

Eric Bradley, a senior at 184-pounds, takes down an opponent. Bradley will make a run for a national title this weekend.

WRESTLING

## Wrestlers ready for nationals

With six qualifiers, the Penn State wrestling team looks to rebound after a disappointing finish at Big Tens.

By Chris Weeden

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | cweeden@psu.edu

ST. LOUIS — It's just a little bigger than Rec Hall. It will be slightly more full than the Bryce Jordan Center.

It's the Savvis Center, located in St. Louis. It's the arena that will host the NCAA Championships. Six Penn State Nittany Lions will attend, the most notable being Eric Bradley.

Seeded fourth in his 184-pound class, Bradley represents the Lions' most legitimate threat to walk away with an individual crown.

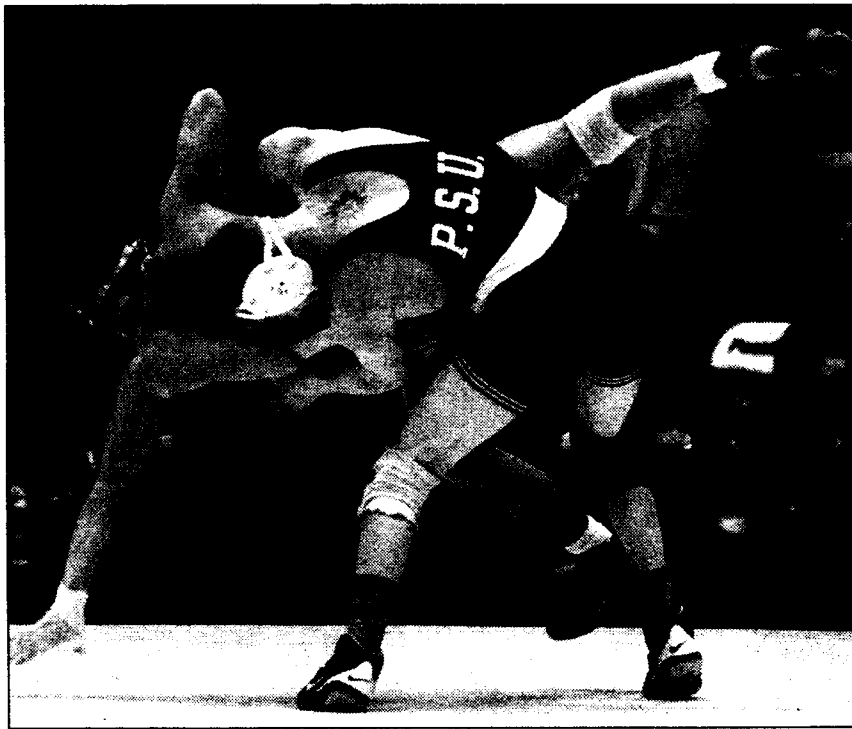
Two other wrestlers came off some of their best performances of the year at the Big Ten Tournament, March 5 and 6. For one, this weekend represents the climax of a stellar career. For the other, it's his coming out party in the national spotlight.

Senior Adam Smith placed a career best fourth at Big Tens at 125 pounds to earn the trip down the Mississippi. Freshman Phil Davis, in his first Big Ten Tournament, also wrestled his way to a fourth-place finish at 197 pounds and will wrestle a guy in the first round whom he's already beaten.

One wrestler was at the cusp of not advancing, which would've been disastrous to a season in which he was a staple in the top 20 at 157 pounds. Sophomore Nathan Galloway thought he won his seventh-place match at Big Tens in Iowa City, but in the closing seconds the referees awarded his opponent a deciding takedown. Galloway and Penn State coaches both thought time had expired.

After a discussion, there was no overturn. With the top seven finishers going on to NCAAs, it appeared his season was over. He caught a break. Galloway won one of two wild-card spots, given by the Big Ten coaches.

Junior Joel Edwards would've told you at the start of the season he'd be at Nationals. But at heavyweight? He'd probably give you a sideways



Redshirt freshman Byran Heller swings an opponent to the mat. Six Penn State wrestlers qualified for the National Championship in St. Louis.

**National Championships**

noon today  
Savvis Center  
St. Louis

look. But jumping up and performing well despite being undersized means he'll be in St. Louis after finishing seventh at Big Tens. For Penn State, the tournament will be based on individual success. With six wrestlers competing and only one noted contender (Bradley), the Lions are not viewed as a threat for the team championship.

According to [intermatwrestle.com](http://intermatwrestle.com), a poll shows Oklahoma State as the likely team champion, showing the emergence of the Big 12. The Conference has griped for years about the Big Ten receiving a competitive advantage.

However, Sunderland said prior to Big Tens that "the Big Twelve may have a legitimate complaint but the fact is the Big Ten has outperformed

the other conference [at Nationals]."

But the Big Ten still has the most threats to win it all, and because Oklahoma State won last year, it's more of an opportunity to state the Cowboys' case as one of the top programs, rather than improve the attitude towards the conference as a whole.

"They won it last year and they have a solid team and a lot of top individuals," Sunderland said. "They have a good enough opportunity to win again."

With Big Ten schools such as Iowa, Illinois and Michigan not favored to win, it's still enough to prove that they are the best conference in the nation.

The Lions look to build off a seventh-place finish at Big Tens and show they are one of the best squads in the country despite the injury woes.

But they only have one more night to prepare. Sunderland scheduled one workout and a video session. Then it's off to the Savvis Center and look to finish a sup-par season on a bright note.

FOOTBALL

## PSU seniors hope to wow NFL scouts

At the team's 'Pro Day,' PSU players will display their abilities in front of the watchful eyes of NFL talent evaluators.

By Jenny Vrentas

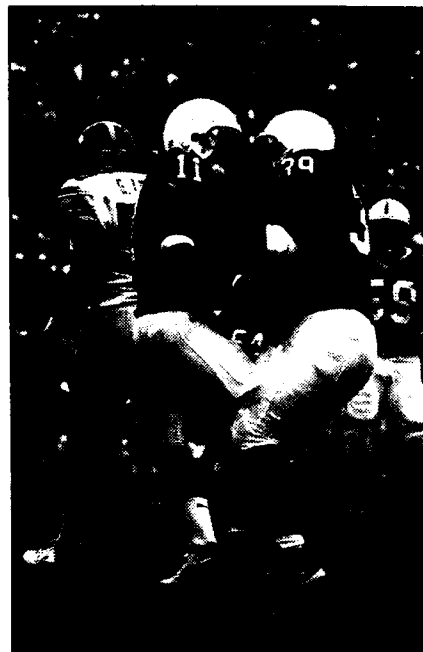
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | jenny@psu.edu

Start the countdown: In exactly 37 days, the 2005 NFL Draft will commence in New York.

But for the seniors on the Penn State football team who have declared for this year's draft, another day indicative of their football futures has already arrived — Penn State's Pro Day, which is held today on campus. Participating in the combine-like workouts and interviews with NFL representatives are nine members of last fall's senior class — John Bronson, Scott Davis, Robbie Gould, Andrew Guman, Paul Jefferson, Zack Mills, Ryan Scott, Gerald Smith and Derek Wake.

"This is going to be the equivalent of the NFL combine, with every single test as the 360 players at [the 2005 Scouting Combine in] Indianapolis would have," said Brett Senior, the agent for Gould, Guman and Mills. "Most, if not all, of the 32 [professional] teams will be represented."

Among the tests the players will complete are the 40-yard dash, vertical jump, shuttle run, three-cone drill and broad jump, as well as position-specific drills. While players have the opportunity to schedule follow-up workouts after the pro day, it is nonetheless a chance for all of the draft-ready play-



Senior Paul Jefferson gives freshman wide out Terrell Golden a pep talk.

ers to give NFL scouts a comprehensive look at their physical attributes and football abilities.

Of the nine Penn State players, only Wake, a 6-foot-3 outside linebacker, was  
See PRO DAY, Page 16.

FENCING

## Depth aids Lions in quest for title

Last season, the Penn State fencers fell short of a national title, but the Nittany Lions expect to regain it this year.

By Jamie Romm

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | jir252@psu.edu

Penn State fencing captain Marten Zagunis was the last one in the team locker room showering and packing for this year's NCAA Championships in Houston.

For the last two years, Zagunis has represented his team in the NCAA Championships and he was a key component in the Nittany Lions' second-place finish last year.

This year, though, he's packing not to compete but to serve as an alternate for the men's saber squad.

Each team can qualify two fencers from each weapon to compete at the championships, while the rest have to qualify to act as alternates.

Freshman Franz Boghicev and sophomore Ian Farr both placed ahead of Zagunis at this year's Mid-Atlantic/South Regionals and qualified to compete.

Zagunis, though, is more than positive of his team's chances to finish first even though he's on the sidelines.

"At the beginning of the year I think people felt that Franz and I would be the ones who eventually would compete at NCAAs," Zagunis said. "But Ian really worked his butt off all year

and he deserves to go because he's been amazing."

Zagunis and Farr both grew up in Oregon and have been competing with, and against, each other for years.

This year not only were they competing for the same team but also against each other for a spot to play for the team in the championships.

"He's always been a great fencer," Zagunis said. "At Regionals when it came down to it, and all the money was on the table he stepped up and did his job and that's why he got the spot."

As a freshman last year, Farr finished fifth while Zagunis finished fourth.

Boghicev is a freshman entering his first NCAA Championships.

"Franz's only question to me was if he should wash his uniform because it was starting to smell," Zagunis said. "But in practice all week we've been going after each other hard to prepare."

The men's team will also be sending senior Nonpatat Panchan and freshman Jeffrey Chang.

In the foil, only freshman Arthur Urman qualified.

The women's squad, which enters the championships as the third-ranked  
See FENCING, Page 16.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

## School-record 14 Penn State swimmers head to NCAAs

By Mike Garvey

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | mpg167@psu.edu

The records continue to fall underfoot for the Penn State women's swimming team. A month ago, the team set a school record of 693 points at the Big Ten Championship meet. Performances at that competition helped a school-best 14 Nittany Lion swimmers earn berths to the NCAA Championship meet at Purdue University, taking place today until Saturday.

Despite being ranked No. 14 in the latest College Swimming Coaches Association of America poll, Penn State will have the fifth largest squad, trailing Georgia, Auburn, Florida and Texas. Coincidentally, those teams rank No. 1 through No. 4, respectively, in the CSCAA poll.

"Were keeping some company with

some pretty good people," Penn State coach Bill Dorenkott said. "If we take care of each race as it comes and each session, [we'll be] ready to go. We don't have a lot of control over place."

In holding with the season's theme of balance, the team is comprised of both veterans and youth, with at least one swimmer competing in 16 of 18 swimming events. For seniors Kristen Woodring, Courtney Stanchock and Dierdre Dlugonski, this will be their fourth NCAA Championship. On the other side of the coin, sophomores Nikki Collins, Claire Hawley and Lauren Preyss, as well as seniors Meredith Holman and Lauren Semchysen will be competing in their first. The distance swimmers, breaststrokers and medley relays should be strengths for the Lions.

Six Lions will compete in both the 500- and 1,650-yard freestyle events.

Sophomore Erin Morris is seeded eighth in the 500 free with a time of 4:42.17, and Claire Hawley is the 12th seed in the 1,650-yard event (16:16.59). Though this group doesn't crowd the top of the seedings like it had at the Big Ten meet, some of swimmers did not taper completely, saving their best performances for this week.

"We had a handful of kids that went through the Big Tens unshaved. We like to leave a little bit left in the tank," Dorenkott said.

It will be the last go-round for the breaststroke duo of Woodring and Stanchock, who are seeded 13th and 14th in the 100-yard event with 1:01.41 and 1:01.55, respectively. Top-seeded Sarah Poewe of Georgia qualified with a time of 59.58. Two seconds is an eternity in such a short event, but both Lions swimmers have swum faster times than

their seed times, including Woodring's 59.96 at the 2001 NCAA Championship meet. The medley relay team of Haupt, Woodring, Biedermann and Dlugonski may benefit from the meet being held in the Boilermaker Aquatic Center. At the 2003 Big Ten Championships, which were hosted by Purdue, this team set pool records in both the 200- and 400-yard medley relays, with respective times of 1:39.41 and 3:36.39. The 200-yard event will be one to watch. The Lions are seeded third with a Big Ten record time of 1:39.06.

"Relays are awfully important. [They] count for double the points," Dorenkott said. "I think we have a shot to score all five [relays]."

Biedermann holds records in the 100- and 200-yard butterfly, and Haupt set a record in the 100-yard backstroke. Both will compete in those events this week.



Courtney Hughes/Collegian

Sara Shephard competes in backstroke.