

Chappell poses new threat to PSU defense

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It's been a while since Penn State has had to prepare for a "quarterback" in the truest sense of the word.

During the last three weeks, the defense has had to be ready itself for the speed of Michigan's Denard Robinson, the elusiveness of Northwestern's Dan Persa and the power running game of Ohio State's Terrelle Pryor.

This week it's Indiana's Ben Chappell, the leader of the conference's top-ranked passing offense but also a quarterback who doesn't pose much threat to run. Throw in the fact Chappell left last week's loss at Wisconsin with a hip injury and there's a good chance

the Indiana senior will spend most of his time between the two tackles, looking for open receivers.

At the start of the week, there was speculation as to whether Chappell would be healthy, but Indiana coach Bill Lynch quelled those doubts on Tuesday's Big Ten coaches teleconference, saying Chappell's health has improved greatly since the game ended.

Penn State safety Malcolm Willis noted a shift in mental preparation, but in terms of practice routines, the secondary just has to keep doing what it's been doing.

"Adjustments we have to make is just make sure we do everything

we've been doing in practice," Willis said.

"We need to really focus on our technique and catching the ball because they tend to throw it a lot."

To be exact, the Hoosiers have thrown the ball 392 times in their 10 games — eight passes per game more than any other team in the Big Ten.

Chappell leads the Big Ten in attempts, completions and passing yardage, while completing passes at a 64 percent clip.

"They throw the ball a lot each game, and we're gonna have to work each game on getting a solid pass rush going," defensive end Pete Massaro said.

"I know he's a little bit less mobile than some of the quarterbacks we've played."

On the ground, Chappell's season high is 21 yards compared

with 113 for Pryor, 109 for Persa and 258 for Robinson.

But Massaro clarified his statement. Saying with Chappell's quarterback instincts, he'll run if given the space.

"If we open up some lanes while we're pass rushing, he will take those lanes and he will run the ball," Massaro said.

Chappell was knocked out during an 83-20 loss to Wisconsin last week that has led media to question whether Wisconsin coach Bret Bielema ran up the score.

Joe Paterno said if Chappell had been around for the latter part of the game, there would not have been any need for that debate.

Chappell would have kept the Hoosiers around.

"They went to second and third kids at quarterback — back and forth," Paterno said. "And they lost some continuity that they had had

in a couple of games that they had played, in which they played really well."

If Chappell's health regresses in the next two days, Indiana will likely go with redshirt freshman Edward Wright-Baker.

Baker has been touted as another running threat, who threw a touchdown pass in three attempts last week.

But Paterno warned if Chappell is healthy, the Penn State defense will be facing "a really big-time quarterback."

Paterno isn't hoping to avoid Chappell, however.

He said the Lions defense will be ready no matter who starts for Indiana.

"We've got to play," Paterno said. "We have been playing good football players all year."

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Chappell

McGloin's next task to revitalize the offense

By Brendan Monahan
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Matt McGloin wasn't concerned he'd lose the starting quarterback spot, even after throwing two interceptions in Saturday's loss at Ohio State.

The redshirt sophomore's current task against Indiana is revitalizing an offense that gained only three first downs in the second half against the Buckeyes, none of which came in the fourth quarter.

"We can't get out to a slow start or else it will be a long day for us," said McGloin concerning the Indiana game.

Slow starts were a problem all season up until the Ohio State game.

Instead, the final two quarters posed a large problem for Penn

State's offensive attack.

McGloin said the Lions got way too comfortable in the final two quarters of the game.

The Lions put themselves in tough third-down situations in the second half.

Every third-down play called for eight or more yards, except for one — a 3rd-and-6 pass from Penn State's own 6-yard line, which wide receiver Derek Moyer dropped.

McGloin was aware of the long-yardage dilemma.

He already has Ohio State circled on his 2011 calendar, when the Lions revisit Columbus on Nov. 19, but this weekend's game

against the Hoosiers can't be overlooked.

Getting into short-yardage situations could translate to a quick start against Indiana, but much of that is contingent upon the running game and tailbacks Evan Royster, Stephfon Green and Silas Redd. McGloin expects to play after all three practiced this week. Green and Royster left Saturday's game with injuries, and police cited Redd with disorderly conduct Monday morning.

The offensive line, which helped produce two-straight games with a 100-yard rusher, saw no tailback gain even 50 yards during last Saturday's game.

Right tackle Chima Okoli said the offensive line didn't regress and gave credit to the Buckeyes' Big Ten-leading defense.

The Lions seemingly operate

best with a run-first mentality. Against Northwestern, Penn State put the running game first, which allowed the Lions to come from behind for the win.

McGloin must also bounce back. Ohio State's defensive schemes threw him off in the second half. Joe Paterno said McGloin locked into where he wanted to throw the football, which caused the interceptions.

Sophomore wide receiver Justin Brown was Penn State's deep threat Saturday after redshirt junior Derek Moyer emerged as McGloin's primary target the previous several weeks.

McGloin said he will throw the ball to whatever receiver is open, but on Saturday, look for McGloin to seek out Moyer in certain situations.

"Any 1-on-1 situation, I'm going

to take him," McGloin said.

Brown, suggesting the offense isn't that far off from where it needs to be, said if the Lions eliminated several mistakes, the Ohio State game would've been different.

McGloin pitted the two Ohio State halves against each other. Half No. 1 showed how the offense operates when it's cohesive. Half No. 2 portrayed how poorly Penn State's offense can perform when it doesn't.

McGloin and the offense must prove their potential again.

"I think everybody feels like they need to continue to prove themselves," McGloin said.

"We as a team are trying to prove that we're as good as anyone else."

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McGloin



Justin Ortega (back) takes down a Lehigh opponent earlier this season.

Ortega overcoming adversity early

By Mike Still
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Putting on more than 20 pounds of weight over the course of a year is no easy task.

He needed more protein, lots of calcium, and extra days in the weight room.

And there aren't any days off.

Redshirt sophomore Justin Ortega, who moved up two weight classes this year to compete for coach Sanderson at the 197-pound spot, has been persevering through the daily grind of putting on weight since he began preparing for this season.

"It was tough stretching my stomach out and eating all the time," Ortega said.

"But it's kind of good because I don't have to worry about cutting weight and can focus more on my technique and wrestling."

After competing mostly at 174 pounds in 2009-2010, finishing 6-20, Ortega has struggled in his adjustment to competing in his new weight class.

In two dual meets this season, against Bloomsburg on Nov. 12 and Lehigh on Nov. 14, the redshirt sophomore has gone 0-2, losing 7-4 to Bloomsburg's Richard Perry and then 8-0 to Joe Kennedy of Lehigh.

Still figuring out the best game

"It's a lot different. It's more physical and you have to use your speed to your advantage. They're a lot slower than me. I'm coming in there lighter so I have to be faster than them."

Justin Ortega
redshirt sophomore

plan to take into matches against heavier opponents. Ortega is discovering what he needs to do to be successful.

"It's a lot different," Ortega said. "It's more physical and you have to use your speed to your advantage. They're a lot slower than me. I'm coming in there lighter so I have to be faster than them."

Though Ortega is winless in his two matches, he has so far handled all the frustrations as well as most wrestlers in his position would.

Redshirt freshman Ed Ruth, Ortega's roommate this season, said he has never seen his teammate show any signs of disappointment.

"He gets knocked down but he gets right up," Ruth said. "And that's gotta take a lot out of him, but it means a lot that he does that."

Sanderson is still confident in his 197-pounder as well.

The coach has recognized the pressure Ortega feels from being

asked to compete in a style he's not used to. And Sanderson has encouraged the redshirt sophomore to relax and enjoy the sport again.

"He's a good wrestler and he has a lot of potential," Sanderson said. "He just has to allow himself to go out there and have fun. If he does that, he's hard to beat."

The Lions will compete again this weekend, traveling to Binghamton, N.Y. to take on Harvard, West Virginia and No. 24 Rutgers in the Sprawl and Brawl Duals.

Eager to make an impact for his team, Ortega is excited for the chance to compete again and will be looking to improve any chance he gets.

"The season's young," Ortega said.

"I have to learn from the mistakes. Experience is gained from making mistakes. You can't gain experience if you don't make mistakes. You can only learn from it."

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Tyler delivering strong finishes

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Jordan Tyler, dreadlocks flying behind him, sprinted full speed into Indiana's penalty box Friday night, drawing the attention of three Hoosiers defenders.

While Tyler's run never got him the ball, it sucked in the defense so much that midfielder Justin Lee was able to run untouched into the end of Matheus Braga's cross and score the game-winning goal. Tyler, a freshman forward on the Penn State men's soccer team, has become the big, physical finisher in the final legs of the game.

"He's changed his mentality. Now he's a sprinter," coach Bob Warming said. "Earlier in the year it would have been a jog or he wouldn't have gone at all. He's understanding the value of sprinting now rather than hanging out."

Last Thursday, the forward scored his first goal since Sept. 12 against Binghamton to help lift the Nittany Lions to a 3-1 win over Northwestern. Braga said he could see Tyler getting a little frustrated over that span, but Braga was happy to see Tyler net the game-winner.

At 6-foot-2, Tyler's big frame and physical presence have joined his newfound speed to provide a potent weapon for Penn State. Against Northwestern, Warming said he played the freshman to finish off the Wildcats tired defenders.

"He's the same way as he's been playing the past couple games. He's big, physical, he's fast and especially playing in the Big

Ten, that's the way we need him to play," sophomore defender Brian Fergie said. "We all know that he has that in him to do it every game."

When the Lions take on either Old Dominion or Virginia on Sunday in the second round of the NCAA tournament, Fergie said Tyler's physicality could easily take either team by surprise.

If he comes in against a tired defense, Tyler said it only boosts his confidence and added the goal against Northwestern was a huge relief. Tyler has also reaped the rewards from partnering with junior forward Corey Hertzog, tied for second in the nation with 17 goals.

"He's certainly one of the best forwards in the country," Tyler said. "When I give him the ball I feel real confident in him."

After playing through 23 games, including the preseason, Braga said the team has stopped looking at individual players by their class standing. Warming said Tyler played more than the typical college freshman and Warming is already looking at Tyler as a sophomore.

Despite reducing his body fat and becoming a more complete player, Tyler wasn't quite become the wall-shattering destroyer he looks capable of being.

"He's maybe a pick hammer so far, I wouldn't say sledgehammer just yet," Warming said.

"But, I'm excited about where he can go and his future. If he can continue to buy into the sprinting part we can make the physical adjustments, but he's done a great job."

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