

Losing streak grows to six

The Lady Lions go cold in the last eight minutes to drop another contest.

By Audrey Snyder
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Coming out of a timeout, Penn State decided to go with the 2-3 zone in anticipation of Purdue driving to the basket.

With less than a minute left to play, the Lady Lions' defense guessed wrong. The Boilermakers' Jodi Howell received a pass from Chelsea Jones, and as the game clock ticked down to 53 seconds, the senior unleashed a wide-open 3-pointer.

As Howell's shot went through the net, the Lions' hopes of snapping their month-long losing streak faded away.

Once again, the Lions couldn't close out the game and fell to the Boilermakers, 63-59. Penn State (15-10, 7-8 Big Ten) scored only five points during the game's final 7:51 and extended its losing streak to six games.

No team members or coaches spoke following the loss.

The Lions hurt themselves by facing foul trouble early and often during the second half. Both post players, Nikki Greene and Janessa Wolff, had four personal fouls midway through the second half, which forced Penn State to rely on its smaller line up.

The Lions' foul trouble allowed the Boilermakers, 14-12, to be in the double-bonus just mid-way through the second half. This resulted in Purdue attempting 38 free throws, 29 of which it converted.



Bentley

As was the case during Penn State's loss Thursday night to the Minnesota Golden Gophers, the Lions didn't do a good enough job of getting to the charity stripe and then converting when they got there.

With 1:53 left in the game, Greene went to the line with her team down by three points, but the freshman center missed both free throws. The Lions shot 14-for-18 on the game, with three misses coming within the final 1:53.

A missed jumper by Tyra Grant, who shot 5-for-19 on the day, with 1:14 remaining in the game allowed Purdue to get the rebound and call the timeout.

The Boilermakers needed just one shot to put the game out of reach and after Howell's successful 3-pointer, the Lions ran out of opportunities.

Alex Bentley tried to take control of the game in the final minutes, and while she led Penn State with 20 points, she was held scoreless for the latter part of the second half.

The freshman guard hit a 3-pointer as the final buzzer sounded, but it was meaningless since her team's fate was already sealed.

The Lions will look to avoid a season sweep against Michigan when they host the Wolverines at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

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Tough times

The Lady Lions have lost six in a row.

- Purdue 80, PSU 76 (OT)
- Michigan 66, PSU 62
- Michigan State 65, PSU 44
- Ohio State 86, PSU 73
- Minnesota 59, PSU 52
- Purdue 63, PSU 59



Senior Dan Vallimont (left) prepares to grapple with Michigan State's Kyle Bounds during their 165-pound bout. Vallimont defeated Bounds 3-1 Friday night at Rec Hall to earn his 100th career victory.

Vallimont claims win No. 100

By Patrick McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As Penn State 165-pounder Dan Vallimont calmly walked off the mat following his Senior Night win over Michigan State's Kyle Bounds, the casual observer would have never realized the milestone the senior had just reached.

By beating Bounds 3-1 Friday night at Rec Hall in No. 10 Penn State's 26-12 win over the Spartans, Vallimont earned his 100th win as a Lion — and did it in his last home match.

But Vallimont's nonchalant demeanor following the victory was not indicative of how the Lake Hopatcong, N.J., native felt before the bout.

Vallimont, ranked seventh nationally, said he had been nervous about the match all week as the possibility of reaching the century mark in wins in front of his final home crowd drew nearer.

"It's pretty crazy how it all turned out," Vallimont said. "It felt good to get [the win] here. I feel like it's a historical thing."

Penn State coach Cael Sanderson said the combination of Vallimont's final home match, along with the presence of numerous family members, increased

the burden on the senior.

"I think he felt a little more pressure [in Friday's match] with his 100th and it being his last home meet," Sanderson said.

All four seniors who wrestled Friday for Penn State (13-5-1, 5-2 Big Ten) earned victories. Adam Lynch continued his strong showing in Big Ten duals by knocking off Michigan State's Dan Osterman 7-6 at 141 pounds, with a riding-time point proving to be the difference.

At 157 pounds, No. 7 Cyler Sanderson flattened the Spartans' Anthony Jones in 2:28 to pick up his fourth-consecutive pin this season.

The Nittany Lions' final senior, No. 10 184-pounder Dave Erwin, grinded his way to a tough 2-1 win over Nick Palmieri.

"Getting those wins is big for those guys," Cael Sanderson said. "They want to go out in style."

Cyler, the coach's younger brother, who spent his first three years competing at Iowa State, said his win was made special by the support he has felt from his new fan base.

"I know I've only been here for a year, but it feels like I've been here longer," Cyler Sanderson said, adding that he has appreciated how Penn State fans have accepted him as one of their own.

Penn State's underclassmen

also pitched in to help pick up the win in front of more than 4,400 fans. At 125 pounds, the Lions' 13th-ranked Brad Pataky continued his recent dominance with a 21-5 technical fall over the Spartans' Brennan Lyon. In his last three matches, Pataky has outscored his opponents 49-5 and has picked up a pair of technical falls and a major decision.

No. 4 Frank Molinaro earned an 11-6 decision over Michigan State's No. 12 David Cich at 149 pounds, and at heavyweight, No. 11 Cameron Wade picked up a 6-1 win over Alan O'Donnell.

Penn State fell in only three of the match's 10 bouts, with two of the losses coming by a total of three points.

Justin Ortega fell to the Spartans' Ian Hinton by a score of 4-2 at 174 pounds and 197-pounder David Crowell lost 6-5 as Michigan State's Tyler Dickenson benefited from a riding-time point. At 133 pounds, Michigan State's Franklin Gomez, the defending national champion, pinned Penn State's Bryan Pearsall in 5:25.

Penn State will not take the mat again until Friday when it travels to take on No. 5 Minnesota.

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Two other seniors won their home finales. | SPORTS, Page 10.

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