

Inconsistency plagues Lions

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

All season, Penn State men's basketball coach Ed DeChellis has pointed out his players' inability to follow up one good performance with another.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Two games ago, the Nittany Lions had out-rebounded each of their Big Ten opponents this season. In Wednesday's loss to Illinois, they lost the battle on the boards, 35-27.

In that game, sophomore guard Chris Babb set a career-high with 18 points. But in Sunday's loss to Purdue, he was held scoreless.

During Monday's press conference, DeChellis said the only thing his team has consistently done well

this season is play inconsistently.

"We've had a couple of good games and a couple of bad games," DeChellis said about his players' individual performances. "We can't seem to put everybody together on a certain night."

Junior guard Talor Battle, the Lions' leading scorer, agreed with DeChellis, pointing out the seventh-year coach began stressing that lack of stability during the first day of practice.

With the Lions sitting at 8-13, Battle said steadiness may be a product of winning — something the Lions have not done yet in nine conference games. Without a conference win, he said, it is difficult to establish a rhythm.

"That's what we've lacked all season long," Battle said. "Some

Ohio-native Edwards excited for homecoming

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

In Middletown, Ohio, many high school basketball players dream of continuing their playing careers at Ohio State.

Bill Edwards was an exception. The freshman forward has quickly established himself as one of the Penn State men's basketball team's most versatile players. With a road trip to Columbus, Ohio, looming Wednesday, Edwards is excited to go home and send a message to his friends

at Ohio State.

"My cousin, she goes to Ohio State and I'm friends with one of their football guys, DeVier Posey," Edwards said. "We kind of trash-talked during the football season about the football team and stuff like that. But pretty much all of my family wants me to take Ohio State out."

Edwards

See EDWARDS, Page 10.

NCAA Basketball
Mississippi at Kentucky
7 p.m., ESPN
Michigan at Northwestern
7 p.m., BTN
Michigan State at Wisconsin
9 p.m., ESPN

NHL
Minnesota at Dallas
8 p.m., Versus

To read full stories:
psucollegian.com

W. GYMNASTICS

Changes in lineup spark Nittany Lions

With the team's lineup in flux, gymnasts are stepping it up to claim their spot.

CLUB SPORTS

Club sports teams have busy weekend

While the powerlifting and rifle club teams succeeded, the club swimming team fell just short against UConn.

NFL

Chicago signs Martz as offensive coach

Mike Martz, the headstrong coach who orchestrated the "Greatest Show on Turf" while molding Kurt Warner into a Pro Bowl quarterback with the St. Louis Rams, is the Chicago Bears' new offensive coordinator.

Martz's hiring on Monday ended a nearly monthlong search to replace the fired Ron Turner. His job is to turn around a struggling offense and get the most out of Jay Cutler after the quarterback and team failed to meet high expectations this season.

NFL

Pro Bowl TV ratings highest since 2000

The Pro Bowl's new, earlier date resulted in more viewers tuning in to the NFL's all-star game.

Sunday's AFC-NFC matchup on ESPN was watched by an average of 12.3 million viewers, the most since 2000. That's up 40 percent from last year's Pro Bowl on NBC, which drew 8.8 million viewers when the event was held after the Super Bowl.

This season's game was in a later time slot, when more people watch TV. But it also had to compete against the Grammys on CBS, which attracted 25.8 million viewers, the most since 2004.

PGA

Personality quirks only good for golf

So now Scott McCarron is saying he never called Phil Mickelson a cheater.

Well that's just great. Now how are we supposed to follow the PGA Tour this season?

With Tiger Woods out until who-knows-when, the audience needs something more than boring, say-nothing golfers to tune in every week.

For more of our thoughts, and to share yours, visit the [MAKEPLAYS](http://MAKEPLAYS.blogspot.com) blog at psucollegian.com.

NFL

Q: Who holds the record for most Super Bowl wins as a head coach?

Monday's answer: Randall McDaniel (1990-2001) and Will Shields (1996-2007) share the record for Pro Bowls played with 12 apiece.

Reserve senior a leader off court

By Alex Angert
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Freshman Alex Bentley is used to looking down at her cell phone and seeing a text message from senior Nicole Arcidiacono.

Sometimes the message tells Bentley where she needs to be, what time to show up or what to wear.

No matter the reason, Bentley knows a text message reminder will be sent.

"She's always telling us what we need to be doing and always sending us text messages reminding us about every little thing there is to know," Bentley said. "She's almost like the Team Mom."

Arcidiacono doesn't score 20 points a night, let alone 10 or even four.

She's not going to pull down five rebounds a game or finish with more than two assists.

And odds are she's probably not going to play more than three minutes in a game — if she even plays at all.

"Her role on this team can never be measured by stats," coach Coquese Washington said. "It's what she does for us off the court. It's the leadership role she provides us and the direction she gives us."

It's been an interesting two-and-a-half years for Arcidiacono

See CAPTAIN, Page 10.

With a pair of losses, Penn State fell out of the top-25 rankings after claiming the No. 23 spot last week:
psucollegian.com



Steph Witt/Collegian

Senior captain Nicole Arcidiacono yells from the bench during the Lady Lions' game Jan. 28 at the Bryce Jordan Center. Though she doesn't see many minutes, Arcidiacono has a pivotal leadership role on the team.

Big Ten title still in reach despite struggles

By Bill Landis

ONLY in the Big Ten. Only in the Big Ten can a team, Purdue, knock off the top two teams in the conference and follow that up with a 20-point loss to the eighth-place team in the conference.

Only in the Big Ten can the top team in the conference, Ohio



MY OPINION

State, beat seventh-place Indiana by 17 points and then lose to that same Hoosiers team by five points just 14 days later.

All this could serve as evidence of how tough women's basketball in the Big Ten is. And it is tough. It's college basketball.

But this could also serve as evidence that maybe the Big Ten isn't as good as many of its participants thought it would be. Or rather, the top teams aren't as good as everybody thought they would be and some of the other teams are a bit better.

In the preseason coaches poll, Ohio State was picked to finish in the top of the conference. No big surprise there. But picked to follow the Buckeyes, in order were Michigan State, Minnesota, Purdue, Iowa, Illinois, Penn State, Northwestern, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan.

As of Jan. 31, the Buckeyes are first, Penn State is second, Wisconsin is third, Michigan State is fifth and Michigan is sixth.

Not even close, coaches. Yes, there is still a lot of basketball left to be played — seven

games for most teams — but that is all the more reason for the Lady Lions not to let their recent two-game skid get them off track toward obtaining their goal of winning the Big Ten.

Penn State coach Coquese Washington said in the beginning of the year that one of the goals

See COLUMN, Page 10.

The Lady Lions look to regroup from their last two conference losses:
psucollegian.com



Peter Tesonero/Collegian

Senior outside hitter Will Price aims a kill against Juniata Jan. 26 at Rec Hall. The Lions are 3-2 against teams outside the EIVA this season.

Lions ready for Feb. following recent loss

By Eddie Gentile
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Less than a week ago, the No. 5 Penn State men's volleyball team dominated Juniata College in a rematch of the previous year's EIVA conference championship, and at least for one night, the Nittany Lions looked as if they had hit mid-season form.

But with a glance at his watch, Penn State coach Mark Pavlik believed otherwise.

"We aren't there yet," Pavlik said last Tuesday after the win.

Rightly so, this past weekend, in the final match of January, Penn State was upset by Loyola-Chicago, 3-2.

The Lions (6-2, 3-0 EIVA) now enter February playing January volleyball.

That is, "January volleyball" — a term coined by Pavlik to one night, the Nittany Lions looked as if they had hit mid-season form.

See V. BALL, Page 10.

Keep up with the latest men's volleyball news with the Collegian's Twitter feed:
twitter.com/CollegianMenVB

TWITTER