



BIG MATCHUP

Syracuse's offense is among the nation's worst, ranking No. 97 and No. 98 in scoring and total offense respectively. But the Orange are No. 49 in rush offense, led by Curtis Brinkley and Delone Carter. The pair combine to average 160 yards of offense per game and account for 56 percent of Syracuse's offense. Penn State's linebackers were not spectacular during the opener, but played better last week. If Tyrell Sales, Josh Hull and Co. can continue to improve, the Lions should be able to shut down the Orange ground attack and turn the game into a blowout early.

PSU VS. SU

Location:
Penn State — State College, Pennsylvania
Syracuse — Syracuse, New York

Student Population:
Penn State — 43,252
Syracuse — 19,084

Athletic Conference:
Penn State — Big Ten
Syracuse — Big East

Famous Alumni:
Penn State — Toby Flenderson (Human resource representative, Dunder Mifflin Scranston)
Syracuse — Lou Reed (Rock singer/songwriter/guitarist, the Velvet Underground)

INJURY REPORT

Out: Linebacker Sean Lee (ACL), linebacker Jerome Hayes (ACL), safety Nick Sukay (foot) and defensive tackle Devon Still (ankle)
Probable: Offensive tackle Ako Poti (knee)

DID YOU KNOW?

■ Syracuse's stadium, the Carrier Dome, is the largest on-campus dome college stadium in the country. The roof of the Dome is inflatable, with several air compressors working round the clock to maintain its structure. It has a seating capacity of 49,262.

■ In 2004, Syracuse's sports teams changed their official name to the Orange. Before then, the teams were known as the Orangemen and Orangewomen. The school's mascot is Otto the Orange.

■ Running back Ernie Davis is Syracuse's only Heisman Trophy winner and was the first African-American to receive the award. Davis was selected as the first pick of the 1962 NFL draft but never played a professional game because he died of Leukemia before his first season.

■ Syracuse's lacrosse teams have won 10 national titles and made 25 final fours, both national records.

■ Alumni of Syracuse's Newhouse School of Public Communications include Ted Koppel, Bob Costas, Mary Albert, Mike Tirico and Jayson Stark.

THE NUMBERS

- Penn State-Syracuse Rivalry**
- 68: Number of all-time matchups between the two schools.
 - 40-23-5: Penn State's record versus Syracuse
 - 2: Combined Heisman Trophy winners (PSU 1, SU 1)
 - 3: Combined national championships (PSU 2, SU 1)
 - 144: Combined All-Americans
 - 37: Combined College Football Hall of Fame enshrinees
 - 11: Combined Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinees
 - 18: Years since the two last met on the field
 - 281: Distance in miles between the two universities.

Offense scores at will in '08

The Nittany Lions have outscored their opponents 111-24 and have averaged 524 total yards.

By Josh Langenbacher
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | jll5031@psu.edu

Kyle Brady spent 13 years in the NFL, but he hasn't forgotten his roots.

When he talked to scouts who evaluated Penn State players, Brady would be sure to ask how the Nittany Lion prospects looked and whether any of the players might have NFL potential.

The scouts didn't hold back in assessing Penn State's ability to develop NFL-caliber offensive linemen.

"According to them, it sounds harsh, but it was a lack of talent," Brady said.

"They weren't bringing in the kind of guy they did at one time at those positions.

"For whatever reason, in the last five to seven years, according to the scouts going up there, they didn't even have the raw material to work with like they did in years past."

Brady started at tight end on Penn State's dynamic 1994 offense. This season's quick-scoring, high-powered offense has evoked memories of that 1994 squad because of the volume of points and rapid pace at which the offense has scored.

The numbers through two games are jarring. Penn State is averaging 55.5 points per game, tied for second in the country among teams that have played more than one game.

Of Penn State's 16 scoring drives, 10 have ended in fewer than three minutes. Another seven have lasted five plays or fewer.

Chunks of yardage have come frequently with 34 plays of 10 or more yards on the scoring drives.

The common bind starts up front.

Brady played alongside talents like Jeff Hartings and Andre Johnson, both first-round draft picks in the 1996 draft.

Marco Rivera, despite being draft-

ed in the sixth round that year, was a three-time Pro Bowler.

Penn State's draft history among offensive linemen since 1996 hasn't been favorable. Only five linemen have been drafted overall in the past 11 years, and Kareem McKenzie (third round, 2001) and Levi Brown (first round, 2007) are the only two to be drafted higher than the fifth round.

The NFL potential for the current linemen hasn't been projected.

But the five starters this year could be Penn State's best group of linemen since that 1994 squad, and it's likely no coincidence that the collective offense has been mentioned in the same breath.

"We don't really think about scoring a touchdown every play," guard Stefan Wisniewski said, "but it's certainly something we're capable of doing."

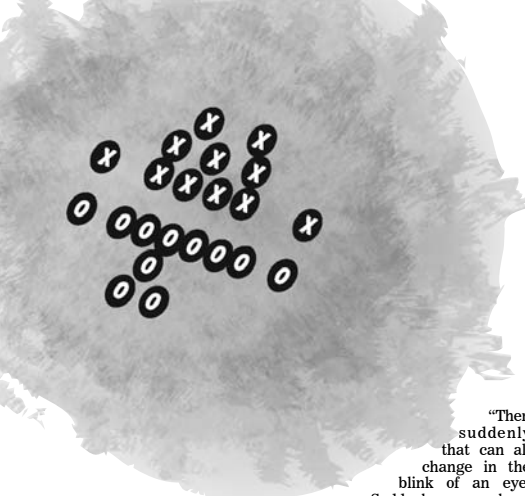
The offense is largely intact from last season. All five starters on the offensive line — Gerald Cadogan, Dennis Landolt, Rich Ohrnberger, A.Q. Shipley and Wisniewski — all started or played extensively last season.

Wide receivers Deon Butler, Jordan Norwood and Derrick Williams are seniors who have played since they were freshmen.

Running back Evan Royster didn't start but did carry the ball 82 times.

The only new piece is at quarter-

back. And Daryll Clark has been at the heart of the quick-strike offense with a hand in 16 plays going for 10 or more yards on scoring drives.



"Then suddenly that can change in the blink of an eye. Suddenly, you can have 14 points on the board in a matter of five minutes. It can be a very demoralizing situation for other teams."

Joe Paterno called comparisons to the 1994 offense premature after Saturday's 45-14 win over Oregon State, noting the team hasn't faced any adversity yet.

Penn State steps out of its comfort zone Saturday by playing Syracuse at the Carrier Dome, but it isn't expected to be tested.

Temple visits next weekend, so the offense's first chance to prove itself could be against Illinois.

"Until they do it against a real formidable opponent that presents real challenges to them throughout the entire game and has no quit in them, confidence and talent, it has yet to be seen what this offense is going to be," Brady said.

Norwood was asked after the Oregon State win if he had any reason to think the current numbers couldn't continue.

"No," he said, smiling. "I don't."

Time to rest is scarce for defense

By Travis Johnson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | twj112@psu.edu

It was the second time Josh Gaines had just two minutes to take his helmet off, sit down, get a drink and catch his breath.

Gaines put his helmet on last Saturday and walked back onto the field at Beaver Stadium after Penn State's quick-strike offense needed just 1:24 to put points — a field goal — on the scoreboard.

The senior defensive end was excited by his offensive teammate's efforts, but said earlier this week he prefers longer scoring drives.

After Penn State scored quickly in the second quarter, the Nittany Lion defense gave up its first touchdown, as Oregon State controlled the ball for 5:16. The second time, early in the fourth, the Beavers trudged down the field in 7:17. They scored their second touchdown after the

Lion defense seemed to become fatigued.

Only six times this season has the defense had more than three minutes to rest on the sidelines between possessions. Therefore, when Daryll Clark and the Lion offense march down the field methodically, Gaines and the rest of the defense take their time, and enjoy the drive — and the extended rest.

"I was actually pretty excited on the sideline seeing our offense drive the ball and having a possession that long. It was a good feeling, it was a sigh of relief," Gaines said.

Longer offensive drives are the key to keeping the defense fresh, especially a defense that has been ravaged by injuries, suspensions and player dismissals.

Defensive coordinator Tom Bradley doesn't mind playing with a tired defensive corps. He said after last weekend's game the only thing the

lack of rest does is change the type of defense Penn State runs.

If his defense is fatigued, Bradley runs a more conservative coverage and his goal is to force the opposing skill players to beat the defense. If the offense scores quickly and can also maintain a lead, it doesn't matter.

"It makes it easier because we can play more of a vanilla package. We don't have to get into trying to force the issue on some throws. That's great. Score as fast as you want to, we'll adapt."

Penn State's quick switch from offense to defense could continue this weekend.

Syracuse is giving up an average of 237 yards passing and 243 yards rushing per game. While Penn State's offense could score quickly and often against the Orange defense, Lion defenders could look forward to some rest.

Syracuse's offense is on the field for

just an average of two minutes and 44 seconds.

Penn State offensive coordinator Galen Hall said the goal of his offense is to score both quickly and to maintain long drives. If it scores via the big play more often, Penn State's defense will be prepared, defensive tackle Jared Odrick said.

More quick offensive scores lead to more chances to disrupt the opposing offense.

"It's motivating, them scoring that fast," Odrick said. "It's definitely motivating when things like that happen. Fatigue sets in, but that's what we're here playing football for. That's what we train for, that's what we get in shape for. Ollie [Ogbu] and myself, we were loving it [Saturday]. We knew what our roles were and I think we all, as a d-line, handled it pretty well."

Penn State

TOO FAST

PENN STATE		VISITOR	
14	10:21	>	0
DOWN	TO GO	BALL ON	QTR
1ST	10	20	1
DEFENSE			

Daily Collegian Predictions

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Johnson
Score: PSU 49, SU 9
What's good: Penn State offense finds its sixth gear.
What's bad: Domes. Rain and snow are entertaining.
What to look for: A surprise D. McNabb 'Thriller' dance.</p> | <p>Langenbacher
Score: PSU 52, SU 17
What's good: Offense will continue to keep clicking.
What's bad: Greg Robinson's job security.
What to look for: When does JoePa play d-line?</p> | <p>Wible
Score: PSU 55, SU 13
What's good: Royster TD train keeps on truckin'
What's bad: Rivalry just ain't what it used to be
What to look for: Snow. Wait, the game's inside?</p> | <p>Eller
Score: PSU 40, SU 10
What's good: PSU RB's run wild on artificial turf
What's bad: So do Syracuse's speedy running backs
What to look for: D-Will goes off for multiple TD's</p> |
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