



Jenny Purvis takes a shot for Penn State in a game against Duke last month.

# Team feels comfortable

By Zach Fleagle  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Two days after the Lions were awarded a host position for the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament, the advancement hit home — literally and figuratively.

### FIELD HOKEY

After two weeks of weekend games, both times in Evanston, Ill., the Penn State field hockey team is breathing a sigh of relief looking forward to the final two games.

Freshman forward Brittany Gryzwacz said the team will be seeing their first national tournament exposure. The team's top scorer, sophomore Kelsey Kline, is new to the NCAA postseason and didn't qualify a year ago.

Amy said the competition and the fact that it's the first time in this tournament is mentally, but the home field advantage is a plus.

Senior forward Purvis is excited about playing at home for the home games to end her career.

She said the team is nervous in the tense atmosphere.

"You play on your own bed, you can get a good night's sleep, you want to get breaks," Purvis said. Captain Dancien Z... said there

is a routine at home that can't be replicated on the road.

In 2007 Zug and Purvis were on the Penn State team that lost to North Carolina 3-0 in the finals.

She's been saying all season that the goal is still the same, make the finals and win.

This team, Coach Char Morett said, is different not just in skill, but experience.

Morett said the team's early contests against ranked teams weren't indicative on their ability, just a highlight on their immaturity.

"I wasn't worried when we were losing to Connecticut and Virginia [early in the season], they were two very good teams. I thought what was more important to focus on was week to week improvement."

Freshman Lauren Purvis said a home atmosphere brings more than just a familiar scene.

"We've had a really good record at home and it will be really nice — I'm just excited," Purvis laughed.

Morett said she wants the freshmen to let the game come to them by relying on their more veteran teammates.

The older Purvis spoke for all of the freshmen, believing their abilities will overshadow any nerves they might have leading up to the game.

"I think they know just from being athletes that it's a do-or-die situation," Purvis said.

To e-mail reporter: zsf5003@psu.edu

# Pryor focuses on game

By Andrew J. Cassavell  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

There aren't many similarities between Penn State's former walk-on quarterback Matt McGloin and Ohio State's Terrelle Pryor, a Jeannette native who was once the most-prized recruit in the country.

### FOOTBALL

How much they know about the other is just another thing they don't have in common.

McGloin, like the rest of the college football world, intensely followed Pryor's selection process in the spring of 2008. But on a teleconference Wednesday, Pryor was candid about how much he knew of McGloin before the last week.

"I never heard of him," Pryor said. "Besides hearing about he's starting because we have pictures of him all over the place, besides that, I've never heard of him. Besides, I'm usually focused on my defense."

He said he had heard a lot about McGloin from the Penn State coaching staff. McGloin took with solid performance each of the last three weeks.

When asked about the difference between himself and Pryor, in terms of their backgrounds, McGloin deflected the question, also trying to focus on this week's end's game.

"I haven't really thought too much about that," McGloin said. "I don't really want to single myself out. I don't want to single myself out."

But McGloin said at the time he was constantly aware of Pryor's situation, though he wanted to come to Penn State from the start. Pryor narrowed his options to four schools, Ohio State, Penn State, Michigan and Oregon before making a final decision.

Eventually, on March 15, 2008, Pryor chose Ohio State.

"I wanted to go with [Ohio State coach Jim] Tressel," said Pryor, who, for the time, was made available to the Penn State media in the week leading up to the game. "I had a better feeling about him, a stand up guy, and to this day I trust him. I trusted him when I signed here."

In terms of not choosing Penn State specifically, Pryor said he wanted a different environment, rather than what Penn State had to offer. In the past, he described Penn State as "too country."

Joe Paterno held no hard feelings against Pryor for the progress he has made this season. He called Pryor "more mature and more polished."

"We tried everything we could do to get him to come to Penn State," Paterno said. "I think he's got a little more maturity ... He's a little tougher in tough situations."

In 2008 during one of those tough situations, Pryor (left) looks to pass.

... Pryor's fourth-quarter fumble cost the Buckeyes a late scoring opportunity, and Penn State went on to win 13-6.

The loss hit Pryor hard, but he said a 24-13 victory at Beaver Stadium last season was almost most of that hurt.

"In a way it is [a more important game] because I'm from Pennsylvania," Pryor said. "But now I look at it like just another game."

Pryor said he is planning to return to Penn State for his senior season next year, though he wouldn't rule out a potential transfer of heart. He said he feels he still needs to learn and he wants a national championship.

For this week's game, Pryor said he's excited to play against Penn State defensive coordinator Tom Bradley, who was a part of his recruiting process. He said the two are still "very good friends" and text each other.

There is a mutual respect between the two, and the Penn State coaching staff has complimented the class of Penn State's coaches, and Paterno said he roots for the Buckeyes when he watches the

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# Defense faces run threat

By Matt Schaban  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The bulk of the defense all fans think of Ohio State's defense is Terrelle Pryor when they see the Buckeyes.

Pryor, the former walk-on, is the one threat to the defense's three-headed rushing attack.

### FOOTBALL

Pryor's four touchdowns are running backs Danny Green and Brandon Saine. The three rushing threats are Ohio State's leaders in rushing attempts with a combined 267 and 278 carries.

The Penn State defense's main role is slowing down the rushing attack. Last Saturday against Northwestern, the Nittany Lions held the Wildcats backfield and defense snuffed out running gaps in the backfield.

They hope to slow that momentum and learn from the game's running quarterbacks like Michigan's Scheelhaase, Michigan's Robinson and Northwestern's ... in their first five Big Ten games.

Penn State's defensive Mike Mauti said Robinson and ... are similar runners, while Pryor is a league of his own because he's so quick. Linebacker Chris Colasanti this season, Pryor has can beat a ...

Aside from ... in State, Mauti said he played against Pryor in the 2008 U.S. Army All-American Bowl, in which he took a Pryor ... Mauti said it's tough to defend because of his long arms.

Pryor is a multi-talented player, but he

isn't the Buckeyes' main running threat. That title belongs to Herron, Ohio State's leading rusher whose nickname is "Boom." Herron classifies himself as a downhill runner.

He hits each hole quickly and has the uncanny ability to make swift cutbacks in the open field, but Saine — whom Herron calls lightning fast — may be the quickest of the three.

Pryor has taken notice of the play. "Hats off to Boom and all the guys in the backfield," Pryor said. "They're carrying us. We're jumping on their back and riding with them."

The Lions don't plan on playing Ohio State's running game any different than how they handled Northwestern. Colasanti believes each defender has to play his responsibility and hit the gaps quickly, and Mauti said the Lions are looking forward to the challenge.

"I don't think you're a football player if you don't want them to run at you," Mauti said. "They're going to try to ground and pound us."

The Buckeyes average 211 rushing yards a game, but Herron said the Buckeyes will keep Penn State guessing.

All three threats have quickness on their side. Colasanti said each runner attempts to break outside the tackles, and the goal is forcing the Buckeyes to run east to west or sideline to sideline.

"It's November," Herron said. "It's the Big Ten. We're going to have the ability to run."

To e-mail reporter: bjm5146@psu.edu

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