

# Phillies postgame reaction not indicative of real sports fans

By Andrew J. Cassavell

SATURDAY night, on the street outside my house, one of the most hilarious events of my four years in college took place.

After reflecting on it, however, it also ranks as one of the most disturbing.

When San Francisco Giants closer Brian Wilson struck out Philadelphia Phillies first baseman Ryan Howard to end the most suspenseful ninth inning since the 2006 NLCS, it set off a chain of events that's tough to describe given only these next few paragraphs.



MY OPINION

But I'll try. The Pittsburgh fans across the street started shouting profanities, and chanting "F—the Phillies." There were beer bottles thrown into the street as pointless whooping noises echoed down.

A few minutes later, the Phillies fans from our side of the street apparently also wanted to make love to a Pennsylvania baseball team, this time the Pirates.

It all led up to some of the stupidest name-calling I've heard since I was about 6 years old. For all the years of education the parents of those kids have paid for through taxes and tuition, it's amazing to think their sons have actually regressed since preschool in terms of working differences out.

Some skirmishes broke out, along with some pointless pushing and some weak punches. It was all very amusing, but also depressing, given the hand humanity has dealt the rest of us.

I'm a sports fan. Sometimes that gets difficult when I'm put in the same class as these idiots, who apparently think it's OK to repeatedly use a derogatory term about sexuality — yes, you know the one I'm talking about — to make themselves feel better about their sports teams' failures and their own insecurities.

Then I remember they aren't actually sports fans.

Friday night I called my brother — a true "fan," who bleeds Yankee blue. He compared their loss to Texas to taking a knife in the gut. But no one who watched

it with him (a pair of top-notch Yankee haters, but also "fans") said anything obnoxious to him.

For those of you who don't understand, think of it this way: For six and a half months every night my brother had a companion. A team that was there when he felt lousy, and a reason to sit on the couch and enjoy a game with friends and family.

The folks from Pittsburgh who thought it was OK to loudly remind those Phillie fans of their loss are as infantile as it gets.

Philadelphia fans, as usual, you aren't off the hook. Uttering the phrase, "F— it, let's just go fight them," does nothing to prove anything, aside from getting me really excited about the unfolding moronic spectacle.

Seriously. It's a game.

Someone else being an idiot doesn't justify your idiocy. Be the bigger man.

The event represented everything that is wrong with sports fans, and it's the reason that when I try to explain baseball as an art, I get laughed at. How can those morons truly appreciate art as beautiful as Wilson's 3-2 cutter, and all the strategy that led up to it?

The answer: they can't. They aren't fans at all. Just drunken idiots looking for attention.

Sadly, in 524 words, I just gave it to them.

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# Field hockey overcomes penalties, survives tough weekend

By Zach Fleagle  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

In a huge weekend against No. 17 Duke and No. 5 Princeton, the Penn State field hockey team fought through adversity and came away with two wins.

In the two games combined, the Lions acquired 5 total yellow cards, putting them shorthanded for approximately 38 of the 140 total minutes.

Penn State was supporting a one-goal lead late against the Blue Devils on Friday but found itself in trouble when Kelsey Amy, the team's leading scorer, was on the wrong end of a yellow card — sidelining her for the second time of the afternoon.

The penalty in the 58th minute put Amy on the bench and the Lions down a player for 10 minutes.

During Amy's temporary stint on the sideline, forward Hannah Allison was checked off the ball by a Duke player and became the second victim of a yellow card after a frustrated cross-check in retaliation.

Up a goal but down two players, the team members gritted their collective teeth and went into a defensive lockdown the rest of the way, preventing the Blue Devils from coming back and holding on to a 2-1 victory.

Amy said she was the biggest cheerleader from the bench and couldn't be happier about the way the team buckled down after she may have put them a step behind.

"We were down two players at one point and we didn't let it affect us."

Kelsey Amy  
sophomore forward

"I'm proud that we fought really hard," Amy said.

"We were down two players at one point and we didn't let it affect us."

In a tough Sunday game against Princeton, the Lions found themselves in an odd man situation when senior captain Daneen Zug was called for a yellow card, one that a distraught coach Char Morett could be heard arguing from the sidelines.

"It's unfortunate that that's the way [the referee's] see the game," Morett said.

"I don't know if we're getting used to it playing that way, I think our kids pulled together at that point."

Both weekend games saw a lot of physical play, making it the referee's decision to define the pace of the games.

Morett wasn't the only person who showed signs of frustration Sunday.

Amy said she embraced the physical play and penalties are just part of the game.

In another call against the Lions, this time freshman Lauren Purvis put the team one down again with Princeton struggling to find offensive continuity.



Andrew Dummer/Collegian

Junior midfielder Jess Longstreth (right) aims a shot during the Lions' win over Princeton on Sunday.

The advantage was not to be, as the Tigers could not capitalize on Penn State's second card.

Goalie Ayla Halus, who blanked the Tigers on Sunday with some key saves, said the team really came together during the penalty minutes and it may have even gave them a spark.

"I think [the intensity] came a lot from the girls that came off the cards," Halus said.

"They seemed a little upset and they just wanted to get back there and shove [the ball] down the field."

Amy, who didn't start Sunday because of her multiple yellow cards on Saturday, said the team has prepared while down a few players in practice. But the game scenario really gave them the confidence going forward knowing the team can step up if the situa-

tion calls for it, Amy said. "I attribute it to [Saturday]," Amy said.

"It really prepared us for anything we were going to see. We played down two people and we were still able to win that game. We fought, we were diving for balls, nothing was going to get by us."

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## Snyder

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for them. There was no need for pump-up videos, inspirational messages or team meetings. They weren't baited by the old, opposing-head-coach-was-fired-therefore-the-team-will-be-inspired gimmick. They showed up, overcame adversity and left with the kind of win that will at least temporarily get the heavy monkey off their back.

"It's like we can go outside of Beaver Stadium and get a 'W' which is important," right tackle

Chima Okoli said. "I feel like it was the complete-package win we were looking for."

Sure, Minnesota isn't a great team.

In fact, the program is a mess, but at this point the Lions needed to somehow, somehow get a victory.

And that's exactly what the inexperienced, injury-riddled group did.

It wasn't pretty as Rob Bolden stumbled his way to the sideline dazed and confused, Matt McGloin fired an interception into Ryan Collado's arms and Collin Wagner's fourth-quarter field goal clanked off the upright.

But the Lions were able to overcome these on-field setbacks and benefited with big plays from some of the most unexpected players.

McGloin, who was a distant thought in Penn State fans' minds after he lost the starting competition and was left to hold the clipboard, took a gun slinger approach to what was predicted to be a conservative, hand off and hope for the best type of offense.

"Being the backup, it's tough to come into a game and not take the deep routes," running back Evan Royster said. "That first one, it was a beautiful pass, and you couldn't ask much more from

a guy coming in off the bench like that."

Then there was safety Malcolm Willis, who saw more action than he experienced this season and somehow held his own.

Making a couple breaks on balls, recording nine tackles and not having too many people know his name are all great signs for a third-string defensive back.

While Okoli added there's still a lot of room for improvement, at least the Lions know they can get themselves motivated for a game and they can find a way to win.

Sure those two components might have seemed like a given for a Penn State football team, but

this year the Lions continue to prove they are different.

And despite the overall 4-3 record and the 1-2 record in the Big Ten, Saturday's enthusiastic team showed that though many fans have lost faith in it, most importantly, it hasn't lost it in itself.

"It definitely feels good," Willis said with a smile.

"It lets us know that we're still a team that can win."

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## Defense

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"After he got hurt he just came to me and told me, 'Just play your game,'" said Willis, who played free safety while Drew Astorino moved over to Hero.

"We know you know all the plays, all the codes, just do what you got to do. Ball out."

The advice seemed simple for Willis, who saw time as the team's nickel back since Derrick Thomas was suspended for undisclosed reasons earlier this month.

However, Willis was thrust into

a secondary that wasn't getting its best day from cornerback Stephon Morris.

The 5-foot-8-inch Morris, who Willis looks to as one of the leaders in the secondary, was beaten in the end zone by wide receiver Da'Jon McKnight and also missed a few tackles.

The catch by McKnight in the third quarter resulted in the secondary surrendering its third touchdown pass of the day and its 10th of the season.

"I don't mind some of those things, I just hate to miss tackles and that's what bothers me the most," Bradley said.

"I talked to him about that and

Stephon has obviously got to play a lot better than that and he knows it."

Part of the reason for Gophers quarterback Adam Weber's three touchdown passes was because of the lack of pressure coming from the Lions' front seven throughout the game.

While Devon Still recorded the lone sack for the defense when he got to Weber in the end zone for Penn State's first safety since last October's game against Michigan, the rest of the defensive line struggled to get after Weber.

Jordan Hill earned the start at defensive end because Jack

Crawford and Eric Latimore have yet to practice because of injuries, and Bradley said some of the missed tackles by the line men are plays the regular starters would make.

But Bradley's linebackers were up and down, too, as Bani Gbadyu, Mike Mauri and Gerald Hodges returned after missing time.

With freshman Khairi Fortt held out because of stingers, Glenn Carson saw some time, but the defense's game-changing play came from cornerback D'Anton Lynn.

The junior stepped up and picked off Weber to swing the

momentum of the game during the second quarter and returned the ball 58 yards.

"It plays like Lynn's interception and Still's safety that keep the defense believing that if it can minimize the opponent's damage, one of the experienced players left along the makeshift unit will step up and make a play."

"All teams are gonna make big plays, it's about how you're going to react to them," linebacker Nate Stupar said.

"The best you can do is make them as minimal as possible and make them play another down."

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## Last word

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keep it going, we have five games to go."

With the win comes a new sense of confidence, and for a team that recorded its first win in October, the players breathed a noticeable sigh of relief.

The mood stayed light on the sidelines while the clock ticked down and the players ran off the field to something they haven't heard a lot of lately: cheers.

The Penn State fans shouted words of encouragement as the Lions ran into the visiting team's tunnel, and judging by the high-fives and smiles exchanged between groups, the Lions enter Saturday's game against Michigan feeling a lot better than they did for most of the month.

"It definitely puts us in a great place where we want to be," left guard Johnnie Troutman said.

"We're the underdog right now, but we still have a great chance to finish the season off strong and hopefully win these next five games to put ourselves in a great position to go to a bowl game."

### Day to forget

Offense: Wide receiver Graham Zug

The senior was targeted three times but once again did not record a catch. Zug's statistics continue to fall as he's recorded just four catches for 49 yards on the year. With McGloin looking to Moye, and Bolden feeling comfortable with Brett Brackett, Zug continues to be the odd man out.

Defense: Cornerback Stephon Morris

Morris might have images of Minnesota wide receiver Da'Jon McKnight running through his memory for a little while. The 6-foot-4-inch McKnight had his way with the 5-foot-8-inch cornerback, and Morris was beat in the third quarter in the end zone, was run over by a wide receiver

while attempting a tackle and flagged for pass interference.

### Did you notice?

Sean Stanley saw action at defensive end after being suspended the past two games ... The referees headed into the locker room to a chorus of boos from the Minnesota fans ... The Gophers' student section was less than half full and just 48,479 fans attended the game.

### Extra point

Joe Paterno held a square glass box in his hands while conducting his postgame press conference. While answering questions about the quarterback situation and the secondary's struggles, Paterno fidgeted with the box that had a U.S. Army logo on it.

The box was a gift given to Paterno as he walked off the field by a soldier who has a daughter at Penn State. The gift came from

the soldier's friends who are still serving in Iraq.

"His buddies wanted me to have this, which I think is pretty nice of them," Paterno said. "He wanted to thank me for what I did, and I said, 'You're thanking me?' Some of these guys are over there getting shot at."

Paterno said the box took him back to his days in Korea, where he served for six months when he was 18 years old.

"I didn't exactly scare the Koreans," Paterno quipped.

### Quotable

Right guard Stefen Wisniewski on if he's frustrated Evan Royster hasn't gotten the rushing record: "I don't care personally. I know we'll get it for him eventually. I don't think he cares either. It'll be better to get it at home anyway, right? So let's do it next week."

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