

# Energy

From Page 8.

the halftime talk. However, once the game restarted, the Lions were quickly outrun by the Buckeyes.

"We just came out flat and had no energy," junior guard Tolor Battle said. "Against a team like that, you can't do it. They went on a huge run and we gave them some comfort room, but we fought back."

Aside from the stops, the Lions hit key shots, including the long-range barrage that brought the crowd back into the game. The

crowd, which had gone lifeless during Ohio State's run, awoke after Jackson's three-point play, during which he cut to the basket and scored on a pass from Drew Jones while being fouled.

The fight his team showed in charging back caught DeChellis' eye as well.

"I will say this about our team: We came back and made a run at this thing," DeChellis said. "There's a good fiber there. [Ohio State] got us down, and we stormed them back and made this thing very, very interesting and gave ourselves a chance."

However, the comeback also had a price. In storming back, the

Lions exerted so much energy that they weren't able to maintain the level of play, which eventually let Ohio State run away with the game.

Matta said he felt the energy used on Penn State's run might have been a factor in the outcome, but DeChellis said it was a matter of his team not finding defensive energy.

After the Lions got within two, the Buckeyes went on an 8-2 run during which Penn State could not get a stop. Battle said trying to get those critical stops was hard because of how tired the players were.

The Lions' comeback bid started

on the defensive end, where they were able to get rebounds and force steals that turned into transition baskets. And while the effort did fall short, DeChellis liked the way his team jumped into the Buckeyes on defense at times.

However, if the Lions want to have any success in their three remaining games and in the Big Ten tournament, they have to be more consistent. DeChellis was not happy with the overall defense except during the run and said the lack of energy to start the second half was hugely problematic.

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# Loss

From Page 8.

in Turner's face, the ball was on its way into the hoop, and the Buckeyes were on their way to their eighth win in nine games.

"The shots he hit, I honestly think, you really can't guard them," said junior guard Tolor Battle, who led the Lions with 22. "You can contest them, but those last shots down the stretch were really just pull-ups in guys faces. Those shots are big shots."

But while Battle said the Lions did almost all they could on those two shots, he was quick to point out they allowed Turner nine free throw attempts. He made all nine.

Penn State coach Ed DeChellis credited Turner but said he wasn't convinced stopping him was an impossible task.

"You've got to make a stand," DeChellis said. "You've got to put the pole in the ground and just say, 'You're not gonna score anymore.'"

Even when Turner wasn't scoring early in the second half, he controlled the game.

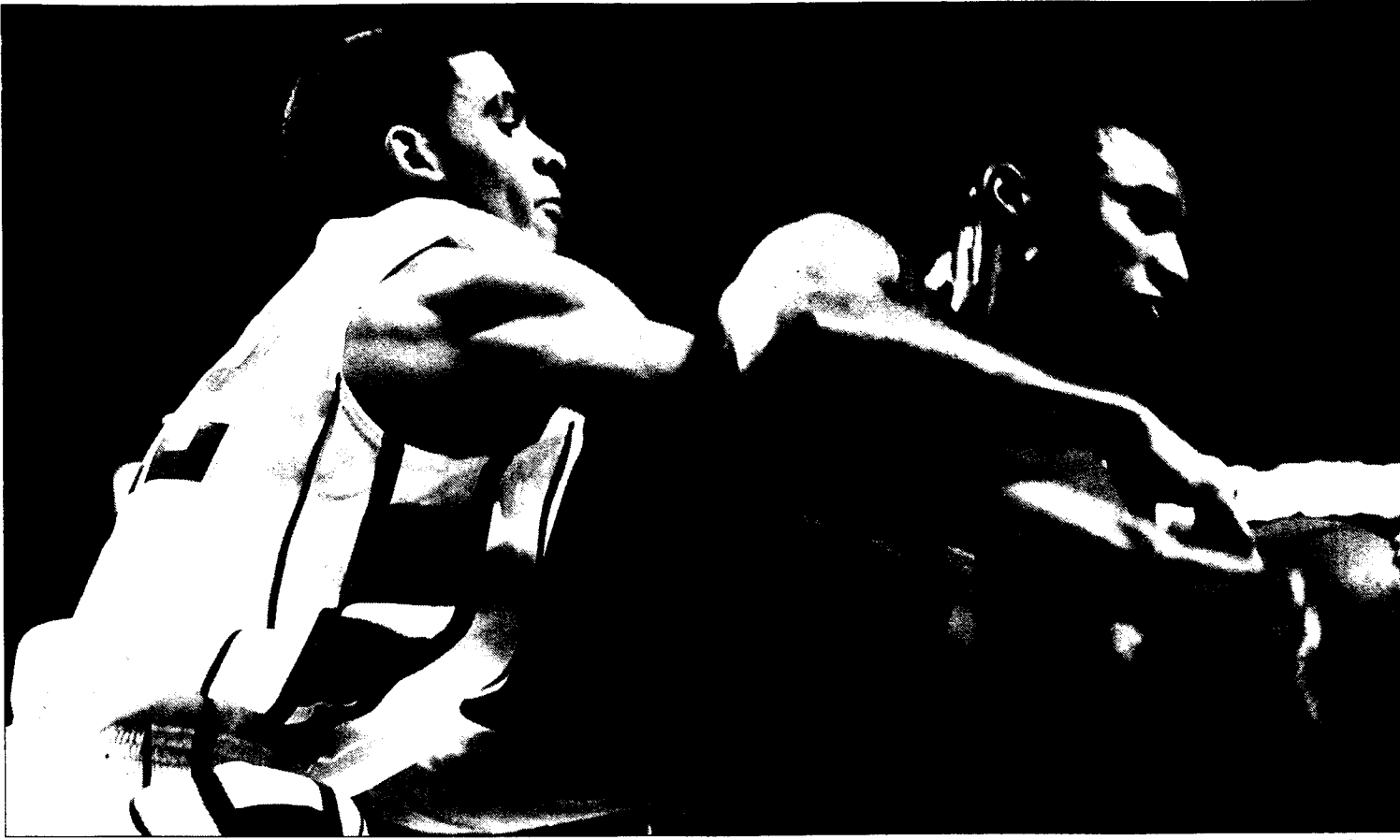
The junior guard jump-started a 16-4 run to begin the second half when three Lions collapsed on him during a fast break. In doing so, they left Turner's teammate Jon Diebler wide open in the corner for a 3-pointer. It accounted for one of Turner's seven assists, to go along with his seven boards.

The Lions, who snapped a two-game win streak with the loss, used a run to pull within two, but Battle said Turner was just too tough down the stretch.

"We spent so much energy coming back," Battle said.

"It's no excuse, but for Evan to make those shots — it's just a dagger."

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Steph Witt/Collegian

Penn State guard Tolor Battle (12) fights for possession with Ohio State guard Evan Turner (21) Wednesday night at the Bryce Jordan Center.

# Turnovers

From Page 8.

too much with the puck. Penn State said.

With the ESCHL playoffs being held in Delaware with its Olympic size rink, the Icercs tried to make longer passes with the extra space on the ice, leading to extra turnovers.

Knowing that, Penn State will try to slow things down while moving up the ice.

"It's a little bit easier to take the

extra second, which in hockey is a long time," forward Tim O'Brien said.

"On our ice and in Chicago, you're going to need to move the puck as quick as you can. You're not going to have the type of time and space that we did last weekend."

While the turnovers are a major



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"I think our whole focus at nationals is to keep them to two goals and under, and we'll have a good chance to win the game."

Matt Kirstein  
senior forward

issue, Penn State's coaches aren't changing the practice routine, opting just to stress playing within oneself and relying on teammates for help out on the ice.

Going forward, Penn State knows it won't always be able to

bail itself out of turnover-laden games like last weekend's.

Against West Chester and Rhode Island, the Icercs dug themselves out through their offense.

Over the two games, Penn State scored 12 goals while allowing

eight, something the Icercs aren't accustomed to doing.


In fact, Penn State knows that getting into games like that come nationals will not end well.

"I don't think by any means we want to be a team that gets into 7-5 games," Kirstein said. "We're a good team when we win 4-1, 3-1, 5-2, things like that. I think our whole focus at nationals is to keep them to two goals and under, and we'll have a good chance to win the game."

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