

LINEUP

NHL

Montreal at Philadelphia
7 p.m., CSN
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh
7:30 p.m., FSP

ON THE WEB

To read full stories:
psucollegian.com

GYMNASTICS

Penn State hits road following homestand

The No. 15 Lions travel to face Pitt on Saturday.

WRESTLING

Freshman Chelberg using unique build

Five-foot-10 Matt Chelberg is contributing this season.

LACROSSE

Penn State readies for unorthodox team

An upcoming scrimmage against the Iroquois National Team means the Lions must get ready for an uncommon style of play.

LACROSSE

Nittany Lions hungry for 2010 opponents

This year's women's lacrosse team is looking to improve on a successful 2009 season.

LACROSSE

Nittany Lions add six new prospects

The Lions received national letters of intent from long-recruited prospects at different positions.

WRESTLING

Unbeaten Bouchier ready for next test

The No. 56 men's tennis team readies for this weekend's matches with Buffalo, St. Bonaventure and Bucknell.

SWIMMING

PSU lightens load as title meet nears

There's less than a week before the conference meet on Feb. 17, and the Lions are getting plenty of rest.

ICE LIONS

Snow storm hurts playoff scenarios

The Ice Lions are fighting for their playoff lives during a weekend series at Kentucky this weekend.

OUR THOUGHTS

NBA

All-Star Game saved with Iverson absent

The 76ers' Allen Iverson is skipping Sunday's All-Star Game because his children are ill. We certainly hope they get better.

But the game will feel more like a true All-Star match-up with A.I., who was only in thanks to fan voting, off the roster.

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

TRIVIA

OLYMPICS

Q: When was the last time Canada hosted an Olympics?

Thursday's answer: Ohio State's Evan Turner and Illinois' Demetri McCamey both went to St. Joseph High School in Chicago.

Losing skid hits 5 games

By Audrey Snyder
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER



Kelley King, Collegian

Penn State freshman guard Alex Bentley (20) tries to shoot over Minnesota's Kiara Buford in Thursday's game at the Bryce Jordan Center. The Lady Lions lost 59-52, extending their losing streak to five games. Minnesota snapped its six-game losing skid with the victory.

Alex Bentley drove through the lane and took the Minnesota defender one-on-one. The freshman had a clean look at the basket, but the layup just wouldn't fall.

The guard let out a shout of frustration after the play, but she wasn't the only one feeling the pain of missing out on a chance to put her team up by one point with 47 seconds left in the game.

The Lady Lions had their fair share of opportunities, but they couldn't find a way to convert and lost to the visiting Golden Gophers, 59-52. The loss extended Penn State's losing streak to five games, and for the second consecutive game, the Lions couldn't pull out the win down the stretch.

Minnesota (12-12, 5-8 Big Ten) outscored the Lions (15-9, 7-7) 17-2 during the final five minutes of the game, and Penn State's inability to hold on to its eight-point lead left coach Coquese Washington very frustrated.

"We weren't frustrated with our execution, especially on the offensive side of the ball," Washington said. "We didn't get the rebounds that we wanted to down the stretch, but just too many missed opportunities."

No players were made available for comment following the game.

While the Lions were unable to snap their losing streak, the Gophers, who entered the game losing all six of their previous contests, managed to put together a defensive performance that was good enough to limit the Lions' top scorer, Tyra Grant.

Grant didn't hit her first shot of the game until the 9:52 mark in the second half, and while she reeled off 11 points in a two-minute span, she and her team lacked consistency.

Gophers coach Pam Borton said senior guard Brittany McCoy was the main reason Grant was kept in check. McCoy and the Gophers consistently shifted their defense so they were able to get back in transition and limit Grant's production.

As for Penn State's defense, Washington said she felt it got a little bit better than it was when her team lost to Ohio State on Sunday, but she was quick to

See **LOSS**, Page 10.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

59
Minnesota

52
Penn State

Bench players step up in loss

By Bill Landis
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Just about four minutes into the second half of the Lady Lions' game against Minnesota Thursday, the scoreboard at the Bryce Jordan Center had an unfamiliar look to it.

While the players' numbers on the Penn State side were certainly familiar, the digits two spots to the right of those numbers didn't add up.

Or rather they did add up, but only to six.

The spot on the scoreboard reserved for the players' points displayed the Lions' starters had

accumulated just six total points with 16:15 left to play.

It was the Lions' bench that carried the bulk of the scoring for the majority of the game. Penn State got a 25-point output from its reserves, but that wasn't enough, as the Lions fell to Minnesota 59-52.

The production from the bench was the lone bright spot in a game that left coach Coquese Washington otherwise disappointed.

"I thought they gave us great energy, and that was nice to see," Washington said. "They came off the bench and gave us something that we haven't had in a while."

Penn State's starters combined for just two made field goals in the first half while the rest of the team went 6-for-10 from the field. A major spark in the first half was sophomore guard Zhaque Gray.

Gray went 3-for-4 in the first half and finished the game as the Lions' second scorer with 10 points.

Washington said the sophomore displayed more discipline than she has in the past by not opting for the long jump shot and instead utiliz-

ing her mid-range jumper.

With the starters' struggles carrying over into the second half, Washington made the decision to take all five players off the floor. The coach said she was looking to find any combination of players that could start to put some points on the board.

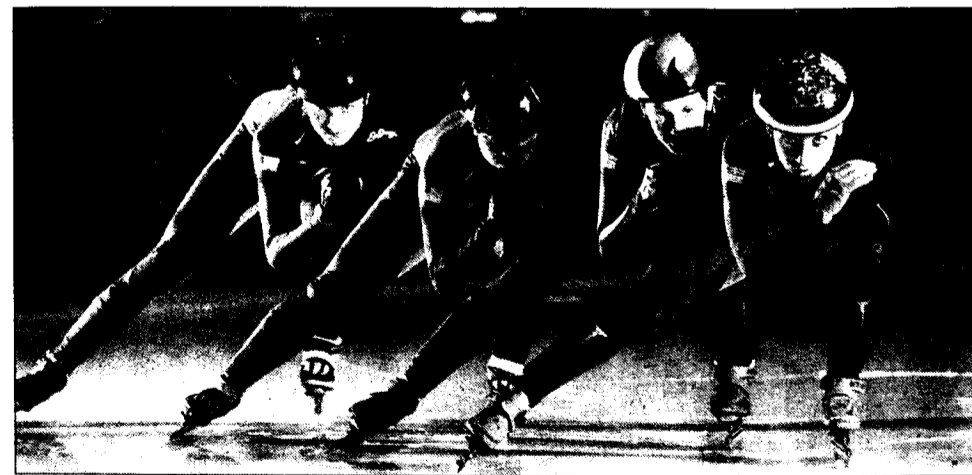
"I wasn't trying to send a message," Washington said.

See **BENCH**, Page 10.



Gray

Washington's Post grades the Lady Lions' performance in Thursday's loss to the Golden Gophers:
psucollegian.com



Courtesy of U.S. Speedskating

U.S. short track speedskater Allison Bayer (right) skates with her Olympic teammates. Bayer, a former Penn State student, will compete in the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada.

Penn State graduate to skate in Olympics

By Alex Angert
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Allison Bayer never took a gym class at Penn State.

When her peers were signing up for fitness walking and ballroom dancing, Bayer was finding another way to fulfill her credits — she was skating.

But Bayer didn't just skate. She skated fast — really fast.

Fast enough that today — seven years after graduating from Penn State — Bayer is preparing to compete in her third Winter

If you watch

Ladies' 3,000-meter short track relay: Feb. 13, 9:50 p.m.

Ladies' 1,500-meter short track: Feb. 20, 8:45 p.m.

Ladies' 1,000-meter short track: Feb. 24, 8 p.m.

Olympic Games in Vancouver as a member of Team USA's short track speedskating team.

See **OLYMPICS**, Page 10.

Soph. Crowell set to wrestle at 197 pounds against MSU

By Ryan Loy
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The position at 197 pounds is finally secure for the Penn State wrestling team, but only for one weekend.

After three straight weekends of splitting matches with Clay Steadman, redshirt sophomore Dave Crowell will compete at the 197 spot at 7 tonight when the Nittany Lions (12-5-1, 4-2 Big Ten) welcome Michigan State (8-5-1, 2-3) to Rec Hall.

An undisclosed Steadman injury made the decision for the coaches an easy one, and Crowell (17-12) is looking to take advantage of the chance to wrestle against the Spartans' Tyler Dickenson (15-14).

"Every time you step in there, it's a good opportunity to prove yourself," Crowell said. "We're getting down to the Big Ten tournament, See **CROWELL**, Page 10.



Crowell

The Collegian's wrestling reporters make predictions on the Back Points blog for every weight class in tonight's match against the Spartans:
psucollegian.com