

All the Way From Altoona – Reader Submission

August 6, 2012

I'm from Altoona, PA. I never attended any classes at Penn State University, but when I was a kid, I sold hot dogs at all of the home games for more than a few years. At that time, I wasn't really interested in football, I was just trying to make a few bucks the honest way. I watched that stadium grow from a mediocre playing field to one of the most impressive superstructures on the east coast. Anyway, as I would make my way around Beaver Stadium to the Penn State side of the place, I felt humbled whenever I'd pass by JoePa. Over time, I got a sense from the man, that he wasn't worried about winning any games to bring attention to anything except his kids on the field and the university itself. I don't think that Joe Paterno was the kind of man who would try to cover up anything or ignore something as serious as child molestation. Joe Paterno loved kids. He loved his teams, he was a tremendous family man and a role model for so many years to a lot of folks. Jerry Sandusky didn't just molest children. He didn't just cause all of this tragedy. He also killed Joe Paterno, literally. Although I'm sad that JoePa is no longer with us, I'm kind of glad that he's not. It would break his heart even more to see how everything is shaking down right now. He worked hard and he persevered through the lean years and stuck it out here in happy valley. He could have probably stepped down from coaching, ran for governor, and won if he so chose to do so. I guess what I'm trying to say is, **I'm not going to quit on Penn State just because of one man, Jerry Sandusky. I'm going to do what Joe would do. I'm going to hang in there and give it a shot!**

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Tags: altoona, hang, hot dogs, JoePa, PSU, reader, Sandusky, submission, tough, User