

Lions have little to gain, everything to lose against Temple

By Andrew J. Cassavell

FOR an annual intrastate rivalry game, it's not quite the Iron Bowl, the Civil War or the Bedlam Series. It's just Penn State-Temple.

No cool nickname, no history and — for the last six decades — no real competition between the two teams.

But that's exactly why this year's game is so interesting to dissect from a mental standpoint. Just think of the two practice fields this week.

One team is preparing for what would be arguably the biggest win in program history and the chance to beat a team that has always overshadowed them. The Temple practices will be inspired, they will be spirited and with good reason.

The other team is simply trying to find motivation to repeat something that has



MY OPINION

happened every time the two teams have met since 1941. As a result, Penn State practice has the chance to go one of two ways:

Either the Lions will realize this isn't your father's Temple team and practice timidly for fear of being "the team that lost," or the Lions will look past the Owls, practice disinterested and set themselves up for the worst.

"Every game's the same," senior wide receiver Graham Zug said of the team's preparation.

"It's gonna be tough the whole way through the entire game and Temple's a tough team."

And all the other Penn State players agree with Zug that each week has to be treated equally. But these are the same players who told us Youngstown State was just as important as Alabama during Week 1 and then let us know how much more intense practices had gotten in Week 2 for the defending national champions.

It's not a sin to be more excited for some games than others. It's human.

And, in the week leading up to it, this game has a certain stigma to it that reminds me of playing my little brother in driveway basketball.

For years, he was a punching bag, and I'd talk trash while working on my left-handed fadeaway and my halfcourt jumper. Now he's good, and when we play, I shut up, play defense and hope that afterward my pride is still intact.

The Nittany Lions aren't just playing for a win this week but more so to keep their pride — whatever pride still comes with a 28th-straight victory over Temple.

The Owls are a pretty talented little brother this season, too. Bernard Pierce, arguably the best tailback in the state, ran all over a UConn team that I (foolishly) picked to win the Big East this season, going for 169 yards on 26 carries. Quarterback Chester Stewart hasn't thrown a pick this year, and he does everything necessary to win games.

What happens Saturday when Pierce starts breaking down the poor-tackling Lion defense or when Stewart's pocket

presence keeps the pesky Owls around late? Those white-clad students, who were planning on leaving for burgers and beers around halftime won't be happy to be standing on bleachers past 5 p.m.

There are plenty of Big Ten teams this season that are worse than Temple. But if the Lions lose in two weeks to a hapless Illinois squad, is anybody in Happy Valley really going to be more upset than if they lose to Temple on Saturday?

Come on, it's Temple.

The Lions will probably extend their streak over the Owls. They're still faster, they're still stronger and, ultimately, they're still better.

But when they do, you won't hear many celebrations. You'll hear a collective sigh let out throughout Beaver Stadium as the players get ready for what'll be a slightly less burdensome week of practice before Iowa.

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ESPN's Michelle Beadle co-hosts "SportsNation" at Jordan Center

By Matt Densted
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Michelle Beadle is no stranger to the big school atmosphere.

The SportsNation co-host graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio, the largest branch campus of the University of Texas with almost 30,000 students. Still, Beadle admits to feeling as though her current SportsNation Big Ten tour is shedding new light on many of the other large institutes in the country.

This is the first time Beadle visited the four Big Ten schools on

the tour — Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan and Penn State. She finds herself in awe over the large turnouts and beautiful campuses.

And Happy Valley is no exception.

Beadle arrived late Wednesday night and on first impression simply described it as a "big, beautiful campus."

"You just don't get the seasons in Texas, so this is just a nice change," Beadle said in an exclusive interview at the Bryce Jordan Center on Thursday.

The popular afternoon host, who co-hosts SportsNation with

Colin Cowherd, just recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of the show in July. The show is breaking new ground through the college road tour, visiting a new Big Ten campus each day of the four-day tour.

Beadle said both her and Cowherd agree their Big Ten Tour has gone great so far, and Beadle even hopes after the excitement of the past few days, they will be sent on more road trips.

Beadle has been dazzled by the electric atmosphere of the campuses on tour.

"Now that I am in my 30s, I truly

appreciate the school spirit and big campus feel," she said.

Raised in Texas for a chunk of her childhood, Beadle was admittedly a tomboy. She loved sports, yet initially set her sights on a career in law. Through college and exciting work opportunities, Beadle was able to turn her passion for sports into a quick rise through the sports journalism industry.

Originally, Beadle had no concern about attending a big school when applying to college.

After not being admitted to her top choice Georgetown, Beadle

went with the University of Texas at San Antonio and has never looked back.

Early on, Beadle caught a break with an internship working for the San Antonio Spurs.

Eventually, Beadle found herself working sideline reporting for the YES Network's coverage of the New Jersey Nets.

She considers her most recent position her favorite job and likes working with Cowherd.

Beadle is excited for more opportunities to come off of what has already been "a very enjoyable tour."

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Friday (9/24) @ 6pm vs. Indiana
Sunday (9/26) @ 1pm vs. Michigan

FIELD HOCKEY FIELD BEHIND SHIELDS

By Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Sept. 24, 2010.

This year, you see life from a renewed perspective. Probably, you will become more willing to flow in a different direction. Understanding evolves between you and others as you learn to listen better than in the past. If you are single, many people could present themselves as a potential suitor, but it might not work or be the right person. The smart Libra will play the field until he or she is sure. If you are attached, be a silent partner this year and let your significant other feel freer and more loved. ARIES tests your limits.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
**** Determination sometimes comes off as being rigid. You blow through misunderstandings in order to achieve your desired results. Verify with an associate that you are on the same page. Tonight: Put your feet up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
*** Much that occurs could make you feel uncomfortable. You often feel pressured by a situation that makes you ill at ease. When you can laugh, others will relax. Still, you might not have the flex to behave that easily. Tonight: Get some extra R and R. You are going to need it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
**** You might want to approach a friendship or meeting in a different way. You quickly discover that many of your past assumptions could have been off.

friends.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
**** Knowing full well what you want can help you direct your energy, or at least use it appropriately. Confirm meetings and pick and choose your words. Decide to take nothing personally, as the potential for a misunderstanding is high. Tonight: Could be late!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
**** Your mind takes the lead, even over impulsiveness, though the two could merge. Pull yourself out of the here and now, and you will make excellent and supportive decisions. Be willing to forge a new path. Tonight: Think "distant drummer."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
**** A key person in your life might be a bit demanding, wanting exactly what he or she thinks should happen. What does it really hurt to go along for the ride, at least for the day? Make sure that on some level you communicate that you are giving this person's idea a try; it is not a commitment. Tonight: Munchies while visiting with a pal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
*** Others have strong opinions, but is this really new? Simply kick back and enjoy yourself. If you see a matter differently from many people in your circle, keep testing it for now. Remain open. Don't overreact to another person's feelings. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
**** Investigate change rather than cause yourself a problem. If you see a matter differently, be aware that others are simply demanding — for now. Give these people the time to see the net early.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
**** Seize the moment, and get out of work or plans as soon as possible. You might be silly to some but intuitive to others. Make hay while you can, which might look like working harder next week. Be careful with a touchy parent or boss. Tonight: You can look at a situation in a new light.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
*** You might want to rethink a project more carefully than in the past. You can buy yourself time, especially if it means preventing an error. You might not have all your facts just yet. Tonight: Order in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
**** Your ability to communicate gets down to the essence of the moment. You might wonder which way is best. Since you are not getting all the facts, it could be close to impossible to make a decision. Tonight: Flirt till your heart's content.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
*** Be aware of the costs of certain negotiations. If you are not comfortable, nothing will work. Trust your inner voice, especially if you believe someone isn't getting your message. Tonight: Say "yes" and only "yes."

BORN TODAY
Actor Anthony Newley (1931), creator of the Muppets Jim Henson (1936), animal-rights activist Linda McCartney (1941)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com.
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