

## A Lucky Penny

November 12, 2011

This whole sordid mess reminds me of when you attribute success to some pre-game routine or lucky penny, but then you lose that lucky penny and still have the game of your life, and you realize that success is based on the dedication, commitment, effort, and values that YOU put into it, and not the power of the lucky penny.

Joe Paterno has symbolized that lucky penny. There is no denying the impact that he has had on that team and the university, but it is the thousands of individuals that have played, studied, supported, and taught at PSU, and that lived those values, that have truly made it great. So, now that Joe is gone it is up to everyone that loves and cares for the University to remember what success is about and how to go about rebuilding that level of excellence. Every ideal that made PSU what it was/is are still valid and still there – these things are not gone because Paterno is no longer the coach. Continue the pride and loyalty to the University and it will redeem itself and be that great institution again.

PSU students, alums, and supporters, this is an indelible moment in the University's history, but it cannot define you unless you allow it to. YOU can define how history looks back on this tragedy by how you respond. Be the class act that you always have reported to be and to have valued. Take responsibility, begin to make changes that will never allow for these types of events to ever happen there again, and BE the values and character that PSU has been known for decades and decades. Alumni, reach out to current students and tell them that you support them, keep giving back to the university, and ask the current students to remember their responsibility to keeping up the PSU name. Current Students, this is your time to find out who you are and how you respond to the worst of life's challenges – you are being asked to grow-up within an instant – it's not fair – but it happens to millions of young people every year that have to live through horrible circumstances that they themselves had nothing to do with. You can and WILL survive this tragedy by living out what you always cheered for on the football field. This scandal is so much bigger than football, and the University is much more than football. No matter how horrible the acts of a single person are, they are not bigger or more powerful than the collective you.

There are only two directions to go at this point. You can fold and think that you owed all that is good at PSU to that lucky penny, or you can choose to somehow begin to make this right and show the honor and class that has always been Penn State with or without the lucky penny. Support the victims and their families, do more to prevent child abuse than any other school in the country, and we'll find the true power of what makes the university great. The power is in your hands.

WE ARE....!!!!!!

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