

SPORTS

8 | TUESDAY, FEB. 9, 2010

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

LINEUP

NBA
Minnesota at Philadelphia
7 p.m., CSN

NCAA Basketball
Tennessee at Vanderbilt
7 p.m., ESPN
Illinois at Wisconsin
7 p.m., BTN
Purdue at Michigan State
9 p.m., ESPN

NHL
Detroit at St. Louis
8 p.m., Versus

QUICK HITS (AP)

Cleveland releases troubled Stallworth

Donte Stallworth will get the chance to resurrect his NFL career, but it won't happen in Cleveland.

The Browns released the troubled wide receiver on Monday, wasting little time after NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said Friday that Stallworth would be reinstated following the Super Bowl.

Stallworth was suspended for the 2009 season by Goodell after he pleaded guilty to killing a pedestrian while driving drunk in Florida. He spent 24 days in jail.

Stallworth, 29, spent one season with the Browns, catching 17 passes for 170 yards and one touchdown in 2008 while battling injuries. A college star at Tennessee, he has also played with New England, Philadelphia and New Orleans since the Saints drafted him in the first round in 2002.

Gainey steps down as Canadiens GM

The president of the Montreal Canadiens says Bob Gainey is stepping aside as general manager and being replaced by Pierre Gauthier.

Team president Pierre Boivin says Monday that Gainey will remain with the team as a special counsel to Gauthier.

Gauthier was the assistant general manager under Gainey. Gainey starred for the Canadiens from 1973-89, and the Hall of Famer rejoined the team as GM after the 2002-2003 season. Montreal made the playoffs four out of five seasons during Gainey's tenure.

OUR THOUGHTS

Latest Bryant injury comes at bad time

The Lakers haven't felt the effects of an injured Kobe Bryant yet, but they will.

Sure, the reigning champs won their first Kobe-less game in 235 games by breezing past Portland on Saturday. But being without its all-time leading scorer at 100 percent will eventually lead to L.A.'s struggling down the road.

A debilitating injury was bound to happen to Kobe eventually. His next game will be his 1,000th, and yet it's hard to remember a time in which he's been out because of an injury.

It's too bad for the Lakers that Kobe's time is up right when center Andrew Bynum is hurting as well.

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

TRIVIA

Q: How many people tuned into Super Bowl XLIV on Sunday?

Monday's answer: Pittsburgh's **Santonio Holmes**, who played in college at Ohio State, was the last Big Ten grad to be named Super Bowl MVP, doing so in last year's game.

Edwards returns to practice

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Freshman swingman Bill Edwards returned to practice Monday after injuring his ankle in last week's game against Ohio State.

Edwards missed Saturday's home loss to Minnesota, but he will likely be available for the Nittany Lions' next game against

Michigan State this Saturday. "He should be OK this weekend unless he re-injures his ankle," coach Ed DeChellis said. "He couldn't jump or shoot on Saturday. If you can't jump and you can't cut it's really hard to play this game."

The injury to Edwards' right

ankle occurred in the first half of last Wednesday's game after he landed awkwardly on his foot while trying to stop Ohio State swingman Evan Turner on a fast break.

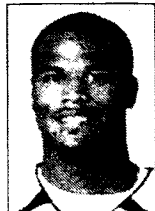
DeChellis said he conferred with Edwards in Saturday morning's shootaround before making the decision to sit him for that afternoon's game. The Lions (8-15, 0-11 Big Ten) lost the game, 66-64, on a buzzer beater by Minnesota guard Lawrence Westbrook.

"It was a little frustrating not

being able to help your teammates," Edwards said. "I just tried to help by cheering and giving support from the bench. I always want to do what I can to help."

Edwards, who missed the team's first four games this year with a partially torn medial collateral ligament (MCL), is averaging 5.4 points and 4.2 rebounds per contest in 18 games this season. In the Lions' loss to Purdue on Jan. 31 — their last game before

See EDWARDS, Page 10.



Edwards

DOUBLE DUTY



Chris Donadio/Collegian

Penn State freshman Nick McLain (left) practices a dive Thursday at McCoy Natatorium as his teammate, sophomore Alex Marchinski, looks on. McLain and Marchinski are the Nittany Lions' only two divers, a challenge the pair said it embraces. Most teams carry four or five divers.

Duo embraces short roster

By Mike Still
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It's almost always a frigid Wednesday morning in State College when Penn State's men's divers Alex Marchinski and Nick McLain leave the White Building at 7:30 a.m. after an hour-long workout on the gymnastics equipment.

It's almost always just the beginning of a long day for the two, with classes and two more training sessions awaiting them later in the day.

It's almost always just the two of

them walking from the White Building to the McCoy Natatorium to start another workout in the pool.

And it's almost always the case that the two are the two highest-scoring Penn State divers.

Actually, it is always — because McLain and Marchinski are Penn State's only two men's divers.

Most NCAA men's diving teams typically try to carry about four or five divers, making Penn State's roster one of the slimmer ones around the country.

Despite working as an unusual two-man team, the freshman-sophomore combination say the challenge of facing teams with more depth is something to

embrace and has provided them with valuable experiences beyond diving.

"I don't see it as a disadvantage," said McLain, the veteran of the two.

"We both have a clear focus together, can work off of each other, and have something to strive for."

Along with the number of divers on the team, the format also varies, which can sometimes be troublesome for the Lions. Sometimes only the top-three dives for each team will be counted. In other meets, teams will match Penn State's two scores dive for dive. In

See DIVERS, Page 10.

Pataky sets tone for team

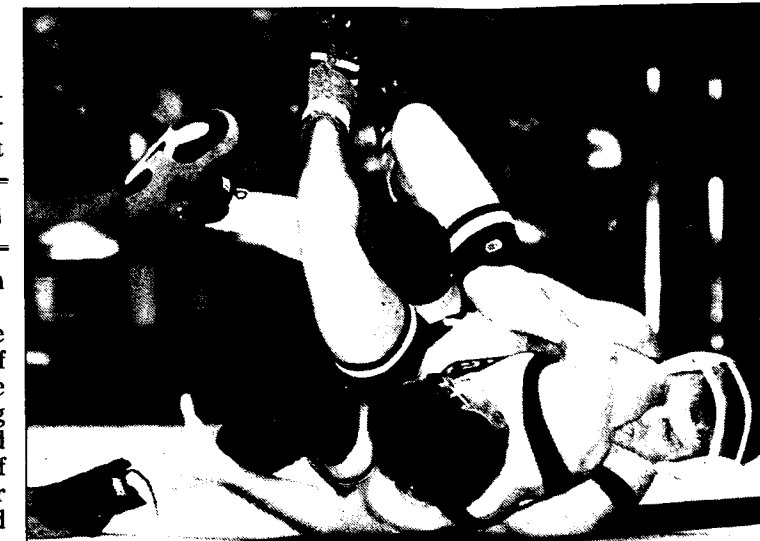
By Brendan Monahan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A cluster of 10 wrestlers, donning their blue warmups and waiting for the announcer to shout out each of their names, stood at the far right corner of the mat before Sunday's meet with Michigan.

Nine of the 10 formed a huddle around the smallest grappler of the bunch and anticipated the sound of his name emanating across the gym. The 125-pound wrestler, Brad Pataky, stared off into space, shook his legs one after the other to loosen them and swerved his neck from side to side.

He prepared himself for the match the way he always does — with an intensity that can decide a Nittany Lion win or, conversely, put Penn State in an early hole.

Teammate Cyler Sanderson, appearing to rev up Pataky even



Peter Tesoriero/Collegian

Brad Pataky (back) wrestles a Michigan opponent Sunday at Rec Hall.

more, patted the 125-pounder's chest. But Sanderson actually intended to do just the opposite.

"I'm actually trying to get him to relax," Sanderson said.

"I'm glad that he starts us off because he usually starts us off with a bang."

That bang was waiting to be

See PATAKY, Page 10.

Team defense lacking in skid

By Audrey Snyder
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

While shifting the focus of her eyes up and down the paper that sat on the table in front of her, Coquese

Washington just shook her head.

The third-year **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** coach took a long, hard look at the stat sheet, and it further proved something she already knew: The numbers weren't pretty.

During Sunday's game against No. 7 Ohio State, Penn State was out-rebounded, gave up a season-high 86 points and wound up losing for the fourth-consecutive game.

"We have to get back to having a defensive focus and mindset," Washington said after her team blew a 15-point lead to the Buckeyes. "The past four games we have scored enough points to win the game. We just need to fight on defense. We need to dig down and find the grit and determination to defend better."

After Penn State's (15-8, 7-6 Big Ten) defense held opponents to an average of 61 points per game during the first nine weeks of the season, it has surrendered 80 or more points twice during the last four games. Those defensive struggles have left the Lady Lions four games behind the conference-leading Buckeyes.

The Lions consistently use a 2-3 zone, and while it worked earlier in the season, the communication and execution haven't been there during their four-game losing streak.

Sunday, Penn State's zone couldn't shift fast enough to even get a hand in the face of a sharp-shooting Ohio State team. The Buckeyes reeled off 3-pointer after 3-pointer and the Lions were so out of position that they pulled down only 16 defensive rebounds.

While Penn State forced 18 turnovers during the first half, as it's done time and time again, it couldn't turn in a consistent second half. The Lions forced only seven turnovers during the final 20 minutes.

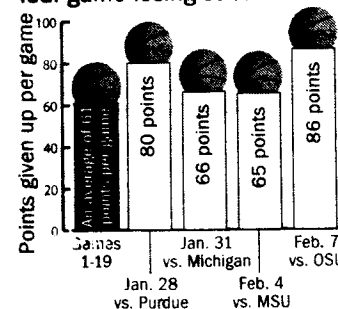
"I think we were all kind of pressing a little bit, and we just needed to slow down," Buckeyes guard Samantha Prahalis said of her team's first-half performance. "There was no reason for all of that because they were playing the zone, so there's no need for all those turnovers and trying to thread the needle. We just had to move it around."

See DEFENSE, Page 10.

The Lady Lions went to the foul line just 11 times in their loss Sunday. | **SPORTS**, Page 11.

Defenseless

The Lady Lions held teams to 61 points on average in their first 19 games but are now allowing 73 points during a four-game losing streak.



Ashley Rickard/Collegian