

## LINEUP

**NBA**  
Houston at Philadelphia  
7 p.m., CSN  
Portland at Cleveland  
8 p.m., ESPN  
Orlando at Miami  
10:30 p.m., ESPN

**NHL**  
Carolina at Washington  
7 p.m., TCN  
Dallas at San Jose  
10 p.m., TCN

**NCAA Football**  
William & Mary at Villanova  
8 p.m., ESPN

## ONLINE WEB

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[psucollegian.com](http://psucollegian.com)

### Penn State ready for extended break

After this weekend's game against Niagara, the Penn State ice hockey team will take a break until Jan. 8 when a rough slate of games will welcome the team back to action.

### Nine ranked foes await Penn State

For Penn State gymnastics coach Randy Jepson's Lion gymnasts to obtain success this season, the team must first run a gauntlet of nine nationally ranked opponents on a 10-team schedule.



Jepson

### Distance runners pace Lions track

After a cross country Big Ten championship and national championship appearance, the distance runners on the Nittany Lions track team are dreaming of success this season.

### Lions look to relax during winter trip

After two disappointing performances, Penn State will travel to Florida for its winter training trip before facing Florida State in January.

### PSU fencers train at home for Cup

The men's and women's fencers head home to familiar coaches and camps for winter break, ready to prepare for the Junior World Cup.

### Lady Icers to play in overseas tourney

Three members of the Lady Icers were selected to the ACHA National Select Team, but the team doesn't know which international team they will be playing.



Chroman

## TRIVIA

**On this day in sport's history:** Dec. 11, 1951, Joe DiMaggio announces his baseball retirement.  
**Thursday's Answer:** Behind Texas' Mack Brown, Alabama coach Nick Saban is the second highest paid coach in college football at \$4.7 million annually.

# Lions to be tested in Fla.

By Bill Landis  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For three of the last four years it has had the luxury of playing on its home court for a berth in the national semifinals. Now, the No. 1 Penn State women's volleyball team must travel to swamp country to keep its chances of a third-straight national championship alive. The Nittany Lions will take on the No. 16-seeded Florida Gators in Gainesville, Fla., in the third

round of the NCAA Women's Volleyball Championship at 6 p.m. Friday. With the regional sites being set before the season started, the Lions knew that this season would be different from the previous two championship campaigns. But the idea of playing the Gators on their home court does not have the Lions worried as they think the Big Ten season has them prepared to play in hostile environments.

"I think our best matches this year were a couple of matches that we played on the road," coach Russ Rose said. "That's not to say that will happen Friday, but I'm not concerned that this group can't handle playing on the road." What does have the Lions concerned, though, is Florida's setter Kelly Murphy. Murphy was ranked



Rose

as the nation's top recruit coming out of high school by PrepVolleyball.com and the 2007 Gatorade National Player of the Year. But it's not her accolades that have the Lions worried, it's the style of setter she is. In the mold of Penn State setter Alisha Glass, Murphy is a setter who likes to get involved in the hitting. But while Glass has registered 95 kills, Murphy has made herself a crucial part of the Gators attack, notching 313 kills. See FLORIDA, Page 15.

# SENIOR MEREDITH MONROE IS SEEING EARLY SUCCESS



Jimmy Dever/Collegian

Forward Meredith Monroe looks to pass the ball in Wednesday night's game against Monmouth. The senior is off to a good start this season, scoring 48 points and grabbing 40 rebounds in the team's first nine games.

## Forward thriving in final year

By Audrey Snyder  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

While walking along the streets of Seville, Spain, Meredith Monroe had plenty of time to reflect. But even though the town was quiet and the shops were closed, Monroe didn't have time to take a siesta. So what if it was the hottest part of the day and the nearest gym

was a mile away, the Lady Lions' 6-foot-1 forward knew she still had shots to take and conditioning exercises to complete. Her team was coming off its worst season under coach Coquese Washington, and an 11-18 mark didn't sit well with one of the newly elected captains. It was going to take a lot more than soccer balls flying at her from athletes sharing the facility's one gym to keep her off the court. Monroe was more than 3,000 miles away from her teammates while

doing a summer study abroad and, despite coming off of her best collegiate season, she felt she still had more to give. That same work ethic and consistency that Monroe provides coming off the bench gives the Lions an increased sense of confidence. "She's been through the fires," Washington said. "And she just has this level of confidence about herself and about her game that allows her to come in and give us

See MONROE, Page 14.

## Greene improves in latest win

By Alex Angert  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Six-foot-four freshman Nikki Greene is taking baby steps. While coach Coquese Washington knows her young center is raw, she also knows the potential is there for Greene to be a dominant post player. After falling into early foul trouble often this season, the freshman took a step in the right direction with her play during Wednesday's victory against Monmouth. "Coming into the game I told her, 'Nikki, just make it to the first timeout, the media timeout, without a foul. If we can do that, that's progress,'" Washington said. Greene answered her coach's challenge making it to the first timeout without committing a single foul. Although she picked up four fouls by the end of the game, she only committed one during the first half of play allowing her to stay in the game.

"I just think she's getting smarter," Washington said. "She's getting smarter with how to play without reaching in and getting some fouls — the unnecessary fouls." Greene's ability to stay in the game allowed her to focus on her play rather than whether or not she would foul out. It translated to the box score as she recorded her first double-double with 12 points and 14 rebounds on top of two blocks. While she only made four of her 13 shots, she exhibited a confidence to keep putting up attempts that her teammates hadn't seen in a game yet this season. "She had a great start. She stayed in the game. She did not foul out," said senior Tyra Grant as she slapped Greene on the knee during the post-game press conference and added how happy she is for her young teammate. "You can see what she can do when she's there, and I feel like now this is a big confidence boost for her to know that when I'm in the game, this is what I can do."

See GREENE, Page 15.

# PSU seeks major victory

By Stephen Hennessey  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Keeping an Allen off the glass will be the key to victory once again for Penn State.

In the team's loss to Temple, LaVoy Allen dominated the boards, collecting seven of Temple's 17 offensive rebounds.

Penn State will face another Allen — Virginia Tech's junior forward Jeff Allen — who collected six of his team's 27 offensive rebounds in its latest victory over VMI.

Coach Ed DeChellis voiced his disappointment with the rebounding effort after the Temple game. He hopes his players will respond with a determined effort on Saturday against the Hokies.

"[UMBC] was not a very big team. We will find out a lot about rebounding Saturday night," DeChellis said following the Lions' 58-42 win over UMBC. "I think Virginia Tech is averaging 17 offensive rebounds a game. I will give you a better read on that after we play somebody with guys up front with some size."

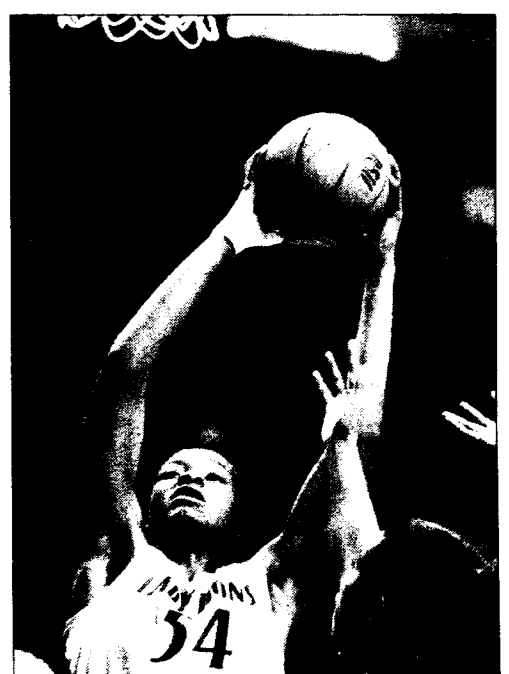
If Penn State wants to accomplish its preseason goal of making the NCAA tournament, this game is likely a must-win.

Virginia Tech travels to the Bryce Jordan Center on Saturday for a 7 p.m. clash, where the Lions are undefeated this season.

With nonconference losses to Davidson, UNC-Wilmington and Temple, a showdown with Virginia Tech is the final opportunity for the men's basketball team to add a quality win to its resume.

"We will have to do a lot of little things," junior forward Drew Jones said. "They have a lot of guys that can score. They have a kid, [Jeff] Allen, who has a big body and likes to attack the glass. We just got to defend and rebound. When we do that, we are a pretty good basketball team."

See SEEKS, Page 15.



Chloe Elmer/Collegian

Freshman center Nikki Greene tries for a layup Dec. 2 against Georgia Tech.