

Sports

Penn State football players 'ready, flying high'

By Tad Stryker

Jon Williams of Penn State played in some important games last year, including the Nittany Lions' 48-14 upset of top-ranked Pittsburgh and the 26-10 win against Southern California in the Fiesta Bowl.

Williams, however, said Saturday's game against Nebraska is just as important to Penn State as those were.

"When you're getting ready for a big game like those," Williams said, "you're really flying high. That's the way I feel this week. We all feel good. We're going to be ready for the Huskers."

Williams, a junior running back, is confident that the Lions can teach the Huskers a lesson on national television.

"We're going into this game with confidence," he said. "Two years ago, we didn't have confidence." The Huskers won 21-7 in 1980.

"Last year, we felt like we could beat them, and we did. We feel the same way this year," he said.

One reason for Williams' assurance is Penn State's

revamped passing game. Quarterback Todd Blackledge has thrown 12 touchdowns in three games, and he can hurt the young Husker secondary, Williams said.

"They're going to have to double-cover (flanker) Kenny Jackson," he said, "and that will leave things open for Gregg Garrity and Mike McClosky," the Lions' split end and tight end.

"I think we can run on them, too," he said, "but we'll have to take what they give us."

"I think the balance works to our advantage," Williams said. "Teams that used to key on our run can't do that now."

"This year, our attack has opened up, but we're still as dangerous as ever with the run."

But the backs just aren't getting as many opportunities to carry the ball. A Monday column in the Omaha World-Herald said that Curt Warner, a Heisman Trophy candidate, has been upset at not getting enough work.

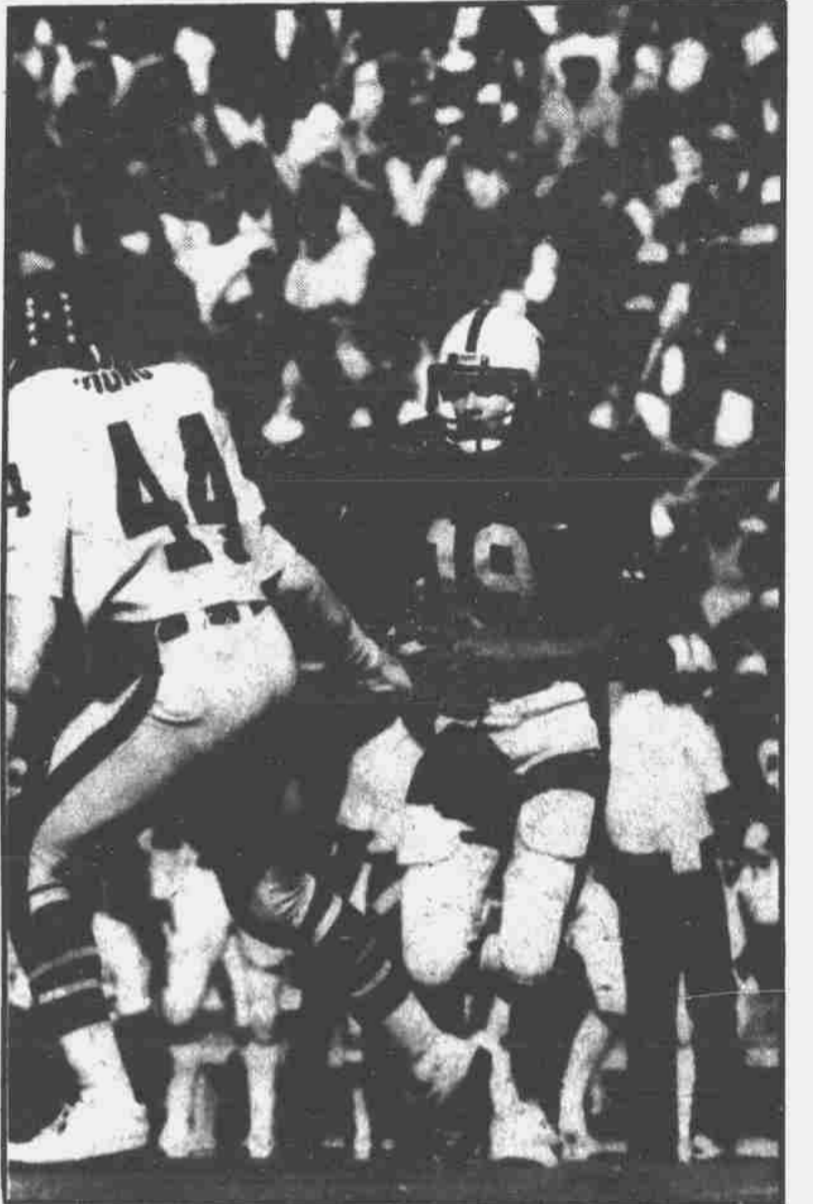
"I don't know what Curt's feeling," Williams said. "But as long as we're winning, I don't think he cares

how much he carries. I know I don't care, as long as we're winning."

After losing the offensive linemen Penn State did last year, any team might suffer a rushing letdown. However, Williams said that losing All-American guard Sean Farrell, guard Mike Munchak and center Jim Romano has not hurt the team that much.

"Losing those guys hurt our strength in the offensive line, but they've still done pretty well," he said. "We've had to compensate and depend on more technique this year. We've still got to iron out some things, like holding our blocks longer."

Williams expressed confidence in the Penn State defense, as well.



Staff Photo by Craig Anderson

Nebraska reserve quarterback Bruce Mathison (19) looks for a receiver in last week's 68-0 win against New Mexico State. The Huskers play fifth-ranked Penn State Saturday in University Park, Pa.

Bar patrons predict victory for Lions

By Jeff Goodwin

Not surprisingly, most Penn State fans polled in a random, unscientific survey by the Daily Nebraskan picked their team to win Saturday's football showdown between Nebraska and Penn State.

Peter Mehlretter, an architecture student from Plainfield, N.J., was confident Penn State would win.

"Oh, yeah, we'll win," Mehlretter said. "We've had three games to get ready for this game. We've been looking for Nebraska all year."

Robin Breslin, another patron of The Rathskeller, a University Park, Pa., bar popular with Penn State students, also predicted a win against the Huskers.

"The last few games we've been playing a passing game," said Breslin, an architecture student from Allenton, Pa. "We've been saving Curt Warner (Penn State's All-American tailback) for this game. We're definitely going to be up for this game."

Both Penn State students said the game will be close. Jerry Payne, a patron of The Phyrst (pronounced first), another local drinking establishment, agreed that the game will be close.

"I'm picking Penn State by seven," Payne said. "It should be a high-scoring game. Both teams will be up for it."

"This will be a big test for Eastern football," he said. "Penn State is going to want to make a statement about

Eastern football."

Interest in the game on the Penn State campus has been high this week, Payne said.

"The fact that it's going to be on TV has helped create a lot of interest. I would say there's as much interest in this game as there was for the last Nebraska game or for the Alabama game last year," he said.

The late starting time could work in Penn State's favor because local fans will be primed for the game, he said.

"It gives you a chance to drink some more," he said. "Most tailgate parties start about ten in the morning. That's a little early for some people. This gives people a chance to wait a couple of hours and still get going. I think the crowd will be a little rowdy."

The most confidence in a Penn State victory was displayed by Ellen Meanix, a dining room manager at The Train Station, a University Park restaurant and bar. She predicted a 47-20 win for the Lions.

"But I don't know that much about football," Meanix said.

Not all Penn State fans were so optimistic. Donald Carr, a junior liberal arts student from Charlottesville, Va., said the Huskers will win.

"I think Nebraska is gonna eat Penn State's lunch," Carr said. "Penn State hasn't been able to generate a running attack this year. Nebraska is just too good on offense. Eight hundred and eighty-three yards. That's incredible."

Intramural junkie leads life of Gatorade, Geritol

My friends knew about it a long time before I did. I'm sure of that. However, it's one of those social taboos that nobody wants to be the one to tell you about. Or maybe they tried, and I just wouldn't listen.

I always thought of athletics as just a normal part of college life. Everybody did it. Why shouldn't I? It was just last week, after a day of three softball games



Bill Allen

and a free-throw shooting contest that someone said, "Bill, don't you think you're involved in just a few too many intramural sports?"

"No," I replied, "I can quit anytime I want."

That's when I knew I was hooked. That's when I realized the whole appalling scope of the situation. I am an intramural junkie.

Here's my story, told in hopes of preventing this disease from taking some other unfortunate soul.

I guess I started out like any other social athlete. Just a few games a week with friends. But it quickly spread into all aspects of my life.

I noticed I was practicing alone. I was no longer a social athlete. Every morning before class, sometimes during class, I would be outside, practicing free throws or horseshoe pitching. My instructors just looked away. I'm sure they'd seen it all before.

My friends stayed loyal to me as long as they could, but I can't blame them for finally drifting away. I don't know how many times they said, "Bill, you look tired. Maybe you should quit."

"No," I said, wiping sweat from my forehead, "just

one more inning."

"No, really, Bill, we think you've had enough."

"No."

"At least let us drive you home, or call a taxi."

And on and on we'd go until I finally passed out, not knowing my limit. My friends would carry me home and tuck me in bed, my softball glove still clutched in my hand.

All the time my life was falling apart around me. Classes became secondary to intramurals. I even forgot what my major was.

Physically, I was in sad shape. Oh, I know what you're thinking. With all that exercise, I should be in great shape. Wrong. Remember, I'm an addict, not an athlete. I never slept. All I ate was junk food from vending machines and

Harriers will compete at Wesleyan

By Kevin Wameke

The UNL men's cross country team will get its first taste of competition Saturday when it competes in the Wesleyan Invitational.

"Right now we are in the training process, but we should be able to win without any problems," assistant coach Mark Fluitt said. "If not, we'll have to re-evaluate."

Fluitt added that he doesn't know which teams will provide tough competition for the Huskers since they have not been in the meet before. He did say that the competition will mostly be from small schools.

Instead of the usual seven runners competing, Fluitt said Nebraska would have 10 runners in the invitational.

Juniors Marc Adam, Mark Gokie and Dave Cudmore, along with sophomores Jerry Guinan and Tom Hoffman, are Nebraska's top five runners, according to Fluitt.

"Adam and Guinan would have to be the core of the team, but Hoffman, Gokie and Cudmore are running well," he said.

fast-food joints. My main drink was Gatorade. I constantly popped vitamins and Geritol.

I was getting on harder and harder stuff everyday. It started out with softball, then basketball. Finally, I was hooked on everything from archery to racketball. I'd play anything just to satisfy my habit.

Don't pity me, please. I brought it upon myself. I lived for intramurals. Like an alcoholic offered a free drink, I just couldn't say no. I'm finished, but you still have a chance. Put down that tennis racket. Go out. Eat. Sleep. Do anything except sign up for that extra sport. Moderation is fine, but don't ever reach the point where I am.

Well, I'd better drag myself out of this dugout and head for the tennis courts. Hey, brother, can you spare a dime? I need money for an entry fee.

The sixth through 10th runners will come from the ranks of Tom Waltke, Mike Herrell, Mark Rooney, Fred Warbonnet, Gene Moore and Gerard O'Callaghan. Fluitt said that it looks as if O'Callaghan would be the sixth runner.

Fluitt said the Huskers would like to finish in the top three or four in the Big Eight meet, which will be in Lincoln on Oct. 30.

"This goal definitely is realistic, but since we haven't had any meets yet it's hard to judge," Fluitt said. "We try to take one meet at a time."

Depth, according to Fluitt, is a definite strength of the squad.

"Hopefully we've got more depth than in the past," he said. In past years, we've had three of four good runners, but lacked a good fifth man, and since you score five in the meets that has occasionally been a problem."

"A weakness of the team would have to be the fact that we have no seniors on the team," he said. "But this should be a strength for the future."