

## Sidelines

A brief look at the world of sports

### Scores

#### NHL

Washington 5, N.Y. Rangers 3  
Edmonton 4, Boston 3  
Detroit 6, N.Y. Islanders 2  
Pittsburgh at Vancouver, late

#### NBA

Charlotte 88, Milwaukee 84  
Chicago 120, Minnesota 99  
Indiana 101, Portland 87  
Philadelphia 121, Dallas 115  
Houston 105, Toronto 100  
Denver 96, Washington 92  
Cleveland 92, Golden State 80  
Miami 93, New Jersey 90  
L.A. Clippers 95, San Antonio 90

### Schedules

#### Baseball, it's back

University of Miami vs. Florida Marlins at Viera, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
Edison College vs. Minnesota Twins at Fort Myers, Fla., 7:05 p.m.

#### NHL

Edmonton at Hartford, 7 p.m.  
Buffalo at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.  
Boston at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
Toronto at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.  
Tampa Bay at L.A., 10:30 p.m.  
Montreal at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.

#### NBA

Charlotte at Boston, 7:30 p.m.  
Miami at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.  
Portland at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.  
Detroit at Seattle, 8 p.m.  
Phoenix at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Washington at Utah, 9 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at Vancouver, 10 p.m.  
New York at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.

### In brief

#### Ice Devils advance; ready to play Icercs

The Icercs will be playing Arizona State, which defeated Towson State in the first game of the ACHA national championships, 7-1.  
Delaware beat West Virginia and advanced to the next round of the other bracket.

#### Lions' defensive coach moves on to NFL Bears

Penn State defensive secondary coach Greg Schiano is leaving Happy Valley to go to the Windy City. He was appointed as a defensive assistant to Chicago Bears coach Dave Wannstedt.  
Schiano has been on the Lion's coaching staff since 1990. He is a former defensive starter and team captain at Bucknell. He is filling the Bears former linebacker coach Dave McGinnis, who is now the defensive coordinator for the NFL Arizona Cardinals.

#### 'Great one' becomes Blue, leaves L.A.

ST. LOUIS — Wayne Gretzky, the hockey icon who failed to win a Stanley Cup in Los Angeles, was traded to the St. Louis Blues last night, ending weeks of rumor and speculation about his future.

Al Kerth, spokesman for the Kiel Center Partners, the owner of the Blues gave no details on the deal involving the greatest scorer in NHL history, other than he will be a Blue.  
The Kings would not confirm that the trade had been completed.

### Quote of the day

"We're not willing to put into athletics what it takes to compete if we have to sacrifice the academic quality."

#### Walter K. Gordon

Rutgers-Camden president on the decision to eliminate the Div. III men's basketball program after this year due to its poor record.

Compiled from Collegian staff and wire reports.

# Lions already losing injured players

By GEOFF MOSHER  
Collegian Sports Writer

When the Penn State football team takes the field for spring practice, it will be without some key players from the previous year.

One of the biggest losses the team will suffer is the absence of the tailback-turned-defensive back, Ambrose Fletcher. After suffering three strokes, Fletcher's mother, Albertha, said he is at home and doing better. His strokes came as a complete surprise to her.

"Ambrose Fletcher has never been sick in his entire life," she said. "It was a total shock to me." Linebacker coach Tom Bradley described Fletcher's injury as "not a good situation" and an unfortunate occurrence the team must face.

"I'm not sure exactly what the cause is," Bradley said. "It's just unfortunate that things like that happen, but you just have to deal with it."

The Lions can also count on defensive tackle Floyd Wedderburn to be absent during the spring. Wedderburn likely will not recover from the torn anterior cruciate ligament that he suffered before the start of spring practice last year. Bradley said Wedderburn's recovery requires a nine-month rehabilitation, and missing spring practice is no surprise.

Wedderburn said he wants to play, but knows that he can't rush the recovery. He initially felt he might be ready for the spring, but said he would work hard in the summer to make sure he's ready for the 1996-1997 season.

"Any ordinary player would want to play," Wedderburn said. "But I can't help it. I don't want to risk anything. I thought I would be ready at this time, but there are a few things that set us back — but not too far back."

Wedderburn admits that the injury has been frustrating, but he said he tries not to let it bother him.

The team will be short another linebacker for the spring — Brandon Short. He reinjured the same left foot that he broke last year, which kept him out for the season.

The injury occurred while playing a pick-up basketball game in the Intramural Building this semester. Short said the foot broke in the exact same place as it did last time, which is very unusual.

"At first it was very frustrating," Short said. "But then I had to put things in perspective, at least it didn't happen during a game again."

Coming out of McKeesport, Short was the Pennsylvania MVP of the Big 33 Football Classic.

Punter Scott Stephens left the squad after

failing to beat out Darrell Kania for the starting job. Stephens, the North Little Rock, Ark., native, said he wasn't accustomed to Northern culture and was "miserable and ready to get out" after his sophomore season.

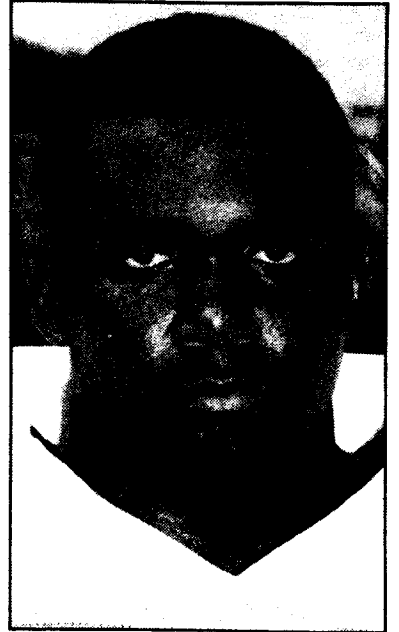
Stephens said the coach's demand to get the ball off his foot in less than two seconds caused him to punt with inconsistently throughout practices.

Stephens also felt homesick, so after leaving the Penn State, the punter went home and will be punting for Central Arkansas, only 20 minutes away from his hometown.

"I was only about 1,000 miles away from home," Stephens joked. Stephens said he no longer values being a big-time football player because of his devout religious beliefs. "I'm a strong Christian and I have strong belief in God, and it helped me understand that playing (professional) football was not a desire and goal now — whereas it used to be."

Stephens' mother, Luci, said she and his father initially wanted Scott to stay at the University, but are glad that he is now home and enjoying himself.

"We thought that Penn State could give him a great education," Luci said. "But we didn't feel like we should force him to stay somewhere that he wasn't comfortable."



Courtesy of Penn State  
**Brandon Short**  
Lion linebacker

# In the spotlight

## Remaining games determine Lions' NCAA fate

By BRAD YOUNG  
Collegian Sports Writer

Jarrett Stephens had a remote control dilemma this past weekend.

With Purdue leading Stephens and the rest of the Lion basketball team by two games as the Big Ten season settled to an end, Stephens wanted to watch the Boilermakers take on Indiana Sunday afternoon. A Hoosier win would pull the Lions to within a game and a half — and a prayer — of the conference championship.

But something kept Stephens' clicker stuck predominantly on an NBA game, not on Purdue's chance to solidify itself at the top.

"I was sort of scared to watch it," Stephens said. "I would switch to it to see what the score was and then turn away from it. It seemed like every time I was watching it Purdue was doing good."

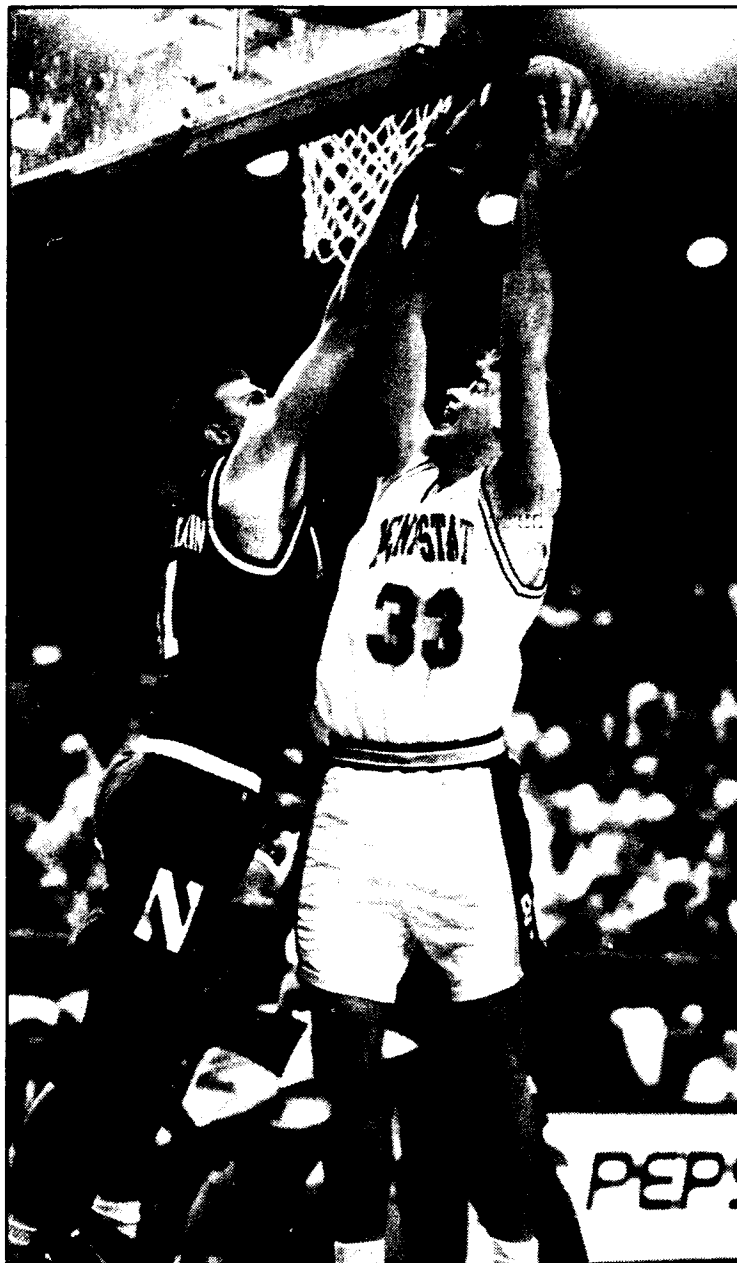
Apparently, Gene Keady's crew also did just fine when Stephens wasn't tuning in. A three-pointer from guard Chad Austin gave the Boilers a 74-72 win, and as a result they remain two up on the Lions with just three games left on their schedule.

They will clinch a third straight Big Ten crown with home wins this week over Minnesota and Northwestern.

So when those same purple-clad Wildcats (7-17, 2-13 Big Ten) come to the Bryce Jordan Center for an 8 p.m. tussle tonight with the No. 12 Lions (19-4, 10-4), a win for the home squad won't have big ramifications on the conference race.

Only some kind of miraculous Doug Henning-type thing would give the Lions a shot at Purdue now.

But the Lions know their remaining four games still mean a whole lot — to the NCAA Tournament selection committee which will decide on March 10 where the Lions will be heading for the Big Dance's first round



Collegian File Photo  
Glenn Sekunda reaches over Northwestern's Brian Chamberlain during last year's game at Rec Hall. The two battle again tonight.

and how advantageous a seed the Lions deserve.

"Just because they beat Indiana," forward Matt Gaudio said, "that doesn't mean our job's done in getting ready for March."

So tonight against Ricky Byrd-

son's lowly club, the Lions will be priming themselves for their first trip to the dance since 1991.

Northwestern is again challenging for the conference basement, but they do have one very

Please see CAGERS, Page 16.

# Top teams await tourney tensions

## No. 1 Iowa will contend for Big Ten title against the No. 2 Lady Lions this weekend in Indianapolis, Ind.

By ROB AMEN  
Collegian Sports Writer

Midway through the second half of the Penn State women's basketball team's 72-69 win over Ohio State Sunday, all one could do was just sit and watch in enjoyment.

The Katina Mack/Katie Smith match-up was one of the best of the year in the Big Ten, if not the nation. One of the country's leading scorers in Smith versus perhaps one of the best all-around players in Mack. The Lady Lions' 5-foot-8 senior guard constantly hounded Smith and her shot. Frustration appeared to grow within the senior Lady Buckeye, although she later denied it.

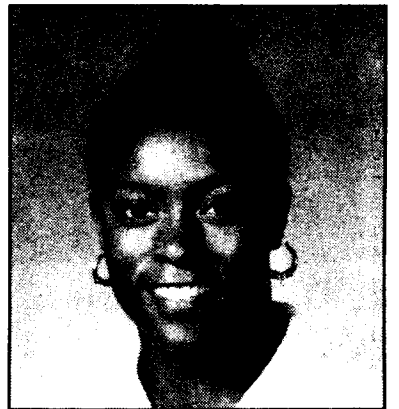
But if Smith thinks she has rid herself of Mack, she might be sorely mistaken. The two could meet again this weekend in the Big Ten Women's Basketball Tournament in Indianapolis, Ind. Penn State and Ohio State are both situated in the lower bracket, with the Lady Lions seeded No. 2 and Lady Buckeyes seeded No. 6 for the tournament, played at Hinkle Fieldhouse. Ohio State opens the tournament on Friday against Minnesota while Penn State first takes the court at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Despite the hype surrounding the tournament, Lady Lion coach Rene Portland has her focus on something else.

"This week for us," she said, "is to lay low and try to get healthy."

However, No. 3 seed Wisconsin has other things on its mind, like trying to figure out why the team fell apart the last weekend of the regular season. The Badgers, sitting in second place behind Iowa before the weekend, dropped their final two games to two very weak, beatable teams — Indiana and Michigan — to finish third overall.

"I think the top four teams," Michigan coach Trish Roberts said,



Courtesy of Penn State  
**Katina Mack**  
Lady Lion guard

"there's a lot of parity there. I think this year showed a lot of parity in the league than before."

Despite that, Iowa ran away with the regular season title, winning it by two games over Penn State, and will be the No. 1 seed. At times, the Hawkeyes appeared invincible. In fact, only one team really gave Iowa a game for the entire 40 minutes and that was Purdue, which handed Iowa its lone conference loss.

Nonetheless, the Hawkeyes enter the tournament as the favorite. Iowa relies heavily upon Tangel Smith, but will likely be without two of their key players, Amy Herzig (stress fracture on her left ankle) and Tiffany Gooden (hyper-extended knee).

One team, though, that should cause problems for many is No. 4 seed Purdue. With Lin Dunn as coach, the Boilermakers can never be counted out of any game, and with the steady improvement of their younger players, the Boilers just might sneak up on someone, such as Iowa in the semifinals.

"We have finished the season getting better," Dunn said. "Our young players, particularly our freshmen and sophomores, are growing up."

Whether it is Purdue or any other team, it is going to take sharp shooting and a little bit of luck to capture the Big Ten tournament title.

# Falls don't falter unflappable Foley

By CAMERON McGAUGHY  
Collegian Sports Writer

When she was four years old, Lady Lion gymnast Bridget Foley kissed George Burns on the cheek. She was with her family in upstate New York, visiting her father on a business trip and lounging by a hotel pool when the celebrity was spotted.

"Her father told her to go talk to him," recalled Foley's mother, Sue. "And she went right on up and kissed George Burns."

That is a happy memory for the co-captain. But she has other memories, too — ones she'd like to forget. Foley has no problem recalling everything about March 12, 1995. It was a Sunday, and the Lady Lions were at Georgia for the last meet of Spring Break.

Penn State was on its first rotation, the uneven bars, and Foley was second to last up. During her first release move, she fell.

"I don't ever fall on that. And I was fine, I got back up," the senior remembered. "When I fall on my first release move I tend to have more energy for my second one, and then I fell on that. I landed straight-legged when I fell, and that's when I tore it."

"It" was her ACL in her right knee. End of routine, end of season. At first, doctors said it was just the cartilage, that she would be back in time for the Big Ten championships.

"Then I saw the orthopedic surgeon here," Foley said, "and he told me I was done."

To that point in the season, Foley was on fire, posting career highs on balance beam and floor exercise and hoping to soon enter the vault lineup.

"I had played such an important role last year," she said. "I was doing so well, our team was doing so well. I finally got my full difficulty in on floor, I finally felt like I was personally giving a lot to the team."

But missing the most crucial part of the season took its mental toll on Foley, who didn't travel with the team for the first time in her career. She had to sit back as the Lady Lions finished eighth at the NCAA championships.

"That drove me more to get back," Foley said. "But it was hard. You see a lot of progress in the beginning of rehab and then there's a lot of deadtime. I was very hard on myself at the beginning of this year."

But just 11 months out of surgery, Foley is content with her rate of progress, and yes, she is officially back. At the Lady Lions' home meet with Ohio State, she turned in her best-ever performance on bars and gave the team confidence when it needed it the most.

After her teammates fell five times, the veteran mounted the balance beam and per-

formed with ease, earning a 9.75 and getting her team back on track.

"She's a very experienced competitor," Penn State coach Steve Shephard said. "Coming through in the clutch like that is pretty impressive."

When things were looking bleak again on the floor exercise — and the Lady Lions' lead was slipping — Foley did it again, earning a 9.7.

"The only thing that did kind of scare me was when I was doing triple fulls again on the floor, because I don't wear a brace," Foley said. "I just don't want to wear one. And I competed it (against Ohio State), so obviously I'm OK, but it was a little scary at first."

Even with the anniversary of her nightmare creeping closer, Foley insists it's the furthest thing from her mind. She feels strong and her knee is holding up fine. If there is anything to remember from a year ago, it's an incident that occurred on the way home.

"We were in the Pittsburgh airport and I looked over, and these two people had Planet Hollywood jackets on," Foley said. "And I said, 'Oh my God, that's definitely Peter and Cindy Brady.'"

Former Lady Lion Kerry Slatery challenged. Please see FOLEY, Page 16.



Collegian Photo/Jennifer J. Plumstead  
Bridget Foley performs on the beam during the Feb. 17 meet against Ohio State.