

Sekunda eliminates doubters

Forward Glenn Sekunda jumps out of shooting slump just in time for the Razorbacks.

By DAVID COMER
Collegian Sports Writer

Glenn Sekunda was missing three pointers, short jumpers, shots in the paint and just about all of the field goals he attempted.

So what did the Lion small forward do to get out of his shooting funk?

He didn't turn to extra shooting practice or go to a shot doctor. His approach was mental.

"I just got myself more mentally prepared," he said. "And physically, I got a little bit more rest in the last couple of days of practice than I had been. My legs were fresher today, and I was just mentally prepared to do well today."

Sekunda did do well, shooting 8-of-12 from the field and 3-of-3 from the foul line on his way to a game-high 21 points during the Lions' 86-70 defeat of Ohio State on Saturday.

Before the Lions beat the Buckeyes, Sekunda was in an offensive slump at the worst possible time of the season. With the NCAA tournament starting this week and the Lions a part of it, Sekunda was having visions of the end of his junior campaign, when he also struggled from the field.

During the six games before Saturday, Sekunda made a miserable 15 of his 67 field goal attempts for 22 percent. The stretch, during which the Lions won two of six games, included a 6-of-20 outing at Indiana and a 1-of-11 performance at home against Northwestern for Sekunda. He was also held score-



Collegian Photo/Laura Chilea

Senior Glenn Sekunda smiles during the senior day festivities before the Ohio State 86-70 victory. Sekunda retrieved himself from a six game slump on Saturday by scoring 21 points.

less at Purdue and to one point at Wisconsin.

"During the course of the season I haven't really been in a slump like I have these past few games," Sekunda said. "I went through that last year, and I never really got myself out of it. This year, I told myself I wasn't going to let it happen again."

He didn't. Sekunda, a transfer from Syracuse, scored seven first-half points and made half of his six field-goal attempts. After intermission, he played even better.

He wished a three pointer to extend Penn State's lead to 50-32 with 16:15 left in the game. Then after resting three minutes, Sekunda came back at the 11:26 mark and

scored 11 points — including a three, a tip in, two baskets in the paint and two free throws.

And in the process, Sekunda showed the versatility that makes him a quality scorer. Though he had struggled as of late, the forward has scored in double figures in 19 of the Lions' 27 games, including a 30-point outburst at North-western and five 20-point games.

It was those outings that Penn State coach Jerry Dunn wanted Sekunda to think about. During the Lions' pre-game practice Saturday morning, Dunn walked over to Sekunda and said, "You've had a very good year for us and go out and play hard and think about what you have done well."

DeChellis bids farewell to Lions

By MICHAEL SIGNORA
Collegian Sports Writer

The dream of assistants everywhere became reality for Penn State basketball coach Ed DeChellis.

Last Thursday Jerry Dunn's top lieutenant was named as head coach at East Tennessee State University.

DeChellis, a Nittany Lion assistant since 1986, inherits a team that finished the 1995-96 campaign at 7-20 and acknowledges the challenge ahead.

"This is a complete rebuilding process," DeChellis explained. "I just have to go in and try to develop a winning attitude."

DeChellis, 37, succeeds Alan LeForce, who announced he would resign at the conclusion of the season.

Penn State's convincing 86-70 victory Saturday over Ohio State at the Bryce Jordan Center marked the coach's final appearance at home.

Senior Matt Gaudio also bid farewell to an adoring crowd and expressed fond feelings for the coach who helped bring him to Happy Valley.

"I love the guy. I think he's a great coach and he's always been great to me and my family," Gaudio said of DeChellis.

Though eager to take over his own program at the conclusion of the Lions' season, DeChellis said the decision to leave Penn State was hard.

Having endured the trying transition into the Big Ten, accompanied by 2-16 and 6-12 conference records the first two years, the squad's current success and march toward the NCAA tournament against Arkansas makes moving on difficult.

"It was a tough situation leaving here," DeChellis said. "We've got things going now and we worked so hard to get it where it is. It's tough walking away from a situation like Penn State."

Former Lion standout John Amaechi, in town for the alumni



Collegian Photo/Laura Chilea

Lion assistant coach Ed DeChellis is leaving Happy Valley to be the head coach at East Tennessee State.

festivities at the Jordan Center this weekend, was thrilled for his former coach.

Amaechi expressed admiration for DeChellis' work ethic and determination to succeed.

"I think he's going to make a superb head coach," Amaechi said. "He's a guy the players are going to love playing for and he's going to come into practice and make it easy for you to work hard."

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Today's HOROSCOPES

By Jacqueline Bigar ©1996 by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, March 11, 1996:

Be more in touch with your long-term values as you deal with bosses, your career and the public. Your image will have a lot to do with what goes on and will affect the choices you make this year. Eye your goals and make them realities. You extend your horizons and immediate circle of friends. If you are single, romance is a strong possibility, though it may come through a friendship. If attached, romance builds when you pursue a common goal together. SAGITTARIUS pushes you hard.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ Be a pioneer, and break free from locked thinking. You find solutions where previously there have been none. Open up to creative thinking. There are solutions if you are willing to put them into use. A friend gives you new ideas. Tonight: Go where the music is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Playfulness marks your interaction, but walk a straight line when dealing with a boss or supervisor. When you have enough of a problem, let someone know. It is your responsibility to do this. Examine the choices you make about money. Tonight: It's snuggle time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Defer to someone, and show your playful side. Minimize an impending liability with a partner. Creative thinking opens doors for you, as does unexpected news. Be

willing to travel, learn and develop your life on a new level. Tonight: Say yes to an offer.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Don't get spooked by mixed messages. You might want to alter a situation, but you are better off accepting reality and taking a hard look at what is happening. A spirited response about money and partnership is likely. Tonight: Work late.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Stay centered about a long-term choice that has something to do with a child or loved one. You are very creative, but you need an outlet for that creativity. Partners behave in unexpected ways. Listen, consider and adapt. Life is changing rapidly for you. Tonight: Fun and games.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ If possible, stay centered, despite what is happening. You are coming to an important decision regarding a family member. Know your inner needs. Work opens up a creative window, even though you might initially be startled by what happens. Tonight: It's couch potato time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Be direct in your dealings, and allow little room for confusion. Evaluate what you say with care, and determine whether the message is being received as you intended. Loved ones are full of punch, spirit and energy. Tonight: Just answer your phone could get wild.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ A financial situation could be disturbing. Open up to potential and possibilities. Some things feel distinctly out of whack. Make posi-

tive changes. Listen to feedback from a loved one before you react. Tonight: Ho hum, do your taxes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Your charisma is working well for you; it will carry you through a misunderstanding with a family member. Spontaneity and excitement surround you as you deal with an issue that is close to you. Understand what is happening with a loved one. Tonight: It's time to play.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Your expenses are high. Evaluate exactly what is going on with your funds. An unexpected matter throws you far off and forces you to evaluate things. Listen carefully to your instincts. An unexpected misunderstanding could occur. Tonight: Make it early.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Focus on the unexpected and a unique approach. Be sensitive to a loved one whose attitude is much different from what you thought it was. Opportunities occur from out of the blue; be ready for them. Maintain a sense of humor with a child. Tonight: As you like it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Accept responsibilities carefully. Consider your choices with care. Open up to positive energy. There could be some stunning revelations when interacting with a loved one. You know more about a problem than you want. Tonight: Go where angels fear to tread.

BORN TODAY TV journalist Sam Donaldson (1934), singer Bobby McFerrin (1950), Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia (1936).