



A Living Legend

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Oregon Daily Emerald

As salt is to pepper and bees are to honey, so too are rolled up pants, thick glasses and white athletic socks to college football.

Penn State head coach Joe Paterno and his unique style may not project the largest figure in college sports, but with 268 wins, he stands far above his peers and rests comfortably in fourth place on the all-time coaching victory list.

"In my opinion, Joe Paterno epitomizes everything that is right about college football," Oregon head coach Rich Brooks said of his Penn State counterpart.

It's hard to argue with Brooks on that point. After taking over as Penn State's head coach in 1966, Paterno has failed to make it to the postseason a mere three times. And after joining the Big Ten Conference just a year ago, Paterno's first trip to the Rose Bowl didn't take long to materialize and round out his major bowl repertoire — just one more notch in his storied coaching career.

"I'm not going to say that I'm not aware of some of the things that we've accomplished," Paterno said, "but you've got to be careful that you don't get carried away."

Penn State's 11-0 season was far and away the best in the Big Ten and the Nittany Lions will make just their second ever trip to Pasadena. While Paterno downplays the significance of the Rose Bowl itself, he does know what a win in the respected bowl could do for him and his team.

"I hope the team can win," Paterno said. "We've worked very, very hard. I'm not going to deny it. I'll go home and ask for a raise."

Paterno looks to add a Rose Bowl victory over Oregon to his already impressive 15-8-1 postseason record as the leader of the Nittany Lions since 1966. In that span, the Brooklyn-born Paterno had captained the Lions to four undefeated seasons and two National Championships. With a Rose Bowl win over Oregon, Paterno would move ahead of Alabama's Paul "Bear" Bryant as college football's all-time winningest bowl coach and

become the first coach to win the traditional four major bowl games the Rose, Cotton, Orange and Sugar.

"I also am truly honored to be sitting here alongside a gentleman of the stature of Joe Paterno," Brooks said at the beginning of the first Rose Bowl press conference. "He has great teams, great character, and this is obviously one of his best teams."

A Sugar Bowl victory over Georgia in 1982 lifted the 11-1 Lions to the National Championship and gave Paterno his first No. 1 finish. Four years later, Paterno's 12-0 Nittany Lions beat Miami in the Fiesta Bowl,

notching yet another line to his coaching resume.

Paterno's stellar record has lofted him above such greats as other Big Ten legends like Michigan's Bo Schembechler and Ohio State's Woody Hayes.

Away from the football field, Paterno transcends bound-

aries set for normal public figures as his legendary status and non-football related efforts have made him more than just a college football coach.

Central Pennsylvania is ripe with Joe Paterno products and likenesses. Life-size Paterno cardboard cutouts, a Paterno-endorsed brand of spring water and a "Peachy Paterno" ice cream are just some of the many reminders of the coach's influence.

Paterno's involvement with educational issues is a testament to his worth as a teacher in addition to his coaching duties.

In 1991, the National Football Foundation and College

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COURTESY PHOTO

Penn State head coach Joe Paterno and his rolled up pants have been pacing sidelines more than 40 years.

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