

THE LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV

NCAA Basketball
Penn State at Virginia
 7 p.m., ESPN2

NHL
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers
 7 p.m., FSN

NFL
 New England at New Orleans
 8:30 p.m., ESPN

QUICK HITS (AP)

NBA

Philadelphia denies involvement with AI

Philadelphia 76ers coach Eddie Jordan says no one has talked to him about Allen Iverson coming to the team. Jordan downplayed reports Sunday of Iverson possibly returning to the city where he became an NBA superstar, saying he hasn't spoken to the recently retired guard and the Sixers are not seriously looking at any free agents. A source told the Associated Press Saturday the Sixers were approached about signing Iverson.

NFL

Goodell pens plan for injured players

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell reportedly will expand restrictions on returning to games for players who sustain head trauma. Fox Sports reported Sunday that Goodell will issue a memo this week to all 32 teams expanding grounds for the removal of a player with a head injury or concussion. The report said that if a player is "woozy, has general dementia or memory loss," Goodell wants him barred from returning to a game.

NBA

Winless New Jersey fires head coach

The New Jersey Nets fired coach Lawrence Frank on Sunday after losing their first 16 games during one of the worst starts in NBA history. Assistant Tom Barrise will coach the team Sunday night in Los Angeles against the Lakers, when the Nets could tie the record for the worst start if they lose. The Nets said a permanent replacement for Frank hasn't been determined. Frank was in his sixth full season, the longest-tenured coach in the Eastern Conference and the winningest coach in the Nets' NBA history.

OUR THOUGHTS

NFL

Manning, 11-0 Colts threaten 16-0 mark

Not even a 17-point deficit is enough to slow the Indianapolis Colts down. Peyton Manning and the Colts moved to 11-0 after topping the Texans Sunday, a game in which Houston jumped out to a 17-0 lead early in the second quarter and carried a 20-7 lead into the half. By responding with 28 straight second-half points, Indy showed it cannot be taken lightly in any situation and proved once again it is the team to beat in the AFC, if not in the entire league. With only two games left to go against teams with winning records (although they play the red-hot Titans next week), watch out for the Colts to possibly match New England's perfect regular season of two years ago.

TRIVIA

OUTDOORS

Q: How many deer are expected to be harvested today?
Wednesday's Answer: The Lions have won the most Thanksgiving Day games with 35.

PSU awarded No. 1 seed

By Bill Landis
 COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

What was perhaps the worst-kept secret in collegiate sports became official Sunday afternoon as the Penn State women's volleyball team was named the top seed in the 2009 NCAA Championship. The No. 1 Lions (32-0) are the top seed for the second-straight year

and once again will play host for the first two rounds of the tournament. Penn State's first round opponent will be the champion from the America East Conference, the Binghamton Bearcats (15-15). The time of the match had not been announced as of press time, but play is slated to start Dec. 4 at Rec Hall. Throughout the season, Penn State stressed the importance of first winning the Big Ten and then

Hodge shines in Lion sweep

By Andrew J. Cassavell
 COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

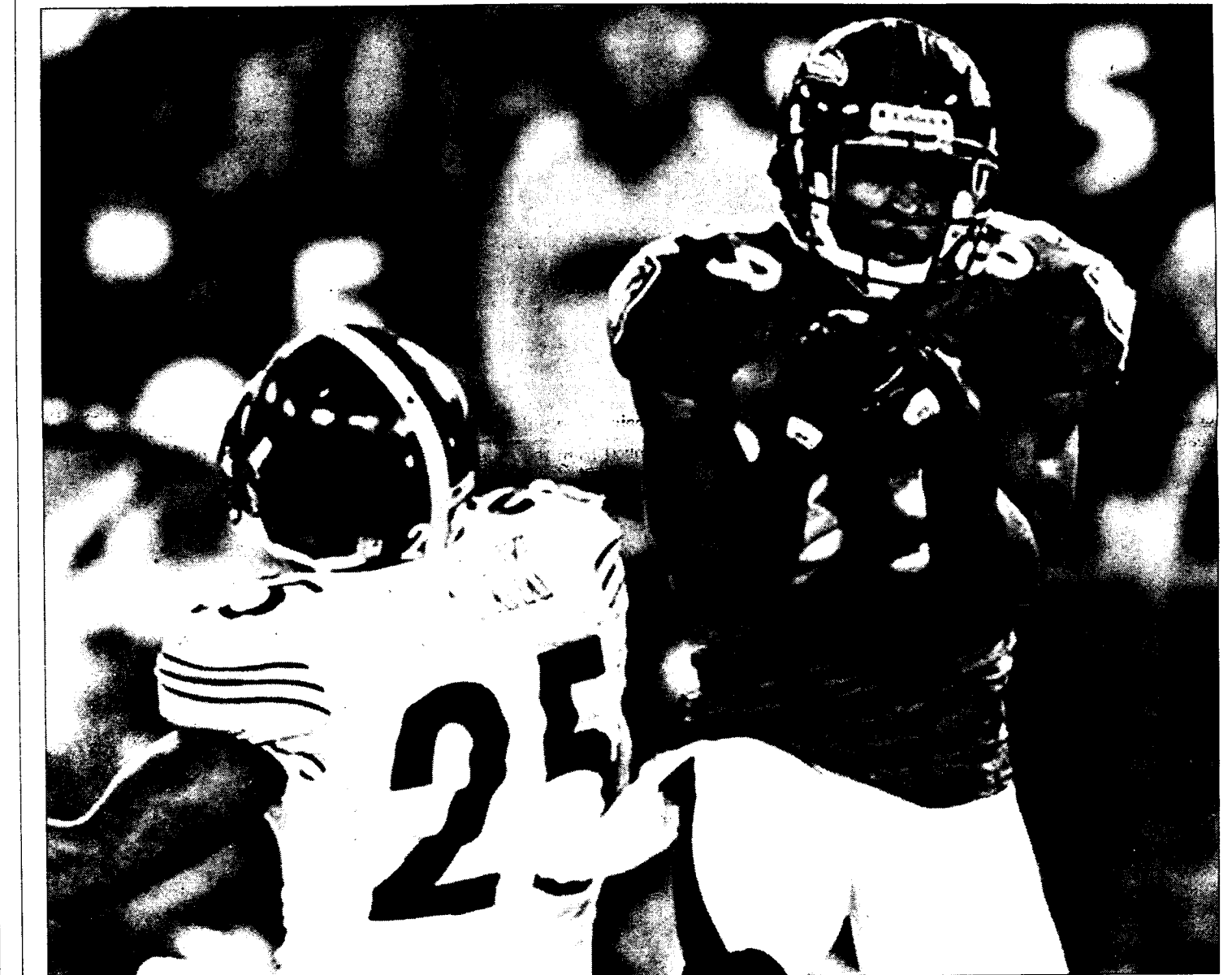
With the Penn State women's volleyball team trailing by one point toward the end of its match on Saturday, Russ Rose called a timeout to draw up a play. Had it not been for the 4,000 plus screaming fans, he may as well have yelled his strategy across the gym. The coach was setting up three-time All-American Megan Hodge on her Senior Night. But as obvious as it seemed, No. 12 Michigan still couldn't stop

Hodge as she recorded four straight kills on virtually the same play, catapulting the Nittany Lions to a sweep of the Wolverines and their third consecutive undefeated Big Ten season. "She wanted the ball, and when [senior setter Alisha Glass] had possession of it, I think everybody in the gym knew that it was going to go to Megan," Rose said. "Megan took some huge swings, and I expect nothing less from the two of them." After dominating the first two sets, Hodge helped the Lions rally from a five-point deficit in the final game with a 15-8 run to close the set. The Lions (32-0, 20-0 Big Ten) scored five straight points to take



Arlie Wilson (second from right) spikes against Indiana earlier this year.

PECKING ORDER



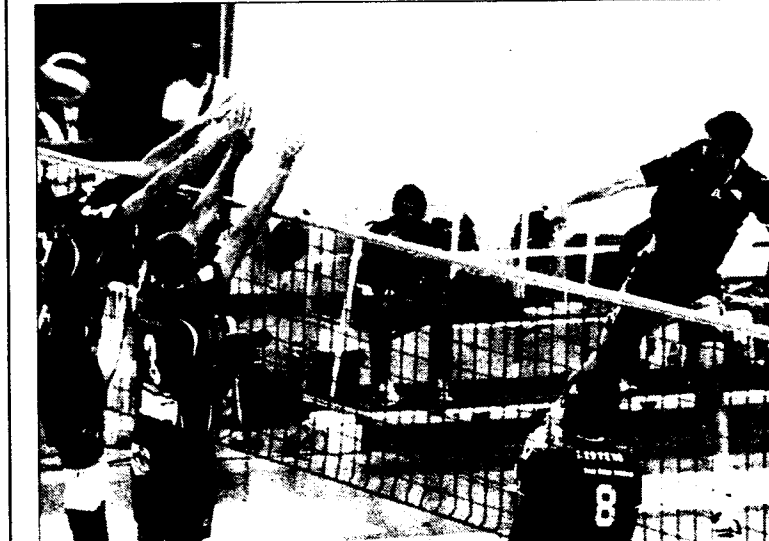
Baltimore Ravens wideout Mark Clayton (right) hauls in a pass in the first half of Sunday night's game against Pittsburgh in Baltimore. In a battle for the second place position in the AFC North, Clayton and the Ravens downed the Steelers in overtime, 20-17.

Former players use skills abroad

By Emily Kaplan
 FOR THE COLLEGIAN

What Penn State men's volleyball coach Mark Pavlik first saw in Max Holt could be apparent to anyone: just a lanky 6-foot-9 kid from Cincinnati with a quiet confidence and lethal serve. But it didn't take long for Pavlik to see something something extra

in Holt — world-class potential. "It was probably about three weeks into his freshman season when I realized how good he could be," Pavlik said. "After that, it was just a matter of time for the monster inside him to come out." As Holt developed over four successful years at Penn State — he was a two-time first-team All-American — he was a two-time first-team All-American. See ALUM, Page 10.



Matt Proper (right) spikes as a member of an international team.



Steve Thurston (13) controls the puck during the Icers' 10-1 win against West Virginia earlier this season.

Icers fall in finale

By Tom Copain
 COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The last time the Penn State Icers lost in regulation this season, it was a one-goal loss to the No. 5 ACHA team in the country. That was the only Penn State regulation loss until Sunday, when a four-goal second period doomed the Icers in a 7-4 loss to NCAA Division III

Massachusetts-Boston in the PAL/Stovepipe Tournament championship game. "We just shut down with some of our systems, a little bit of a lack in intensity," junior forward Tim O'Brien said. "Some were trying to push the envelope a little bit, trying to make things happen. I think individuals got away from our team aspect that we've been doing for the past couple of weekends." Penn State (15-2-1) came into See ICERS, Page 10.