



Dana Heller/Collegian

Deja McLendon (left) Fatima Balza and Kristin Carpenter go up for a block during Penn State's 3-0 sweep of Ohio State Wednesday night.

Fera out for season

Walk-on Alex Butterworth to take over punting duties.

By Audrey Snyder
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Months after coming to Penn State as a preferred walk-on, Alex Butterworth will become the Nittany Lions starting punter.

FOOTBALL

Butterworth is filling in for Anthony Fera, who will miss the final two games of the regular season and possibly more after he underwent emergency surgery to remove his appendix Wednesday. Team spokesman Jeff Nelson said Fera is OK but will not play against Indiana or Michigan State.



Fera

Butterworth sent a text message to his former high school coach at Heritage Christian in Indianapolis, Ind., confirming he will be punting noon Saturday when Penn State faces Indiana at FedEx Field in Landover, Md.

"He's traveled for the games this year and has been able to get mentally prepared for the atmosphere of an adverse environment," said Ron Qualls, Butterworth's former high school coach. "He's a team kid and he always has been, but he's the next man up, so he's got to step up."

Qualls said he doubts Butterworth will be handling kickoffs — a duty Fera also performed — but said the freshman's leg is strong enough to do so. Kicker Collin Wagner handled the kickoff duties last season, and though he attempted just one this year, which was an onside kick against Alabama, it

See FERA, Page 10.

Lions sweep Ohio State

By Jake Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Russ Rose was frank with his thoughts on his team's win against Ohio State Wednesday night.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

"I thought the three seniors played well and the three freshmen were terrible," the coach of the Penn State women's volleyball team (24-4, 14-3 Big Ten) said in his post-game press conference.

Penn State

Ohio State

The No. 7 Nittany Lions swept the Buckeyes 3-0 (25-16, 25-14, 25-21) in just one hour and 14 minutes at Rec Hall for their 11th consecutive victory. The win was the Nittany Lions' second sweep of the Buckeyes (20-10, 8-9) this season, the program's 89th straight victory at Rec Hall, and put them a half-game in front of

No. 9 Illinois for the Big Ten lead. And with their careers winding down, it was fitting that it was the play of the trio of senior co-captains who have won three national championships together: Blair Brown, Arielle Wilson and Alyssa D'Errico, that garnered praise from the coach after the match.

At the opposite hitter position, Brown had a standout performance with 19 kills on 29 swings for a .621 hitting percentage. She accounted for 21.5 of Penn State's 60 points and added nine digs for Penn State.

Wilson tallied four kills on eight attempts from the middle hitter position, while D'Errico, the libero, recorded a match-high 15 digs.

"She passed great and made some great digs," Rose said of D'Errico. "[Ohio State senior outside hitter Katie Dull] was taking some big swings so it was pretty nice that she was able to pop some of those balls up."

Rose, however, had hoped to get more out of his rookies.

See SWEEP, Page 10.

Senior Brown shines in sweep

By Emily Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As her senior year winds down, Blair Brown knows she only has a handful of guarantees left.

On Friday, she will play her final regular season match at Rec Hall — the court she has called home for the last five years.

The next weekend, she will take her final regular season road trip — something that has defined her fall semester for the last four years.

And after that come the things she can't control: How the Big Ten season shakes out, where the Nittany Lions will be seeded

See BROWN, Page 10.



Dana Heller/Collegian

Blair Brown spikes the ball.

Johnson's recruiting brings players from D.C.

By Audrey Snyder
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Defensive line coach Larry Johnson's familiarity with the Washington, D.C. area will be on display Saturday afternoon.

For the coach whose recruiting has helped the Lions land some of their top players over the years, his stake has long been in place in Maryland.

FOOTBALL

Johnson coached at McDonough High School in Pomfret, Md., for 19 years before joining the Penn State coaching staff in 1996, and his knowledge of high school football around the Beltway shows when looking at the Nittany Lions' roster.

"I think we've done a pretty good job recruiting out of that area in the past couple of years," said running back Evan Royster, who is from Fairfax, Va. "There are a lot of guys from the D.C. area and Northern Virginia, and I think around that area there are a lot of Penn State fans."

When the Lions step inside FedEx Field in Landover, Md., for their game against Indiana, they will do so with a roster that is loaded with some of Maryland's finest former high school players, many of which were recruited by Johnson.

While the Lions had success with this region in the past, as wide receivers Derrick Williams and Deon Butler, linebacker NaVorro Bowman and defensive



Daniel Bott/Collegian

Safety Malcolm Willis (10) makes a tackle.

end Aaron Maybin were prominent players hailing from outside the nation's capital. Johnson and safeties coach Kermit Buggs have continued the trend.

Current players, such as Royster, safety Malcolm Willis, cornerback Stephon Morris, linebacker Bani Gbadyu, wide

See RECRUITING, Page 10.



Courtesy of Penn State Cross Country

Members of the Penn State men's cross country team pose with their moustaches.

Contest motivates team

By Zack Feldman
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

This year, the seven men's cross country runners representing Penn State at the NCAA championships will each be bringing something extra — a little facial hair.

Flotrack.com is running 'Stachies at Nashies,' a competition between NCAA-qualifying teams to get the most starting runners with facial hair into the Nov. 22 race, with teams competing with one another based on the moustached runners' finishes.

Junior Vince McNally said the team has

grown facial hair before the national meet every year, though the team is taking it more seriously now with its competition.

"Traditionally, before this whole Flotrack thing, we all rocked some solid facial hair and I think we got credit for it when people saw pictures," McNally said. "Now, it's kind of mainstream, so it's our motive this year to do well."

McNally said the runners have "a little mojo going now," and the squad looks forward to the meet.

Team scoring in the Flotrack competition depends on runners' actual finishes, with moustache-less runners not counting toward their team's total.

See CONTEST, Page 10.

THE LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV

NCAA Football

9 p.m., ESPN

TRIVIA

Q: When was the last time Major League Baseball extended its playoff format to add more teams?

Wednesday's Answer: Steve Bedrosian was the last Phillies pitcher to win the Cy Young Award in 1987.

Frisbee club eyes nationals

For three hours every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and on every tournament weekend, the Penn State club ultimate team is focused on one goal: qualifying for the national championship tournament.

The team relies on that camaraderie, and the close-knit relationships of its members, to get through the rigorous practice and tournament schedules necessary to build toward reaching Nationals.

For a team full of juniors and seniors that continuity has been a major factor.



ONLINE

To continue reading about the ultimate team's quest for a national championship: psucollegian.com

THOUGHTS

U.S. ends year on good note

The United States' men's soccer team's 1-0 defeat of South Africa in the Nelson Mandela Challenge Wednesday in Cape Town marked the end of the 2010 campaign for the Yanks. And it was a promising year that started with a bad loss to Honduras on U.S. soil, but ended with the reassurance that the future for American soccer is indeed bright. The lone goal for the Americans Wednesday was scored by 17-year-old Juan Agudelo, the first player from the U.S. Development Academy to make an international appearance.

His goal is proof that soccer is growing in the U.S., and there a better things to come.