

LINEUP

NCAA Basketball
Villanova at West Virginia, 7 p.m., ESPN
Kansas at Texas, 9 p.m., ESPN

NBA
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m., TNT

ON THE BENCH

Exhibition matchup helps Lions prepare

The Penn State men's lacrosse team used a scrimmage against Hobart to help shake off rust from the off-season.

Big Ten play begins with loss for Lions

Following a strong start to the season, the Penn State women's tennis team lost its conference opener this past weekend.

THREE-POINT LINE

Three-point stance could be outlawed

MIAMI — A ban on the three-point stance? NFL commissioner Roger Goodell says it's possible. Concerned about concussions, Goodell said the league will keep looking for ways to make the game safer. Speaking on CBS's "Face the Nation" hours before the Super Bowl, he didn't rule out the idea of banning the three-point stance for linemen to reduce the ferocity of collisions at the line of scrimmage.

"As you'll see tonight, you'll see a lot of players that never get down in a three-point stance," Goodell said Sunday. "So it's possible that would happen." While science is still trying to determine the long-term effects of concussions, Goodell said, the league has made progress in increasing awareness about the severity of such injuries. "For many years the culture had been quite different — that concussions weren't serious injuries," he said.

OUR THOUGHTS

New Orleans' SB win caps special season

There's a party in N'awlins. And Mardi Gras isn't for another week. The Saints' Super Bowl victory against the Colts completed the ultimate rebuilding project for a post-Hurricane Katrina city. Some of us are disappointed Peyton Manning's place in history will take a hit following a fourth-quarter, game-losing interception. But there's no denying the Saints as best in show for 2009. Big Ten-grad Drew Brees out-dueled Manning in South Beach and Sean Payton proved to be the better rookie Super Bowl coach — as much as it pains the local folks pulling for former Penn State assistant and current Colts coach Jim Caldwell. For once, Disney can wait. Bourbon Street is the place to be. For more of our thoughts, and to share yours, visit the MAKE PLAYS blog at psucollegian.com.

TRIVIA

Q: Who was the last Big Ten grad to win Super Bowl MVP?
Friday's answer: The last defensive player to win Super Bowl MVP was Dexter Jackson in 2003.

Buzzer-beater sinks Lions

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It was almost too painful for Ed DeChellis to watch. With his view of Lawrence Westbrook's release, the Penn State men's basketball coach knew the Minnesota guard's shot was going in.

Talor Battle also knew it was going in — but for a different reason.

Having stormed back from a late six-point deficit to tie the game in the final seconds, Battle said given the Lions' struggles this year it was almost too fitting that Lawrence Westbrook's step-back jumper hit the bottom of the net as the buzzer sounded, giving Minnesota a 66-64 win.

"Right when the ball went up, I just looked at the rim, and, I kid you not, when it left his hands I just saw it going in," the junior guard said. "It just dropped, and in my head I just felt deflated, and that's not a good feeling. That's been the way luck has treated us."

All season long, the Lions (8-15) have struggled to make the big play late in the game to snap their winless streak to start conference play — which now sits at 11.

In a frantic final sequence, it looked like the Lions finally made that play. On a scramble for a loose ball, junior forward Jeff Brooks fed Battle under the rim for a layup to tie the game with nine seconds left.

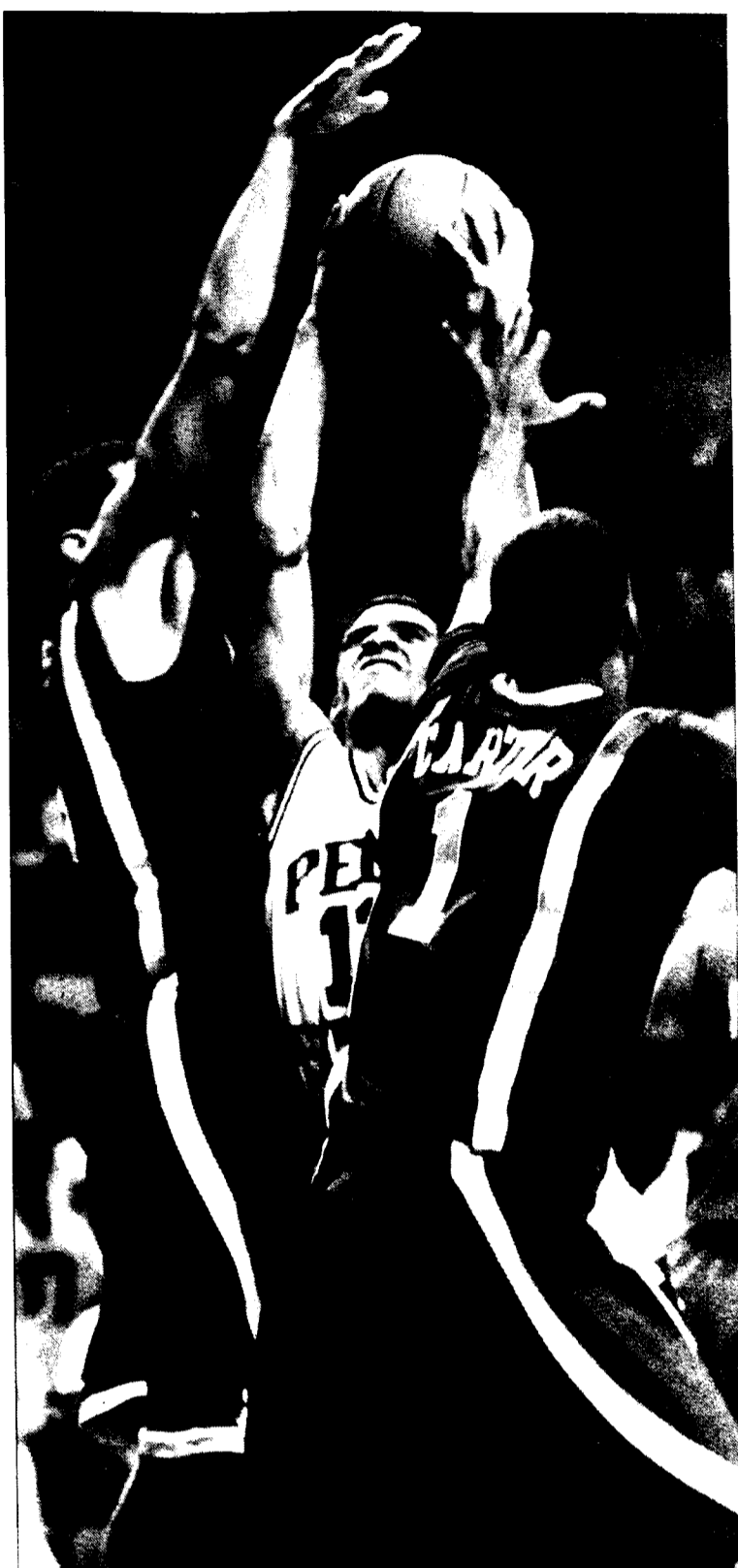
With the crowd on its feet, and DeChellis on the court screaming for his players to get back, the Gophers negated that play almost as quickly as it happened.

"It never even really sank in before they turned around and hit a shot," Battle said. "The positive is that we did make some plays, but still it just wasn't enough."

Westbrook, who went 0-for-5 from 3-point range, was heavily guarded for the entire possession but still refused to give up the ball.

He drove to his left, and, when he couldn't get by Lion defender Chris Babb, took a step back. With his foot

See **WESTBROOK**, Page 12.



Penn State guard Talor Battle (12) goes up for a shot against two Minnesota defenders. PSU lost its 11th-straight game Saturday.

Losing brings team closer

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Eleven-straight times it has left the floor after losing a Big Ten game, and with every loss there was a chance for the Penn State men's basketball team to splinter.

There was a chance for the remainder of season to go to waste.

But if anything, the Nittany Lions say they have come closer together while fighting for their first conference win.

"We talked about sticking together," Penn State coach Ed DeChellis said after Saturday's 66-64 loss to Minnesota. "We're going through a very difficult time, but that's who we have. We have each other and we've got to continue to battle."

Losing on a buzzer-beating jump shot, DeChellis said he had a lot to tell his team after the game. The coach talked about toughness, sticking together and building character through the losses.

Despite their record, the players have stood behind their coach, with forward D.J. Jackson calling the team a "family." Guard Talor Battle has supported DeChellis all year and said he just wants to get

See **LOSING**, Page 12.



See how the Collegian's men's basketball reporters graded the team after its last-second loss: psucollegian.com

Hot 3-point shooting sparks Bucks' rally

Ohio State blows past Penn State with a Big Ten-record 17 3-pointers.

By Alex Angert
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Chants of "airball" coming from the band and student section echoed throughout the Bryce Jordan Center.

After Ohio State's Sarah Schulze misfired from 3-point range with just more than six minutes remaining and the Lady Lions up by one, the Penn State fans let her hear it.

They were shut up really quick.

On the Buckeyes' next possession, senior Maria Moeller answered back, draining a 3-pointer to put No. 8 Ohio State ahead for the first time since the opening minutes of the game.

Moeller's 3-pointer was just one

of 17 for the Buckeyes, who used their sharp shooting to run away with a 86-73 victory to give Penn State its fourth-straight loss.

"That is just a ridiculous number," coach Coquese Washington said after the game. "They had a great shooting night. Coming into the game, their best 3-point shooter was Brittany Johnson, and she is shooting at 49 percent. She is really good, but as a team they aren't usually shooting close to 70 percent."

While the Lions were busy double-covering Ohio State's star center Jantel Lavender in the paint, the rest of the Buckeyes were able to get wide open as Penn State was unable to rotate to the ball quick enough.

Ohio State finished the game shooting 17-for-26 from 3-point distance, a Big Ten record for 3-point field goals made.

Johnson had four 3-pointers, Samantha Prahalis added five and Taylor Hill and Moeller each contributed three.

Yet despite the record amount of 3s, Penn State was in the driver's seat for most of the game.

"We were still in position, even with their hot shooting, to win the



Tyra Grant (1) fends off two Ohio State players during Sunday afternoon's 86-73 loss at the Bryce Jordan Center. Grant led the Lions with 22 points.

game," Washington said. "We just ran out of gas."

Washington's team forced 18 turnovers in the first half alone and outscored the Buckeyes 21-3 on points off turnovers to go into the half leading by 11.

Alex Bentley shot 8-for-8 from the floor for 16 points during the

See **SHOOTING**, Page 12.

Jantel Lavender's size caused matchup problems for the Lady Lions. | **SPORTS**, Page 12.

Streak ends in four-set win over Pride



Ian Hendries (12) attacks the ball during the match against Springfield in the South Gym at Rec Hall on Saturday. The Lions won the match 3-1.

By Emily Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It was a streak nobody talked about, nobody cared about and some people didn't even know about.

So when the Penn State men's volleyball team dropped a set to Springfield College Saturday night — snapping the Nittany Lions' stretch of 23 wins over EIVA opponents without losing a set — it didn't seem like anyone was going to miss the Lions' record-setting streak.

Coach Mark Pavlik merely shrugged after his team finished off the Pride 3-1 (30-14, 27-30, 30-25, 30-24) at Rec Hall's South Gym.

"It's over," he said, adding nothing else about his team's broken streak, which dated back to a win over Princeton on March 8, 2008. Pavlik said he was more concerned about his team's dismissal effort in the second set than the chance to extend an impressive record.

After dominating Springfield in the first set — the Lions out-hit the Pride .548 to .033 — Pavlik subbed in three non-starters to begin the second.

The Lions struggled mightily. See **WIN**, Page 12.

The South Gym's dimensions gave the Lions fits | **SPORTS**, Page 12.