

## Harding continues tradition

By Ryan Loy  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When choosing which school to attend for volleyball, Maggie Harding was essentially picking which part of her family she wanted to side with. With both parents and many relatives being Penn State alumni, she had to choose whether to continue the

### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

tradition, or risk being the target of some playful razzing within the family, with two of her brothers attending different schools.

But for the current Nittany Lion player, the choice was easy.

Harding, a freshman defensive specialist, is a part of the Penn State volleyball



Harding

program she admired for years growing up in Adaire College.

"I looked at a bunch of different places, and Penn State was just the best opportunity," Harding said.

"I grew up here watching them play. When I had the opportunity to play here, I couldn't turn it down."

Harding's father, Jeff, said his family became interested in the Lions' women's volleyball program when they lived a couple

houses away from coach Russ Rose.

"We got to know them during that time," Jeff said of Rose and his family, "and started, kind of as a family, following volleyball after that."

The defensive specialist's father said Harding especially enjoyed being close to Rose's wife, Lori — an All-American volleyball player for the Lions from 1982-84 — and considered her a

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## Men crack top 25

By Zack Feldman  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After last week's Notre Dame invitational, the Penn State men's cross country runners knew they had achieved something significant.

### MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The team, unranked at the time, defeated No. 5 Alabama, No. 14 Villanova and No. 17 Arizona State en route to a fifth-place finish at the invitational meet, thanks to a seventh-place finish from Vince McNally and a 13th place finish from Kyle Dawson.



The runners returned their way back into the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Association national rankings for the first time in two years, jumping right to No. 23.

The ranking is the team's highest since the 2000 season, and only time the team has been in the top-30 since the 2008 season.

Senior runner Ryan Foster said the team doesn't put much thought into rankings, but acknowledged rankings are a way for the team to stay motivated at times.

"It's a nice little morale boost for the team. To be ranked is pretty cool and to be ranked that high is something we feel pretty good about," Foster said. "It's not something we put emphasis on too much because it's just someone else's opinion, not a reflection of how things are going to end up."

Coach Beth Alford-Sullivan compared this team to the 2008 men's squad, which earned its way to the NCAA national championships.

"We had a great team in '08. We were 25th in the nation at the national championships, fourth in the conference, second in the region, but the unfortunate thing about that was five of them were seniors," Alford-Sullivan said. "Kyle and Vince were freshman. So last year we kind of had to have a rebuilding year. So we've known internally we're good, and we've known we're a top-20 team."

Alford-Sullivan said the team's ability has been clear since 2008, but the team's progress had been limited to "fighting and chipping away" until the Notre Dame meet.

"This year, we opened up somewhat modestly. There

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Steph Witt/Collegian

Corey Hertzog (11) runs down a ball during the Lions rain-soaked, 1-0 victory against Villanova Wednesday night at Jeffrey Field.

## Lions post shutout, top 'Nova

By Mike Still  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

One goal was all it took. In front of soaked crowd on a soggy Jeffrey Field, the Penn State men's soccer team defeated Villanova, 1-0 on Wednesday night.

### MEN'S SOCCER

After a fairly uneventful first 19 minutes of the game, senior midfielder Drew

Cost broke the game open, drawing first blood on the Wildcats.

To the misfortune of Villanova, Penn State midfielder Mackenzie Arment's through ball deflected off a defender and fell right to Cost's feet.

Without hesitation, Cost ripped a shot from the

left side of the 18-yard box, past an outstretched Wildcat keeper Chris Bresnahan, and inside the right post to give the Lions a 1-0 lead.

"Mackenzie played a great ball through," Cost said. "The guy actually beat me to it but he didn't clear it, and I got in, saw the keeper coming out, and just slipped it past him."

Cost's goal proved to be the only offense the Lions would need all night, as the Villanova offense

struggled throughout the 90 minutes.

Failing to ever get any real chances going, the Wildcats mustered only eight shots on the night.

In addition to the dismal number of shots, the Penn State defense played Villanova's over-aggressiveness to its advantage, drawing seven offside calls from the Wildcats.

"That statistic shows how

See SHUTOUT, Page 10.

## Team relying on youth

By Audrey Snyder  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Through five games, safety Nick Sukay doesn't have any rave reviews to give the Penn State defense.

### FOOTBALL

Calling the Penn State "average" and saying the unit "hasn't done anything spectacular," helped Sukay conclude if he were to give the defense a letter grade, it would be a C.

But the junior isn't hitting the panic button just yet.

With the Nittany Lions relying on several young players to contribute to a defense that's given up 54 first-half points, the unit continues to try different players while it looks for its identity.

So far, the Lions haven't been able to master the transition of plugging in three new starting linebackers and filling the void left by first-round draft pick Jared Odrick, but Sukay insists all is not lost.

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Penn State

Villanova



Daniel Bott/Collegian

Khairi Fortt (11) makes a tackle in a game against Temple.



Amanda August/Collegian

Maddy Evans dribbles the ball.

## Midfielder catching up in new position

By Andrew Robinson  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Maddy Evans has always been a non-stop runner.

But this season, the sophomore had to teach herself to, as she put it, "be lazy."

Evans has emerged as the Penn State women's soccer team's main holding midfielder and has been adjusting to the stationary playing style. Instead of letting the change

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

affect her play, Evans has used the move to help improve her game.

"Maddy's going to play wherever she's told it will help the team," Nittany Lion coach Erica Walsh said. "She's a very team-oriented player and we've taken some of her attributes and we've asked her to sit in that role and play a very specific role and she's done well to listen and take on board everything we're asking her to do."

The holding midfield position is a key link between the defense and the attackers. Aside from making tackles and winning balls

in front of the back line, the holding midfielder has the responsibility to distribute the ball upfield and at times switch the attack.

Evans has shown she has the defensive part down, making several chase-down tackles over the last few games. But playing faster and sending out quicker passes is something she is still working on, but also an area she has seen improvement.

"You really don't have much time back there, but you're also expected to control the tempo of the game," Evans said.

"It doesn't mean if we slow it down to play slow, but making sure you're playing quickly while controlling the tempo and really just connecting those easy five-yard passes, 10-yard passes, nothing too big."

One thing the sophomore has learned is she doesn't have to try to make a big play, because as long as she plays within her position she can impact the game. Walsh said she thinks Evans' passing has improved greatly from last year, but she wants the midfielder

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## THE LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV  
NHL  
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh  
7 p.m., Versus

### TRIVIA

Q: Who was the last pitcher to throw a no-hitter during the postseason?  
Wednesday's Answer: Derek Lowe last started a playoff game in Game 4 of the 2008 NLCS while playing for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

### QUICK HITS

#### Reporters make MLB picks

With Major League Baseball's playoffs now in full swing, some of the Collegian sports staff made predictions as to who they think will come away with a World Series victory.

Not surprisingly, the Phillies are a popular pick among the reporters. But there are a few surprises.

While the New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Rays are the most popular picks in the American League, there are a few Texas Rangers and Minnesota Twins fans. The AL seems to be the more open race.

To see all of the World Series predictions check out the MAKE PLAYS Blog on the Collegian website, [psucollegian.com](http://psucollegian.com)

#### Enter the Pick 'Em contest

Want to prove you're at least better than Collegian Sports Copy Desk Chief Bill Landis at picking NFL games?

Well that's not very hard. All you have to do is have a .500 record.

But first you must win the chance to pick. Each week the Collegian selects one member of the Penn State student body to take part in the Collegian Pick 'Em. Selected students compete against a panel of Collegian staff members and Penn State notables.

Last week's student contestant, Kevn Anderson, went 10-4. As a whole, the students have put up a 37-25 record.

To be this week's student contestant, send the answer to today's trivia question to Sports Chief Paul Casella, his e-mail address is [plc5032@psu.edu](mailto:plc5032@psu.edu).

### OUR THOUGHTS

#### Doc's no-no sets the tone

Roy Halladay wasted no time getting this year's MLB postseason off on the right foot. Doc twirled a one-walk no-hitter against the Cincinnati Reds in Game 1 of the NLCS Wednesday night and set the stage for what should be another exciting October of baseball.

In his first postseason appearance, Halladay made a statement to the rest of the league that he and the Philadelphia Phillies mean business. Expect the Reds and the other six teams competing this postseason to answer the call.

Nobody is going to back down this October and Halladay's gem should be the first of many memorable moments.