

Forward Costa finding scoring touch

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Tani Costa isn't going to win many footraces against the other forwards on the Penn State women's soccer team.

However, after starting the last four games, Costa has taken over the Nittany Lions' scoring lead with eight goals as a part of an offense that has outscored its opponents 14-2 in its last three matches. "It's really just getting used to

my team and being able to find our combinations and what works," Costa said Sunday. "I think I've really been strong in that and playing to my strengths and working well with the speed up top and being a complimentary player on our team."

The redshirt freshman has five goals in her last two games, which earned her the Big Ten Offensive Player and Freshman of the Week awards and TopDrawerSoccer.com's National Player of the Week honors.

While the forward battled poor fitness early in the year, coach

Erica Walsh said Costa has rounded into shape the last few weeks.

While she doesn't quite have the sprinter's speed of fellow forwards Hayley Brock, Maya Hayes and Dani Toney, Costa is the perfect foil. At 5-foot-8, the Hawaiian striker gives Penn State a physical, ball-controlling player who is difficult to defend.

Now in form, Costa has drawn some comparisons to the player who preceded her in that role, Katie Schoepfer.

"She is the replacement for Schep in that she can hold the ball and let everyone else get forward

before we let the track stars get running," sophomore midfielder Christine Nairn said after the Lions topped Indiana last Thursday. "It gives us a chance to get up the field and she's done a great job and I hope she continues to hold the ball for us and get forward."

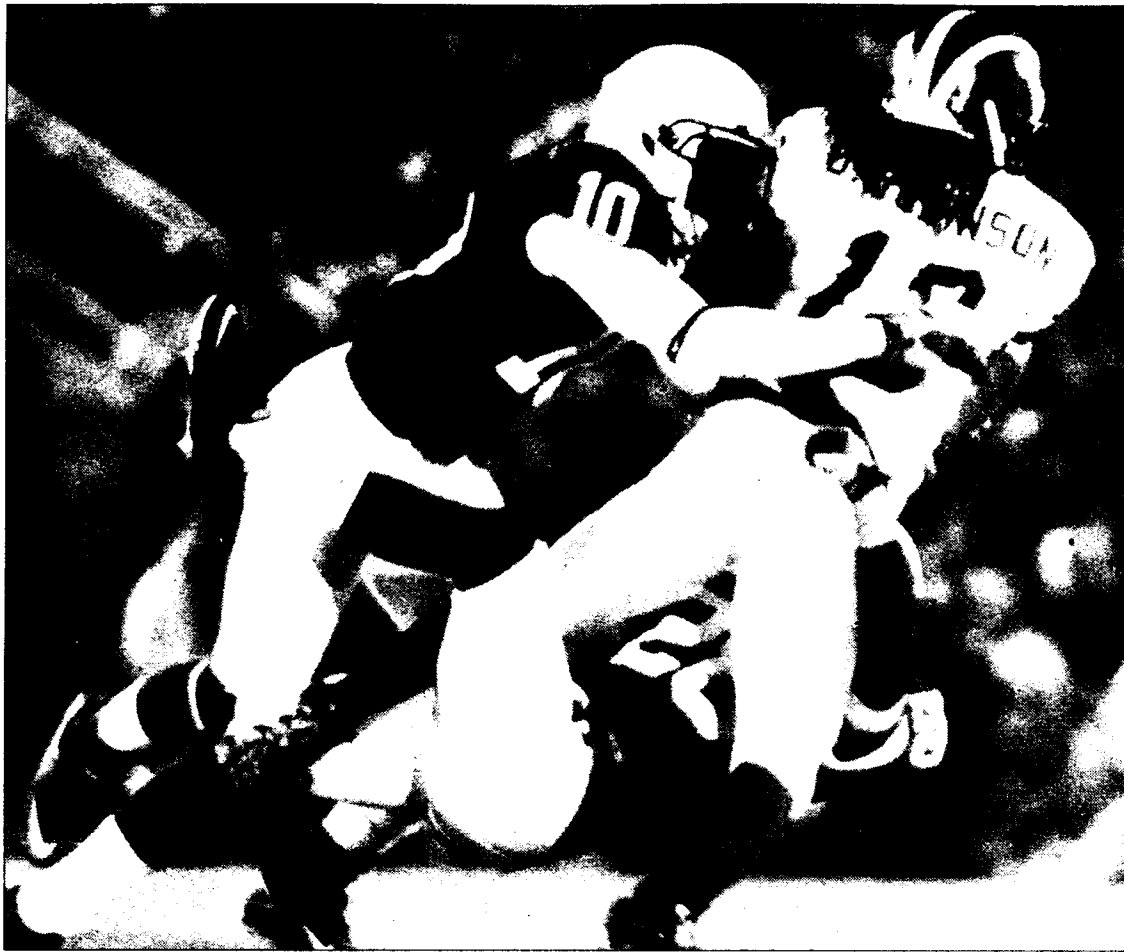
Costa torched the Hoosiers
See **COSTA**, Page 10.



For Alex Angert's story on the team's focus during the conference race:
psucollegian.com



Tani Costa (21) unloads a pass vs. Wisconsin earlier this season.



Malcom Willis (10) and Drew Astorino (28) tackle Denard Robinson in Penn State's win vs. Michigan.

Offense finds steady ground

By Brendan Monahan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Penn State offensive line has been the main target of criticism this season but has recently found progress.

The linemen and the Penn State offense head into this Saturday's Northwestern game with newfound confidence, and center Doug Klopacz said the offensive line can let out a collective sigh of relief.

"It helps a lot, opening up that run game, opening up the pass," Klopacz said.

Right guard Stefen Wisniewski attributed the offense's recent success to an attitude change, focusing on work ethic, which occurred during the bye week after Illinois.

Penn State faces a better rush-

ing defense in Northwestern, as the Nittany Lions offense is further tested before its matchup against Ohio State's Big Ten-best defense Nov. 13.

Minnesota and Michigan, the bottom feeders in Big Ten total defense, couldn't have come at a better time for the Lions' running game. The Lions' 185 rushing yards, 150 of which redshirt senior Evan Royster gained, were 35 more than the Wolverines allowed per game.

Penn State tallied 307 total rushing yards in its last three halves. Those three halves make up 28 percent of Penn State's total rushing production this season, compared to 72 percent through the other 13 halves.

"We didn't put ourselves in bad situations," said Joe Paterno concerning the offensive line.

Penn State used the running
See **OFFENSE**, Page 10.

Lions' depth grows

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Don't let Saturday's changes in the secondary fool you.

That was defensive coordinator Tom Bradley's message to fans and media following Penn State's 41-31 win against Michigan, in which he opted to give Chaz Powell his first start at cornerback over Stephon Morris, who had

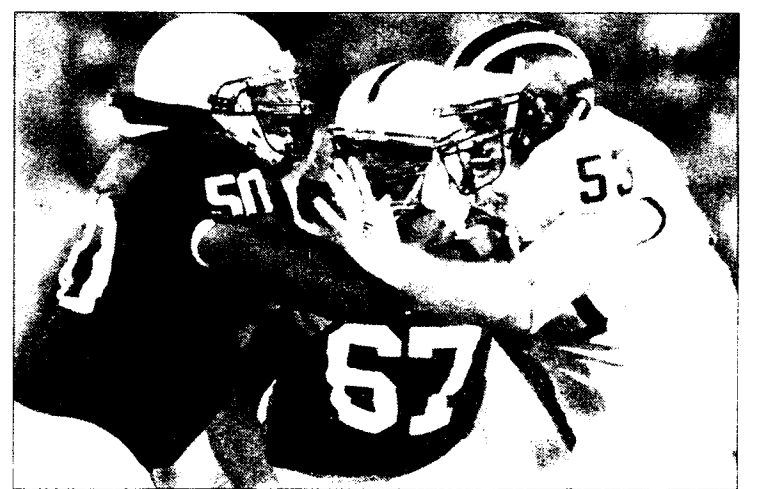
previously started every game this season.

In all, it was a very different secondary from the one with which Bradley started the season.

Safeties Andrew Dailey and Nick Sukay sat out with injuries, meaning Malcolm Willis played every snap at free safety and Jacob Fagnano was the nickel back.

There was also the shift at cornerback, but in the weeks to come Bradley expects to get Morris right back into the rotation this week, possibly as a starter.

This week the secondary will face Dan Persa, whose 74.4 percent completion percentage is second in the country. The Northwestern quarterback was expected to miss time with a
See **DEPTH**, Page 10.



DeOn'tae Pannell (50) and Quinn Barham (67) block a Wolverine.

Team gets tested in Temple scrimmage

By Jared Shanker
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The start of the season is only 10 days away and with only one exhibition game on the schedule for fine-tuning, the Penn State men's basketball team spent its Halloween dressed in jerseys instead of costumes.

On Sunday, the Nittany Lions scrimmaged at home against Temple, which allowed the Lions some control and leeway to work on particular skills and situations, a luxury that will not be available this upcoming Sunday in their exhibition against East Stroudsburg.

"It was pretty solid for the most part; we saw some positive things and negative things," senior guard Talor Battle said. "We watched film [Monday] morning

and saw what we did wrong and what we did right, and now it's going back and correcting those things we did wrong."

Overall, the players took a lot of positives from the scrimmage against the Owls, who provide a better measuring stick for the Lions than Division II East Stroudsburg. The Owls won the Atlantic 10 regular-season and tournament championship and were a No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament last season.

At times, though, the Lions did struggle to score on offense Sunday, forward DJ Jackson said. The Lions finished ninth in the Big Ten last year in points per game with 64.9. The defense wasn't perfect either, he said.

"We were a little stagnant on offense," Jackson said. "We had a couple of miscues on defense as far as rotating and giving up some easy shots."

Penn State coach Ed DeChellis



Jackson practices on media day.

plans on running in transition and pushing the ball on offense a lot more this season. With the loss of 6-foot-9 backup center Sasa
See **MEN'S BASKETBALL**, Page 10.



For more coverage on the men's basketball team, check out the Hardwood Hits blog at:
psucollegian.com

Lions ready to compete in stacked conference

By Brandt Gelman
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

At Thursday's media day, Penn State wrestling coach Cael Sanderson was asked if he thought his Nittany Lions were the favorite to win the Big Ten this year.

Sanderson sat back in his chair and took a second to think over his answer. The reason for Sanderson's hesitation — the Big Ten is simply stacked.

The Nittany Lions come into the season ranked No. 6 in the country, according to rankings compiled by theopenmat.com. The Big Ten has an impressive group of teams, with four teams in the top-10, and nine teams overall in the top-25.

Minnesota (3), Iowa (5), and Wisconsin (7), round out the top-10, while Ohio State (11), Purdue (13), Northwestern (18), Illinois

(19), and Michigan (20) finish out the rankings.

"There are a lot of teams you have to look out for this year," Sanderson said. "It's going to be fun."

Penn State will look to build on its impressive season from last year. The Nittany Lions finished with a 13-6-1 record in Sanderson's debut season as coach, and were ranked No. 10 nationally at the end of the year.

Sanderson said the three-time defending champion Iowa Hawkeyes have to be the team to beat in the Big Ten this year until someone can knock them off. Penn State suffered a 29-6 loss to Iowa in a dual meet last year, and the Nittany Lions have not
See **WRESTLING**, Page 10.



For Mike Still's story on the team's preseason rankings:
psucollegian.com

THE LINEUP

NBA
Philadelphia at Washington
7 p.m., CSN

TRIVIA

Q: How many days has it been since Michigan last beat Penn State in football?
A: Monday's answer: Sept. 20, 1992, vs. the Cincinnati Bengals.

Coach: McNabb not in shape

Mike Shanahan changed his story in a hurry. The new explanation: Donovan McNabb was benched more because of his body, not his brain.

Less than 24 hours after declaring he yanked McNabb because of a "gut feel" relating to the quarterback's less-than-full competence in the offense, the Washington Redskins coach instead insisted Monday it was a pre-planned move that had more to do with "cardiovascular endurance" issues.

McNabb, because of nagging hamstring and groin injuries, wasn't in good enough shape to run a two-minute offense with no timeouts — according to Shanahan.

"The cardiovascular endurance that it takes to run a two-minute, going all the way down with no timeouts, calling plays, it's just not easy," Shanahan said.

Moss deserves skepticism

It is easy to assume the worst when a story comes out about Brett Favre or Terrell Owens becoming distractions.

Randy Moss, like the previous two players, has earned the skepticism and criticism. Being let go from two teams in three weeks says a lot about a player, especially one who is highly regarded and given up for — in the case of his release from the Vikings — nothing.

NFL fans are aware Moss is a performer on the field, but his outspoken nature can be a cancer in the clubhouse.

If history is an indicator, teams will add talent at any cost. Where will Moss end up? Some team looking to win.