

Harding

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successful athlete, but a genuine, down-to-earth personality.

While Harding admired and learned from many former Penn State players while following the program, many of the current Lions have learned some things from her, too.

Senior defensive specialist Cathy Quilico said Harding is a relentless worker in the weight room and at practice.

"She has so much energy, and she just works her butt off every single day," Quilico said.

"Everything she does, she works so hard at. It's unbelievable."

While it seems unlikely Harding will see playing time this season with veterans such as Quilico in front of her, Rose said things tend to work out for players who put in the hard work like the State College native.

Rose said Harding is very committed and continues to work and

"I get to be part of such an amazing tradition and program with honor."

Maggie Harding
freshman

improve on the areas that still need work.

Though Harding sits behind some older back row players and hasn't played in any of No. 4 Penn State's matches this season, Lion pride runs through her blood just as much as any of her teammates.

Her grandfather, Charles Ruslavage, was a member of the Penn State football team, while her other grandfather, Gene Harding, played baseball for the Lions.

The freshman's father, Jeff, and uncle, Jim, each wrestled at Penn State, as well.

Meanwhile, several others, including her mother Cindy, attended college in Happy Valley.

Harding said family gatherings are a time to get together and make fun of

Ohio State and her relatives who didn't attend Penn State.

With two of her four older brothers attending college elsewhere, she said it's two siblings against three in playful bantering for their respective schools.

It's no surprise she's putting in a full effort, as Harding enjoys being another member of the volleyball team while representing her family's Penn State roots.

"It's awesome because I'm taking part of a tradition from a lot of my family coming here and finally being a part of the team that I've been watching since I was 5," Harding said.

"I get to be part of such an amazing tradition and program with honor."

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Moss back with Vikings

By Dave Campbell
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. -- Brett Favre finally got his wish. He will be playing with Randy Moss and the Vikings couldn't be happier about it.

The Super-Bowl-or-bust Vikings got Moss from New England on Wednesday for a 2011 draft pick, another eye-opening acquisition that comes just in time to rejuvenate a stagnant offense for a challenging stretch of games.

NFL

The Patriots gave the seven-time Pro Bowl wide receiver the exit he expected and sent him back to the team that turned him into a superstar after drafting him in the first round in 1998. There are still plenty of fond memories around here of Moss's electrifying performances, along with his colorful comments and contrarian behavior.

"He can still go downtown and get the football, which is a stand-alone factor," Vikings coach Brad Childress said. "He could sprain his toe here sometime coming up, and you could say that he's 33, it's old age. But there's always risk-reward."

"I don't necessarily see this as boom or bust. I think he's got some more football in him."

The Vikings play at New York on Monday night, and Childress said without hesitation Moss would be in uniform against the Jets — in his old purple No. 84.

"Man, we wish this would have happened a week later," Jets running back LaDainian Tomlinson said.

The drama will be high around here all month. Check out Minnesota's last two games in October: at rival Green Bay, and then at New England.

"In this business, there are complex and often difficult decisions, but it is my responsibility to make them based on what I feel is best for our football team, in both the short term and long term," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to have coached Randy Moss and aside from facing him as an opponent, I wish him the very best for the remainder of his Hall of Fame career."

The Vikings didn't practice on Wednesday. Moss is expected to join the team on Thursday and talk with reporters afterward.

He will move from catching passes from Tom Brady to Favre, who desperately needed a downfield threat after Pro Bowl receiver Sidney Rice had hip surgery in August. Struggling Bernard Berrian has been a nonfactor, and Percy Harvin — when healthy — is better suited for the slot position.

"This is an exciting move; I think everybody feels that in the locker room," Favre said on the team's website.

"It's rare you get to play with a future Hall of Famer and get to appreciate their talents up close. Randy Moss is a great player and his career speaks for itself. I've admired him from a distance for a long time, and you can't help but be impressed by the guy."

Moss spent his first seven seasons in Minnesota, where he set all kinds of records and became one of the most exciting playmakers in the league. He burned Favre's Packers often, racking up 9,142 yards and 90 touchdowns during his first stint with Minnesota and fueling a run to NFC title game appearances following the 1998 and 2000 seasons.

Tired of his attitude and wary of a hamstring injury that hampered him in the 2004 season, the Vikings traded Moss to Oakland in 2005.

He wore out his welcome there and the Raiders sent him to New England in 2007. Favre was frustrated at the time the Packers didn't land Moss; they discussed a trade with Oakland.

Childress, though, denied on Wednesday that Favre lobbied for this move. The coach said owner Zygi Wilf gave his blessing on Monday.

"I don't think any of us thought this guy was going to be available," Childress said.

The Vikings in exchange will give the Patriots their third-round draft pick in 2011 and get a seventh-rounder from New England in 2012, according to a person with knowledge of the negotiations, speaking on condition of anonymity because the teams did not disclose terms of the deal.

The entertaining style of football that Moss brought with him started a string of sellouts at the Metrodome that is still going 13 years later.

Men

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wasn't anything spectacular at the Spiked Shoe meet," Alford-Sullivan said. "Honestly, when we went out to Minnesota, I was thinking we were sixth or seventh but we were ninth. I got a little nervous after Minnesota. But we turned it up another notch at Notre Dame, and that took away all my creeping-in doubts."

Alford-Sullivan said after the Harry Groves Spiked Shoe Invitational and Roy Griak Invitational at Minnesota,

the men needed to prove themselves at Notre Dame.

"If ever we needed to run well, that was the day," Alford-Sullivan said. "Alabama obviously had an off-day. Maybe they were over-ranked going into it, but they had an off-day, they're a better team than they ran. But the point is we have the win against them now."

"When teams weren't on their game, we took advantage, and that's what you're supposed to do."

While Foster said he doesn't rely on rankings to decide how good the team is, he said NCAA teams are chosen at

large heavily based on rankings. Defeating No. 5 Alabama at Notre Dame could help the team earn a trip to the Nov. 22 NCAA cross country championships.

"The weekend at Notre Dame really gave our chances a boost because if Alabama qualifies, it will make us one of the first non-automatic teams to get a bid," Foster said. "It's left the window open for us to be a non-automatic selection, which is probably not an option we thought we might have at the start of the season."

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Youth

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"It's going to take a while to overcome that," Sukay said of the departures.

"We have shown signs of talent and being a good defense and everything, we just have to put it together for four quarters. We have to be able to come together as a unit and you know, last year they would sometimes pick up the slack."

Against Iowa, freshmen linebackers Glenn Carson and Khairi Fortt saw significant playing time because defensive coordinator Tom Bradley said he has no other choice but to play the two, although it's unknown if injuries or performance or both factored into the decision.

With Carson coming on strong in

practice during the past couple weeks, linebacker Michael Mauti said he wouldn't be surprised if both Carson and Fortt were contributing more by the end of the season.

With Fortt and Carson playing behind Bani Gbadyu and Chris Colasanti, who Joe Paterno said are bothered by minor ankle and shoulder injuries, inexperience is something Mauti said has been a major factor this year.

"A lot of guys that are taking their first lumps and doing the things that first-year guys will do," Mauti said. "Even me included. Each week we will continue to learn and get better from that, and that all comes from experience."

On the defensive line, redshirt sophomore Pete Massaro and redshirt junior Eric Latimore continue rotating and getting reps during prac-

tice at left end, Latimore said.

Even in the nickel package, where cornerback Derrick Thomas' status for Saturday's game remains unknown, redshirt junior Andrew Dailey has filled in for a secondary that boasts sophomores and juniors.

After struggling to shut down opposing offenses early in games, Latimore said at this point, it's just as much a mental test for the inexperienced defense as it is physical.

But through playing five games, Mauti and Latimore both said the team will gain invaluable experience.

"I think we're a play or two here or there, with experience," Mauti said. "A lot of these guys are getting more comfortable in the games, and you're going to see some of those plays go our way in the future."

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Shutout

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organized we were in the back, how well we communicated when we wanted to hold the line and let those guys run through off-sides," sophomore defender Brian Fergie said. "That's just a testament to the back four and all over the field and how well we communicated tonight."

Also helping out the Lions' defensive cause was redshirt freshman keeper Brendan Birmingham.

In just his second start of the season, Birmingham turned in a spotless performance in net. The redshirt

freshman made three saves and turned away a hard shot in the 69th minute to keep the Lions' lead.

After allowing three goals in his first start of the year in a 4-3 victory over Saint Francis on Sep. 29, Birmingham was relieved to stop everything this time around.

"You don't get too many shots a game so you just try to make the saves when you can," Birmingham said. "It gives the team a boost when I can hold the ball for them and they don't have to worry about that."

Coming into the game, the Lions were focusing on fine tuning the details of their game before Michigan State visits Happy Valley on Sunday.

Penn State had given up nine goals in their last three games going into Wednesday's match, and allowing none to the Wildcats was a huge relief.

Heading into Sunday's match, the Lions are confident they're where they need to be.

"It's a big confidence boost to get out here and get a win," Cost said. "They're [Villanova] leading the Big East so it's huge for us to come out after we lost to Michigan and before that Indiana, so it's a good to get a shut out and a win and we'll go through to Michigan State doing pretty well."

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Evans

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to keep listening to her instincts and not just the coaching.

While Evans has plenty of speed, she's also a hustle player. Evans said Walsh and assistant coach Ann Cook have told her to apply that blue-collar mentality to the defensive aspects of her position while staying level-headed on offense.

"Right when it switches to attack I have to be calm and composed,"

Evans said. "Going along with that it's switching between the two and definitely getting more tackles in and there's a lot of opportunities where you have to win headers on the goal kicks."

Evans said her fellow midfielders, especially sophomore Christine Nairn, have helped her settle in to her new position. With Evans backing them up, her teammates are confident when they're under attack.

"She's been doing really well. She's like a sponge in that she just absorbs everything she can learning a new

"[Evans] absorbs everything she can."

Christine Nairn
sophomore midfielder

position offensively and defensively and she's spraying the ball around the field," Nairn said. "She's taking everything in and doing her best to take everybody's input on the field and so far, so good."

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