

JoePa

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if the Nittany Lions (3-2, 0-1 Big Ten) have learned from past mistakes.

"As a group we're disappointed," Paterno said. "But we've lost to two good football teams, playing them on the road, and I think that they hopefully have learned something."

Injury updates

Within the next couple of weeks, Curtis Drake (foot), Jordan Hill (ankle) and Gerald Hodges (knee) could all be dressing and playing, Paterno said. It would mark the closest the Lions have been to being completely healthy all season.

"They're all coming along and there's a probability that all three might be ready to go in a week or two," Paterno said.

Hodges was jogging in practice Monday, and Paterno hopes to get Hill back Wednesday, while Drake, who hasn't played yet this season, could return next week.

Paterno also confirmed tight end Garry Gilliam will miss the remainder of the season with an ACL tear and said Andrew Szczerba, who was out with a back injury, jogged with the team during Monday's practice. Szczerba, who hasn't participated in any contact drills this season, will likely need time to return to game speed.

To go along with those injuries, Paterno said his linebacking corps is going through some "bumps

and bruises." Chris Colasanti has a shoulder injury and Bani Gbadyu has an ankle injury, but both are practicing.

Using Newsome?

The prospect of using Kevin Newsome in red zone running situations has been discussed, Paterno said, but he isn't sure Newsome is ready for such a prominent role.

He added he didn't want Bolden, also a fairly mobile quarterback, to start dealing with unnecessary rumors of a quarterback duel.

"We start putting Newsome in there, and the other kid starts looking over his shoulder," Paterno said. "It's something we've talked about, and we've decided we'll just play that by ear for a while."

Bolden was stopped inches short on a 4th-and-goal run in the third quarter against Iowa that swung the momentum of the game. He has also struggled in the red zone, where the Lions have just six touchdowns in 18 opportunities this season.

This year, when Newsome has played in mop-up duty, he has been used primarily in the spread option, rushing for 46 yards on eight carries.

"Kevin's gotta spend a little more time doing his homework," Paterno said. "Right now he's gotten by with his athletic ability, and he's having a little tough time with some other things as far as what's expected of him in certain situations. But I think there is a place for him."

Notes

Paterno wouldn't discuss the status of defensive end Sean Stanley and cornerback Derrick Thomas for Saturday's game, citing university policy. Stanley and Thomas and defensive tackle Brandon Ware missed the trip to Iowa last week because of academic reasons. "We're breaking the law if we talk about it," Paterno said when asked ... Paterno on the play clock running out at the end of the first half against Iowa: "I won't get into whose fault that was. It certainly wasn't one of the coaches' fault — or our players. I hate to point the finger at anybody so we'll leave that go."

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Haplea

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"He's got a lot to learn," Joe Paterno said. "It's unfortunate that we've got to stick him in there right away, but I think he'll do OK. He's a bright kid, he works hard."

The experience of being the starter and being looked upon to help block as well as catch passes for an offense that's struggled with productivity from the position is something that will only help

Haplea in the long run, wide receiver Justin Brown said.

Once Kevin decided to give up his final high school baseball season, he and his twin sister, Gretchen, enrolled early.

For Kevin, enrolling early was about learning as much as he could in hopes of either taking on a redshirt or being a contributor on special teams, his father said. With Kevin's blocking being one of the main reasons he received so much attention from schools like West Virginia, North Carolina and

Florida State, the spring gave him an opportunity to show the coaching staff what he could do.

"Coach Kenney just flat out said, 'Right now it doesn't look like I can afford to redshirt him,'" Gene said of a conversation that occurred once Szczerba's season was in doubt.

"We were basically thinking that might be what's in store for him and lo and behold, he's not just getting a little bit of time on special teams and occasional time in the game, but now all of a sudden,

you know, that's just football."

Paterno said the tight end position had evolved so much over the years that blocking is still a top priority, but noted Haplea is going to need to be an important part of the offense.

This is uncharted territory for Haplea, who his parents said was never thrust into a starting role because of an injury since he began playing football in 5th grade.

Gene expects Kevin to put in extra work and be ready for what

he dubbed "an unexpected turn of events."

"At this stage of his career, this is obviously a big surprise and something that I don't think anybody is actually ever ready for," Gene said. "Those kids out there that are two and three years older than him, getting ready to go into the NFL in a few months, are top-notch players and it takes a heck of a lot to deal with that, so he's got his work cut out for him."

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Men's soccer

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easy opportunities we should just be putting them in. Against St. Francis, it should have been four or five to nothing in the first 10 minutes."

After the Bucknell and Binghamton games, the Lions traveled to Colorado, where they posted shutouts over Air Force and Denver and conceded fewer set pieces.

While winning on the road is the mark of a contender, teams still need to protect their home turf, Cost said.

"We're obviously looking to get the result on the road and when we come home we're not as focused as we should be," Cost said. "But, that's not an excuse. We've got to be more focused."

The Lions' next opponent at home, Villanova, has proven it can win on the road. The Wildcats rallied from a halftime deficit to defeat DePaul, 3-1, Saturday afternoon. In addition to Villanova, the Lions' next three games, all at home, include No. 18 Michigan State and No. 1 Akron.

Lions coach Bob Warming knows his team has to defend its turf, especially in the next two weeks.

"[Villanova's] got a lot of belief right now," Warming said. "It's certainly no time to hang our heads, we've got to get ourselves refocused."

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Wrestling

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to go out and wrestle every day. The only ranking that counts is at the NCAA tournament."

Such is the mentality of every member of the squad, who doesn't believe anything has been proven after two days of practice.

Wright is one of six wrestlers who enter the season ranked in WIN Magazine's preseason rankings. The redshirt sophomore is ranked No. 7 at the 184-pound weight class — one weight class higher than his freshman year, when he finished with a sixth-place finish and an All-American title.

Meanwhile, Ruth and Taylor will be wrestling for the Lions' starting squad for the first time.

Taylor is ranked No. 7 at 157 pounds and will be counted on to replace 2010 Big Ten champion Cyler Sanderson. The St. Paris, Ohio native went 21-2 in open tournaments last season, and is ready to step onto the Rec Hall mats and represent the Lions.

"I've been waiting a long time to wrestle in college," Taylor said. "Not only that, but now I get to wrestle in front of Penn State and all of our awesome fans."

Like Taylor, Ruth enters the season knowing coach Sanderson and the Lions may rely on him at the 174-pound weight class — where he's ranked No. 14.

Ruth knows it will take a lot of preparation for Penn State to end the year where it ultimately wants to be — at the top.

"Even No. 1 teams get beat every once in a while," Ruth said. "Numbers don't make you No. 1."

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Colorado

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Rose and his staff because they're already a leg up in that aspect. They were always very close."

In fact, Moydell played a factor in Denney's decision to come to Penn State.

Moydell verbally committed to the Lions her sophomore year of high school. Denney, meanwhile, was still undecided.

"I knew she would love Penn State," Moydell said. "So I just kept pushing it."

Moydell would make Denney watch Penn State volleyball games on TV with her, especially in December when NCAA tournament time.

"She would always be like, 'Do you see this? Don't you want to be a part of this?'" Denney recalled. "And finally I was like, 'OK, I get it.'" So Denney took an official visit to Happy Valley. That's where she met Longo. Denney joked that it probably wasn't a coincidence the coaching staff scheduled both girls' recruiting trips on the same weekend.

"We knew of each other because we played for rival clubs, but we didn't really know each other," Longo said. "But when I found out there was going to be two players from my hometown also coming to school with me, I was pretty excited. It's like they know me and know where I'm coming from."

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