

COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

HISTORY IN THE MAKING



Photo Illustration by Kristen Huh

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NEW YORK CITY

Joe Paterno came to State College in 1950, a 23-year-old Brooklyn kid on his way to law school. His stay was supposed to be brief, but he never left. He returns home today, 57 years later, to receive the highest honor in the profession he selected when he came to the little cow town decades ago. At a black-tie dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria, Paterno will be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. He will be remembered for supporting academics and athletics, giving millions of dollars to Penn State and earning 371 wins as its head football coach. Not many will remember that he never earned a law degree, but Paterno's career undoubtedly comes full circle today in Manhattan.

THE DAILY
Collegian

A Legendary Joe

Not-so-ordinary Paterno to enter Hall of Fame

By Corey McLaughlin
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | cpm167@psu.edu

Some of them always stay on the sidewalk and never step foot on grass because he told them not to take shortcuts.

Some of them still set their clocks 15 minutes ahead. They call it JoePat time. Because if you are one minute late, that used to mean you were two hours late. One minute for each of your teammates. You were wasting everyone's time.

The lessons appear trivial standing alone. But when repeated to generations of players for more than five decades, the education of thousands accumulates to quite the accomplishment.

Joe Paterno heads into the College Football Hall of Fame today as one of the winningest college football coaches ever and the leader of two national championship teams.

He is also known as the man who donated an amount much greater than his annual salary to the school for which he has worked. And as the person who has coached football at

one institution longer than any other (57 years total, 42 seasons as head coach) — time enough to build the Penn State football program and the university into what they now represent.

He accomplished all of the above first as a teacher and then as a football coach. When Paterno talked, college kids listened.

"He's had a tremendous impact on my life," said former Penn State quarterback Kerry Collins, a 1994 Heisman Trophy finalist and current backup with the NFL's Tennessee Titans. "He's got certain standards, rules and perspectives that are very applicable in good times and bad. He expects you to be responsible and accountable for the things that you do. To me, that's what life and having a career is all about."

Paterno's instructions roll from the tongues of former players as quick as the soon-to-be 81-year-old says them himself.

A man without a watch doesn't respect time.

Never get too high with the highs or low with the lows.

Other quips come impromptu in Paterno's trademark high-pitched Italian accent.

"I can still hear him," said Anthony Adams, a defensive tackle with the Chicago Bears who last played for Paterno in 2002 and whose clocks are still set 15 minutes fast at the age of 27. "We'll be walking across the street or something and people will cut across the grass and I'll take the sidewalk. They'll say, 'Why did he do that?' I can still hear Coach Paterno telling me not to take any shortcuts."

Many grown men trace their daily habits to Paterno, and it's more than coincidence. They first heard the instructions on the practice field and in meeting rooms during college.

Collins' clocks are set six minutes fast, he said.

"I've relaxed a little bit over the years," he added. "They're not quite as far ahead as they used to be."

Learning to be punctual, Collins said, is a lesson equally significant as the constant yelling to stay in the pocket and throw with a quick release.

"It seems like a little thing, but it shows people the professionalism and

his willingness to do things the right way," Collins said. "At the end of the day, he wants everybody to do things the right way."

The right way, and together. Hence the lateness policy.

"Every now and then you get somebody that really matters. Someone that teaches you," said Kenny Jackson, a former Penn State wide receiver who played for Paterno in the 1980s and returned to be an assistant coach in the early 1990s following an eight-year pro career. "You've had good teachers and bad teachers, not because they didn't care, but some of them could teach and some just couldn't. Joe's an unbelievable teacher."

Ethan Kilmer, a former Penn State wide receiver and current Cincinnati Bengal, said he nearly quit football because of a lack of confidence until Paterno convinced him to stay.

"Don't get me wrong; he wants everybody to be a good football player," Kilmer said. "But at the same time, he wants you to be a student and a contributor to the community before all that. He's more of a mentor and a teacher than he is a coach."



Paterno, left, presents President Ronald Reagan with a Nittany Lion statue and a Penn State jersey at a ceremony in the White House after Penn State's 1986 national championship season. It was Paterno's second national championship season, with the first coming in 1982.

VOICES

What is your favorite Joe Paterno moment?

"I have prostate cancer and, through God and chemicals, it's under control though, according to my urologist, will never go away. It was diagnosed in August of '94, a few weeks before *For the Glory* was published. Joe and I are friendly, but not friends. The personal moment between us I remember most was after a major embarrassment for him, a 24-point loss to Southern Cal in the 2000 season opener at the Meadowlands. He'd finished his press conference and was walking, alone with his head down, toward the team bus. His mind surely was abuzz with what had gone wrong and how to correct it. But out of the corner of his eye, he saw me a few yards away, stopped and said: 'How're you doing?'"

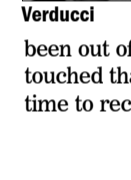


Denlinger

Ken Denlinger
Former Washington Post sports columnist
Collegian staff writer, 1960-64

"After I was hired at *Sports Illustrated* in 1993, Paterno cut out the first story I

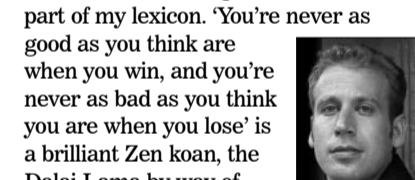
wrote for the magazine, attached a handwritten note of congratulations and mailed it to me. He mentioned how proud my late father, a high school football coach he knew, would have been. I had been out of school 11 years, and I was touched that he noticed and took the time to recognize my hiring."



Verducci

Tom Verducci
Sports Illustrated Senior Writer
Collegian football writer, 1979-1981

"Not a moment, really, but there are certain phrases that Joe used (over and over and over again) that remain part of my lexicon. 'You're never as good as you think are when you win, and you're never as bad as you think you are when you lose' is a brilliant Zen koan, the Dalai Lama by way of Flatbush. He's a big, strong kid who does a lot of things really well' is one of those utilitarian phrases that can be used in hundreds of different ways. In fact, I'm surprised no one's invented a drinking game involving Joe's press conferences."



Weinreb

Michael Weinreb
Author, *Kings of New York*
Collegian football writer, 1993

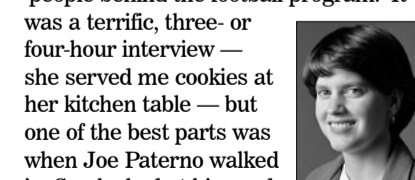
"This one is really tough. I'd say, probably being carried off the field at the Superdome after winning that first mythical national championship in the 1982 season, because that was so overdue."



Miller

Ira Miller
Former San Francisco Chronicle sports columnist
Collegian football writer, 1962-1963

"During my sophomore year, I was doing a Q&A with Sue Paterno as part of a series in *Collegian Magazine* about 'people behind the football program.' It was a terrific, three- or four-hour interview — she served me cookies at her kitchen table — but one of the best parts was when Joe Paterno walked in. Sue looked at him and — in a nice way — berated him for not getting his hair cut as he was supposed to. At the time, I was new and a bit in awe of Paterno and the football program, and suddenly, he seemed very human."



Shontz

Lori Shontz
St. Louis Post-Dispatch assistant sports editor
Collegian football writer, 1988-1990

Paterno by the Numbers

\$4.2 million

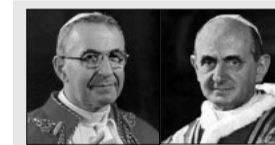
donated to Penn State

5

undefeated, untied teams

8

American presidents have held office since Paterno became Penn State's head coach



popes have occupied the Vatican during Paterno's head-coaching tenure



22

bowl victories, more than any other college football coach

4

7

Notre Dame head coaches have led the Fighting Irish while Paterno has coached the Lions

32¢

the price of a gallon of gas when Paterno took over as Penn State's head coach

2

national championships



Paterno hoists the Sugar Bowl trophy after the 1982 season.

300

players coached by Paterno have signed NFL contracts

Former Penn State Football Players Reflect

"We were inside Holuba Hall. Practice was over with and we had four gassers, down-and-back, down-and-back. The last one, of course, you're going to be tired. My group is up, all the linemen. So I run down-and-back and down and on my way back, JoePa challenges me. He's like, 'C'mon, Adams.' But he's like 10-15 yards ahead of me, so he got a head start. He's running, he's racing like 'I'm gonna beat you Adams.' He's running and I'm trying to catch up with him. I'm digging as hard as I can. It looked like Joe was going to beat me. So I dive in front of Joe because the line was coming up. So I run and get close to Joe and I dive in front of him to beat him and when I dove in front of him, he tripped over me and kind of rolled a couple times. He got back up and he said, 'You're slow Adams.'"



Adams

Anthony Adams
Chicago Bears DT

"When I first started playing I was on the scout team and I tackled Mike Robinson and Austin Scott back-to-back. Obviously, you're not supposed to hit the quarterback or the running back in practice. That was pretty memorable to get chewed out for the first time by the big man. ... He said something to the effect of, 'If you do that again you're out of there.' Obviously, he doesn't mean that kind of stuff. Looking back it was funny, but as a first time football player it wasn't funny to me at the time."



Kilmer

Ethan Kilmer
Cincinnati Bengals DB

"I remember being a young quarterback and I guess I used to leave the pocket too early. He drew a circle in Holuba Hall in the backfield and said, 'If you leave this circle, you're out of here,' or something to that effect. Of course, it was jailbreak and everybody came through the line and I took off. He let me have it. It was a very poignant time in my college career. ... That was freshman or sophomore year. He was always harping on me to get rid of the ball but that one stuck out."



Collins

Kerry Collins
Tennessee Titans backup QB



Paterno, center, watches over the football team's first practice of the spring in March of 1986. Coming off an 11-1 season that ended with a No. 3 national ranking, Paterno said, "We've got to be better." The Lions finished the 1986 season undefeated, picking up Penn State's second national title in five years.

2003
Florida State coach Bobby Bowden earns his 339th career victory, passing Paterno's career total.

2002
Paterno earns the Amos Alonzo Stagg Award, presented by American Football Coaches Association to the individual or group or institution whose services "have been outstanding in the advancement of the interests of football."

2001
Paterno earns his 324th career victory, moving past Paul "Bear" Bryant to become the all-time leader in career wins by a major college coach.

1998
Paterno earns his 300th career victory in a 48-3 win against Bowling Green in his 380th game, making him the fastest coach to reach that milestone. Later, he is given the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award. Joe and Sue Paterno also donate \$3.5 million to Penn State.

2004
Paterno is voted the second-best college football coach of all time by more than 300 media members, current and former football coaches, Heisman winners and members of the College Football Hall of Fame.

2005
Penn State rebounds from two consecutive losing seasons to win a share of the Big Ten championship and beat Florida State in the Orange Bowl. The season marks the fifth different decade in which the Lions have earned 10 victories under Paterno, who is awarded AP Coach of the Year, Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year and the Walter Camp Coach of the Year award, among numerous other national honors.

2006
He receives Gold Medal, the National Football Foundation's highest honor. He is also recognized by the Freedom Forum at the National Press Club, earns a Lifetime Achievement Award from Dapper Dan Charities and receives a History Makers Award, presented by the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center.

2006
He breaks his left leg and damages a knee ligament when two players run into him during the Lions' loss to Wisconsin on Nov. 6. This causes him to coach the regular-season finale from the coaches' booth and re-schedule his induction to the College Football Hall of Fame for the following year.

Today
Dec. 4, 2007
Paterno to be inducted into the National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame.

"I'm so overwhelmed. I really can't tell you how welled up I am with the memories, people, all the years. After 48 years at Penn State, I salute all the efforts of every team I've been a part of, and that includes all you fans and all you alumni. I love every one of you. After all, we are . . ."

Joe Paterno

Sept. 12, 1998, after his 300th win

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN
HALL OF FAME INDUCTION



Paterno surveys the Beaver Stadium field before his team's Homecoming win against Illinois in 2000. In his career, Paterno has watched his team move from Beaver Field to the 107,282-seat stadium. Collegian File Photo

SNAPSHOTS *of a* LEGEND



Paterno runs out of the Beaver Stadium tunnel before Penn State's 18-7 win against Illinois in 2002. Collegian File Photo



Paterno addresses the crowd during Football Eve in 2005. The 80-year-old coach has become a pep rally favorite, once even mimicking former Ohio State quarterback and Heisman winner Troy Smith during a pep rally in the 2005 season. Collegian File Photo



Paterno walks onto the field after Penn State's 67-7 win against Louisiana Tech in 2000. The Nittany Lions finished 5-7, the first of four losing seasons in five years. Paterno has since revived the Penn State football program, leading the Lions to bowl appearances each of the last three seasons. When Penn State meets Texas A&M in the Alamo Bowl in December, Paterno will be coaching in his record 34th bowl game. Collegian File Photo

Same glasses.
Same Nikes.
Same high-waters. A look at Joe Paterno through the years makes it clear that not a whole lot has changed since the 80-year-old coach came to Penn State decades ago.



Former Penn State coach Rip Engle, left, and Paterno watch practice in 1965. "They couldn't have picked a better man," Engle said after Paterno was named his successor on Feb. 19, 1966. Collegian File Photo



Paterno is doused with water after earning his 300th career win, a 48-3 victory against Toledo in 1998. Collegian File Photo



Paterno argues with a game official during Penn State's loss to Minnesota in 2003. Collegian File Photo