

SPORTS

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THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Borovnjak to miss season

By Emily Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State sophomore Sasa Borovnjak will miss the 2010-2011 basketball season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his right knee, the athletic department announced in a press release Monday afternoon.

The Belgrade, Serbia native suf-

MEN'S BASKETBALL

fered the injury during a team workout on Oct. 7 in non-contact fashion, according to the release.

Borovnjak — a 6-foot-9, 235-pound forward — played in 18 games last season as a true freshman, averaging 1.8 points and 1.1 rebounds.

Preseason practice officially begins Friday.

"I feel terrible for Sasa," Nittany Lions' coach Ed DeChellis said in the release. "He really had a good

See **BOROVNJAK**, Page 12.



Sasa Borovnjak (21) goes to the basket against Purdue last season.

Reign could be at its end

By Emily Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The cracks of Penn State's dynasty were starting to show — perhaps even before this season began.

A 102-match winning streak and three consecutive national championships were irrelevant for the Nittany Lions' women's volleyball team in its hope to repeat in 2010.

This season, Penn State features a considerably different roster. New faces, new expectations — and new burdens.

"We're a different team this year," coach Russ Rose told reporters at media day in August. "Each year is different."

Now, it's seven weeks into the season and the Lions (13-4, 3-3 Big Ten) have lost four matches over the past four weeks. The seven-time defending conference champions are currently in sixth place in the Big Ten standings. And they're not ranked No. 1 in the country for the first time since Oct. 22, 2007.

The cracks are growing deeper, and some are beginning to question: Is this the end of the Penn State juggernaut and its reign over collegiate women's volleyball?

"I would say you could predict the end of a dynasty, yeah," said Buster Olney, ESPN baseball analyst and author of *The Last Night of the Yankee Dynasty*. "When you see the players that were so important leave, it's like a colony of ants. They all had their specific roles in the clubhouse, and when they leave, the culture is different. And the hardest thing to deal with is the pressure to try to repeat."

Penn State entered the 2010 season without its core.

Alisha Glass and Megan Hodge — veteran locker room

See **VOLLEYBALL**, Page 12.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



Olney

Freshmen expected to make impact

By Ryan Loy
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With the guards running a drill at practice Monday, Lady Lions assistant coach Fred Chmiel said he wanted three made baskets before the 12 seconds on the clock expired.

After the first basket was made, freshman Maggie Lucas received a pass, confidently stepped up and sunk her jump shot with ease.

While Lucas' shot was only part of accomplishing a small task at practice, she's one of three freshmen — along with Ariel Edwards and Talia East — that the Lions will look toward for production this season.

"We're going to rely on a lot of freshmen and sophomores to play, to contribute," head coach Coquese Washington said at Monday's media day. "In a big way, in bigger ways than they have in the past in terms of our younger players."

Washington said she expects the freshmen to

See **FRESHMEN**, Page 12.



Lady Lions coach Coquese Washington talks at the team's media day on Monday.

Coach ready for year

By Jake Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Coquese Washington thinks the 2010 Penn State Lady Lions have the most talent of any team she's coached in Happy Valley.

Washington, who is in her fourth year as the head coach of the Lions, said this year's team is different than years' past. In her first three seasons, Washington said the Lions relied on one or two players to carry them, whereas this season they have more depth. With only one senior and seven underclassmen, it is also a young team.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

"So far things are going really well," Washington said at Monday's media day. "I love the energy that the team has right now. I love the competitiveness and the work ethic that I'm seeing. This is a fun bunch. They enjoy the game. They enjoy being in the gym and working hard."

The Lady Lions are coming off their first postseason appearance since the 2004-05 season, after qualifying for the WNIT where they lost to Hofstra in the first round. Penn State, which finished with a 17-14 record, 8-10 in the Big Ten last season, returns three starters in senior forward Julia Trogele, sophomore point guard Alex Bentley and sophomore center Nikki Greene.

See **WASHINGTON**, Page 12.



Freshman guard Maggie Lucas attempts a shot during the team's media day practice on Monday.

Lions looking for ways to progress

By Brendan Monahan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The question isn't whether Penn State took a step backward in the Nittany Lions' loss this past Saturday.

The correct answer: How far a step backward did they take?

FOOTBALL

"That may be hard to quantify — how big a step backwards, but I think we didn't execute," quarterback coach Jay Paterno said. "We got to find out some things the next couple weeks."

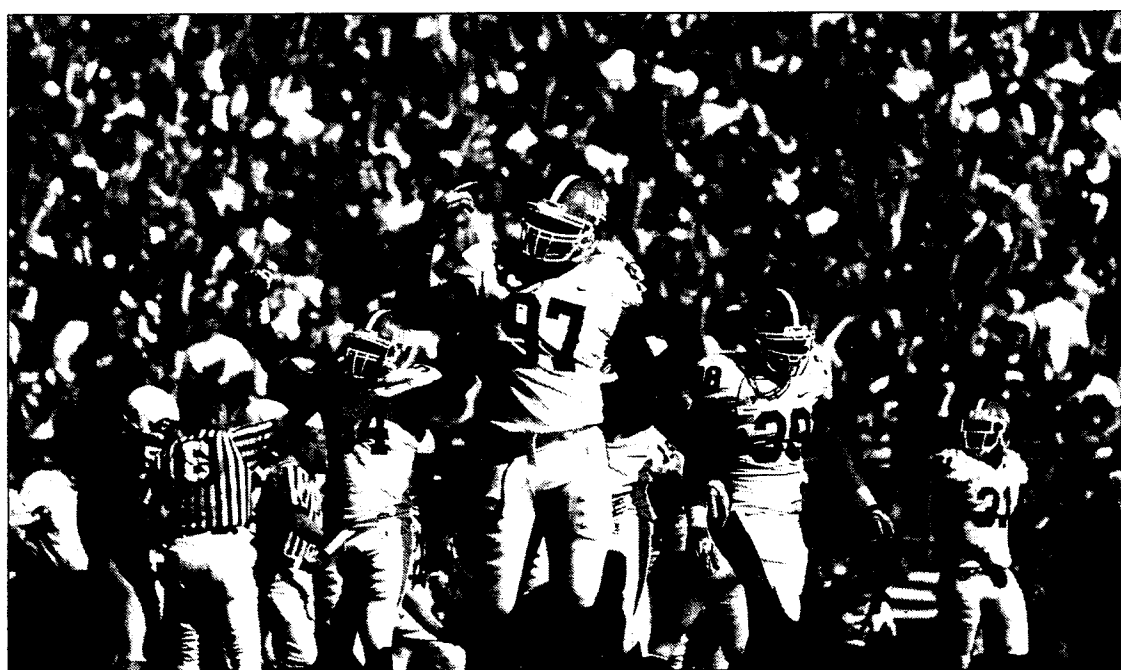
The last two losses to Illinois and Iowa in consecutive weeks

had not shifting toward regression, not progression. The Lions find themselves trying to salvage a season as they grasp wildly at thin air for answers.

Six games into the season, Penn State has found itself with a lack of players stepping up and taking charge. Wide receiver Justin Brown said some weeks, he feels the team progresses while other weeks, the opposite effect takes place.

After Penn State's insufficient effort against Illinois, a significant priority for the Lions is determining which players have the adequate desire to play — a

See **FOOTBALL**, Page 12.



Illinois defensive tackle Clay Nurse (97) and his teammates celebrate toward the end of Saturday's game.

THE LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV

MLB

Texas at Tampa Bay
8:00 p.m., TBS

TRIVIA

Q: How many times has Tom Brady thrown for 4,000 yards in a season?
Monday's answer: Jimmie Johnson won last year's Sprint Cup race at Fontana, Calif.

QUICK HITS

Halus earns weekly honor

Penn State field hockey goalkeeper Ayla Halus was honored by the Big Ten on Monday as the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week.

The sophomore posted nine saves while facing 10 shots-on-goal during her team's 4-1 victory vs. the defending league champions and No. 7-ranked Michigan State Spartans on Friday in East Lansing.

Halus is now ranked second nationally with a .849 save percentage.

It's the third time this season that Halus has earned the award after taking the hardware on Sept. 6 and Sept. 20. She is just the third player in program history to earn the honor three times in one season.

Soccer players win awards

A trio of Penn State soccer players earned all-conference weekly honors Monday after their team's victories this past week.

Men's soccer senior defender Andy Parr was named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week after being inserted into the lineup for a pair of home victories last week over Big East conference leader Villanova, 1-0, on Wednesday and No. 18-ranked Michigan State, 2-1, on Sunday.

On the women's side, sophomore goalkeeper Krissy Trebbett was named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week while freshman forward Tani Costa was named the league's Freshman of the Week after the Lions posted road victories at Northwestern, 2-1, on Friday night and at Iowa, 3-0, on Sunday.

OUR THOUGHTS

Favre again a distraction

Vikings quarterback Brett Favre gave his teammates an apology Monday for being a distraction following allegations that he sent inappropriate pictures to a sideline reporter while with the Jets in 2008. So this is what it takes for Favre to realize he's a distraction?

Apparently the media circus show that follows him around every offseason and the fact that his teammates had to fly to Mississippi during training camp didn't make him realize his side show status.

Favre says this will be his last season in the NFL. Those who are sick of seeing his name in the headlines for off-field issues can hardly wait.