

## Lions' practice stays upbeat

By Andrew J. Cassavell  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Steve Kirkpatrick was on the court early for Monday's basketball practice, shooting 3-pointers, moving a step or two to the side, receiving a pass and squaring up for the next one.

After about five minutes of the same, junior forward D.J. Jackson, who had just

come out of the locker room, snuck up behind Kirkpatrick and failed on a playful effort to block his shot. Kirkpatrick proceeded to drain a 3 and amicably stare Jackson down.

Jackson said it isn't always easy to ignore the elephant in the Bryce Jordan Center gym that is the



DeChellis

Nittany Lions' 0-12 start to conference play. But in order to snap their losing streak, he said doing their best not to let it affect the team's spirit in practice will be essential.

"At times it's hard, but you just have to remember what drew you to the game," Jackson said. "It's not easy when you lose, but you have to keep that level of fun or excitement for basketball."

This season more than ever the Lions have tried to focus on the

next game instead of the big picture — their worst start to conference play since joining the Big Ten.

During practice, Jackson said, sometimes he senses past Big Ten games taking precedent over the next one. When that happens, he makes a point to give a player feedback pertaining to his game — either positive or negative.

See PRACTICE, Page 12.

Andrew Ott has a partially separated labrum | SPORTS, Page 10.

### Olympics

Figure skating, snowboarding, speedskating, Alpine skiing  
8 p.m., NBC

### NCAA Basketball

Michigan State at Indiana

7 p.m., ESPN

Michigan at Iowa

9 p.m., BTN

### NBA

Miami at Philadelphia

7 p.m., CSN

### Medal Tracker

Country: Gold, silver, bronze (total)

United States: 2, 2, 4 (8)

France: 2, 0, 2 (4)

Germany: 1, 3, 0 (4)

Canada: 1, 2, 1 (4)

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### Challenging schedule readies team sooner

Fewer days off between tougher games is keeping the Lions focused on a game-to-game basis.

### Penn State hits road for Big Ten title meet

The Lions head to Purdue to compete in the Big Ten Championship meet Feb. 17-20.

### Penguins' affiliate seeking move to SC

The Johnstown Chiefs are seeking permission from the ECHL to relocate to South Carolina starting next year; the team announced Monday.

The decision to explore relocation was reached solely because of economic concerns. Entering last Sunday's home game, average attendance was below 2,000 per game.

Chiefs' ownership says it's willing to assist any potential ownership group that would keep professional hockey in Johnstown.

### Magic center Howard taking heroic stance

After sparring with Shaquille O'Neal over who is entitled to the Superman nickname, Dwight Howard diffused future run-ins with O'Neal by dubbing Shaq the true Clark Kent.

"I would like, instead of people fighting over a nickname, for us to be able to talk about what it's like to win a championship. Just little things that him being who he is can help me." Howard said on TNT.

What a refreshing stance by a global role model.

In a league riddled with prima donnas and immature, overpaid athletes, seeing Howard respect the history of the game speaks volumes for the likeable 24-year-old.

For more of our thoughts, and to share yours, visit the MAKE PLAYS blog at psucollegian.com.

**Q: True or False: The Indiana men's basketball team has never won the Big Ten tournament.**

Monday's answer: **LeBron James** leads the NBA in scoring at the All-Star break with 29.9 points per game.



Seth Wescott of the United States goes airborne during the first round snowboard cross at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics on Monday. Wescott's teammate, Bode Miller, became the first American to win three medals in Alpine Skiing at the Olympics after he took home the bronze Monday in the men's downhill. The U.S. remains the leader in the medal count, with eight to its name as of press time.

## Crowell sees energy increase, sets sight on first Big Ten win

Despite being winless in Big Ten bouts this year, Dave Crowell is hopeful his time is coming.

By Brendan Monahan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Dave Crowell sees his opponents are bigger than he is on match day, and though he hasn't won a Big Ten bout, Crowell doesn't worry.

"Most guys get weaker as the season goes on," Crowell said Saturday after losing 6-5 to Michigan State's Tyler Dickenson Friday. "I'm getting stronger."

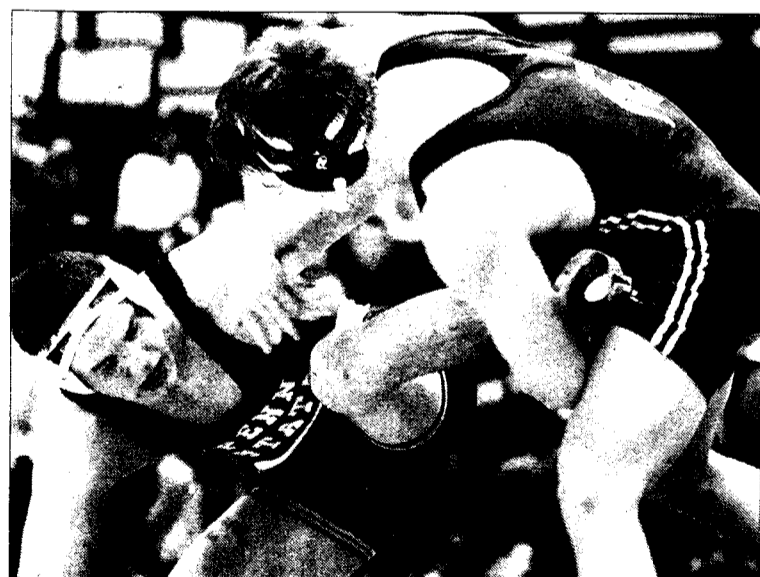
While his opponents have to cut weight, Crowell said he doesn't miss a meal. Thanks to that model, Crowell sees his energy increasing. And as his strength grows, Crowell's shots can only become more effective.

On Friday, Crowell came one point away from winning his first Big Ten match but failed to finish his shots, something both he and Penn State coach Cael Sanderson emphasized after the bout.

Crowell's last takedown attempt of the night could have given him the victory over Dickenson. The Nittany Lion grappler took hold of Dickenson's two legs with the Spartan wrestler turned on his side, but Crowell found his head stuck underneath Dickenson's leg before the Lion 197-pounder gained control. With both wrestlers already on the mat, no points were awarded.

"He was a pretty strong kid," Crowell said. "I couldn't pop my head out."

With Dickenson's riding-time point, the Michigan State grappler walked away with a one-point win.



Penn State's Dave Crowell (left) tries to escape Michigan State's Tyler Dickenson's grasp during their 197-pound bout Friday night at Rec Hall.

Crowell said he needs to fight better from the bottom and finish his shots to start winning. The red-shirt sophomore moved up a weight class from 184 to 197 pounds this season, which has led to a weight disadvantage between him and his opponents. Crowell thinks the weight difference is a part of the reason why he isn't getting more takedowns. Because he is smaller, Crowell gets stuck underneath his opponents, as he did on Friday, and he and the coaching staff have been working on how to avoid that.

"The hard part is getting in," Crowell said. "I did the hard part, and then, for some reason, I couldn't finish."

Sanderson said Crowell can build off his match with Dickenson because it was closely contested but thinks Crowell needed to find a way to score on his last takedown attempt.

"He had a lot of opportunities to

score [Friday] because of nice shots," Sanderson said, "but you have to finish them and get the points."

Teammate and fellow 197-pounder Clay Steadman knows how difficult it can be wrestling bigger opponents. Steadman said he grapples heavyweight Cameron Wade at practice and has taken Wade down only once since Jan. 1. Because heavier opponents are bigger, it becomes more of a challenge to score. But Crowell remains confident.

"I feel I can get in on anybody," Crowell said. "I just have to do a better job of finishing."

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Check Back Points to see where several Nittany Lions rank in the Rating Percentage Index (RPI):  
**ON THE BLOG**  
[psucollegian.com](http://psucollegian.com)

## Snow could cancel tourney

By Stephen Hennessey  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With two massive snowstorms hitting the East Coast last week, the status of the Penn State baseball team's opening tournament might be in question.

### BASEBALL

Longwood University's field, located in Farmville, Va., is the site of the Nittany Lions' scheduled games Saturday and Sunday against Coppin State and Longwood, respectively.



Wine

As of Monday, the field would not have been in condition to play. Longwood media relations director Greg Prouty said, Prouty said the possibility of playing this weekend might be up in air, but a decision would be made later in the week.

Lions coach Robbie Wine said this weekend's trip would be important to get the team's first road trip out of the way.

Getting the details of meal money and some of the routine things that road trips entail would be beneficial with a roster that consists of seven true freshmen and three transfers, he said.

"I'm tempted that even if there's a chance that we may not play, just to go and get all that out of the way," said Wine, whose team went 25-26 last season. "Baseball is a routine. You want to get in a routine, and you go to some of these places and you can't."

Virginia Department of Transportation spokesperson Paula Jones said the Farmville area received a "considerable amount of snowfall" in back-to-back snowstorms in the past week.

She said there was probably about 6-8 inches of snow remaining on the ground in Lynchburg, about an hour from Longwood.

The Lions are scheduled to play three Big East teams — Cincinnati, Seton Hall and Notre Dame — the following week in the Big Ten/Big East challenge at Clearwater and St. Petersburg, Fla.

While practices and scrimmages indoors at Holuba Hall and batting practice sessions at Medlar Field present preparation challenges, Wine praised his team's work ethic. He said the players have been two-to-three weeks ahead of schedule because of better individual off-season preparation than past teams.

"No excuses, if we don't play this weekend, then that means that a bunch of other schools didn't play this weekend," Wine said.

"You just deal with what's handed to you, and I think that's a strength of this team. We don't look ahead."

Lions senior second baseman Louie Picconi said this year's squad is a close-knit group dedicated to improving its skills. Some of his teammates have been known to stay and hit balls until midnight, he said.

"We're a close group of friends, even the pitchers too and the position players," Picconi said.

"That'll help us in the long run for the season."

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