

# SPORTS

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THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

## League more competitive

By Emily Kapian  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

In his 12 years coaching Wisconsin's women's volleyball team, Pete Waite cannot remember a Big Ten season shaping up quite like this.

### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

He's not alone. It's just two weeks into conference play, but coaches around the league have already noticed something different about their conference this season.

There's no clear front-runner. There's no glaring weak links.

And in 2010, more than any other year in recent memory, anything can happen.

"Five years ago, there would be four or five solid teams at the top, a chunk of teams in the middle then some teams way at the bottom," Waite said. "Now those bottom teams have really raised their game. And now, when you walk into any gym, you know the game is going to be close — much closer than it used to be."

That much it has remained true

through the first 22 matches of conference play. On Sept. 25, then-No. 22 Michigan upset a two-set deficit to shock then-No. 14 Minnesota. One night earlier, then-No. 9 Illinois took down then-No. 2 Penn State, the seven-time defending Big Ten Champion and three-time defending national champion. The loss snapped the Nittany Lions' streak of 65 straight conference wins.

While an outsider might consider these wins as monumental, it's par for the conference this year.

"You can't even call those upsets," Indiana coach Sherry Dunbar said. "The conference is so good this year that I wouldn't be surprised by the outcome of any match. Preseason rankings mean nothing."

For the sixth straight season, the coaches voted Penn State as preseason favorites to win the Big Ten.

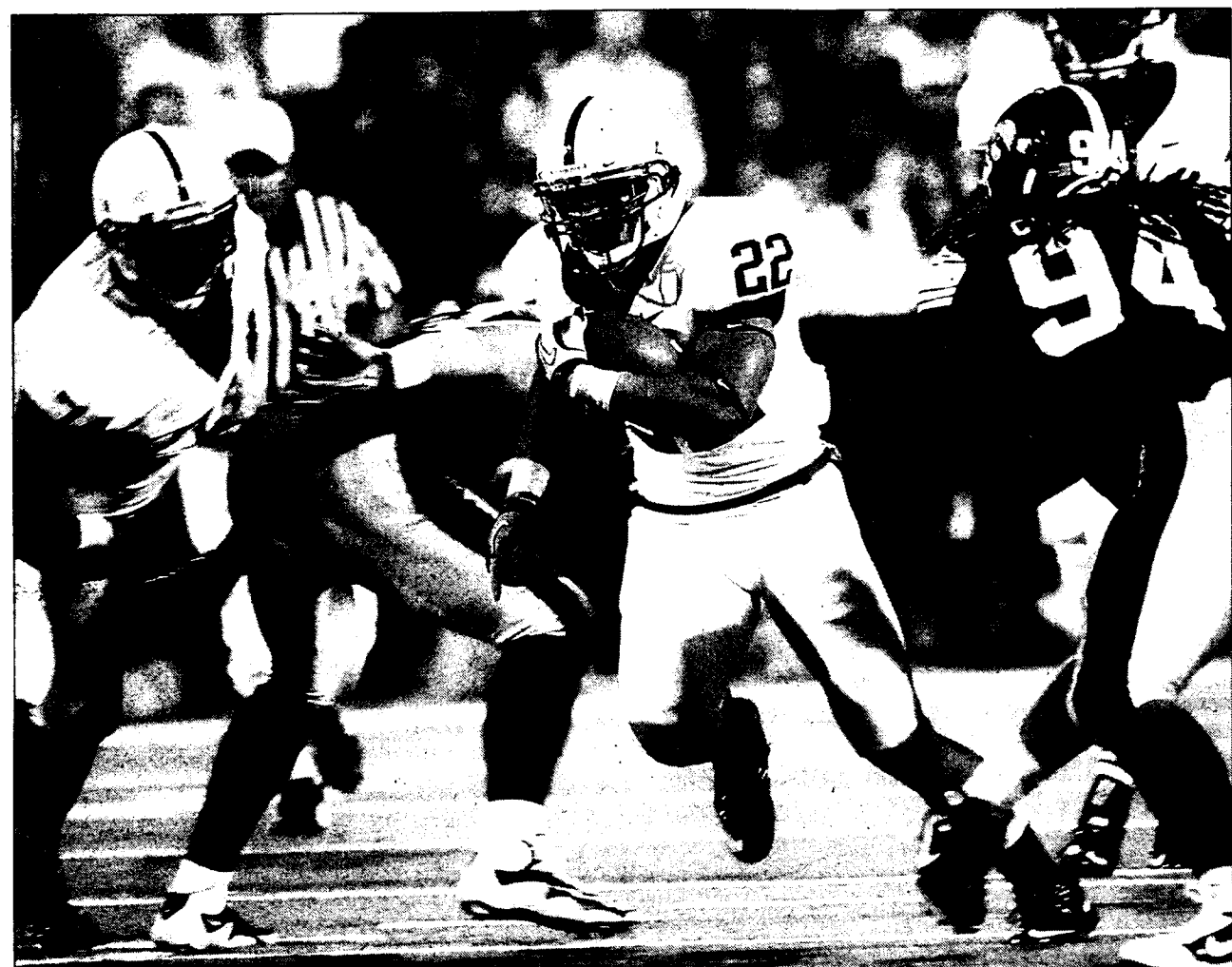
But now, Dunbar believes there's a cluster of teams who are legitimate contenders.

"And that's not a knock against Wilson (7) and Brown (2) go up."



Kelley King/Collegian

Wilson (7) and Brown (2) go up.



Andrew Dunheimer/Collegian

Running back Evan Royster (22) blasts through a hole during Penn State's 24-3 loss to Iowa on Saturday in Kinnick Stadium.

## Poor play hindering team's line

By Audrey Snyder  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Regardless of who plays where or how much experience the player has, there's one word several players on the offensive line use to describe the performance of the unit as a whole: inconsistent.

### FOOTBALL

"One minute we're good, we're opening up holes, protecting and the next minute, just freaking everything and not giving them time back there," left tackle Quinn Barham said. "That's been a big problem."

See **POOR PLAY**, Page 10.



Andrew Dunheimer/Collegian

Stefen Wisniewski (61) looks for a player to block.

## Short yardage a challenge

By Brendan Monahan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Bill Walsh's philosophy was on the mind of quarterbacks coach Jay Paterno after the Iowa game.

The former San Francisco 49ers coach advocated against getting into 3rd-and-long situations. A problem for Paterno and the Lions on Saturday? There were a lot of 3rd-and-longs against Iowa.

### FOOTBALL

Failure to get in short-yardage situations and not capitalizing when in those circumstances were problems for the Nittany Lions that could keep Penn State from being successful.

In short-yardage situations — plays needing only four yards or less for a first down — Penn State capitalized on 4-of-9 opportunities. The two most notable

ones were the back-to-back goal line plays on the first drive of the third quarter, where fullback Mike Zordich and quarterback Rob Bolden both failed to gain one yard, and Bolden's fourth-down attempt came after calling a timeout. Penn State moved the ball 70 yards on the drive, but it stalled when the offense needed only one yard.

"We can move the ball a little bit, but that's not what counts," running back Evan Royster said. "It's the points that count."

Penn State quarterbacks coach Jay Paterno said the Lions must focus on putting the offense in more 3rd-and-short situations, a view shared by left tackle Quinn Barham.

"That's a matter of running the ball or getting at least three or four yards on first or second down," Barham said. "We didn't get Rob enough to work with

on third down, and we left him in 3rd-and-8 and 3rd-and-9."

The Lions haven't been effective enough in capitalizing on those opportunities, and putting too much pressure on Bolden is something that concerned Joe Paterno in his post game press conference. But Jay Paterno didn't agree the team placed too big of a burden on Bolden.

The lack of short-yardage situations is dependent upon the running game and the offensive line, which has been sub-par and created a one-dimensional Lions' attack on Saturday when Penn State passed the ball 30 out of 44 plays. The Iowa defensive front four caused the change in game planning. The Penn State offensive line had trouble blocking them all game.

More concerning may not be the 44 See **SHORT YARDAGE**, Page 10.

## Miller off to solid debut

By Matt Clancy  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When Michael Miller was a sophomore in high school, he played in a golf tournament at Penn State.

It was love at first sight. "I wanted a big school, a big atmosphere, and a college town," Miller said of what attracted him to the school.

At the end of that tournament, he joked with his mother about how he wanted to play for Penn State

### MEN'S GOLF

See **MILLER**, Page 10.

## Lions not worried about Big Ten start

By Andrew Robinson  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Out of the nine games the Penn State men's soccer team has played this year, it has been scored on first in only two of them.

Those two games were the Nittany Lions' first two Big Ten games, and both came in losses. Despite starting 0-2-0 in the conference with arguably their three toughest games left, the Lions know there's time to correct what's hurt them so far, even

### MEN'S SOCCER

though the road will be tough.

"We definitely have time to turn it around," senior co-captain Andres Casais said. "We're in control of ourselves. That's what we feel and that's a good thing."

Right now, the Lions are tied for last in the conference with Northwestern, as both teams are winless. Ohio State leads the conference with six points thanks to its 2-0-0 Big Ten record.

Big Ten men's soccer has only seven teams and with a win in their next game, the Lions could jump to a tie for third place. Penn State's next three conference

See **MEN'S SOCCER**, Page 10.

## Parr biding his time

By Mike Still  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Andy Parr has always been one to try to lead by example.

The redshirt defender on the Penn State men's soccer team makes it a point to make sure he's keeping his teammates motivated any way he can.

Regardless of whether or not he's on the field, Parr wants to make a difference.

"I'm playing as hard as I can

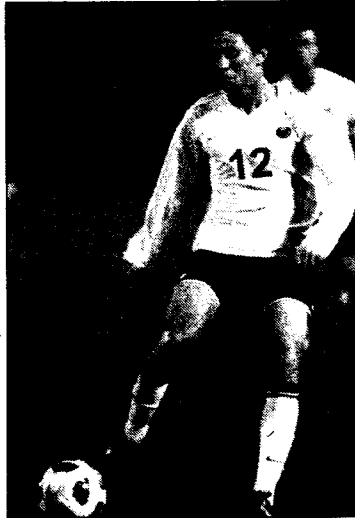
and when I'm off the field, I'm trying to motivate guys playing," the senior said.

"I'm making sure the guys on the bench are focused on going into the game and focused on everything."

Entering the season, Parr had secured a starting spot on the Nittany Lions' back line.

The senior started the Lions' first game of the season against Buffalo on Sept. 3 and was called

See **PARR**, Page 10.



Sarah Finnegan/Collegian

Senior defender Andy Parr dribbles the ball vs. Bucknell this year.

## THE LINEUP

### SPORTS ON TV

#### NCAA Football

Troy at Middle Tennessee  
8:00 tonight, ESPN2

### TRIVIA

Q: When was the last time the U.S. Ryder Cup team won a Ryder Cup on European soil?

Monday's answer: Dave Blaney

### QUICK HITS

#### Vick day-to-day with rib injury

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick has a rib cartilage injury that may force him to miss at least Philadelphia's next game at San Francisco. "This is going to be one of those day-to-day, week-to-week (injuries)," Eagles coach Andy Reid said Monday. "We'll just see how it goes and how he feels along the way."

If Vick can't play, Kevin Kolb gets another chance to prove he can be the No. 1 quarterback. Kolb began the season as Donovan McNabb's successor, but lost his job when he sustained a concussion in Week 1 and Vick played exceptional in his absence.

Without Vick, the offense struggled in Philadelphia's 17-12 loss to the Redskins.

### Battle on award watch list

Senior guard Talor Battle was one of ten Big Ten basketball players selected to the John R. Wooden Award Preseason Top 50 list yesterday.

The list is made up of the leading candidates for one of college basketball's most prestigious awards, which is announced after the season.

Battle declared for the 2010 NBA draft but didn't hire an agent, which allowed him to change his mind and return to Penn State for his senior season.

As a junior, the 6-foot guard was second in scoring in the Big Ten, averaging 18.5 points per game.

Battle was the only player in one of the NCAA's six major conferences to lead his team in scoring, rebounding, assists and steals last season.

### OUR THOUGHTS

#### Pavin unimpressive as captain

The U.S. Ryder Cup team made one of the greatest comebacks in the history of the Ryder Cup Monday morning, and nearly won a second consecutive cup.

Tiger Woods played out of his mind in his singles match — probably the best he's played since his unfortunate fire hydrant accident. Still, it didn't matter, as Graeme McDowell's impressive putt on the 16th hole clinched the Ryder Cup for Europe.

But it could've not gone that way. U.S. captain Corey Pavin made some questionable coaching moves and failed to prove he had a pulse, which reflected on his emotionless team (sans Jeff Overton) until yesterday's dogged comeback attempt.