

# SPORTS

8 | THURSDAY, SEPT. 30, 2010

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

## Recruit commits to Penn State

By Jake Kaplan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

This weekend, Ross Travis was scheduled to make an official recruiting visit with the Iowa men's basketball team.

In Iowa City, he would have met with the Hawkeyes and ironically enough, attended the Iowa-Penn State football game Saturday night at Kinnick Stadium.

But not anymore. After visiting Happy Valley two

weekends ago, Travis decided to cancel his visit to Iowa and commit to the Penn State men's basketball team. Travis, who broke the news to the team with a phone call to sophomore point guard Tim Frazier late Saturday night, is the fourth verbal commitment the Nittany Lions have received for the class of 2011.

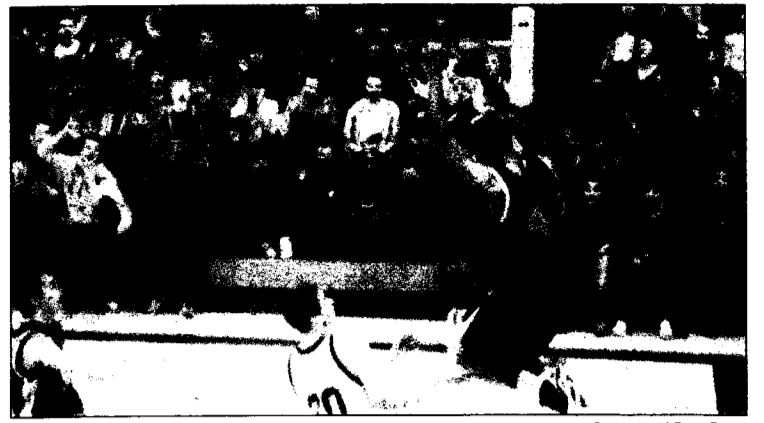
"The first word out of his mouth when I asked him how [his Penn State visit] went, the first word was 'awesome,'" said Dana Kallman, Travis' coach at Chaska High School in Chaska, Minn.

ESPN's Scouts, Inc. lists Travis as a 6-foot-7, 195-pound small for-

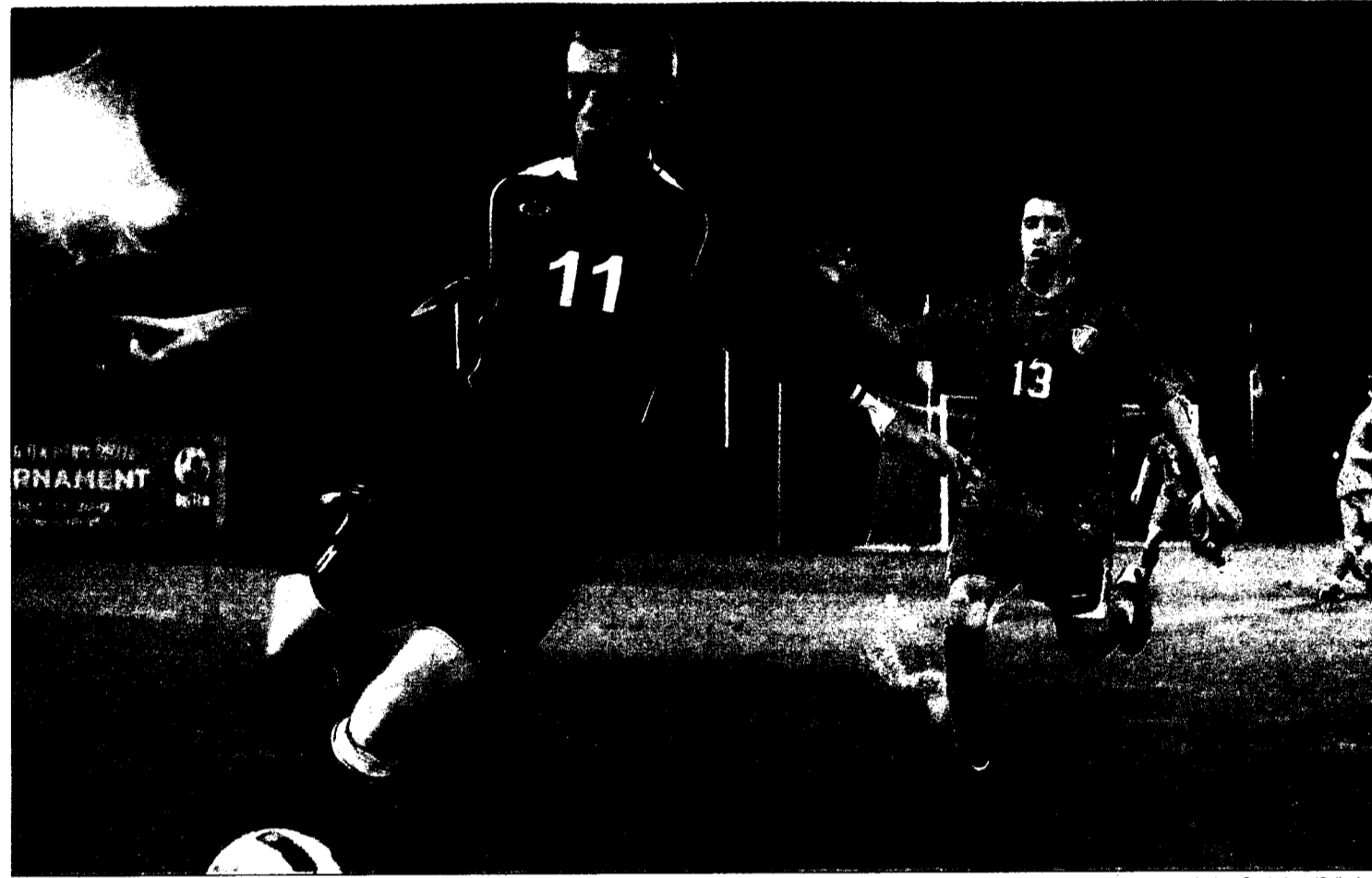
ward and a three-star recruit. Kallman used phrases such as "high-flying" and a "highlight reel" when describing the versatile Travis, who Kallman said averaged about 12 points and 8.5 rebounds per game during his junior season.

"He can handle it. He can create for himself off the dribble," said Kallman, adding Travis typically defended the opponent's best scorer. "But the biggest thing that attracts college coaches is his athleticism."

Travis, who aside from Iowa See RECRUIT, Page 10.



Ross Travis (43) dunks during a game for Chaska High School. Courtesy of Ross Travis



Corey Hertzog (11) controls the ball near the sideline during Penn State's 4-3 victory over St. Francis (Pa.) Wednesday. Hertzog had one goal. Andrew Dunheimer/Collegian

## Late goals lead to victory

By Andrew Robinson  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The ball lofted off Matheus Braga's foot and drifted towards the waiting arms of St. Francis (Pa.) goalkeeper Daniel Valcicak.

However, the head of Mackenzie Arment, who was falling backwards into the net, struck the ball and placed it securely in the corner of the goal. It might have taken nearly 82 minutes, but the Penn State men's soccer team finally regained the lead.

It was that kind of night for the Nittany Lions.

"We should have put them away and it's just a truism of soccer that if you don't put a team away, something's going to happen," Penn State coach Bob Warming said. "They'll get some momentum and some belief and that's what they did. To their credit they kept walking through the fire here and battling away all the way to the end."

Penn State fended off a scrappy Red Flash team in a 4-3 win Wednesday night at Jeffrey Field. Despite putting 24 shots on goal, the Lions had to fight their way back twice just to tie the game. The Red Flash only had three shots on goal, but made the most of them, putting each attempt away.

It didn't take the Lions long to find the net. Sophomore defender Brian Fergue intercepted a pass deep in his own end and took off down a wide lane on the left side.

## Goalie wins first career start

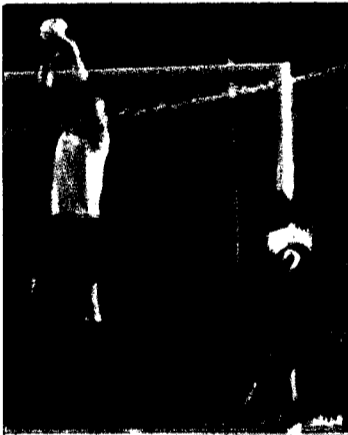
By Dan Norton  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Less than two hours before game time, Penn State's backup keeper Brendan Birmingham got the nod from coach Bob Warming to start against the St. Francis Red Flash.

It was Birmingham's first start of the year for the Nittany Lions. "I was just trying to step up," Birmingham said. "[And] do my best for the team."

Seeing how well Birmingham had been playing throughout the week in practice, Warming decided to give the redshirt freshman the start.

Birmingham didn't see much action in the first half of the game. In fact, he didn't see a shot on goal until 10 minutes in, but that was all it took to get St.



Birmingham (left) makes a save. Andrew Dunheimer/Collegian

Francis (Pa.) on the board. Red Flash forward Patrick Fleming took a free kick from See GOALIE, Page 10.

## Niness filling in void

By Alex Angert  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For 160 minutes, junior Carly Niness sat on the sidelines and waited for her chance to play again.

Starting the first five games of the season — at a new position — Niness was suddenly out of the lineup as the Lions traveled to the Pacific Northwest the weekend of Sept. 10 to take on Washington and Portland.

That is until one of her best friends went down for the regular season.

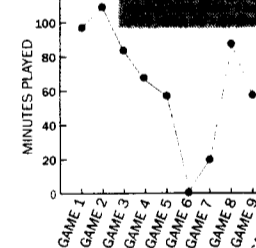
With 20 minutes left in a game against No. 4 Portland, one of Penn State's top players, Lexi Marton, collided with an opposing player and tore part of her medial collateral ligament (MCL).

With Marton being chucked off the field, it was Niness who was called upon to take over and replace the 5-foot-11 anchor of the Penn State backline.

And as soon as her coaches told her she would be going in, a wave of emotions consumed the junior.

"I saw her and she said, 'Carly, See NINESS, Page 10."

Replacing Marton's minutes



More coverage on the women's soccer. | SPORTS, Page 12.



Anthony Fera punts against Kent State. Tyler Sizemore/Collegian

## Blocked punt spurs formation change

By Brendan Monahan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Unordinary may best define Matt Stankiewitch's move on Penn State punts.

The redshirt sophomore lines up shoulder to shoulder with Johnnie Troutman and Devon Still in between the Penn State front line and punter Anthony Fera.

But just as Emery Etter snaps the ball, Stankiewitch pivots and puts his back to the sideline. The move allows the ball to fly in between Troutman and Still and to the awaiting hands of Fera, who punts the ball away as Stankiewitch shifts back to block.

The odd and newly improved punt formation is effective and has kept potential punt blockers away from Fera this season. The coaching staff changed the for-

mation, in part, because of Adrian Clayborn's blocked punt last season. The Iowa defensive end barreled through Penn State safety Nick Sukay — who was listed 75 pounds lighter and two inches smaller than Clayborn last season — to give the Hawkeyes a one-point lead in the fourth quarter.

The Hawkeyes never looked back. "We've put a lot more emphasis on it," said Joe Paterno about

special teams. "I felt we lost two ball games last year because we didn't do as good a job as we could have in a special team area."

Because Fera takes a longer time to punt the ball, Paterno said the Nittany Lions added two more personal protectors, the players designated to stand behind the line and block intruding opponents trying to disrupt the punter. Last season, Jeremy See CHANGE, Page 10.

### THE LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV

#### MLB

Pittsburgh at Florida  
7:10 p.m., FSN

#### NCAA FOOTBALL

Oklahoma State vs Texas A&M  
7:30 p.m., ESPN

#### TRIVIA

Q: Who won the first World Series?  
Wednesday's Answer: 1976

#### QUICK HITS

##### Beltran done for Season

Carlos Beltran's abbreviated season is over after an MRI showed he has mild inflammation in his surgically repaired right knee.

Beltran left the New York Mets' game against Milwaukee on Tuesday night and had the test Wednesday. Wearing a Mets uniform in between games of a doubleheader Wednesday, the All-Star Center explained that the news was actually good. "The doctor at the Hospital for Special Surgery said the bone bruise, everything, looks better than in past MRIs," Beltran said. "I'm happy for that part. The part that I'm not happy about is just that I wanted to finish the season playing."

#### Wizards owner fined

Washington Wizards majority owner Ted Leonsis told local business leaders Wednesday that he expects the NBA soon will have a hard salary cap similar to the NHL's model.

NBA commissioner David Stern said that's not necessarily true — and warned Leonsis could be punished for discussing private league business. The NBA later announced it had fined Leonsis \$100,000 for "unauthorized public comments regarding the league's collective bargaining negotiations."

"We're negotiating and that was one of our negotiating points," Stern told The Associated Press before the fine was announced, "but collective bargaining is a negotiating process, and that was not something that Ted was authorized to say."

#### OUR THOUGHTS

##### TCU not fit for Big East

The Big East is looking to expand, and rumors are floating around that the conference is looking at TCU as a potential new member.

That bears repeating: the Big East is looking to add a school in Texas. While TCU has certainly blossomed into a top-tier football program, the Horned Frogs do not belong anywhere near the Big East.

Perhaps TCU needs to move out of the Mountain West to earn more respect (and more money), but a move to the Big East would make no sense geographically speaking.

And as it stands right now, the Big East isn't much better than the MWC anyway.