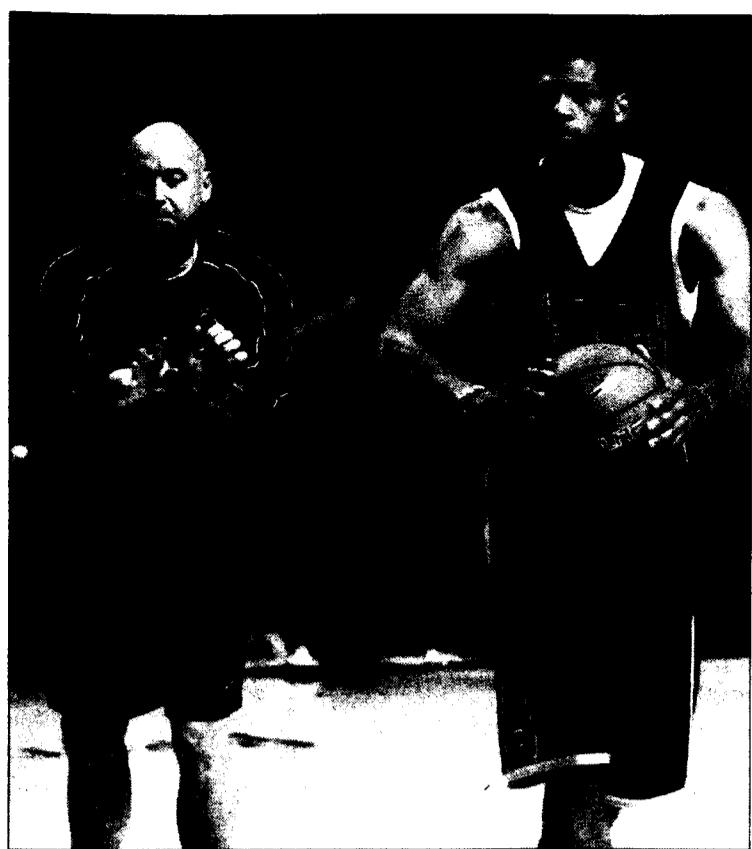


# Lions could incorporate high-tempo offense



Ed DeChellis (left) and Jeff Brooks during practice on media day.

By Emily Kaplan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When sophomore forward Sasa Borovnjak went down with a season-ending knee injury earlier this month, it meant more to the Penn State men's basketball team than just one less option for the frontcourt.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

The loss of the big man — a 6-foot-9, 235-pound Serbia native — may have also stressed the necessity to perfect an up-tempo offensive emphasis.

"We have always had a very athletic team that can run and get buckets in transition," senior forward Jeff Brooks said.

"That is something we will have to harp on this year with the loss of Sasa."

Without Borovnjak, Penn State has only five players on its roster who stand taller than 6-foot-7. That includes chronic headache victim Billy Oliver, who redshirted the last two seasons because of his condition, and freshman Jonathan Graham, a three-star recruit by Scout.com and the No. 40 power forward in the country.

At Monday's media day, coach Ed DeChellis and several players hinted that the Lions are looking to implement a faster transition offense this season.

"I'm not sure where Coach is going, but we might be playing a lot more guards this year," freshman Taran Buie said. "Just athleticism and quickness at the guard position will open up a lot for the rest of the team."

Buie, a four-star recruit who played last season at State College Area High School, would be one of those guards.

The other would be Talor Battle — Buie's half-brother — who was the only BCS conference player to lead his team in total points, rebounds, assists and steals in 2009-10.

Guards Tim Frazier, a sophomore who logged 18.4 minutes per game last year, junior Cam Woodyard and freshman Tre Bowman could also fit into the equation.

DeChellis himself isn't set on a lineup yet.

The Lions began official practices last Friday, and the coach is still working on evaluating his squad.

"I can't say this guy is going to be a five man, a four man — we might play a little differently," DeChellis said.

"[The loss of Borovnjak] forced our hand a little bit. We wanted to [play] up-tempo, we wanted to try to press a little more so this will allow us to play a different kind of lineup."

Brooks doesn't necessarily think that's a bad thing. In fact, the 6-foot-8 forward — one of five seniors on Penn State's roster — said he's actually more comfortable with an up-tempo offense that stresses taking quick shots and pushing the ball.

On Sunday, the Lions tried out the press at practice for the first time, and Brooks liked what he saw.

"We have been working hard a lot on transition offense," Brooks said.

"We have new break endings, but a lot of stuff we have right now is coming off transition, which is good for the kind of team we have now."

"That is definitely something we want to utilize."

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# Borovnjak disappointed to miss 2010-11 season

By Alex Angert  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Exactly two weeks ago, Sasa Borovnjak sat in his room all night not knowing what was going to happen.

After falling down during one-on-one closeouts at Penn State men's basketball practice earlier that evening, the Serbian native suddenly found his 2010-11 season in jeopardy with a knee injury.

Too late at that point to take an MRI, Borovnjak was forced to wait until the morning to find out he'd miss the entire season, as the pain in his leg suddenly paled in comparison to the pain of uncertainty.

"It was a weird feeling," he said in his thick accent. "Because it was night practice, I had to wait until morning to get the MRI and X-rays. I felt like so sad. I was just in my room sitting down for hours thinking about everything. I couldn't believe it happened right before the season."

With Borovnjak anxiously waiting to find out the extent of his injury, everyone from his teammates to his family tried to tell him everything would be OK.

"You will be good, you will be good," he recalled people telling him. "I just started cheering myself up and telling myself I'll be OK."

But he wasn't.

After getting tests done the next day, the X-rays came back with the worst possible news.

"The next morning after the MRI and X-rays, they said it was my [anterior cruciate ligament] ACL and I'd have to get surgery and I'd be out for the season," the 6-foot-9 sophomore forward said. "I was so disappointed but I need to keep my head up and do the best I can."

Originally thinking the injury was to his medial collateral ligament, Borovnjak said he hurt himself on defense on a play when his opponent drove to the middle.

After the other player spun back, Borovnjak started going the other way before suddenly feeling a pop and falling to the floor in excruciating pain.

Following a night of waiting, the tests the next day didn't come back in Penn State's favor, with Borovnjak set for surgery on Nov. 1 — and leaving the Lions with a gaping hole in its frontcourt.

But on a team returning 75 percent of its scoring and 67 percent of its rebounding, the sophomore big man and his 1.8 points and 1.1 rebounds per game last year wouldn't seem to be too big a loss.

However, the loss of his size — the second tallest player after Drew Jones — now forces coach Ed DeChellis to make changes.

"There are times without Sasa [Borovnjak] that we'll have to play a different style of lineup," the coach said. "Maybe with two forwards instead of a natural center."

Senior Steve Kirkpatrick added that although the team is bummed

out Borovnjak went down, a lot of other guys have been stepping up.

With players like Ohio State's 6-foot-9 Jared Sullinger, Illinois's 7-foot-1 Mike Tisdale and Purdue's 6-foot-10 JaJuan Johnson expected to lead their teams in the Big Ten this year, it's going to be essential for the Lions to replace Borovnjak's height.

Expected to be the first big man off the bench this season, the sophomore said he had been working hard to earn more minutes and play a much bigger role on this year's team.

Instead, he now has to watch his teammates from the bench with his crutches and motorized scooter as he stares down eight months of rehabilitation to get back to 100 percent.

"It's really tough," he said. "I'm disappointed and a little bit down because of my leg. I had a great summer and great preseason."

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Borovnjak walks on crutches

# Icers' offense spreads the scoring wealth around

By Anthony Barton  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Glancing at the points leaders for the No. 4 Penn State Icers, six players average at least one point per game during their 5-0 start to the season.

## ICERS

As far as the Icers are concerned, the point distribution is just business as usual.

"Our scoring has always been spread out," senior forward Marek Polidor said. "Which is good because when you face teams, it's hard for them to concentrate on just one player or one line because we have so many threats that can contribute."

Last season's leading scorer, senior forward Tim O'Brien, finished with 45 points, putting him modestly tied for 55th place in the ACHA.

While that might not seem like a lot for the leading scorer of a top-10 team, the Icers had seven players with 30 or more points and an eighth with 29.

This season, O'Brien, junior for-

ward Chris Cerutti and sophomore forwards George Saad and Eric Steinour all lead the team with seven points in five games.

Following them are sophomore defenseman Rich O'Brien with five points in five games, and senior forward Chris Pronchik, who has four points in four games.

Assistant coach Josh Hand said one of the main questions coming into this season was who was going to carry the scoring load.

With the scoring being spread throughout the team, he said it's definitely an advantage.

"When opposing coaches are matching lines, [the balanced scoring] makes it hard to do," Hand said.

"When coaches look at our top scorers and they see that we've got a bunch, they can't necessarily match a line with a scoring line because we have lines on the ice

at all times that can score."

Head coach Scott Balboni said the team's philosophies are what drive the balanced scoring. By spreading the talent evenly over four lines, players are kept fresh, while their opponents never get a break.

"When you have enough depth to be able to do that, then we can not only wear other teams down but we can wear on other team's weaknesses," Balboni said.

Balboni said the players leading the team in scoring this season were, for the most part, expected to do so.

Saad leading the team with five goals, including an overtime winner over Central Oklahoma last Friday, has been a pleasant surprise for the Icers thus far. Balboni said.

"I would say that only because he got hurt last year and didn't play," Balboni said. "I didn't know how he was going to come back. Obviously going into this weekend and being one of the leading scorers on the team is a good place to be."

Even with the Icers' scoring success so far, it may only get better in the coming weeks. Junior forward Nick Seravalli and sophomore forward Dominic Morrone, who tied for fourth on the team last year with 35 points, are still recovering from injuries.

Morrone came back last weekend and scored a goal before suffering a groin injury. He is listed as questionable for games this weekend against the No. 2 Ohio Bobcats.

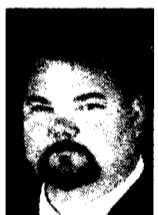
Seravalli is recovering from full groin-reconstructive surgery in

the offseason and is set to return in 2-3 weeks.

O'Brien said if he had to choose, he would much rather have a balanced team than one or two guys carrying the scoring load.

"It's never going to hurt to have five or six guys at the end of the year with 40-plus points when in comparison other teams only have two or three," O'Brien said. "I just think that the more guys we have closer to the top, the better it will be for us."

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Balboni

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**NITTANY LION SPORTS PLANNER**

**MEN'S & WOMEN'S SWIMMING**  
MCCOY NATATORIUM  
Saturday (10/23) @ 11:00 AM  
vs. VIRGINIA TECH  
(P) PINK SWIM MEET

**FIELD HOCKEY**  
PENN STATE FIELD HOCKEY COMPLEX  
Saturday (10/23) @ 12:00 N  
vs. DUKE  
(P) PINK GAME  
Sunday (10/24) @ 3:00 PM  
vs. PRINCETON

**MEN'S SOCCER**  
JEFFREY FIELD  
Saturday (10/23) @ 3:00 PM  
vs. OHIO STATE  
(P) 100TH YEAR CELEBRATION GAME

**BIG TEN MEN'S SOCCER TOURNAMENT** AT JEFFREY FIELD  
November 11, 12 & 14 — 2010

**NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY MID-ATLANTIC REGIONALS**  
AT THE PENN STATE GOLF COURSE (Start and finish areas across from Rec Hall)  
November 13 — 2010 12 PM for the women's race and 1:15 PM for the men's race

**NCAA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL REGIONAL** AT REC HALL  
December 10 & 11 — 2010

**LADY LION BASKETBALL:**  
**PA ANNOUNCER AND EMCEE TRYOUTS**  
LADY LION AND NITTANY LION BASKETBALL:  
**NATIONAL ANTHEM TRYOUTS**  
Saturday (10/23) 3:00 — 5:00 PM in the BJC MAIN ARENA!  
PA Announcer and Emcee tryouts will begin at 3pm and the Anthem tryouts will begin shortly after.  
Please email [bnc1@psu.edu](mailto:bnc1@psu.edu) if you plan on attending

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