

LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV

NBA

Chicago at Cleveland
8 p.m., ESPN
Miami at L.A. Lakers
10:30 p.m., ESPN

ON THE WEB

For full stories:
psucollegian.com

MEN'S SOCCER

Lions expectations high for next year

After a season that left the men's soccer team one game shy of a Big Ten Championship title, the Lions are looking towards a bright tomorrow with nine of 11 starters returning next season.

W. SWIMMING

Technological suit bids new challenge

Women's swimming coach John Hargis expects this weekend's Ohio State Invitational opponent's to be donning the Speedo LZR — a swim suit designed by NASA to give swimmers optimal performance.

W. GYMNASTICS

Senior guarantees first Big Ten title

While women's gymnastics coach Steve Shephard said his team has the potential to be great this season, senior Brandi Personett guaranteed the team will win its first-ever Big Ten title this season and even took a jab at perennial Big Ten power Michigan.



Personett

PENN STATE

Veteran MLB writer shares anecdotes

Esteemed sports writer John Lowe, a writer for the Detroit Free Press and president of the Baseball Writers Association of America, spoke for an hour to about 40 students Thursday in Carnegie Cinema, offering insight to aspiring writers trying to break into the journalism field.

OUR THOUGHTS

MLB

Polanco's return overdue for Phillies

When the Phillies announced they had signed Placido Polanco, it brought back memories of the first time he played in Philly.

Polanco was the odd-man out as the Phillies were looking to clear room for stud prospect Chase Utley and decided to stick with David Bell at third base, simply because Bell had a higher salary.

But since Polanco left just four years ago, the organization's attitude has been revamped.

No longer are unproductive, overpaid players like Bell kept around. Deadweight, like Adam Eaton and Geoff Jenkins, is dropped as the Phils match productive players with their new winning attitude.

It took a while but now Phillies fans will get to watch the infield they should have seen all along.

TRIVIA

NFL

Q: Who is the only active NFL player to have played for the Houston Oilers?

Thursday's Answer: Oregon won the Pac-10 title outright in 2001.

Odrick named All-American

The defensive tackle becomes the Lions' 94th first-team All-American.

By Nate Mink
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Big Ten's defensive player of the year is also a first-team All-America selection.

Penn State announced Thursday senior defensive tackle Jared Odrick was selected to the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) All-America Team. The lineman

became the 77th first-team All-American under coach Joe Paterno.

"This is a great honor," Odrick said in a statement released by the university. "There are a lot of great D-linemen across the country, so I'm flattered to receive this award. This honor speaks about the play of our defense as a whole all season.

"I'm privileged to be joining some of the great Penn State defensive linemen who have been All-Americans."



Odrick

Odrick, who was named the Big Ten's conference Defensive Player of the Year by the coaches last week, is the 94th first-team All-American in Penn State school history and the sixth defensive lineman honored in the last 11 seasons.

He was notified of the honor via text message from AFCA officials.

Odrick then forwarded the text message to his high school football coach, Bill Giovino, Thursday afternoon.

"We're so proud of him," said Giovino, who coached Odrick at Lebanon High School. "All the hard work he's put in since he's been here in high school at

Lebanon High until now, it's all paying off."

Odrick tied for fifth on the team with 41 tackles, 10 of which went for a loss.

He had six sacks and also blocked a field goal.

"We've always told him he's destined for greatness," Giovino said. "It's a matter of how much he wants to work for it."

Odrick helped lead the No. 10 Nittany Lions to a 10-2 regular season record.

The Lions will learn their bowl destination Sunday night, when bowl announcements are made.

To e-mail reporter: npm5025@psu.edu

EN GARDE



Daniel Bott/Collegian

Olivia Benedek (right) practices with Monika Aksamit during fencing practice on Thursday evening at the White Building. The Nittany Lion fencing team will participate in the Pittsburgh open this weekend, where the men's team will look to continue its success after last weekend's Harvard Invitational while the women fencers will be looking to improve off of a 4-1 team mark in its opening competition last weekend.

Jones readies for trip home

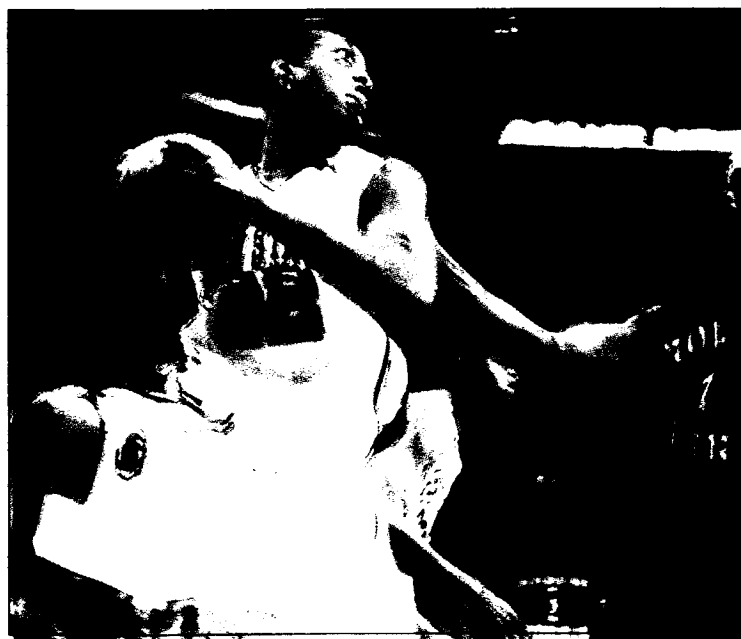
By Stephen Hennessey
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Drew Jones knows his offense hasn't "clicked yet" this season. In Penn State's first seven contests, the 6-foot-10 junior has not scored double-digit points.

But Jones said he's not concerned.

Nittany Lions coach Ed DeChellis said if Jones focuses on being more active on the offense end, it will allow his tallest player to get going.

"My thing to him and some of our other post players is to defend, rebound and run," DeChellis said.



Daniel Bott/Collegian

Andrew Jones (22) rebounds the ball during the Nittany Lion's 80-61 win over Robert Morris earlier this season.

"It's amazing how the ball will find you. If you try to score, it just never really works out that way. You've got to find your rhythm offensively."

Jones will have an opportunity to jumpstart his offense on Saturday in his native city as the Lions travel to Temple for a 4 p.m.

matchup at the Liacouras Center. Temple (5-2) is ranked No. 14 in RPI. The Owls lost a one-point game to then-No. 19 Georgetown and own wins over NCAA Tournament hopefuls Siena and Virginia Tech.

Through seven games, Temple See JONES, Page 10.

Battle adjusting to new role

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With just less than four minutes remaining in Monday's game at Virginia, Talor Battle came around a screen, spotted up and hit a three point shot, putting the Penn State men's basketball team up by 12 and forcing a Cavalier timeout.

For once, Battle was the one receiving the pass off the pick instead of the one delivering it.

Although Battle's three did not ice the game as it seemed at the time — the Lions (5-2) let that lead dwindle to one late in the game —

the play catapulted them to their second-straight victory and yet another win in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

With freshman Tim Frazier — who got the assist on the play — emerging as a second option at point guard, Battle said plays like that one will become more frequent as the season progresses.

Despite some struggles playing off the ball early in the season, the junior preseason All-Big Ten selection said he has finally worked the kinks out in an offensive scheme he isn't accustomed to.

"I got frustrated at times at first because I really wasn't making the shots," said Battle, whose Lions travel to Temple at 4 p.m. Saturday to face the 5-2 Owls. "But now after this game and the game before

that, I'm realizing that it's a lot easier to play off the ball."

Battle, who led the nation in minutes played last season, noted that without the ball constantly in his hands he will suffer less wear and tear as Penn State approaches March.

Head coach Ed DeChellis said he tried to do something similar last season with former Lion Stanley Pringle, but having a true point guard like Frazier in the offense makes it much easier.

"I think [Battle] understands when you have another guy who can break guys off the dribble and penetrate and create, it just takes the pressure off of him to have to do the whole thing," DeChellis said.

"It'll be an ongoing thing, and See BATTLE, Page 10.

Team preps to face speed

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For the past two months, Darcy Dorton's blocking style has been geared strictly toward power.

Playing in a conference with some of the nation's strongest hitters, during the regular season there were few other options for the Big Ten's freshman of the year.

But with the Penn State women's volleyball team set to kick off the first round of the NCAA tournament at 7:30 tonight against Binghamton (15-15), Dorton may have to do her best to forget what she used to help the Lions to their seventh-straight conference crown.

"Binghamton is very different from the teams we've played in the Big Ten," Dorton said. "We're just working on changing our defense to match their hitters because they have a different quickness than the teams that we've seen so far."

The Lions led the conference with 3.23 blocks per set and held their opponents to a .105 hitting percentage, also the best in the Big Ten. They were the only

See V. BALL, Page 10.



Collegian staff writers breakdown this weekend's Penn-Army matchup and explore Kelsey Ream's return: psucollegian.com