

# Lions planning around suspensions to key players

By Andrew Robinson  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Before his team took on the University of Pennsylvania Wednesday night, Matheus Braga knew he was going to get the next five days off to focus on recovery.

## MEN'S SOCCER

After the Penn State men's soccer team topped the No. 14 Quakers, Braga realized he was going to get 10 days off from games instead.

Due to accumulating five yellow cards over the season, the senior midfielder will have to sit out the Nittany Lions Nov. 2 game at Lafayette.

However, he won't be alone, thanks to the red card junior forward and NCAA leading scorer Corey Hertzog received Wednesday.

"You've gotta take the positives

out of this situation," Penn State coach Bob Warming said. "Both of those guys will benefit greatly from 10 days off, they're going to have all 10 days off and miss the game, as well. But you take the positives out of it and it gets them as fresh as possible for Wisconsin then the Big Ten tournament."



Braga

Hertzog was sent off after acquiring two yellow cards against the Quakers, which translates into an automatic red.

The junior striker got his first card for arguing with the official in the second half then drew the second booking in a bizarre series of events in the game's closing minutes.

After getting tangled up with Penn's Zach Barnett, both players

went to the ground and each drew a card.

"Corey got his for lying on the ball," Warming said. "Corey got tripped on the side and was laying on top of the ball and the referee thought he stayed on top of the ball too long and gave him a second yellow card. It was pretty silly actually."



Hertzog

Hertzog said he was trying to milk time off the clock with the Lions up just one goal against a ranked foe, something he does in every game.

The junior called it a "stupid yellow," saying he shouldn't have been called for it.

Both Braga and Hertzog said it will be frustrating having to sit out the next game. While the duo won't be able to contribute against

Lafayette, Hertzog said by going hard in training, they can still help the team.

"First thing Coach said to me was he was disappointed in me at the end of game," Hertzog said. "But the first thing on the bus he said was, 'Now you've got 10 days to come out and score three goals against Wisconsin so lets hope for the best and take it as an advantage.'"

Braga said he had hoped to play in every game during his last season in State College, but the break will let him rest his knee and back injuries that have been lingered throughout the year.

With two of the Lions' most dynamic players out, it means a little extra pressure on the defense next game. Sophomore centre back Brian Forgue said he's aware of what the team is losing, but isn't worried about a drop-off.

"The best offense is a good

defense so we're going to make due," Forgue said. "We're going to need some guys to step up and really take over in the offense third."

Both players said they expect the rest of the team to step up in their absence. Junior midfielder Justin Lee said while it's tough to replace Hertzog's 15 goals or Braga's five goals and 12 assists, there are other players capable of scoring on the roster.

Braga noted forwards Treavor Gelsinger and Jordan Tyler, along with midfielders Drew Cost and Mackenzie Arment as the players who have proven they can make the big plays.

"The whole team man, we have a great team and all the guys are on the bench, they're ready to go," Braga said. "And we have a bunch of guys up top that can decide the game."

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# Field hockey season reminiscent of tourney team

By Joe McIntyre  
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Before the 2010 season began, field hockey senior captain Daneen Zug made some comments that, when looking at the disappointment of the 2009 season, may have seemed slightly ridiculous.

## FIELD HOCKEY

"I definitely think we can go all the way," Zug said in August. "With the talent and motivation that we have I think the national title is always the goal. You can't sell yourself short."

But looking back on a 2009 season that saw the Lions go an abysmal 1-5 in the Big Ten and 7-13 overall, the Lions could have lessened their expectations. Hopes of making a run in the NCAA tournament appeared at best a pipe dream.

But not any longer. Coming off a weekend that saw

them beat then-No. 17 Duke and then-No. 5 Princeton, if the No. 9 Nittany Lions were to miss out on the NCAA tournament, the tourney may be missing one of its best teams.

The Lions made the NCAA tournament championship game in 2007 and in retrospect, there are some strong resemblances between that 2007 team and this year's squad.

The 2007 team lost to Connecticut by a two-goal margin at home, the 2010 team lost to Connecticut by a two-goal margin on the road. The 2007 team was upset by Michigan on the road and the 2010 team was upset by Michigan at home.

The longest winning streak for both teams was five and neither had a losing streak longer than two.

But the two teams aren't necessarily mirror images of each other. In fact, the 2010 team may have a better resume than the '07 squad. This year's team has beaten

two top-10 teams — a road victory against then-No. 7 Michigan State and the home win against Princeton. In 2007, the Lions had only one win against a top-10 team — a 3-1 win against No. 6 Old Dominion (by the way, the Lions beat Old Dominion 4-0 this season).

And barring a loss to unranked Northwestern on the road on Friday, the Lions will have a 4-2 conference record in 2010, compared to going 3-3 in 2007. The Lions also had six losses through 16 games in 2007 compared to only four this season.

Certainly the Lions are better prepared for a long tournament run this year, but the question still remains, will the Lions even make the tourney?

Coach Char Morett said with conference tournament winners receiving eight automatic bids, it leaves only eight at-large bids. And with the Lions sitting at No. 9, she said it gives them very little wiggle room.

According to [www.fieldhockeycorner.com](http://www.fieldhockeycorner.com), the Lions sit at No. 8 in the nation and third in the Mideast Region behind UConn and Syracuse. Their rankings are comprised of average computer ranking (ACR) which is based on goal differential and win/loss record, the ratings percentage index (RPI) which is based on win/loss records of both the team and their opponents, and a strength of schedule (SOS) component.

In 2007, the Lions sat at No. 7 overall and second in the Mideast Region.

"[In 2007] we went into the tournament with the most losses on our record out of any team in the tournament," Morett said. "But I always felt throughout the year that the team was consistently competitive. We just improved every game as the season went on. I thought we were peaking at the right time."

Morett said part of the reason the Lions were so successful in

2007 was because of their solid defense and penalty corner successes. Two things the Lions have plenty of in 2010.

"I think that they're peaking at the right time, too. I think that they're playing great defense and I think our corners are great, so those are some of the similarities," she said. "And I think that definitely once you get in the tournament, it's who you're matching up against, where you're playing and how you're playing going into the tournament."

The Lions will finish their regular season schedule at 4 p.m. Friday at Northwestern and begin the Big Ten tournament next Thursday back in Evanston, Ill.

And apart from a loss against the Wildcats on Friday, the No. 9 Nittany Lions appear to deserve the same chance at championship euphoria that the 2007 team did. But that's up to the committee to decide.

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# Men's basketball ready, eager for tough slate this season

By Alex Angert  
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Tim Frazier was still an inexperienced freshman when the Penn State men's basketball team traveled to Charlottesville to play Virginia last year.

Looking back at the game, the sophomore guard remembers watching in awe as the stands filled up and enthusiasm radiated throughout the arena his first ever Big Ten/ACC Challenge.

This year, Frazier and his teammates are hoping for that same kind of atmosphere when the Lions host Maryland in the highly anticipated home game.

The Dec. 1 showdown against the Terrapins is just one of a number of tough matchups filtered throughout the Lions' nonconference schedule as the team is excited about the early season challenges.

"There's definitely some exciting games," Frazier said. "We're playing some tough teams that a lot of people predict to be No. 1 in their conferences. It's going to be fun. There's going to be a lot of close games and hard fights."

The team is hoping these tough matches prepare it for the long run.

Along with the highly anticipated game against Maryland, Penn

State also faces preseason No. 23-ranked Virginia Tech and Mississippi, which is predicted to finish second in the SEC West.

"I think the schedule sitting here today is a very challenging one," coach Ed DeChellis said. "We are going to have to play well early because we have good teams coming in here to play. It's a very challenging nonconference schedule. We've got teams in the SEC, the ACC."

DeChellis added the team is also excited to face challenging, smaller programs that are expected to win its conferences such as Lehigh in the Patriot League and Fairfield in the MAAC.

Last year, Penn State went 8-4 during nonconference play with three of those losses on the road.

This season, the Lions will primarily play at home with only two road games scheduled — Ole Miss and Virginia Tech.


Playing nine out of 11 nonconference games at home this year, the players are hoping to start out on the right foot at the BJC.

"One of our main goals is to be undefeated at home," forward D.J. Jackson said. "At the BJC we always have a nice crowd and nice showing. We want to come out here and really protect our home court and give them something to cheer about."


Even though the team is set to play primarily at home before Big Ten season, the Lions fully expect it to be a grind during nonconference play. With the Big Ten set to be one of the strongest, if not the best, conference in college basketball, the Lions are hoping their schedule will get them ready for the tough road ahead.

"I think we have a very tough schedule this year but it's only going to prepare us for Big Ten because it's one of the best conferences in the country," Jackson said. "I think in order to be the best, you have to beat the best."

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