

THE LINEUP

SPORTS

NCAA Basketball
Purdue at Illinois
9 p.m., ESPN

NHL
Columbus at Philadelphia
7 p.m., CSN
N.Y. Islanders at Pittsburgh
7:30 p.m., FSP

ON THE WEB

To read full stories:
psucollegian.com

MEN'S SWIMMING

Penn State splits against Terps, Pitt

The Lions bounced back from Friday mistakes to split its two-day tri-meet in Pittsburgh this weekend.

W. SWIMMING

Sweep of weekend requires comeback

The Lions beat Maryland, Villanova and Pitt this weekend at the University of Pittsburgh Trees Pool.

MEN'S GYMNASTICS

PSU takes 4 events in West Point win

The Lions won four of six events in team competition this past weekend to win the West Point Open for the 12th-straight time.

FENCING

Fencers sluggish after winter break

Penn State failed to rank a fencer higher than ninth at the North American Cup.

QUICK HITS

PENN STATE

Quarterback Clark to play senior game

Daryll Clark will join teammates Andrew Quarless and Jeremy Boone for Saturday's East-West Shrine Game, at 3 p.m. Saturday in Orlando, Fla. The game will air on ESPN2. Romeo Crennel will coach the East team and Marty Schottenheimer will coach the West.

PENN STATE

Penn State fourth in Directors' Cup

After the completion of the fall sports season, Penn State ranks fourth in the 2009-10 Learfield Sports Directors' Cup standings.

Penn State finished the fall season with 318.50 points and its highest placement since 2005-06. The university also claimed its 10th top-5 fall finish in the Directors' Cup's 16-year history.

Penn State ranks behind Stanford, Virginia and UCLA in the 2009-10 Cup standings.

OUR THOUGHTS

NFL

After Sunday's loss, Phillips ought to go

Well, the Cowboys lost another postseason game. It came a week late, but now Wade Phillips needs to watch his back once more.

After all, who really believes Jerry Jones saying his mind is made up?

For more of our thoughts, and to share yours, visit the **MAKE PLAYS** blog at psucollegian.com.

TRIVIA

NFL

Q: When was the last time two teams who received a playoff bye met in the Super Bowl?

Friday's answer: Charles Woodson made his last Pro Bowl in 2008, his fifth of his career.

Safety has shoulder surgery

Returning starter Drew Astorino had surgery on his left shoulder Friday.

By Wayne Staats
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Safety Drew Astorino, a starter in the secondary this past season, had surgery on his left shoulder on Friday, as confirmed by sports information director Jeff Nelson.

"[He] is expected to be 100 per-

cent prior to the start of preseason practice," Nelson said in an e-mail on Monday. "The shoulder bothered him for most of the season."

Terri Astorino, Drew's mother, summed up the situation as one of going through rehab and following what the doctors say.

Astorino, who frequently brushed off concerns about the shoulder throughout the season, ranked fourth on the team



Astorino

with 62 tackles. He also posted one interception and recovered two fumbles while contributing on special teams by returning seven punts and averaging 7.9 yards per return.

Astorino will also be the team's leading returning tackler for next season.

After making three starts in 2008, the redshirt sophomore emerged as one of the leaders in Penn State's secondary and was selected to the honorable mention All-Big Ten team by the media.

In Astorino's first season as a regular starter, the defense sur-

rendered 184.6 pass yards a game, good for a No. 24 ranking in the nation.

With this past season's starting linebackers — Navarro Bowman, Josh Hull and Sean Lee — all gone along with players like Jared Odrick and cornerback A.J. Wallace, Astorino is now one of the more veteran players on the defense.

"It's wonderful to see his hard work come to fruition," Astorino's mother said about her son and his career.

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Senior guard Tyra Grant (1) goes to shoot over Michigan State center Allyssa DeHaan in Sunday's game at the Bryce Jordan Center. The Lady Lions' balanced offense led to a 68-60 win against the No. 20 Spartans.

Greene, Lions stymie center

By Alex Angert
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Six-foot-four Nikki Greene is used to towering over the opposing players. That wasn't the case Sunday against Michigan State.

For this game, it was Greene being looked down upon.

Going up against 6-foot-9 Allyssa DeHaan and the No. 20 Spartans, Greene and the entire Lady Lions team rose to the occasion and shut down one of the tallest players in women's basketball.

"It doesn't matter how well or how poorly she's played. When she is on the floor, you notice her," Penn State coach Coquese Washington said. "She's a presence. We didn't shy away from the challenge of guarding her."

However, DeHaan isn't just tall. On top of her height, the Spartan center is also one of the most gifted and accomplished players in the Big Ten and all of college basketball.

See **DEHAAN**, Page 17.

Check out how close Penn State is to ranking on the latest AP poll at the Washington's Post blog: psucollegian.com

PSU finds balance in win

By Audrey Snyder
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Tyra Grant was doing more than what was asked of her.

The Lady Lions' leading scorer is used to carrying the team, but for the first eight minutes of Sunday's game, Grant was the entire offense.

Like she's done so many times throughout her collegiate career, she knocked down a couple 3-pointers, took some hard drives to the hoop and made her way to the free-throw line, en route to scoring her team's first nine points.

While it took her teammates a while to settle down and get into the flow of the game, once they did, it took a huge burden off of Grant's shoulders. Michigan State (11-7, 2-5 Big Ten) focused on slowing

down the senior, while the other Lady Lions took advantage of the Spartans' defense by stepping up and solidifying the offense.

It's the balanced offensive attack that's helped the Lions (13-4, 5-2) win eight of their last 10 games.

"That's the great thing about having a great player like Ty," Penn State coach Coquese Washington said. "When we need her to step up and carry the team she can do that. ... But eventually her teammates figure it out and they are able to help her out."

For a player like Grant, who has led her team in scoring every year since she was a freshman, drawing double teams from opponents allows her teammates to thrive.

While Grant finished the game with 23 points — her 10th 20-point performance of the season —

freshmen Alex Bentley and Nikki Greene had 14 and 12 points, respectively. The Spartans had to switch from man coverage to a 2-3 zone to try to slow down the Lions, but each time the defense changed, Penn State proved it had plenty of players that could step up and score.

"It's a big relief for me," Grant said of having teammates who are willing to help balance the offense. "I don't know when teams are going to realize that they can't just focus in on me. We have Alex See **OFFENSE**, Page 16.

The Washington's Post blog discusses freshman Alex Bentley's winning of a weekly Big Ten award: psucollegian.com

Saltsman fourth wrestler to leave team

By Ryan Loy
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Tyler Saltsman is the latest in a recent string of Penn State wrestlers to leave the team.

The 133-pounder notified the coaches of his decision Jan. 14, coach Cael Sanderson said.

The departure is the team's fourth in three weeks, as the No. 13 Nittany Lions (8-3-1) approach the beginning of the Big Ten season.

Saltsman said he was unhappy because he wasn't given a chance to compete at the 133-pound weight class in recent dual meets.

But to Sanderson, decisions on which wrestlers will get the

starting nod aren't difficult.

"Wrestling is a pretty straightforward game," Sanderson said. "The guy that does the best usually has a spot. It's real simple."

That guy at 133-pounds has been redshirt freshman Bryan Pearsall. Saltsman losing to Pearsall in the Nov. 5 Intrasquad Dual, Pearsall has been the primary starter at 133 since the Nov. 15 dual meet with Bloomsburg.

The two 133-pounders were to wrestle off this weekend, but Saltsman said the coaches informed him the winner wasn't

guaranteed to start in the Lions' Big Ten opener Friday against Illinois.

It was soon after he informed the coaches of his decision to leave.

Saltsman said the coaches told him he'd get an opportunity to compete at the Jan. 8-9 Virginia Duals, but instead watched as Pearsall compiled an 0-4 record while competing in each bout.

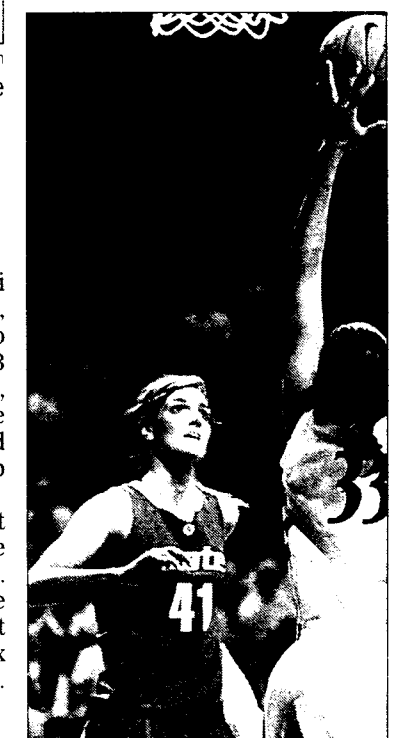
Sophomore Clay Steadman said he could tell Saltsman was unhappy in recent weeks.

"He was definitely disappointed," Steadman said.

"He was getting progressively more and more disappointed at practice and especially at the Virginia Duals."



Saltsman



Michigan State center Allyssa DeHaan (41) watches as Penn State's Meredith Monroe attempts a lay-up in Sunday's game.

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