

Women's soccer begins road trip

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

To Erica Walsh, it doesn't matter that this weekend's opponents are Iowa and Northwestern, two teams Penn State has historically dominated — this is the most important road trip of the year.

The Penn State women's soccer team enters the weekend with a 1-1-0 record in the Big Ten, the exact place it was one year ago at this time. At the end of the season, the

Lions were celebrating another Big Ten title.

But with a better conference this season, the Nittany Lions know they can't overlook any opponent and need two wins to keep them in the running for their 13th straight Big Ten title.

"I would think these game will be a lot tougher because there's a lot more on the line," Walsh said.

"Our backs are up against the wall and we need to press forward and get the results and that's of the utmost importance right now and the players know that."

Now in her fourth year at Penn State, Walsh has yet to lose to or draw Iowa or Northwestern, but this year's ver-

sions of both teams are superior. The Lions will face the Wildcats at 8 p.m. today in Evanston, Ill., then the Hawkeyes at 2 p.m. Sunday in Iowa City.

The Wildcats are 1-1-1 in the Big Ten, but upset then-No. 3 UCLA on Aug. 29 and had close losses to then-No. 19 BYU on Aug. 31 and then-No. 7 Notre Dame on Sept. 19.

Iowa recorded the best nonconference record at 7-2-1 and Walsh said both teams have been doing a

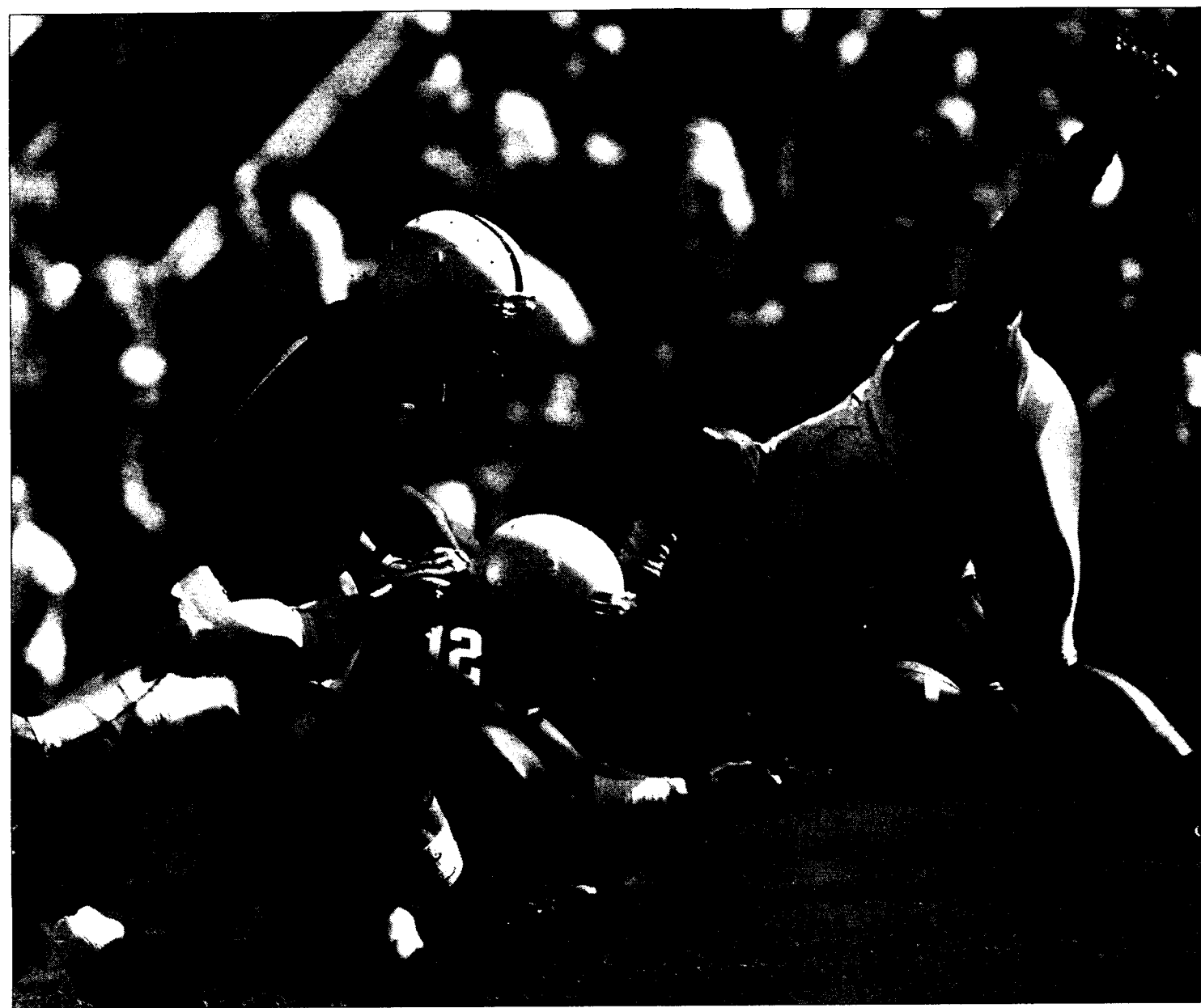
better job of recruiting and putting talent on the field. Going into the trip, the Lions players have learned they can't look past any opponent.

"It's always tough playing away, especially two games in a row," sophomore midfielder Christine Nairn said. "We're looking to do what we need to get the wins but I think they will be really competitive games."

Last year, the Lions turned **See WOMEN'S SOCCER, Page 12.**



Walsh



Amanda August/Collegian

Sophomore Cornerback Stephon Morris (12) and junior safety Nick Sukay (1) upend Kent State running back Jacquise Terry this season.

Ullrich has no regrets

By Emily Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For her first week as a Penn State student, Jessica Ullrich lived in a hotel.

Her transfer from Purdue was so last minute — **WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL**

Ullrich got her official acceptance letter just one day before the 2009 spring semester began — she didn't have time to work out specifics, such as living arrangements.

"Luckily, some soccer girls who had a house let me in for a semester," Ullrich recalled. "They were so welcoming."

Soon, her new teammates on the Penn State women's volleyball team let her in, too. And she has never looked back.

Tonight, the No. 4 Nittany Lions travel to West Lafayette, Ind. for a match against Ullrich's former team. It will be Ullrich's second, and final, time returning to Belin Court in a Lion uniform — but the senior doesn't have revenge on her mind.

It's been nearly two years since Ullrich, a 5-foot-8 defensive specialist, transferred from **See ULLRICH, Page 12.**



Amanda August/Collegian

Ullrich gets in position vs. SJU.

Cousins ready to compete

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Stephon Morris and Travon Bellamy talk almost every day about everything.

The conversations between the two cousins, who happen to be starting cornerbacks at Penn State and Illinois, aren't about life, school and girls. In the week leading up to Penn

State's clash with the Illini, however, those conversations take a lighter note. When Bellamy called Morris on Monday, he politely let his younger cousin know his plans to block him off the field, past the sideline and into the Gatorade coolers on the bench.

"Hopefully we don't have to punt," Morris said. "But if we do, that first play out there, it's gonna be a scene."

As two defenders, they will only face each other when Penn State

punts. Bellamy will have the responsibility of blocking Morris, a runner on his side of the formation.

Morris, who said he considers Bellamy a brother, doesn't know how he'll react to lining up across from his cousin. He said it will be "spur of the moment" whether he'll talk trash or stay quiet.

Bellamy said he'll be getting all his smack talk in during the week. "We've been going back and forth trash talking and all that,"

Bellamy said. "It's a friendly competition, but once we get on that field it's gonna be all business."

Bellamy, a fifth-year senior, is three years older than the sophomore Morris. The two went to Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, Md., where Bellamy's senior season coincided with Morris' freshman year.

From the start, Bellamy said Morris was like a sponge, constantly asking questions to absorb **See MORRIS, Page 12.**

FOOTBALL

ICERS

Icers face Drexel in front of home crowd

By Greg Garcia
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Junior forward and captain Marek Polidor put it best, saying "lately there has been a lot of buzz around Penn State hockey."

Penn State added NCAA Division I men's and women's hockey programs Sept. 17, when alum Terry Pegula donated \$88 million, the largest philanthropic act in school history, to help get the project started.

Now, the excitement will only grow with the Penn State Icers (2-0) ready to host the

Drexel Dragons (0-2) Friday night in front of the home crowd for the first time since the announcement.

Junior forward Paul Daley said he expects new faces to be in the crowd to come check out the program before it makes the jump to Division I.

"We're definitely expecting a big crowd for the game," Daley said. "There has been **See ICERS, Page 12.**

Icers vs. Drexel

When: 9 p.m.
Where: Greenberg Ice Pavilion



Steph Witt/Collegian

Warming (right) speaks with a player during a game.

Men's soccer taking on MSU

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Of all the teams Bob Warming will face this year, Michigan State plays his favorite brand of soccer.

When the first year Penn State men's soccer head coach leads his team onto Jeffrey Field Sunday afternoon, the challenge will be to overtake a composed, athletic team ranked 18th in the country. **MEN'S SOCCER**

"I love their composure on the ball, they are not a typical college soccer team where it's all just chasing the ball around and running," Warming said. "They have guys that are very thoughtful and patient on the ball and their backs all try to play. It's a thinking man's game with their team."

See MEN'S SOCCER, Page 12.

LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV

MLB

Philadelphia vs. Cincinnati
6:07 p.m., TBS

TRIVIA

Q: How many consecutive 1,000 yard receiving seasons did Randy Moss have to start his NFL career?
A: Thursday's answer: Don Larsen threw a perfect game in the 1956 World Series.

QUICK HITS (AP)

Moss "back home" in Minny

To hear Randy Moss tell it, this week's blockbuster trade that moved him from New England to Minnesota didn't just bring him back to the place where he started his NFL career.

The headline grabbing move wasn't about Moss simply coming back to a team that traded him five years ago.

More important than anything for Moss, and thus for the Vikings, is that the star receiver feels like he is home.

"I'm very fortunate to be back home where it all started," said Moss, the West Virginia native who referred to Minnesota as home seven times Thursday. "It's been a hectic last 48 hours."

Rangers go up 2-0 over Rays

Gratified to finally be in the playoffs, Michael Young and the Texas Rangers are making the most of their opportunity.

Young hit a three-run homer one pitch after checking his at-bat with a disputed check-swing, helping C.J. Wilson and the AL West champions beat the Tampa Bay Rays 6-0 Thursday for a 2-0 lead in their division series.

"I just think that we've had a great mentality these first two games," Young said. "We're not really thinking about some huge, grand picture here. We empty the bank for the game we're playing that day."

Texas is the only current major league franchise that's never won a playoff series. After winning consecutive games on the road, that can change with a victory when the series shifts to Texas this weekend.

OUR THOUGHTS

NBA gearing up for 2010

Commissioner David Stern said Thursday that NBA fans will see "some of the greatest basketball ever played."

Let's hope he's right. Offseason acquisitions during the summer months have spiced up several teams besides the Miami Heat.

The Lakers added Steve Blake, the Knicks picked up Amar'e Stoudemire and Raymond Felton, the Celtics brought back Delonte West and added Shaquille O'Neal, the Bulls added Carlos Boozer and the Magic added Chris Duhon.

Perhaps it's still too early to get into the NBA, but when that time comes, don't forget to give the league some love.