

Weatherwise®

FRONT & CENTER

A reading of people, places, and projects

edited by Kimbra Cutlip

ART

Weathervane Makes a Big Impression

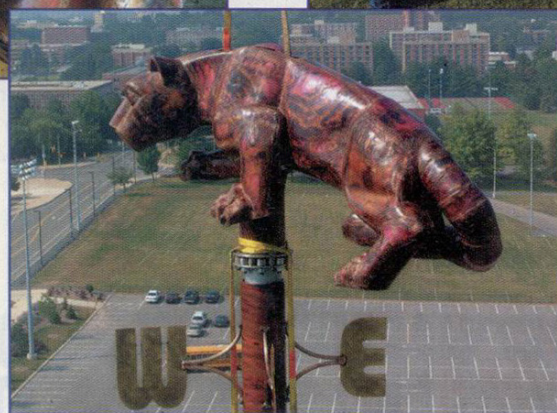
When Penn State University's (PSU) placekicker David Kimball steps onto the football field for a field goal, he'll have no trouble telling the wind direction. The world's second-largest weathervane—in the shape of a Nittany Lion, the PSU mascot—now graces the newly expanded Beaver Stadium. The weathervane was mounted on the stadium before the season opener as part of the expansion that made the stadium the nation's second-largest college football venue.

Acclaimed artist Travis Tuck fabricated the weathervane from one-eighth-inch-thick copper sheeting over a stainless-steel skeleton. It tips the scales at an estimated 2,300 pounds. At approximately 10 feet long, 5 feet high at the shoulders, and 4 feet wide at its broadest point, the vane is the largest project Tuck has ever undertaken.

After reading about the artist in the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREG GREICO



Travis Tuck puts the finishing touches on the PSU weathervane (top left), which is later raised by a crane (above) to its permanent home atop Beaver Stadium (left).

July/August 1999 issue of *Weatherwise*, PSU trustee and alumnus Joel Myers commissioned Tuck to create the Nittany Lion vane. It is part of a \$250,000 gift to the university from Myers and his wife Peggy that includes undergraduate

scholarships in meteorology, Earth sciences, and information sciences. Myers is the founder and president of AccuWeather and AccuWeather.com, which are headquartered in State College, Pennsylvania.