

Wrestlers kick off NCAAAs

By Ryan Loy
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State wrestlers were on the offensive Thursday, as they had a strong showing during the first day of the NCAA Wrestling Championships.

Four Nittany Lion wrestlers finished undefeated after two sessions of the tournament and will compete in today's quarterfinal matchups.

The six Lion grapplers who competed in the tournament went 5-1 during Thursday afternoon's opening-round bouts and followed that with an impressive performance in the round of 16.

Senior Dan Vallimont and sophomore Frank Molinaro had



Molinaro

impressive victories to lead the Lions.

Vallimont was one of several Penn State wrestlers who were aggressive for the full seven minutes of their bouts.

The senior 165-pounder went on the attack at the sound of the first whistle of his bout and got a takedown just seconds into the first period. Vallimont stayed the aggressor and finished with 4:52 in riding time while winning by major decision, 9-0.

Vallimont's major decision win matched the domination of Molinaro's earlier win.

Molinaro took a 5-0 lead when he used a high crotch shot to secure a takedown in the second period. With riding time secured in the third, Molinaro got his third takedown of the bout and finished with an 8-0 victory.

Penn State 125-pounder Brad Pataky set the tone for the lion grapplers in Session II, when he won by major decision, 9-0.

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NCAA Basketball

First round games
12:20 p.m., 7 p.m., CBS

NBA

Philadelphia at New York
7 p.m., CSN

Boxing

Powell-Latimore (middleweights)
10 p.m., ESPN2

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Lions' new additions make roster stacked

The women's track and field team returns two key pieces from its cross country team — including national champ and Olympian Aleesha Barber.

Nittany Lions, Vandy familiar off the field

Some members of the women's lacrosse team are good friends with Vanderbilt players.

Sophomore Garcia returns from injury

The defender returned to practice Tuesday from an ACL tear suffered last spring.

Skiers reach summit, raise Penn State flag

The club traveled to Colorado to ski the Rocky Mountain slopes at Breckenridge, Vail, Arapahoe Basin and Keystone on a five-day trip to the area.

Lions still improving, look for turnaround

Extra practice time outside helped the Nittany Lions in their last tournament.

Oklahoma St. ends PSU winning streak

The Penn State men's tennis team (11-2, 1-0) had its nine-game winning streak snapped Thursday night.

The Nittany Lions lost to Oklahoma State (6-4, 0-2) 4-1.

Junior Eddie Bourchier, who was 10-0 in singles play this year, lost in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3.

Murray St., G'Town highlight first round

Oh March Madness. You teased us with an overtime game between Villanova and Robert Morris.

Thrilled us with Murray State's buzzer-beating jumper against Vanderbilt.

Frustrated us with Ohio's upset of Georgetown.

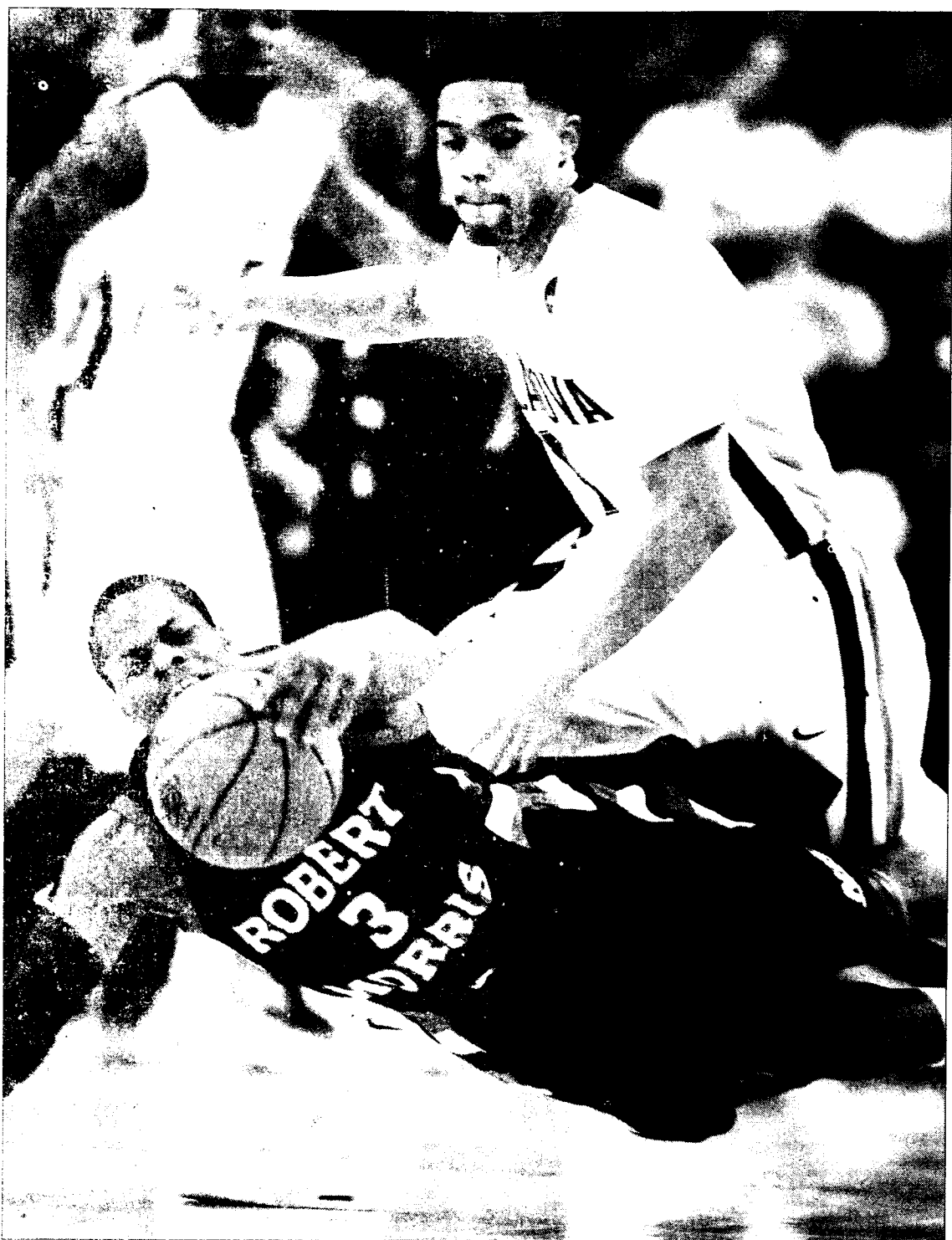
Favorites Kansas, Kansas State and Kentucky look like solid bets for the Final Four.

Exhale. Because there's 16 more games on tap today.

And if that's not enough, 16 more over the weekend.

Q: Who scored the most points in an NCAA tournament game?

Thursday's answer: Pat McInally and Ryan Fitzpatrick, both from Harvard, scored 50 on the Wonderlic.



Robert Morris guard Velton Jones (3) dives for a ball in front of Villanova's Scottie Reynolds in their first-round game of the NCAA men's basketball tournament in Providence, R.I. Reynolds' Wildcats won in overtime, 93-90, and will face St. Mary's (Calif.) in the second round Saturday.

Villanova holds off Colonials

By Dan Gelston
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Scottie Reynolds and No. 2-seed Villanova nearly had their NCAA tournament run end in the biggest of upsets.

Reynolds responded to his benching with a clutch performance at the foul line in the final minutes of regulation, and the Wildcats survived a scare from Robert Morris in a 73-70 overtime victory Thursday in the NCAA tournament.

Coach Jay Wright sat Reynolds at the start of the game to make a "teaching point," and he missed 13 of 15 shots from the floor. But the senior star made seven of eight free throws in the final 3:06 to send the game into overtime, finishing with 20 points.

Karon Abraham scored 23 for Robert Morris (23-13), which was on the brink of becoming only the fifth No. 15 seed to beat a No. 2 and the first since 2001.

Abraham let fly a 25-footer in overtime that cut the lead to 71-70 with 10.2 seconds left, but an off-balance 3 at the buzzer was no good.

The Colonials left the court to a standing ovation.

The Wildcats (25-7), trying to reach their second-straight Final Four, entered having lost five of seven and were a surprising pick for the No. 2 seed in the South Regional.

Physical Hofstra knocks out PSU

By Alex Angert
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With the Lady Lions' first post-season game in five years chalked up as a loss, coach Coquese Washington lined up with her players, sang the Penn State alma mater and headed to the locker room as she has done all season long.

However, after this game, which put an end to the Lions' 2009-10 season, Washington's players didn't immediately follow.

Instead, fresh off a season-ending 76-68 Women's National Invitation Tournament opening-round loss to Hofstra, the Lions walked one-by-one to the student section and joined hands with the

The Washington's Post blog grades the Lady Lions' final game of the 2009-10 season: psucollegian.com

shirtless, chest-painted fans who stuck by the team all season long.

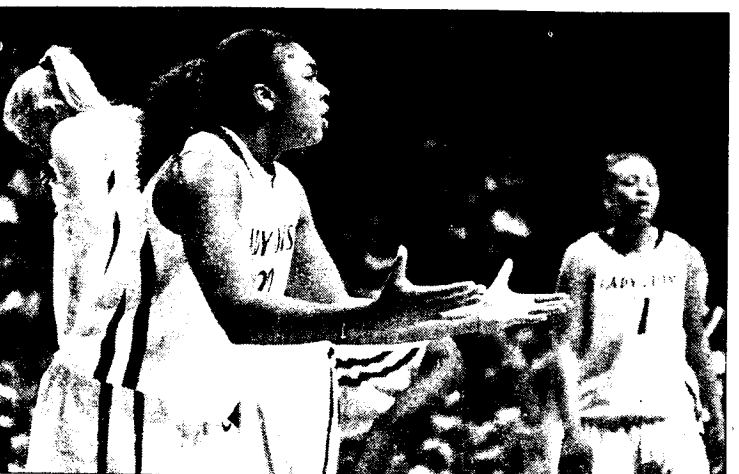
For the seniors, it was the last time they would walk off the Bryce Jordan Center hardwood wearing a Penn State jersey.

But for the team as a whole, it was the book closing on the Lions' dreams of making a run in the WNIT and achieving postseason glory.

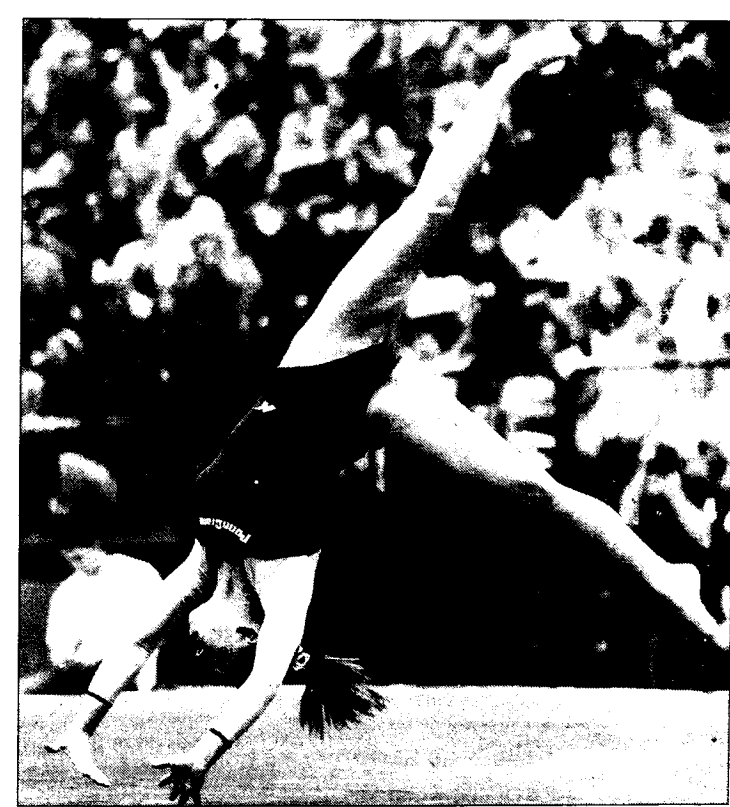
In a game Penn State was still in reach of until the final minutes, Hofstra used offensive rebound after offensive rebound to pull away and eventually bury the Lions.

"No question, they outworked us, particularly on the backboard," Washington said. "It seemed like

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Freshman guard Alex Bentley reacts to an official's call during Penn State's WNIT game against Hofstra on Thursday.



Senior Casey Rohrbach cartwheels during Penn State's meet Feb. 20. Rohrbach and the rest of the Lions' seniors will be honored Saturday.

Emotional seniors set for home finale

By Jared Shanker
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Steve Shephard walked over to Allie Southard, telling her to take a few deep breaths.

"She gets a little emotional," coach Shephard said.

Southard was struggling to find the words after she was asked how she would remember her senior season, which is nearing its end.

She paused for more than 30 seconds, bent over clear-eyed before coming back up with tears littered around them.

"I'm so screwed," joked Southard, referencing her emotions will be much worse this weekend.

Saturday, the No. 15 Penn State women's gymnastics team faces No. 12 Nebraska at 7 p.m. in Rec Hall. Following the meet, Southard, along with four other seniors — Alexandra Brockway, Brandi Personett, Casey See SENIORS, Page 10.