

# SPORTS

4 | FRIDAY, JULY 9, 2010

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

## THE LINEUP

### SPORTS ON TV

#### MLB

Philadelphia vs. Cincinnati  
7:05 p.m., CSN

Pittsburgh at Milwaukee  
8:10 p.m., FSN

### QUICK HITS (AP)

#### NBA

### Mavericks re-sign C Haywood as starter

Brendan Haywood is coming back to the Dallas Mavericks — as the starting center.

Haywood agreed Thursday to a \$55 million, six-year contract, according to a person familiar with negotiations. The person spoke to The Associated Press on Thursday on the condition of anonymity because details were still being finalized.

Dallas acquired the 7-footer from Washington as part of a blockbuster deal at the trade deadline last season.

#### NHL

### Canucks will retire Naslund's jersey

Markus Naslund's No. 19 will be hoisted to the rafters at the Rogers Arena on Dec. 11 when Vancouver plays the Tampa Bay Lightning. The ceremony will be part of the Canucks' plans to celebrate 40 seasons in the NHL.

Naslund will join Trevor Linden and Stan Smyl as the only Canucks to have their jerseys retired.

#### NFL

### Vikings WR Rice has hip injury

The agent for Sidney Rice says the receiver has a lingering hip injury but should be ready when the Minnesota Vikings open the regular season against the New Orleans Saints.

Drew Rosenhaus tweeted the update on Thursday.

Rice caught 83 passes for 1,312 yards and eight touchdowns to help the Vikings reach the NFC championship game last year.

### OUR THOUGHTS

#### WORLD CUP

### Circumstances will lead to classic final

The Netherlands has never won a World Cup Final.

Spain has never been in a World Cup final.

Expect a great final by two teams that want that elusive title. The names involved are pretty solid as well.

Robben, van Bronckhorst, van der Vaart, van Persie, Kuyt and Sneijder for the Dutch.

Villa, Xavi, Alonso, Casillas, Fabregas, Iniesta and Torres for the Spanish.

Both teams had the talent, drive and luck to reach this point. Spain overcame an 1-0 loss to Switzerland in its first match. The Dutch topped the world's No. 1, Brazil in the quarterfinals.

David Villa has been brilliant for Spain. Wesley Sneijder has been just as good for the Dutch.

While the World Cup has been lacking in copious goal scoring, this final will have plenty of scoring chances.

And it will be pretty. These are the best passing teams anywhere. Clockwork Oranje vs. La Furia Roja. Joga Bonito indeed.

Prediction, if you must: Netherlands 2, Spain 1 in extra time.

It has to be.

### TRIVIA

**Q: Which club team does Netherlands midfielder Wesley Sneijder play for?**

Thursday's answer: 1978 was the last time two teams that had never won a World Cup met in a World Cup Final when Argentina defeated the Netherlands 3-1.



LeBron James (airborne) prepares to dunk at his camp this week. James announced he would sign with the Miami Heat Thursday night.

## James makes choice: Heat

By Tom Withers  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LeBron James wanted to play with Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh. The only place that could happen was Miami.

Get ready, **NBA**  
NBA: A superstar trio is born.

Ending weeks of silence and drama, the two-time MVP said on his ESPN special from Greenwich, Conn. on Thursday night that he's decided to join the Miami Heat and leave the Cleveland Cavaliers after an unsuccessful seven-year quest for the championship he covets.

"I can't say it was always in my plans, because I never thought it was possible," James said. "But the things that the Miami Heat franchise have done, to free up cap space and be able to put themselves in a position this summer to have all three of us, it was hard to turn down. Those are two great players, two of the greatest players that we have in this game today."

Olympic teammates in Beijing, James, Bosh and Wade all helped deliver gold medals.

This time, it'll be about a gold trophy, the NBA championship one — the one Wade got in 2006, the one that James and Bosh have yet to touch.

"Winning is a huge thing for me," James said.

It's a huge victory for the Heat, who got commitments from Wade and Bosh on Wednesday. That

duo, along with James, formed the upper echelon of the most-celebrated free-agent period in league history.

Heat president Pat Riley landed them all, a three-pack of stars to help shape his quest for a dynasty in Miami.

And for Cleveland, a city scorned for generations by some of sports' biggest letdowns, James' long-awaited words represented a defeat perhaps unlike any other.

James is gone. Home sweet home no more.

He said he made the decision Thursday morning and knows it won't go over well in Ohio.

"They can have mixed emotions, of course," James said, adding that Akron will "always be home for me."

His new home — part-time or otherwise — wasted no time in beginning the celebration. Horns honked outside the arena and on Miami Beach, where Wade was watching the announcement with members of his inner circle.

"It's going to be crazy," Wade said.

Season-ticket sales for the Heat's coming 41-game season were suspended Thursday afternoon after the entire supply of available seats were sold out.

"I'll believe it when I see it," Louisville coach Pitino said while attending a tournament of high school stars at Cleveland State University, co-sponsored by James and Nike, one of the 25-year-old's corporate partners.

Believe it.

## Spikes fall behind early in loss

By Jake Kaplan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Opponents had been having trouble scoring off Brooklyn Cyclone's starting pitcher Mitchell Houck all season, scoring just two runs in 20.2

#### SPIKES

6

Brooklyn

2

State College

The State College Spikes didn't fare much better.

The Spikes scored just two runs in Houck's 6.2 innings. And though it increased his ERA from 0.87 to 1.32, it wasn't enough as the Cyclones beat the Spikes 6-2 Thursday night at MCU Park in Brooklyn, N.Y.

With the loss, the Spikes (11-9) dropped out of their first-place tie with the Jamestown Jammers in the Pinckney Division.

Houck, a 2008 New York Mets 17th-round pick, allowed just six hits and shutout the Spikes for the first six innings.

He struck out eight and walked just one.

"As far as pounding the zone and having command of his pitches, he was definitely one of the guys who has done a better job of that as far as we've seen," said catcher Matt

"They came out swinging the bats. We found ourselves in a hole early and tried battling back."

Matt Skirving  
Spikes catcher

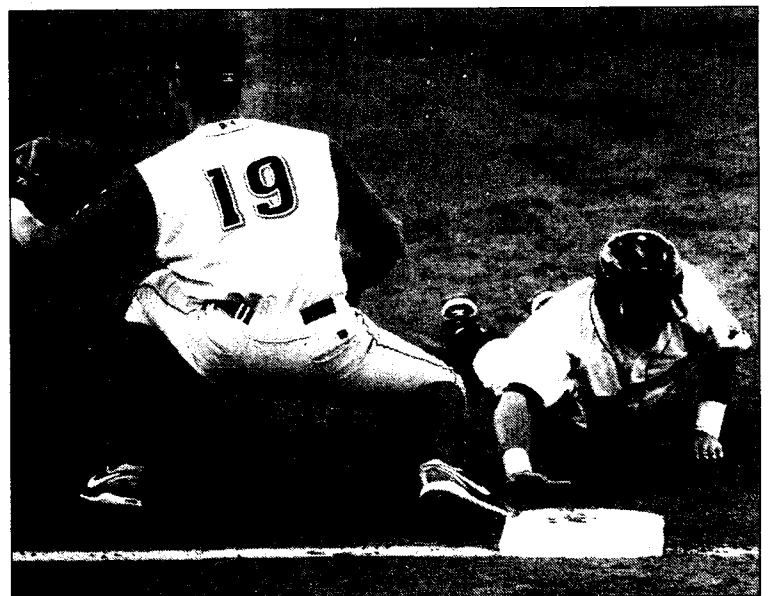
Skirving, who went 2-for-4 in the game.

On the other hand, State College starting pitcher Waldron, the Pittsburgh Pirates' 2010 fifth-round pick out of Oregon State, struggled through five innings, giving up five earned runs on 10 hits. Brooklyn, which had lost five of six entering Thursday, scored five of its six runs off Waldron, tallying at least one in each of the first six frames aside from the fourth.

The Cyclones (11-9) opened the scoring in the first inning, when shortstop Rylan Sandoval led off with a double and was brought home on a double play.

Brooklyn catcher Juan Centeno, batting eighth, hit a two-run home run, his first of the year, with two outs in the second, increasing the Cyclones' lead to 3-0.

State College's deficit would reach six after six innings, before the Spikes finally got on the board with two-out RBI singles by



Chase Lyles (right) avoids a tag at first earlier this season.

Skirving and shortstop Gift Ngoepe in the seventh.

"They came out swinging the bats," Skirving said. "We found ourselves in a hole early and we tried battling back, but in the end the early lead they got out too was just too much."

The Spikes and Cyclones will play the second of their three-game series at 7 tonight in Brooklyn.

State College starting pitcher

Zach Von Rosenberg, the 2009 sixth-round pick of the Pittsburgh Pirates, will look to get his first win.

"Any time you got Rosey on the mound you've got a chance to win a ballgame," Skirving said. "We've got to come back, fight hard. We do some things early in the game and put them on their heels and it should be another good one."

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## Gymnasts excited by announcement

By Zach Fleagle  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Penn State men's gymnastics team, owners of 12 National Championships, most in the NCAA, has something else to set its sights on.

#### MEN'S GYMNASTICS

The NCAA Gymnastics Committee selected Penn State University to host the 2013 National Collegiate Championships at Rec Hall on Monday. The last time the university hosted the title in 2007, the Nittany Lions won their most recent title.

With eleven sophomores coming into the 2010 season, coach Randy Jepson is excited about what the future can bring, but he knows the team is a long way away from 2013. Jepson said without the right preparation and consistency the pressure of having the home gym could affect some of his athletes negatively. For now, that is what the team is focusing on — consistency.

"The biggest thing right now is we have to put ourselves in a position where our difficulty level is



Matt Chelberg competes on rings at Rec Hall on Mar. 20 last year.

raised," said Jepson. "We need to raise our star value."

Matt Chelberg is one of the sophomores who will be a senior in 2013 and said that the energy the news brought to the gym is incredible. Chelberg said his excitement, along with his teammates comes from the fact their families will be there making the atmosphere that much better for them.

"I think it's going to be great having such a large senior class," Chelberg said. "We'll have a lot of fans, and last time we were in this position we ended up winning, so I think it bodes well for us."

With the right goals set and the correct amount of preparation, Jepson knows that a home gym advantage will certainly help his team. He said a strong comfort level should and will make the athletes compete at their best and at the highest levels.

"The biggest benefit is you're in your own bed," Jepson said. "You have several seasons behind you competing in the same venue."

Jepson said the rising sophomore class has a lot of work to do to prepare and Chelberg said currently, it's in the weight room.

"Right now we're really increas-

ing our strength and endurance," Chelberg said. "Coach is putting us through a really rigorous regimen and I can already feel it's helping us."

Sophomore Scott Rosenthal said he was at Rec Hall in 2007 when the Lions won the title. He said he remembered some of the things that the team did then and hopes to use that to his teams' advantage.

"The whole time they were on fire and looked like they were having so much fun and enjoying the competition," Rosenthal said. "How excited they were to be there and that Rec Hall was absolutely packed made it a great place to be."

Jepson said though you only compete one season at a time, he knows the players are excited too. For his will-be-seniors, he knows if they want to bring home another title in 2013, they have to be on point with their routines and be ready to win.

"We can't have any weak events," Jepson said. "We need to catch up a little but I'm confident that we can do that. We just have to develop the competitive tenacity."

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