

Iowa awaits battered O-line

By Brendan Monahan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Right tackle Lou Eliades left Saturday's game on a cart with his jersey off and a towel draped over his head.

The redshirt senior, starting 17 games straight before the injury, was a constant on the offensive line, but Eliades tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), sidelining him for the rest of the season. The loss is a tough blow to an improving offensive line that

faces a dominant Iowa defensive front Saturday.

"It's rough," said center Doug Klopacz, Eliades' roommate freshman year. "It's a big blow. You're always like, 'Not going to happen to me, not going to happen to me,' and it happens — that quick."

With Eliades' injury, redshirt junior Chima Okoli enters at right tackle with virtually no collegiate experience at the position. He was a defensive tackle the last two years before switching to

offensive tackle in the spring. He'll have to go up against Iowa's Adrian Clayborn, Chris Ballard and Broderick Binns, three players in a five-to-six-man rotation on the Hawkeyes' defensive line.

"It is what it is," Okoli said. "Obviously it's going to be tough, but there's no part of me and no part of this team that believes that we're ill prepared or we're inadequate."

The Penn State offensive line entered 2010 reshuffled and inexperienced but made strides,

notably against Temple this past Saturday, when it paved the way for running back Evan Royster's career-best 187 yards.

The line recently began shaping up with Johnnie Troutman solidifying his spot as the starter at left guard. Klopacz had also become steady at center, allowing right guard Stefen Wisniewski and Eliades to stay at more comfortable positions.

Wisniewski is now the only full-time starter left from a year ago. See O-LINE, Page 13.



Daniel Bott/Collegian

Royster must carry the offense.

Royster has to adapt

By Nate Mink

THE first month of his senior year has not quite gone the way Evan Royster thought it would.

He wanted 18 to 22 carries a game. He's getting anywhere from nine to 26. He wanted to play at 218 pounds and carry the load



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offensively with what was supposed to be a rocky quarterback. He's back down to 212 pounds and has a Rocky quarterback who doesn't need to lean on anybody.

In short, Royster's 2010 story has been an adaptation. Let's call it Catch-22. His words, "I'm still trying to find myself." A career-high 187 yards was the statement before the statement, the turning point that came two weeks ago when linebackers coach Ron Vanderlinden gave Royster something to think about.

"I still felt good, but it's a matter of what other people see," Royster said about dropping six pounds. "Sometimes you look at yourself and you don't notice these things. Coach Vanderlinden came up to me and said, 'You look like you don't have that thing, that extra burst.' That's what I need. That's what people need to tell me because I won't see that myself."

The adaptation of Evan Royster is just starting. His position coach and running coordinator, Galen Hall, told him Monday his number of carries will vary week to week, depending on who has the hot hand.

Chalk it up to a running back-committee system.

Then there's the matter of running behind new right tackle Chima Okoli, who likely will get the first crack at replacing Lou Eliades, whose torn ACL caused the offensive line's hut of cards to collapse and forces them to repair what wasn't very good to begin with. Iowa's Broderick Binns and Adrian Clayborn are licking their chops at the prospect of lining up against two undersized tackles, ready to repeat a demonstrative butt-kicking in the trenches.

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Christine Reckner/Collegian

Rob Bolden led a 12-play, 96-yard, fourth-quarter touchdown drive to solidify Penn State's 22-13 win Saturday afternoon at Beaver Stadium.

Lions offense fizzling near redzone

By Audrey Snyder
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It was becoming an all too familiar scene for the Penn State offense.

The Nittany Lions consistently moved the ball during long, clock eating drives, but once they got inside the 30 yard line, the offense couldn't get the ball into the end zone.

Time after time on third down, balls were thrown out of the back of the end zone or runs fell well short of the first down marker.

Collin Wagner would run on to the field to attempt one of his six field goals, while the offense headed toward the sidelines to try to

figure out how the drive stalled.

The Lions were 6-of-17 on third down conversions and scored just one touchdown during their five opportunities in the redzone. For an offense that's scored just six touchdowns during 15 redzone opportunities this season and was held without a touchdown against Alabama, the Lions head into Big Ten play searching for answers to why they struggle to finish drives.

"I didn't wanna particularly throw the ball all the time down there, not with a young quarterback, Joe Paterno said. "I think we can do better, no question about that. We have to do better down there, we can't waste that many scoring opportunities."

While Wagner accounted for 16 of the team's 22 points, several players couldn't pinpoint the reason why the offense couldn't capitalize on more scoring opportunities.

But quarterbacks coach Jay Paterno said he's not necessarily concerned about the team's play in the redzone. He said some of the stalled drives can be blamed on the team's tendency to get away from plays it has had success with in the past.

Wide receiver Derek Moye said perhaps the reasons for the stalled offense against Temple would show up when the team watches film. But he said the perplexing part about all of it was that

the offense didn't do things much differently inside the 30 than it did for the rest of the drive.

However, the Lions' lone touchdown drive of the game was one where freshman quarterback Rob Bolden converted two key third downs and was poised enough to stay in the pocket and take some hits.

Bolden's ability to orchestrate the fourth-quarter touchdown drive gave Jay Paterno confidence to believe Bolden's reins can now be loosened around the goal line.

"Knowing that we have three points in our hip pocket, you want to be careful that you don't put See REDZONE, Page 13.

Wagner becoming dependable

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Collin Wagner doesn't feel like he's the same person he was last season.

At least mentally, when Wagner approaches a field goal attempt, he says his mindset has changed entirely.

That showed Saturday. Wagner tied a school record by kicking five field goals including two from more than 40 yards out. For the first three quarters, Wagner was the Lions' only offense as they carried a 15-13 lead into the fourth, with all the points coming from Wagner's kicks.

After struggling, especially from more than 40 yards last season, Wagner is 10-for-12 overall this year and 5-for-6 from that distance. He credits the year of experience.

"It's great to have a year under your belt," Wagner said. "Even in the first game I didn't really have See LAST WORD, Page 13.



Chloe Elmer/Collegian

Collin Wagner is one of the most improved players from last year.

Report Card: Penn State 22, Temple 13

POSITION	COMMENTS
Quarterbacks B	Bolden didn't make mistakes and led the final 96-yard scoring drive like a poised veteran. He needs to be efficient in the red zone.
Running backs A-	Evan Royster broke out Saturday, going for a career-high 187 yards and silencing his critics. The minus is because Green struggled.
Wide receivers B+	Eighteen catches for eight different players. The ball was distributed very well and everyone who was called upon made a play.
Offensive line A-	The line gave up its first sack of the season, but the unit cleared holes for Royster all day and gave Bolden plenty of time to throw.
Defensive line C	Not much pressure from the interior and early on, the holes for Pierce and Brown were too big. Pete Massaro had a big game again.
Linebackers A	Mauti and Stupar were almost single-handedly responsible for the defense's turnaround. Stupar's INT set up the go-ahead field goal.
Secondary A	No complaints at all for the second week in a row. Chester Stewart isn't exactly Ricky Stanzi, but Nick Sukay picked him off twice.
Special teams A-	Collin Wagner hit five-of-six field goals but missed wide left from just 32 yards. Huge Devon Smith punt return negated by penalty.