excitement at Penn State was directed to the announcement from Athletic Director Tim Curley about adding men's and women's NCAA Division I programs in 2012-13.

Now, the Icers are hoping to turn their attention back where it belongs — on the ice.

"Lately there has been a lot of hype and excitement about going Division I," junior forward Paul Daley said. "But we still have a season ahead of us and we are

looking to accomplish our goals." Senior goaltender Teddy Hume agreed with his teammate, saying the team is not looking two years ahead. He added everyone is "all-in" on this season.

Friday night will give Balboni an initial look at his players and how they respond to certain game situations — something they can't simulate during practice. The scrimmage will also allow new line combinations to develop chemistry, as well as mixing in some of the new faces with the veteran skaters. Balboni said he

divided the teams up himself based on these factors.

Senior forward Tim O'Brien is ready to kick off the season and put the preseason behind him.

"We are going to take the scrimmage just like a game," the Bethel Park, Pa. native said. "We face Pittsburgh in one week on the road, which will be a tough test. This should be a good benchmark on where we stand."

The Blue-White scrimmage is an annual tradition, but for the freshmen this will mark the first

See ICERS, Page 12.

Young receivers become assets

By Brendan Monahan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Justin Brown didn't believe he was a true wide receiver — until Penn State taught him to be one.

"In high school, I didn't really think about being a receiver," Brown said. "I was just very athletic."

Brown, who played receiver and defensive back at Concord High School in Wilmington, Del., said he learned how to run routes, block, catch and utilize his body since arriving in State College. The sophomore started his first collegiate game last week, and his

FOOTBALL

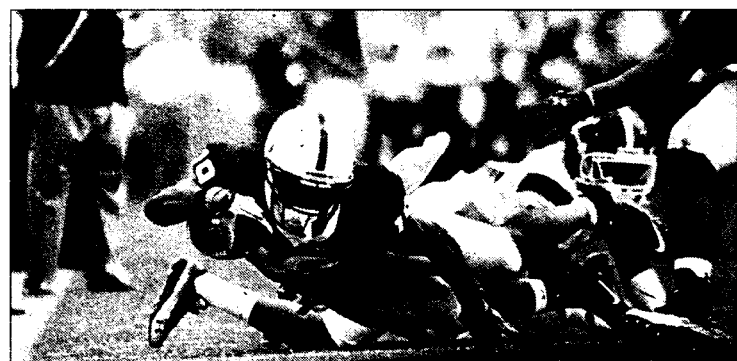
early season production can be credited to that progression.

The production of young receivers meant less time for redshirt senior Graham Zug last Saturday. Brown presents a different dynamic than Zug, as he stands one inch taller and weighs 31 pounds heavier.

He's speedy despite his stature, which he said sets him apart from other receivers along with his ability to track down a thrown ball.

Speed and ball judgment are valuable attributes in Brown's other job on the field.

He's one of two punt returners alongside receiver Devon Smith. Penn State has implemented its two-man return system, some-



Justin Brown (19) stretches out for more yards vs. Youngstown State.

Chloe Elmer/Collegian

thing Brown likes because it gives the receiver a lead blocker and minimizes the space where the

opposing punter can target.

"It comes natural to me,"

See RECEIVERS, Page 12.

Lions open Big Ten

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

All bets are off — it's Big Ten season.

When the Penn State men's soccer team steps on Jeffrey Field tonight against Indiana, it's a start of a season within a season for the No. 20 Nittany Lions.

"It's completely different, it's a whole new season," senior co-

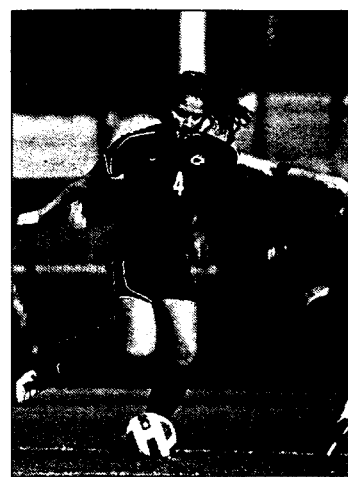
captain Drew Cost said. "I mean, it's good to have a good record at this point but we really need to work on getting off to a good start in the Big Ten because that's all we're working for."

The Hoosiers come to State College with a 3-3 record that's anything but indicative of how talented the

See MEN'S SOCCER, Page 12.



Warming



Marton attempts a pass.

Tom Ruane/Collegian

Marton to miss time

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Women's soccer sophomore defender Lexi Marton will miss three months with a partial tear of the medial collateral ligament (MCL) in her left knee and some bruising of the bones in the area, according to a press release issued Thursday.

Marton suffered the injury on Sept. 12 in the second half of the

Nittany Lions' 4-2 loss to the then-No. 4 Portland Pilots. The sophomore said last week the injury happened when a Portland forward's cleat landed on her knee during a collision, causing it to hyperextend.

"It is certainly positive news that it wasn't a complete injury in terms of a tearing an ACL, it's just a partial tear of the MCL and some bone bruising," Lions coach Erica Walsh said in the release. "We look forward to seeing Lexi out there soon and happy to know

See MARTON, Page 12.

THE LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV

MLB

Philadelphia vs. New York Mets
7:05 tonight, CSN
Pittsburgh vs. Houston
7:05 tonight, FSN

TRIVIA

Q: Who was the Phillies' last 20 game winner?

Thursday's answer: Gerald

QUICK HITS

Pick 'Em enters Week 3

The Collegian NFL Pick 'Em's Week 3 gets underway this Sunday with a new slate of NFL games for our pickers to choose winners from.

Nittany Lion fund president Jim Regan is still in the league, with a 22-10 record so far through this season's first two weeks.

Last week's student athlete representative was men's basketball senior point guard Talor Battle, who went 10-6 in his picks.

This week's student athlete is Battle's teammate, senior forward D.J. Jackson. Check the MAKE PLAYS blog at psucollegian.com tonight to check out everyone's picks.

Ichiro, Bautista hit marks

TORONTO (AP) — On a day of milestone hits, Jose Bautista's big shot won the game. Bautista hit his major league-leading 50th home run, connecting off Felix Hernandez and sending the Toronto Blue Jays over the Seattle Mariners 1-0 on Thursday.

Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki also became the first player with 10 straight 200-hit seasons, breaking his own record with a fifth-inning single.

"We got to see some things happen today that I've never seen before," Blue Jays manager Cito Gaston said. "It's a day I'll always remember."

Bautista became the 26th player in baseball history to reach the 50-home run mark with a first-inning drive off Hernandez.

OUR THOUGHTS

Batch gets another shot

Hometown hero Charlie Batch will start Pittsburgh's week three game against Tampa Bay on Sunday.

Batch does a lot of community work in his native Pittsburgh, including running a youth basketball league out of his own pocket over the summer, so it's nice to see him get perhaps one last moment in the spotlight in his home team's uniform.

Unfortunately for the Steelers, they don't have much behind Batch. An injured Leftwich could play if necessary, but for our money, the Steelers should give old Hoosier quarterback Antwaan Randle El some reps in case anything happens to batch.