

# Playoffs? Don't you talk about playoffs

By Jared Shanker



MY OPINION

I considered asking to have my picture removed from this column for the sake of my own well-being. I fully expect my readers, all 13 of them, to never pick up another one of my columns, or if they do, use it to whack me with. It's a good thing I live in an apartment 10 stories high or the bricks I'd see coming my way would resemble a Shaq free-throw session.

So in an effort to save myself from bodily harm (though I have been doing my P90X Kenpo lately; jab, cross, hook, UPPER-CUT!), I'll let Jim Mora take the heat and deliver the message: "Playoffs? Don't talk about playoffs! You kidding me? PLAY-OFFS?"

Jimmy was talking about the NFL; I'm here to talk about college football.

You kidding me? You want a 16-team playoff and ruin the most exciting regular season in sports and the greatest three weeks in

sports. No, not March Madness, but the three full weeks — not weekends — of bowl games.

Now, I know what you're thinking. How could a bright, intelligent, strapping young man like myself be so ... dumb? Well before you turn this page into a paper airplane, I ask you to just hear me out.

Let's imagine this scenario: There's a 16-team playoff, and all of the BCS conference champions get an automatic bid. Florida and Florida State have each clinched a spot in their respective conference title games. So in an effort to make sure they are healthy for the championship game, both teams rest their starters and one of the great rivalries of the last 20 years isn't even worth playing. Neither team is going to risk losing a star player in a meaningless game. Beating the other team isn't going to get them into the playoff, but if they lose and win the conference title game, that loss won't matter.

Essentially, the regular season is destroyed as that scenario can be applied to just about any end-of-the-season rivalry. The Backyard Brawl becomes the Backup Brawl.

Take a look at the rankings at

the end of the last season, too. Teams 10-16 averaged three losses. Does a three-loss team deserve to be in the national title hunt?

And who gets the at-large bids? Allow every conference an automatic bid and you get something like the No. 1 vs. No. 16 matchups in March.

Would some mid-majors, like the Mountain West, get automatic bids while others are still left out in the cold? Isn't that just what a playoff is supposed to be in place to prevent?

Cut it down to an eight-team playoff, you say. No chance the BCS conferences agree with that without a guaranteed spot for its champion. That leaves two at-larges, and you think conferences wouldn't be up in arms if those spots went to Boise State and TCU, two mid-majors?

A seemingly simple solution, as my colleague and football writer Andrew J. Cassavell points out (he calls it the AJCS), is to play the BCS bowls with the usual ties. After, the top two teams in the BCS standings would play for the national championship — a plus-one system.

In that scenario, however, No. 1 Ohio State and No. 2 Oregon,

which to me has looked like the best team this year, would play in the Rose Bowl and not a national title game. That opens the door for an average team like Virginia Tech, possibly coming off an upset of an undefeated TCU, to find its way into the national title game — undeservedly. **Lame.**

So what's the best scenario? **B.C.S.**

Since the BCS' implementation 12 years ago, it's been an up and down ride. At first, the system was complicated and didn't make much sense with percentage points gained or lost for margin of victory and quality wins. Teams, like USC (2003) and Auburn (2004) were given the short end of the stick.

Since 2005, when the formula was switched to only include human and computer polls, there hasn't been much issue with the BCS. It has consistently pitted the two best teams, and that is what the BCS is all about.

In 2008, the perpetrators were the humans, not the computers. Oklahoma was No. 1 and No. 2 in the Coaches' and Harris polls, respectively. Texas was third in both. Substitute Texas for Oklahoma and Texas gets the luxury of losing to Florida, which left

little doubt it was the best team in the country at the end of the year. The same could be said for 2009.

The BCS was a disaster before, but now it's the best system available. It incorporates the human polls, preserves the regular season and the distinction of a national champion (a No. 14 seed as a national champion? **Ew.**) and keeps the bowl games.

Fact is, in most years and every year since the system was altered, the BCS has gotten it right. They did what it was supposed to do: force No. 1 to play No. 2. Think Joe Paterno wouldn't have killed for the BCS in 1994?

I could go on and on about how a playoff would ruin college football. It isn't the NFL, and it shouldn't be. Thankfully, it's not the NBA and NHL, where everybody gets in, even sub-.500 teams.

Do I sound convincing? Probably not, but at the end of the day, and it's unfortunate that this is the reasoning, but the BCS is less worse than a playoff.

Now let that paper airplane fly!

Jared Shanker is a senior majoring in journalism and history and is the Collegian's sports columnist. His e-mail address is [jps522@psu.edu](mailto:jps522@psu.edu).

## Bolden

From Page 8.

But much of those offensive struggles can be attributed to a poor offensive line, and the wide receivers have dropped balls on key third downs. Following Saturday's loss, Jay Paterno said he didn't foresee any quarterback

competition in the near future.

"We got to evaluate how Rob played and see how he played," Jay Paterno said.

"And if something is warranted, then we'll talk about that later, but right now, that's not part of the discussion."

Backup Kevin Newsome has seen minimal time this season, going 6-for-13 with appearances in

five of the six games. When he does play, it's typically in the shotgun late in games with the outcome not in question and the Nittany Lions run the spread option.

There is no indication Newsome may compete for the starting role. Jay Paterno said he sees Bolden's demeanor on the sideline as that of a leader.

"He takes the losses really hard," Jay Paterno said.

"Last week at Iowa, he was [down]. I talked to him for a while after that one, and [Saturday], before I came over, I talked to him for a while. That's a good sign that it matters to him."

Jay Paterno said he hasn't been trying to put too much onto the freshman's shoulders at one time.

He said he hopes to get Bolden more action on rollouts — something he wasn't able to do Saturday when the offense was only onfield for a third of the game. "We've got to look at it," Jay Paterno said.

"I think we've kept the package fairly tight."

To e-mail reporter: [ajc5238@psu.edu](mailto:ajc5238@psu.edu)

# Collegian Classifieds

ing appropriate information to evaluate matters and draft responses Management/coordination of litigation matters Expertise in MS-Vword and Outlook as must. MS-Excel a plus. Compensation Negotiable based on experience and skills Starting compensation comparable to mid-size (6 person) suburban litigation firm If interested, please fax your resume and salary requirements to Mrs. Warner at: 267-525-8667 or email to: [Jobs@hscgcorp.com](mailto:Jobs@hscgcorp.com) Resumes without salary will not be considered.

LOOKING FOR A mother's assistant. Student needed to help with childcare, household chores, and driving. If interested in an interview please e-mail [bobbirayback@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbirayback@yahoo.com)

MEDICAL RECORDS FT position for dependable, reliable individual to work customer service/medical records at local hospital. Will train. 40 hrs/wk. Mon-Fri. Must have own transportation, be pleasant & able to work in busy environment. Fax resume 302-235-0702.

MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS Bensalem Area Adolescent Male Resident Treatment Program. 3 pm - 11 pm or Awake Overnight shift FBI, State Police & Child Abuse Clearances. Valid Driver's License & Good Driving Record. Minimum High School Diploma + 12 College Credits in Social Sciences. 1-2 Yrs. Human Service Experience Required Excellent Benefits. 22-26K - Fax Resume to 215-244-0216 or Mail to 3400 Bristol Pk. Bensalem, Pa. 19020. Specify Shift. EOE

NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL FINANCIAL Network. The Savino Financial Group Financial Representative Opportunity F/T / Internships Available. Build a business for yourself within a strong network of support. Achieve a work and lifestyle balance. Assist individuals and small businesses. Attain financial security, proven training, strong financial support, mutual fit selection process. Princeton, NJ and Newtown, PA Locations Contact Joanne Savino: 609-750-3012 [joanne.savino@nmfn.com](mailto:joanne.savino@nmfn.com)

NURSING BAYLOR PROGRAM. Are you a natural caregiver? Use your skill to its fullest in our skilled nursing facility! Join our Baylor Program. Work 24 hours on the weekend and get paid for 36 hours. Receive full time benefits if working every Saturday and Sunday Receive paid time off. Call us at 215-340-5241 or visit [www.pinerun.org](http://www.pinerun.org) 777 Ferry Road Doylestown, PA EOE Cultivate your passion for caring.

RECEPTIONIST IMMEDIATE POSITIONS Available. Starting up to \$10/hr. Must be avail. 2pm-11pm Mon-Fri, weekends, holidays. Apply online at [www.NewtownAnswering.com/employment](http://www.NewtownAnswering.com/employment)

RECEPTIONIST/ASSISTANT CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE, PT afternoons, evens. New Hope/Doylestown area. Send resume: [Resume862@yahoo.com](mailto:Resume862@yahoo.com)

SALES AND CUSTOMER service people with basic computer skills for an internet based automotive parts company. Parts experience a plus but not necessary please fax resumes to 775-307-8764 or email [Jobs@partsgeek.com](mailto:Jobs@partsgeek.com)

SALES - INSIDE SALES Come grow with a winner! Inside Sales, Ten Openings 40k base, commission and insurance coverage Advertising Specialty Institute, winner of consecutive 'Best Places to Work' Awards by the Philadelphia Business Journal, and Greater Philadelphia Media is expanding our sales team. Requirements: strong closer, 1-2 years phone sales, 4-year college degree, able to travel to national and regional trade shows. Recent grads welcomed. Paid training, and \$40k base plus commission (earn 50k+). Inside business to business, cold calling from our prospect data base. If you are dedicated and determined apply today! ASI is the largest business to business media organization for the promotional products and advertising industry, offering award winning publications, marketing, and ASI e-commerce services to over 26,000 members. We are located in the Bucks County Technology Park with on-site day care, cafeteria, car service, car wash, dry cleaning service and much more! We offer competitive benefits package including: medical, dental, matching 401(k), casual dress, as well as a fast-paced environment (Starbucks on site). Visit our web site at [www.asicentral.com](http://www.asicentral.com) Submit resumes to [kpaolini@asicentral.com](mailto:kpaolini@asicentral.com). Come visit our booth at the job fair on Wednesday October 6th at Williamson Restaurant (RTE 611 & Blair Mill Road, Horsham) Advertising Specialty Institute 4800 Street Road Treviso, PA 19053 FAX (215)942-8730 EOE

TACO BELL IS now hiring. Full or part time. Flexible scheduling and apply in person.

TARGET ABINGTON, PA See Yourself Here! Hiring Now: Cashiers, Sales Floor, Team Backroom, 4am Stock First Shift, Second Shift Part Time Seasonal. Where: Abington Target, 1495 Old York Road Abington, PA 19001 (215) 572-6977. How to Apply: Complete an employment application at the Employment Kiosk at the front of the store or apply online at [target.com/Careers](http://target.com/Careers) and use zip code 19001. Target is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is a drug free workplace. [www.target.com](http://www.target.com)

TECHNICIAN SUBURBAN PROPANE, a nationwide provider of propane and oil, has the following opening in their Montgomeryville, PA location: Multi-Fuel Tech. Qualifications include HS Diploma or equivalent, CDL class B with X endorsements as well as applicable state & federal licenses/cert, solid understanding of propane/oil, 3-5 yrs exp preferred, ability to work a flexible schedule w/ after hrs emergency call-outs, strong communication, customer service skills. Competitive pay offered. For additional info or to apply, please visit our website at: [www.suburbanpropane.com](http://www.suburbanpropane.com) DOT physicals, background checks and pre-employment drug tests are required. EOE/M/F/D/V

TODDLER TEACHER AND Toddler Asst needed. College credits in Early Education pref'd, but not req'd. Exp. pref'd. Must supply clearances. Please call Mrs. Terri Rambo: 215-946-3467, fax resume to 215-946-5926, or email info to [hopepreschool@comcast.net](mailto:hopepreschool@comcast.net)

VETERINARY HOSPITAL LOOKING for student to work part-time. Please submit resume and class schedule to 814-231-2666 or [dills1118@gmail.com](mailto:dills1118@gmail.com) Must have own car and flexible hours.

WEEKENDS ARE MADE for fun! Share your good times with children. FCCY is looking for weekend and full time foster parents. Call 1-800-747-3807. EOE.

**PARKING SPACES**

PARKING SPACES FOR rent, downtown parking, location and prices vary, contact Associated Realty Property Management 814-231-3333 [www.arpm.com](http://www.arpm.com)

**ROOMMATES**

NEED ROOMMATE ASAP, graduate building, female. Call 805-231-0278.

**Sell It Fast!** in Collegian Classifieds

**SERVICES**

CAR INSURANCE. MONTHLY payments, local agent, three blocks from campus. 238-6038.

**SUBLET 1 BEDRM**

SUBLET ONE BEDROOM Spring 2011. Empty sublet for 2-3 at University Gateway. Email [LVM5037@gmail.com](mailto:LVM5037@gmail.com)

**SUBLET**

SPRING 2011 SUBLET. Two bedroom two bathroom. \$525/month. One block from campus. Details 267-253-2476.

Stay up to date on deadlines & promos!

814-865-2531 [twitter.com/mycollegianad](https://twitter.com/mycollegianad)

**CUSTOM PRINTED T-SHIRTS SAME DAY NO MINIMUMS PEOPLES NATION**  
126 E COLLEGE - 861 2626 [WWW.PEOPLESNATION.NET](http://WWW.PEOPLESNATION.NET)

The Paper Plate dining guide powered by [Malco.college.com](http://Malco.college.com) GO TO [psu.collegian.com](http://psu.collegian.com)

# HOROSCOPES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY Designer's Denn Salon and Spa

Present your student ID card & receive a 20% discount on your haircut!

(814) 234-3366  
212 East Calder Way, State College, PA 16801  
[www.designersdenn.com](http://www.designersdenn.com)

Today's **su|do|ku** **MEN'S SOCCER**

brought to you by

6	1	5	2	9
9		6		
		2		4
1	7	6		3
		9	3	
	4	8		6
3			5	
		5		1
4	1	8		2
			2	6

©Puzzles by Pappocorn

Wed. (10/13) vs. #1 ranked Akron @ 7 pm  
Wed. (10/20) vs. UMBC @ 7 pm  
Jeffrey Field

**By Jacqueline Bigar**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010: This year, you have the opportunity to redesign certain elements of your life. This period could be connected to 28 years ago, if you are over 28. You might often feel tired, but that isn't all that is going on with you. You do make a difference, but perhaps you are accepting too many responsibilities. New beginnings become possible if you relax and let go of what isn't functioning in your life. Eliminate what you no longer enjoy. If you are single, you could be more demanding than in the past, tripping up any potential bond. Spring 2011 heralds new beginnings. If you are attached, the two of you will be more at odds than usual. Be willing to detach and accept your side of the problem. Control could be at the base of the issue. CAPRICORN can be provocative.

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

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) ★★ You settle into a very hard work pace and might not be ready to leave work at the conventional time of day. Review some structural ideas and concepts before proceeding in a set, chosen direction. Tonight: Burning the midnight oil.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ You challenge yourself to get to the root of a problem before you make a decision. Though someone might think you are playing games or stalling, you are really seeking out more information. Tonight: Where there is music.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ A partner might be slightly more challenging than you anticipated, causing a lot of problems and affecting your perspective and willingness to grasp his or her issue. Diplomatically explain the ramifications of this type of behavior. Tonight: Dinner with a favorite person.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Defer to others, and be willing to open up to new beginnings. Intense gatherings mark your decisions. Be careful as to how much you take on. You could suddenly feel overwhelmed. Tonight: Head home.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ Maintain a steady pace, and remain sure of your choices. You have discussed an issue until you are blue in the face. Have you not made a choice? Express your caring in a way that is meaningful. Tonight: Keep at what you are doing.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Where others struggle, you express an innate creativity and an unusually dynamic style. You could be pushed beyond your limits financially. If you don't play extrinsic stick your head out and let others know. Tonight: Let your wildness emerge.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★ You could be very tired and drawn. In your ability to see beyond the obvious lies a steady basis in your thinking and choices. Update your office or a special room in your home to reflect the changing you. Tonight: Happily head home.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Sometimes you ask a lot of questions; other times others will simply start talking. Listen well, because much could be revealed in the present moment.

You could be a bit hurt if you take a situation personally. Tonight: Exchange ideas.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★ Be aware of self-imposed limitations, especially financially. Drop the word "no" from your vocabulary, and replace it with "how can I make "X" happen?" The results could be substantially different. Tonight: Make it your treat.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ You are all smiles, even if you are working through a difficult matter. You don't need to worry, as you have the power and strength to make the mark you want. Don't allow a boss or older person to ride you too hard. Tonight: Moving along...

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★ Much that you see or observe is best not shared. Keep certain insights to yourself, and you might find that people remain more open with you. Read between the lines with someone at a distance. Tonight: Behind the scenes.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You are on top of your game. You see life from a more resilient perspective. Let a friend open up to new impressions and get to know you better. Someone could be unusually cold. Tonight: Where the action is.

**BORN TODAY**  
Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (1925), comedian Lenny Bruce (1925), singer, songwriter Paul Simon (1941)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at [www.jacquelinebigar.com](http://www.jacquelinebigar.com).

© 2010 by King Features Syndicate Inc.