Out

From Page 8.

Molinaro was able to run without any noticeable limp, and said that he hopes he will be ready for Sunday's season opener against Bloomsburg.

Pataky's timetable for return is not as clear as Molinaro's. Nittany Lions coach Cael Sanderson said Pataky is day-to-day coming off his knee sprain.

Unlike Molinaro, Pataky still has a noticeable limp, and it is unlikely he will be ready for the opener.

"My knee is coming along very well, but it's up to the coaches right now," Pataky said. "They want to make sure that I am completely healthy."

Pataky said the coaches are aiming for his return to come this month, but added that could be as early as this Sunday's match against Bloomsburg, or a match at the end of the month.

Sanderson said he is not worried about Pataky, and added that the team does not need to rush him back from injury too soon.

"We need Pataky to be at his best," Sanderson said. "Thinking big picture, we need him to be his best in March. The national tournament is why we are here every day."

Just because Molinaro and Pataky are not suiting up for the Nittany Lions in this match does not mean they will not be involved. Molinaro said he considers this meet to ust like any other.

He said he still plans to make weight for the match, and he will prepare as though he is going to wrestle.

Pataky said he will be another set of eyes for the team during the match.

"If I see anything going on out there, I will try to give my input back into the practice room," he said.

Although Molinaro will wrestle at 149 pounds through the year, freshman David Church and sophomore James English will battle at 149 during the intrasquad match.

Freshmen Frank Martellotti and Nate Morgan will wrestle at 125 pounds in place of Pataky to round out the matches for the meet.

With spots on the team left up for grabs during the intrasquad match, Sanderson does not have to worry about either of his star players.

He said Pataky has done plenty to earn his spot on the team without having to wrestle in the match. He shared the same opinion of Molinaro.

"Molinaro has done a great job for us and has ranked right up there to challenge for the national championship," Sanderson said. "He has his spot locked up."

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McGloin

From Page 8.

that passed up on him out of high school.

Boston College, Virginia and Pittsburgh all recruited him, but no Division I-A teams offered him a scholarship. McGloin said Pittsburgh was the closest to giving an offer, but after Terrelle Pryor decided on Ohio State, the Panthers chose Tino Sunseri, who is now McGloin's friend.

Choosing a college took a toll on the Scranton native, but the decision to go to Penn State as a preferred walk-on was his and not anyone else's. McGloin had some doubts about himself but continued to work hard and prove his worth.

"As a walk-on, you try to prove yourself maybe more than the scholarship guy would," McGloin said. "But you need to do that anyway. You need to prove you can play the game, and the coaches are going to see it."

McGloin must validate his capabilities again and said the competition is more intense now than it was in training camp because he and Bolden are preparing for a game.

Who the quarterback is and how many quarterbacks play has yet to be decided. When asked Wednesday who the quarterback would be, wide receiver Brett Brackett laughed.

"I wish I had an inside scoop," Brackett said.

McGloin said other students have congratulated him on his recent performances, but there is one question that constantly gets asked.

"'You starting this week? You starting this week?'" McGloin said. "Right now, I really don't know."

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Scrimmage

From Page 8.

freshmen of coach Cael Sanderson's coveted recruiting classes, it also means an opportunity to represent Penn State for the first time.

"It's pretty exciting just with the big crowd," freshman Andrew Alton said. "I'm excited to see what it's like wrestling in front of a big crowd like that."

Sanderson and his coaching staff have made it clear that the lineup for tonight's meet isn't set in stone and could change leading up to the first match.

However, of the 11 matches that are scheduled tonight, there are several that could potentially be decisive in determining the Lions' starting lineup.

One of those matchups is the bout at 125 pounds.

With senior Brad Pataky out for tonight's meet with a knee sprain, true freshmen Frank Martellotti and Nate Morgan will battle at 125. It's unknown when Pataky will return to competition.

Martellotti is excited for the chance to prove to the coaches that he has what it takes to start.

"I just want to show the coaches what I want to do," the freshman said. "And basically through hard work, just show them that."

Despite competing with each other in practice, the Lions know it won't be easy to take on their teammates with high stakes such as starting positions on the line.

Redshirt freshman David Taylor, who will compete for the 157-pound spot, is looking for the team to get experience in a competitive environment.

"Whenever you have to wrestle your teammates, it's kind of a lose-lose situation," Taylor said. "But it's good for us to go out and get a match with the crowd and the referee, all that stuff, and just get used to that environment."

Though the results of tonight's meet could potentially decide the Lions' starting lineup, redshirt freshman Ed Ruth realizes there will be more opportunities for everyone to prove themselves.

The intrasquad meet is just another chance to wrestle and there will be more chances to improve later in the season.

"Go out there, wrestle your teammate and whoever wins, wins," Ruth said.

"But really it's just a match, that's all it is. Because you have time to come to the room and get better."

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Persa

From Page 8.

quarterback] Evan [Watkins] if he was going to be too anxious," Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald said. "He looked at me like he wanted to fight, so I kind of left it alone."

Persa, whose older sister is also a Penn State graduate, grew up a Nittany Lion fan, and during his first couple seasons at Liberty High School, he said he hoped to one day play for Joe Paterno.

But Penn State showed very little interest in Persa from the start. He opted for Northwestern over his second choice, West Virginia.

"What they had to do in recruiting was their business and that's fine," Persa said. "I'm not gonna hold any grudges. I'm really looking forward to playing this game."

Persa has thrived this season, with a 162.74 quarterback rating and he has completed 77.4 percent of his passes, good enough for second in the nation.

He has been the key factor in the Wildcats' 6-2 start this season.

He hopes to carry that success on Saturday, but not because Penn State overlooked him in the recruiting process.

"Once you get into proving people wrong, you kind of just get yourself in trouble," Persa said. "I play for my coaches, my players and the people around me — not the people who said I couldn't do stuff."

Paterno said he doesn't remember why the Lions passed on Persa, but he was certainly ready to praise the Pennsylvania native for what he has done this season.

"Maybe we decided there was somebody else around that would be a little bit better," Paterno said. "I don't know. But he certainly has become one of the better quarterbacks in the country. He's a good student, a good kid and a hard worker."

Ultimately, Jane Persa said she's very pleased with the way everything turned out.

But she did have an idea why the legendary coach and his staff passed on her son.

"I think they didn't really come after him because of his height," Jane Persa said. "They said he is too small. It worked out for him. In the recruiting process you have to know where you're going to fit, and what's right for you, and I think he knew Northwestern was right for him."

Dan Persa, who is listed as 6-foot-1-inch, constantly reiterated he has no hard feelings toward Penn State. But Jane Persa said there may some be hard feelings stemming from last season's game.

The Lions were trailing 10-3 in the second quarter when starting quarterback Mike Kafka suffered a leg injury.

Penn State outscored the Wildcats 24-0 in the second half, cruising to what looked like an easy 34-13 victory on paper.

Following the loss, Paterno deflected credit for the victory because Kafka was injured, and he referred to Persa as "some other kid." Jane Persa said she thought that may motivate him for this year's game, but as is typical of Persa's shy personality, he only spoke of how much he grew from the game.

"When I was thrown in there it was a really good experience for me," the quarterback said. "I didn't think I played too well, but at the same time I needed the experience."

Penn State linebacker Nate Stupar remembered last season's game and said he has already seen progression from Persa on film.

"He can run the ball, and he can throw the ball," Stupar said. "He has a lot of skills, and he has a lot of talent. You gotta make plays on defense [to stop him]."

Persa's statistics have come under some scrutiny this season because of the Wildcats' 93rd-ranked strength of schedule. Their four nonconference opponents have a combined nine wins this season, and their only two conference victories came against Indiana and Minnesota, neither of which has won a Big Ten contest.

But Stupar saw Persa's talents firsthand three years ago, when the two were on the brink of entering their first season in college, competing in Pennsylvania's Big 33 All-Star Game.

"He was my quarterback and I was playing defense," Stupar said. "I know how he can pick apart a defense. He's that dangerous."

Penn State's reshuffled secondary will be Persa's next target. The Lions are dealing with injuries to a pair of safeties and are easing in Chaz Powell to cornerback from wide receiver.

He'll get that chance in a familiar setting. Except now the fans he used to sit with will be rooting strongly against him.

But there will be at least one section of Pennsylvanians dressed in purple in Beaver Stadium on Saturday.

"It's an exciting thing to get to play in front of them at least one more time," Persa said. "For now though I'm really focused on the game. I'm not really worried about the amount of people I have watching me."

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Success

From Page 8.

only the slimmest of margins, the final scoreboard didn't tell the true tale of the contest.

The Lions outshot Indiana 28-3, outchanced them in penalty corners 14-2 and goalkeeper Ayla Halus had to make only two saves compared to Hoosier goalkeeper Becky Pany who was forced to make 11 stops.

"I thought that as an opening Big Ten game," head coach Char Morett said. "We pressured the ball well and didn't give them opportunities to attack."

But sophomore forward Kelsey Amy said early season wins only mean so much.

The team scoring leader said the early season win will bring confidence to the Lions heading into the matchup, but since they beat Indiana by only one goal, Amy said the Lions need to make sure they aren't overconfident.

"We definitely can't just sit back and be like, 'Oh, we beat them. This should be an easy win,'" Amy said. "We just need to look at it as any other game. Look at it like it's the championship and just play all out. Sitting back is not going to get us a win, it's not going to make us better for the next rounds if we do happen to win."

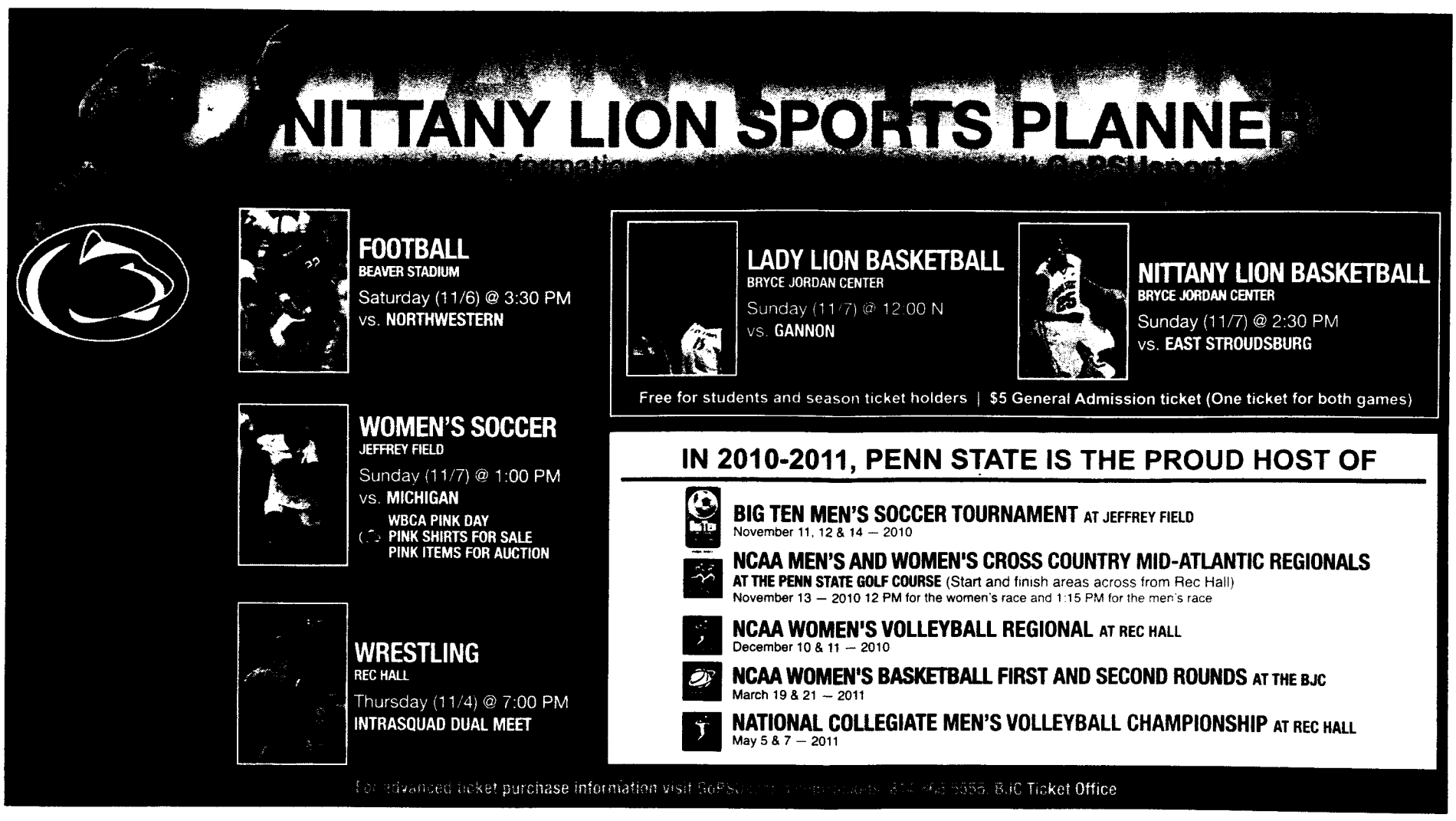
> "I'm the only coach in the conference who wants to play three days in a row, I'd rather play Friday, Saturday, Sunday."
>
> **Char Morett**
> coach

But sitting back is not something the Lions have done very often this season and Morett doesn't foresee her team doing much of any sitting this weekend.

The veteran coach had preached to her team all season about needing to be one of the fittest teams in the nation. Morett has emphasized conditioning all year and said being physically fit gives the Lions an extra edge going into the tourney.

"I think it gives us a great advantage," Morett said. "I'm the only coach in the conference who wants to play three days in a row, I'd rather play Friday, Saturday, Sunday. So I have confidence in my team and their conditioning factor."

When the Lions begin tournament play on Thursday they will be looking to have two wins against one opponent in the same season for only the second time in four years. And assistant coach Lisa Bervinchak-Love said overlooking Indiana is not something the Lions cannot afford to do.

"I think Indiana has been playing, they got stronger as the season went on," Bervinchak-Love said. "We've got to just look ahead and continue to play good hockey, put two good halves together and play a good defensive game."

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