

PIGSKIN PREVIEW

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IN THE SHADOWS

Lions trying to focus on Indiana

Penn State must forget Buckeyes and not look toward Spartans

By Audrey Snyder
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Penn State football team is trying to figure out what Indiana team will show up at noon for Saturday's game at FedEx Field.

There's the Indiana team that gave up 83 points to Wisconsin last Saturday, which handed the Hoosiers their fourth straight loss, and then there's the lingering thought of a game Indiana nearly won against Iowa.

"Looking back at the score and the highlights, it doesn't really stick in my mind," Penn State safety Malcolm Willis said of Indiana's loss to the Badgers. "We have film from them playing Iowa and they played Iowa really tough. The score really didn't indicate how hard they played."

Indiana (4-6, 0-6 Big Ten) is still searching for its first Big Ten win of the season, but the Nittany Lions don't want to be the team that lets the Hoosiers hang in the game. Trying not to let the thought of the second-half slipup against Ohio State linger as a

game with Michigan State will be Penn State's last to post a signature win, the Lions (6-4, 3-3) said they'll need to have a short-term memory in order to beat Indiana.

Though Indiana's six losses in the Big Ten have them in the basement of the conference's standings, three of the losses were by seven points or less. While the team has been outscored 244-108 in conference games, take away the 83 points from the Badgers, and Joe Paterno said his team needs to be prepared to play against the Hoosier team that went toe-to-toe with Iowa.

"That's the way we are going to look at it, because Indiana, Bill [Lynch] is a good coach, a good guy," Paterno said. "We've had our troubles with Indiana through the years."

Paterno said he remembers the goal line stand his defense made in the fourth quarter against Indiana in 2004 that helped seal a 22-18 Penn State victory.

"You can't get too high when you win and you can't get too low when you lose. That's a recipe for disaster."

Chima Okoli
junior right tackle

While Lynch wasn't the head coach at the time, both teams were struggling and playing for pride. Even though Penn State hasn't lost to Indiana since the Lions joined the Big Ten in 1993, Paterno recalled how his team played against the Hoosiers in 1994 and surrendered 22 fourth-quarter points.

"Bill Mallory was coaching there, we only won by about 10 points, probably cost us the national championship that year," Paterno said.

Though the current Lions are trying to improve their bowl bid, the players said they aren't expecting to see Indiana, who can become bowl eligible by winning its final two games, call it quits just yet.

"Indiana has pride as well," right tackle Chima Okoli said. "There's no way they're gonna come out and let that happen to them two weeks in a row. They have fans and they have pride and they have tradition just like we do."

Much like Indiana's loss to Iowa, which happened in dramatic fashion, as wide receiver Damarlo Belcher dropped what would've been a touchdown with 28 seconds left, Penn State can't dwell on how it let the second half of the Ohio State game fall apart.

Quarterback Matt McGloin showed "how well we could play when together, yet the second half showed how bad we can be at times." While Indiana proved

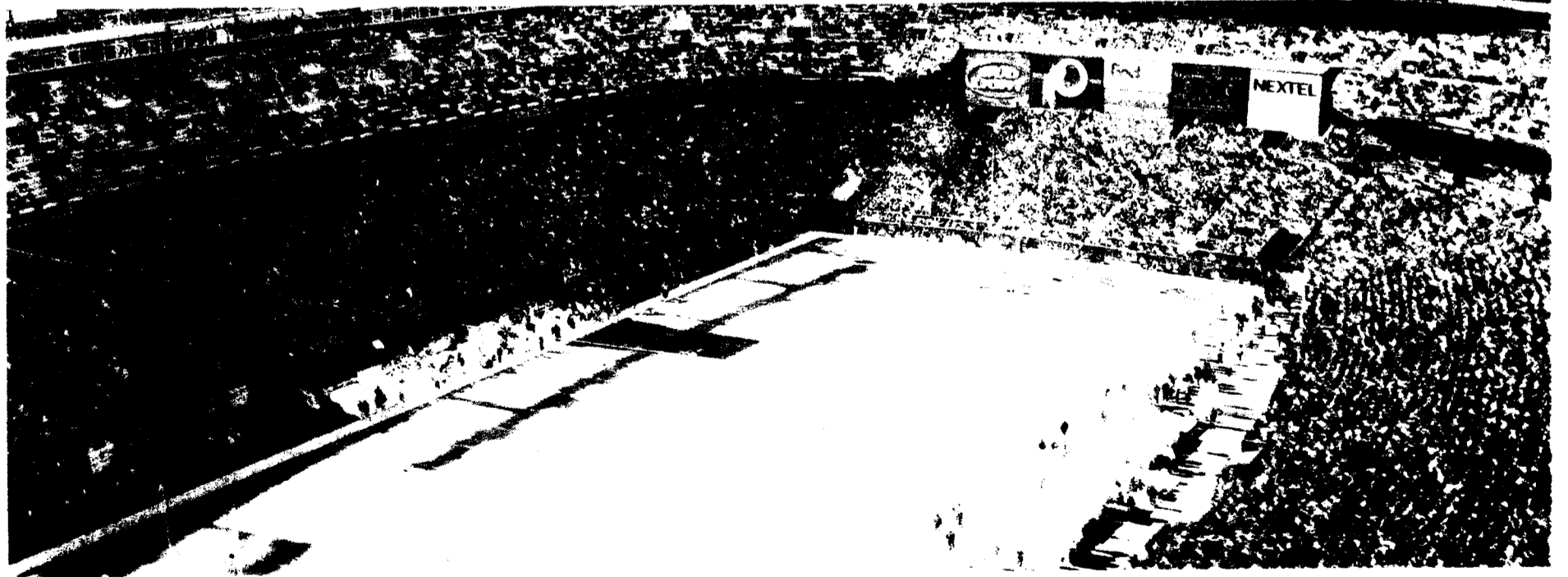
the same thing, as it showed flashes of potential this season, co-captain Brett Brackett said each player's response to the second-half performance against Ohio State is in the past. But moving forward is the teams only option, Okoli said.

"In football you don't really have a choice," Okoli said. "You can't get too high when you win and you can't get too low when you lose. That's a recipe for disaster."

With a three-game winning streak in the rearview mirror, the Lions are trying to avoid overlooking the Hoosiers before returning home for the final game of the regular season against Michigan State, something that shouldn't be a concern Brackett said.

"Not only that [Iowa] tape, but a couple other games in the season we are kind of going off of," Brackett said. "Breaking down their film, you can tell they are a good football team."

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Daily Collegian Predictions

Audrey Snyder



Score: PSU 27, Indiana 14
What's good: The playing surface at FedEx Field.
What's bad: More teams selling home games.
What to look for: Michigan State is up next.

AJ Cassavell



Score: PSU 38, Indiana 27
What's good: Points — Lots of them.
What's bad: Pocket passer Chappell picks apart passer.
What to look for: DC and Northern Va. natives returning.

Brendan Monahan



Score: PSU 27, Indiana 13
What's Good: Bounce-back game.
What's Bad: Defense still banged up.
Look for: NFL atmosphere.

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