

# Lions look to offense to stop Michigan

By Andrew J. Cassavell  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Stefen Wisniewski will not see one snap opposite Michigan quarterback Denard Robinson Saturday.

The senior guard still sees himself and his 10 offensive teammates as the key to silencing the Heisman candidate.

It may be cliché to say "the best defense is a good offense," but the senior guard said it's never been truer than this week. As long as the offense controls the ball and Robinson is forced to wait his turn on the sideline, the vaunted Wolverines offense can't score any points, Wisniewski said.

"Whenever you're going against a talented offense like Michigan, we as an offense want to help our defense out as best as we can," Wisniewski said.

"Certainly that's putting up points. It's also holding onto the ball and trying to keep Michigan and the offense off the ball as often as we can."

Wisniewski hopes the possession will carry over from the second half of last week's win over Minnesota. The Nittany Lions

rushed for 122 yards and possessed the ball for most of the fourth quarter.

There will certainly be more pressure on the offense to do so this week, as the Wolverines boast the conference's No. 2 scoring offense, averaging 36 points per game. They also have, by far, the league's No. 1 rushing attack, led by Robinson.

Senior center Doug Klopacz said that if there's one stat that could indicate who wins the game, it will be time of possession.

"That's the aspect of the game that's probably gonna help win the game," Klopacz said. "It's gonna be important, and we're gonna do the best we can in terms of [controlling possession], and hopefully then we'll come out on top."

It may not be that easy. The Wolverines are last in the Big Ten in possession average per game, but with big play threats such as Robinson and receivers Roy Roundtree, Junior Hemingway and Darryl Stonum, each of whom have caught passes of 66 yards or more this season, that hasn't been a huge factor.

"They put up a lot of points on the board, and we've got to be able to fire right back," Klopacz said.

"That's gonna be a big point of emphasis for us, I'd say."

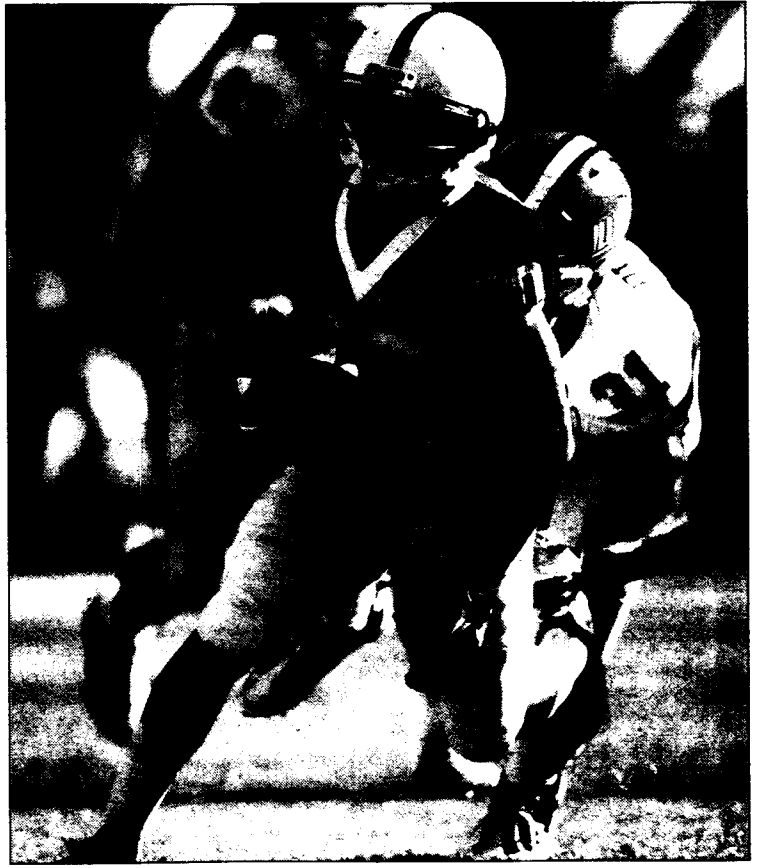
The need to score points doesn't add pressure on the offense, Klopacz said. It only brings more excitement.

But Penn State's offense hasn't controlled the clock well this season.

The Lions rank ninth in the conference, ahead of only the Wolverines and Purdue. At critical junctures, they've showed signs of being able to do so only once this season — a 12-play, 96-yard drive in the fourth quarter against Temple that ate six minutes and sealed the victory.

Drives like those are exactly what senior running back Evan Royster said the Lions need this week, to both build off last week's progress and keep one of college football's quickest offensive threats on the sideline.

"We need to run the ball this week — that's how we control the clock and that's how we keep the defense off the field," Royster said. "Obviously we need to put points on the board. But ball possession will be the most important thing this week."



Daniel Bott/Collegian

To e-mail reporter: [ajc5238@psu.edu](mailto:ajc5238@psu.edu) Devon Smith (20) runs with the ball in Penn State's loss to Illinois.

# Freshman Talia East works to rehab torn ACL

By Ryan Loy  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

While the Lady Lions walked from sideline to sideline stretching before practice two weeks ago, Talia East watched from her own little area of the Bryce Jordan Center floor.

East, a freshman forward, could only watch her teammates practice while she worked on a stationary bike to rehab a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee.

The 6-foot-3 Philadelphia

native injured the knee while playing in an April 21 high school all-star game.

Though she hasn't been able to fully display her talents for her new teammates, East is working hard to get back to full strength.

Coach Coquese Washington said if her rehabilitation stays on pace, the freshman should be back in January. East hopes her hard work will allow her to move from the courtside station-

ary bike to the middle of the paint sooner than expected.

"[The rehab] is coming along. The doctors are saying early January," East said of her return. "I'm saying Christmas for a Christmas gift. I'll take that."

Coming out of high school, East was the 35th-ranked center according to ESPN/HoopGurlz.

Last year, she was named to the Pennsylvania All-State First Team while averaging 13.4 points, 10.0 rebounds and 3.7 blocks per game for the Friends Central School.

While she dominated high school competition, East said she had to get used to life in college

before even thinking about basketball. The freshman said she had a hard time adjusting to a lack of sleep and less "TV time" when she first came to Penn State.

But the summer helped her to transition, and East said she's getting better at balancing her time. Now, it's just a matter of time before she adds participation in practice to her list of things to do.

Redshirt sophomore Mia Nickson, a captain on this year's team, is excited to see East's physicality once she's cleared.

"I can't wait until she gets back in. She looks aggressive," Nickson said.

Several of the Lions like the hard work East is showing while trying to get back on the floor. It's all part of her attempt to return by Dec. 25, a few weeks before the doctors expect her back.

It's tough to tell if everything will work out East's way, but from what freshman guard Maggie Lucas said, the forward is trying all she can to make it work.

"Talia is really focusing. She's working so hard on her rehab," Lucas said. "She's going to be back as soon as she can. She's definitely doing the work."

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# Anderson, starters return from injury, focus on Navy

By Andrew Pogorzelski  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

A blowout victory over an opponent is not out of the norm for the Lady Ruggers this season. But to do so without a captain and two starting seniors only proves that Penn State might be on their way for third consecutive national title.

After losing junior captain Sadie Henneman and senior starters Lisa Henneman and Kyle Armstrong, the Lady Ruggers looked to their

younger players to fill in the void.

"I think that we compensated by everyone stepping up and we played like a team," said coach Pete Steinberg. "We did not wait for one of the experienced players to do something, which is what we do when we have those players on the field." With the team missing crucial leadership in addition to their captain, it'd be reasonable to think the Lady Ruggers would be unfocused on the pitch. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"I wasn't worried about being out because of leadership," captain Sadie Anderson said. "Everyone on the team is a leader in their own way. I was disappointed about not being able to play with my teammates but I knew they were fine without me."

Anderson, Henneman and Armstrong are all set to return from injury this weekend against Navy, whose physicality will test the Lady Ruggers. Steinberg said Anderson's playing time will be

monitored more carefully, but the team is not looking to change the junior captain's intensity.

"She plays with a lot of aggression that sometimes she takes too much contact for her position," said Steinberg. "I think she will probably be ready to play a lot over the next two weeks."

Anderson acknowledged that she is mindful of her injury, but she is not letting the sprain in her ankle affect her play.

"Honestly, I play better injured,"

Anderson said. "I focus more and I'm more mindful of my surroundings on the field. I don't let injuries hold me back."

The Lady Ruggers will travel to face a tough Navy squad this Sunday. The team will welcome back all their injured starters and will be ready to compete in a physical match.

"We are really excited to get out there and test ourselves as a team," Anderson said. "Our team is ready to show what we got."

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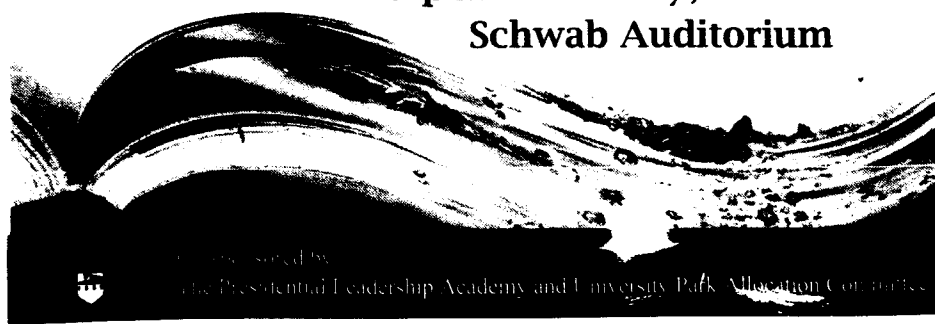
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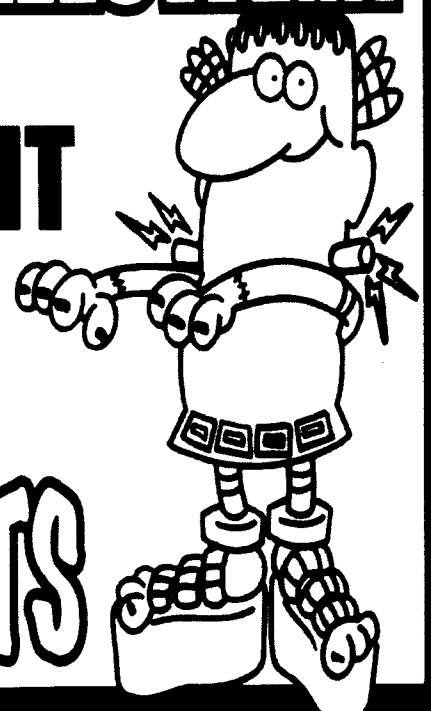
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