

Lions prepare for St. Francis

By Mike Still

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It's a classic case of David vs. Goliath.

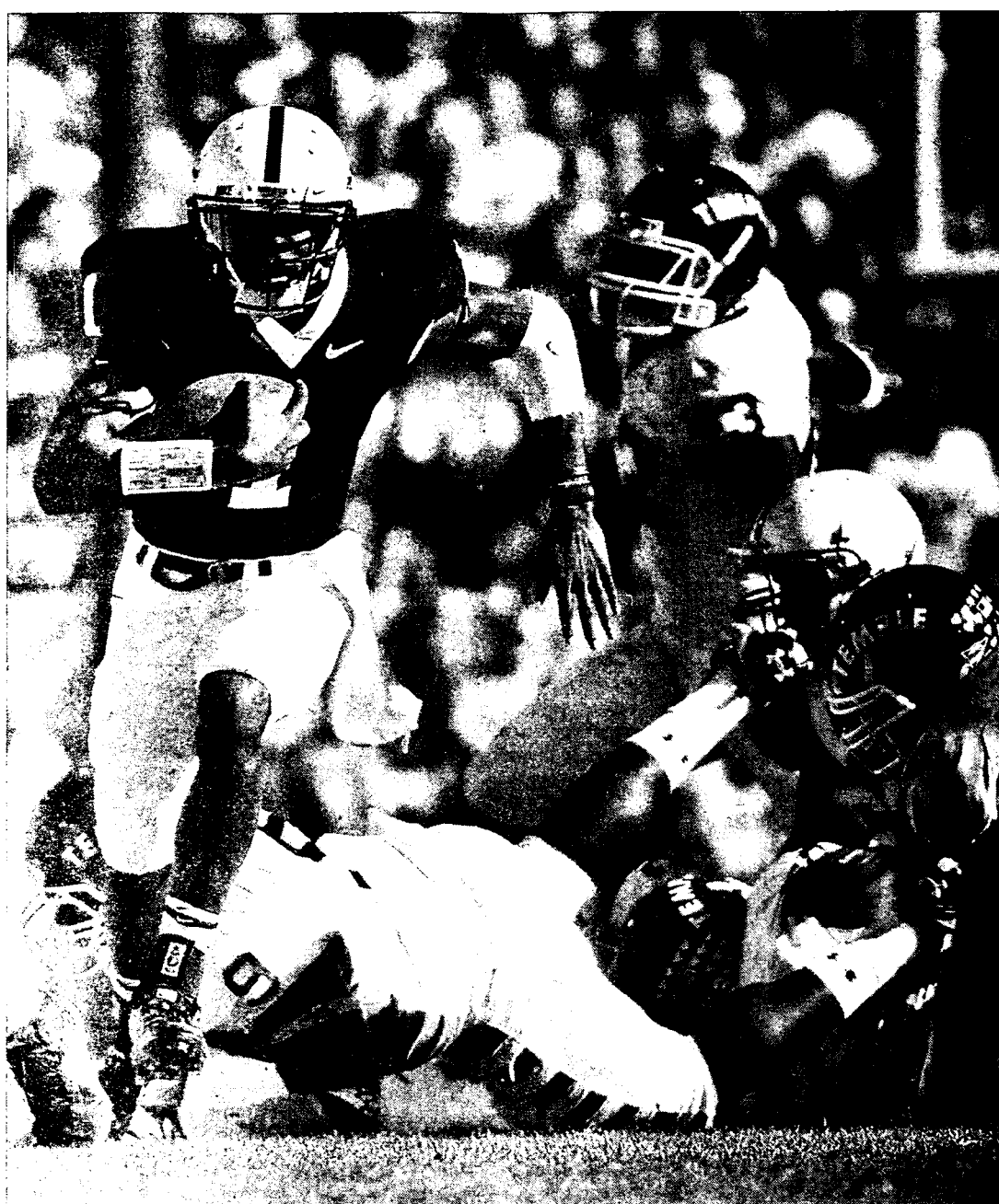
At 7 p.m. tonight, Saint Francis University, a member of the Northeast Conference and boasting an enrollment of less than 2,000 undergraduates, will visit Happy Valley to take on the Penn State men's soccer team.

And despite having the advantage in enrollment and playing in a major conference like the Big Ten, the No. 21 Nittany Lions are treating the match like just another game.

"We know that they're having a better season than they had in the past," junior defender Justin Lee said. "And obviously we're not." *See MEN'S SOCCER, Page 14*

If you go

Men's soccer vs. St. Francis
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Jeffrey Field



Christine Reckner/Collegian

Freshman quarterback Rob Bolden (1) runs downfield vs. Temple during Penn State's win on Saturday.

QB eyes new road test

By Audrey Snyder

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When Rob Bolden walked off the field inside Alabama's Bryant-Denny Stadium, there was a sense of relief on his face.

As the bright lights illuminated the field and Bolden walked through the tunnel and into the visiting locker room, the freshman quarterback's first collegiate road game was in the books.

With two ensuing home games and one 96-yard fourth quarter touchdown drive under his belt, the freshman now moves away from Beaver Stadium and prepares for road test No. 2.

When Penn State travels to Iowa for Saturday night's Big Ten opener, Bolden will be faced with his second night game, his second hostile environment and a second chance to help the Nittany Lions secure their first road win of the season.

"There's an old saying you know, nothing succeeds like suc-

cess," Joe Paterno said of Bolden's fourth-quarter touchdown drive against Temple. "I think the fact that he's able to do that should be a good experience for him and it should help him in other situations."

While Paterno hopes the drive gives Bolden and the entire offense more confidence, the head coach wasn't too sure if the experience will make a difference on Saturday.

Playing against an Iowa team that's known for its strong defense, *See BOLDEN, Page 14.*



Dana Heller/Collegian

Freshman shows confidence on court

By Jake Kaplan

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

All Longo has something a freshman adjusting to collegiate women's volleyball sometimes lacks: confidence.

She comes in and she knows she can pass that ball, she can dig that ball," senior co-captain Blair Brown said. "That's great to have on the court."

Longo, a defensive specialist on the No. 4 Penn State women's vol-

leyball team (11-2, 1-1 Big Ten), has played in the second-most matches of any of the Nittany Lions nine freshmen this season. The only rookie who has played in more sets than Longo is starting outside hitter Deja McClendon.

Obviously, Longo is doing something to garner the attention of Penn State coach Russ Rose and his coaching staff.

"Everyone knew before she came in that she was going to be this kind of competitive, really hardcore kind of player that never gives up," senior defensive specialist Cathy Quilico said. "That's

a quality that is reliable on the court. [Rose] wants players like that on the court at all times."

Quilico was quick to note two of Longo's strengths on the court — serving and passing. In her limited time this year — she has played in 16 sets — Longo has tallied six service aces and seven digs.

But the biggest thing her teammates mention when describing Longo is her spirit.

"She's got that 'refuse to lose' attitude, just 'come on and bring it' type of thing," sophomore setter Kristin Carpenter said. "She *See LONGO, Page 14.*



Dana Heller/Collegian

Longo (23) digs a ball this year.

Paterno focusing on Iowa, not past

By Andrew J. Cassavell

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

To Joe Paterno, it doesn't really matter that Iowa ended Penn State's national title hopes the last two seasons.

It doesn't really matter that he is 2-7 against Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz since he took over the Hawkeyes in 1999.

At his weekly press conference Tuesday, Joe Paterno reiterated the past is over, and if the Nittany Lions struggle in Iowa City, it won't be because of what happened last decade.

"We're on the road, we're playing against probably one of the four or five best teams in the country," Paterno said. "We're certainly not going to intimidate."

Iowa's lone loss this season to Arizona was an aberration, Paterno said, saying the Hawkeyes made mistakes they rarely make — mistakes he is certain they won't suffer from at Kinnick Stadium.

The talent of their opponent means the Lions can't worry about what happened in past seasons, aside from the importance of special teams and protecting the football.

Paterno said he couldn't put his finger on how the Lions had fared against the Hawkeyes before 2008, adding that none of it matters anyway.

"We're playing Iowa whether they beat us last year or we beat them," Paterno said. "It won't make a difference. We have to play well."

Kersey's back

Redshirt freshman Shawney Kersey, who missed a week of practice last week, was back Monday, Paterno confirmed.

"He practiced [Monday], what else do you need to know?" said Paterno, who refused to get into specifics about Kersey's absence. "Some days some kids will miss a practice."

The wide receiver hasn't gotten much playing time in the first three games, as he is without a reception and has one carry for 24 yards.

Kersey practiced with the second team on Monday, a source said.

Okoli to start at tackle

If Chima Okoli struggles, don't be surprised, Joe Paterno said.

Iowa defensive ends Adrian Clayborn and Broderick Binns are as tough a task as a first-time starter at right tackle could ask for, Paterno said, adding Iowa's front-four is the toughest the Penn State offensive line will face all season.

Fans and media shouldn't be *See PATERNO, Page 14.*

Men's lacrosse names three captains for 2011 season

By Mike Still

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Entering his first year with the program, Penn State men's lacrosse coach Jeff Tambroni knew little about the players he'd be working with in the upcoming 2011 season.

In order to get a good feel for who his team's leaders were, Tambroni gave each player on the

team a piece of paper.

On the piece of paper, Tambroni asked his players to give their definition of "leadership" and what to expect from the captain's role on the team.

After considering the feedback he received from his team and coaching staff, the decision to select seniors Matt Bernier and



Mackrides

Matt Shankoff, and junior Matt Mackrides as co-captains was clear.

"We tried to come up with our selection and kind of a blend of the team's selections and we feel pretty good," Tambroni said. "These three guys have certainly separated themselves in terms of their ability to lead in all facets of what



Shankoff

we've asked for thus far."

Making the decision easier was the unique mix of personalities that each captain will contribute to the team.

Bernier, the 2010 recipient of the Andrew Lockhart Award for the team's top defensive player, is currently forced to sit out at least most of



Bernier

the fall practice schedule because of a knee injury.

But the senior is doing all he can to make sure every player knows his role and that the team comes together as one in the off-season.

"I'm always just trying to think of little things that need to happen for the success of our team," Bernier said.

"If I can pick up a couple guys and see what's wrong, or I can watch someone's game and let *See CAPTAINS, Page 14.*

SPORTS ON TV

MLB

Philadelphia at Washington
7:05 p.m., CSN
Pittsburgh at St. Louis
1:40 p.m., FSN

Q: Prior to 2009, when did the Cavaliers last finish first in their division?
Monday's answer: 13 seasons.

Batch to start vs. Baltimore

Mike Tomlin probably wishes his quarterback decision had been this easy all season.

Charlie Batch, buried so deep on the Steelers' depth chart that he barely practiced during training camp, will start Sunday's AFC North game against Baltimore.

Batch hasn't started successive games since midway through the 2005 season, when Ben Roethlisberger had a right knee injury.

Batch started Sunday at Tampa Bay only because Dennis Dixon had left knee surgery last week and Byron Leftwich was recovering from a left knee injury, yet he completed 12 of 17 passes for 186 yards and three touchdowns — his first scoring passes since 2007.

OUR THOUGHTS

Tropicana inexcusably empty

Rays pitcher David Price called the attendance at Tampa Bay's possible division-clinching game Monday night "embarrassing."

He couldn't be more right. Baseball should thrive in Florida, and while it does during spring training, come summer and fall, ballparks in the Sunshine State are as empty as the Penn State student section at kickoff for a noon football game. While there is a valid excuse as to why the Marlins fail to draw a crowd (i.e. they're not good), the Rays put out one of the most exciting products in baseball that fans should be frothing at the mouth to watch.

Braves' Prado out for season

Atlanta third baseman Martin Prado will miss the rest of the season including any playoffs after an MRI showed he tore an oblique muscle.

Doctors say Prado, who also bruised his hip, will need two months rest with zero activity but should be ready for spring training.

Prado, who was hitting .307 with 15 home runs and 66 RBIs this season, left Monday's game after grounding to the pitcher in the fifth inning with runners at first and third and two outs.

Prado said he originally injured himself on a diving catch in the fourth inning, then aggravated it when he swung in the fifth.