

Hertzog-Braga combo paying dividends

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It was fitting that Matheus Braga's 11th assist went to the foot of Corey Hertzog, who wears 11 on his jersey, for his team-high 11th goal.

Through 11 games this season, the senior midfielder and junior striker have been the two biggest cogs in the Penn State men's soccer team's attack. Both players have combined well, with Braga assisting seven of Hertzog's goals and the junior assisting one of Braga's three tallies.

"He's probably worked the hardest and been the best player on our team," Hertzog said of Braga. "He just does everything

for us. Wins head balls, dribbles past people, shooting, scores goals, so all the credit to him."

The Nittany Lions offense is a potent one this season and both Braga and Hertzog have been beneficiaries. Braga is two assists away from tying Penn State's single-season record and Hertzog has already tied his career high in goals with at least seven games left.

Though Braga starts as the left outside midfielder, the 5-foot-8 senior makes plenty of trips into the center of the field to find the ball. Once he has the ball, Braga routinely beats defenders off the dribble to either send a precise pass to a teammate or rifle a laser at the net.

With Hertzog, who has five game-winning goals, it's a matter of faith. The forward fires plenty of

balls at the net and his teammates know he's eventually going to put one in when the team needs it.

"Corey's the type of guy where he can have 10, 15 shots per game and we know one of those is going to be in the back of the net," Braga said. "We've gotta keep doing that and know that one shot's going to be there."

Sunday, Braga scored a fantastic goal to tie the game and Hertzog said it was clearly the turning point in the match. Junior defender Matt Smallwood said the showing both Hertzog and Braga put on Sunday was what he's come to expect.

"Corey, he can be out on the sideline the whole game and not touch a ball then in an instant, change the game right around," Smallwood said. "And Matheus, that was a brilliant goal, he took

the team on and put it right in the corner."

Lion coach Bob Warming praised the way Braga and Hertzog responded after a bad first half against Michigan State, saying they played well off each other.

For the pair, it's a conversation they've had often and their teammates expect to see happen.

"Every time I see [Hertzog] run I feel like he's going to score, so I always try to put the ball on his feet," Braga said.

"He feels the same, every time we have a conversation with the team he says, 'When Matheus has the ball, I'm going to make a run and you guys just hope.' That's how we do it here and it's working."



Katie Silvis/Colegian

To e-mail reporter: adr5079@psu.edu Hertzog (11) makes a play.

Field hockey winning games with speed and passing

By Joe McIntyre
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When the No. 16 Penn State field hockey team went to East Lansing and defeated No. 7 Michigan State last Friday, the Spartans simply couldn't keep up.

And not just on the scoreboard.

Players and coaches agreed the major reason for the Nittany Lions' turnaround in 2010 from last year's 7-13 season and a 1-5 Big Ten record, is the Lions are faster and quicker than the opposition.

The Lions (9-3, 3-1 Big Ten) are out-hustling, out-muscling and

out-working their opponents to every ball in their wins. And red-shirt sophomore Hannah Allison said coach Char Morett's fitness philosophy is a reason for the success.

"One of Char's goals is to be one of the fittest teams in the country and I think that we're proving that," Allison said.

"We get to endline balls and just a couple weeks ago [Whitney Reddig] made just an incredible save on chasing down a ball when she was nearly 75 yards from it. It was amazing what we can come



Morett

up with when we're that fast."

Being able to chase down endline and sideline balls is only a small part of what being faster on the field has brought the Lions.

Speed opens up the field for more offensive opportunities. The defense will often play further off the ball carrier which creates open passing lanes and chances for forwards like Kelsey Amy to race around the defense and put the ball on net.

"We have much more speed this year," Morett said. "I think they're able to get the ball near the attacking 25. I think Kelsey obviously, as a sophomore, is much more confident than she was as a freshman. Her goals I think are a result of that."

But speed is only part one of a two-part equation.

It's one thing to have the speed to run circles around the opposition, it's another to have precision passing that allows the Nittany Lion goal scorers to corral balls on the run and never lose their forward momentum.

Amy, who leads the team in goals, including the two she notched Friday afternoon, said if her defense and midfielders don't hit the forwards on the run, they are forced to stop and reach for the ball.

If passing isn't spot-on, the forwards lose all their momentum and most often the scoring chance.

But that hasn't been the case

this year, especially against the Spartans. "On Friday we were transferring the ball down the field and just making their defense run like crazy," Amy said. "We were actually just watching the film and just saying how they looked like they were so frantic, because they never know where we were going with the ball."

And when the defense doesn't know where the offense is going with the ball, more often than not the ball finds the back of the cage.

"Our passing was definitely just catching them off guard," Amy said. "It gave us room to run and gave us a lot of scoring opportunities."

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By **Jacqueline Bigar**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010. This year, you often become creative when others are difficult or rigid. Sometimes associates pull away because they are not used to the new you. Give others the space and time to adjust. If you are single, your allure is quite intense, and others want to come in closer. You have many potential suitors to get to know and decide if you want to get to know better. Enjoy the process - dating can be fun. If you are attached, your relationship will benefit from adding some good old-fashioned dates. SAGITTARIUS has many ideas - and opinions.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-Soso; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) *** Flex with the moment and understand what is happening behind the scenes. Your creativity is high, and you demonstrate a unique ability to problem-solve. An insight, though upsetting, guides you. Relax, knowing that you need this knowledge. Tonight: Get some expert opinions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) *** Be willing to work with one other person directly. You'll gain unusual results. Be open to the unexpected, knowing when you have had enough of a situation. Your insight will evolve if you kick back and decide not to trigger. Tonight: Chat with a friend. Get his or her impression.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) *** You could see a situation far differently from others at first. Your ability to move in a new direction depends on your willingness to work with others. Knowing when to say "enough" could be more important than you realize. Tonight: Meet a loved one for dinner.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** You might want to see a situation in a different light than in the past. Your sense of humor emerges when discussing a problem. You realize how trivial it might be when you consider another perspective. Tonight: Go with your instincts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Keep tapping into your creativity to find the right answer for each situation. Once more, a partner proves to be unpredictable and quite deliberate in his or her actions. You might want to give this person more space in the future. Tonight: Where the fan is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** If you can stay close to home, please do. There is a lot of give-and-take between a situation and what goes on. Others tend to make a mess of plans. If you feel a need to have matters go in a certain direction, consider going out on your own. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** Keep asking the same question until you get the answer you need. Phrase your words differently if you must, knowing full well where you are coming from. Tonight: Head home, then decide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Your ability to home in on some basics allows for greater give-and-take. When someone torpedoes an agreement or existing plans, you will know what to do. Realize your limits financial-ly, and you won't make an error. Tonight: A little self-discipline goes a long way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** You can go a long way completing a project. You can handle any interference, as you are goal-directed. Follow your instincts, and you cannot go wrong. Let your creativity open up. Tonight: Just follow your whims.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Make plans; research important decisions. You won't be on hold much longer. Your instincts could be quite out of whack with money. You might be seeing only what you want to see. Know that this type of warped perspective isn't your norm. Tonight: Nap, decide later.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** Use today to push any key project forward. You could be surprised by your options if you listen to several different people who don't think like you. Don't think in terms of wasted funds and time. Tonight: Make it an early night.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** Know that you need to make the first move in order to make a situation work. You know when you have pushed too far for too long. Take a step back later in the day to look around. Tonight: Could be late.

BORN TODAY
Opera singer Luciano Pavarotti (1935), English King Edward VI (1537), R&B singer Sam Moore (1935)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com
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