

# SPORTS

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THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

## Lions sign four recruits

By Emily Kaplan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Four players signed national letters of intent to play for Penn State's men's basketball team next season, coach Ed DeChellis announced Wednesday in his regular midweek press conference.

The four commitments came on the first day of the NCAA's

early signing period. Patrick Ackerman, Peter Alexis, Ross Travis and Trey Lewis will join the Nittany Lions for the 2011-12 season.

DeChellis said the team has sent one more offer out, and will find out the status on that player in the next day or so.

Last year, Penn State received just one signature — now-freshman Taran Buie, half-brother of current Lion captain Talor Battle — during the early signing period. "I'm very happy with the four

we got," DeChellis said. "The four we got are all great kids, great students."

The Lions will lose five players — including starters Jeff Brooks, D.J. Jackson, Andrew Jones and Battle — to graduation next year.

DeChellis said that next year's incoming class includes some athletic, big guys that fulfill some of the areas the team "really needed to fulfill."

Ackerman is a 6-foot-11, 220-pound center from Worcester Academy Prep (Mass.) that

### New Lions

Patrick Ackerman: 6-foot-11 C  
Peter Alexis: 6-foot-11 C  
Ross Travis: 6-foot-7 F  
Trey Lewis: 6-foot-1 G

Scout.com rates as a two-star prospect.

"[He has] a body like, I'm not going to compare him to an NBA. See RECRUITS, Page 12.

## Big Ten to be on display

By Andrew Robinson  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Last year, the Penn State men's soccer team went to Bloomington, Ind. and battled its way to the Big Ten Tournament championship game.

While the Lions lost 1-0 to Ohio State, the result didn't matter that much. What was important was the fact Penn State soccer was back.

Starting today at 3 p.m., the Nittany Lions are hoping to complete that run to a title and restore the program as a national power. But this year, they'll be the ones with home field advantage.

"Ever since two years ago when we went 5-11, we've been working extremely hard to get it back going in the right way," senior co-captain Drew Cost said. "Last year we came up short but we thought it was a good run and we got in the NCAA Tournament so hopefully we can build on that and win the final."

The 4th-seeded Lions play their first round game today against 5th-seeded Northwestern at Jeffrey Field. In the first meeting between the teams on Oct. 17, the Lions tied the Wildcats on the road.

Cost said after watching film of that game, the team realized it was playing too narrow. Opening up the width and breaking down the defense will be a key to getting a win, senior co-captain Andres Casais said.

"They're a good defensive team, they're organized in the back and they just never give up defensively," Casais said. "They have nine guys in the back, they'll go and attack then when they're not attacking they'll have the whole team sprinting back and getting behind the ball."

Should the Lions win, they would play No. 1 seed Indiana Friday at 5 p.m., another rematch. Back on Sept. 24, the Hoosiers defeated Penn State 3-2 at Jeffrey Field after forward Will Bruin scored with 11 seconds remaining, just 26 seconds after Penn State junior Corey Hertzog had a go-ahead goal called offside.

Knowing how their bracket sets up, the players said the incentive of revenge is motivation going into the tournament. However, the Lions also know they can't just look ahead to Friday's possible semi-final.

"Anytime you feel like you See TOURNAMENT, Page 12.

## Center to join Lions

By Ryan Loy  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Lady Lions landed a big recruit Wednesday.

Literally — a big recruit.

Tori Waldner, of Milton, Ga., signed a National Letter of Intent to play for Penn State beginning in the 2011-12 season.

Lions' coach Coquese Washington said the primary attribute she's excited about from the Milton High School senior is her size.

"She's definitely 6-foot-5, and inching toward 6-foot-6 quite honestly," Washington said during her weekly press conference Wednesday.

Washington said Waldner verbally committed to the Lions in September. The 6-foot-5 center is the first recruit to confirm her plans to come to Penn State during the early signing period, which began Wednesday and ends Nov. 17.

The main thing the Lions need out of this recruiting class is a center, Washington said. She believes with Waldner, they've got a good one.

This season, the Lions' tallest player is 6-foot-4 center Nikki See CENTER, Page 12.

## DEJA VU



Penn State freshman Deja McClendon (left) is off to a fast start in collegiate athletics. Her father, Roger McClendon (right), had a successful basketball career at Cincinnati in the 1980s.

## Freshman follows roots

By Jake Kaplan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

From a young age, Deja McClendon knew her father played basketball in college.

But, at least for a while, she had no idea how good her father actually was.

"One day my grandparents came over with all these films," Deja recalled from a time when she was in middle school. "And I was like, 'Is this dad? Is this him?' I didn't even recognize him."

Deja's father, Roger McClendon, was one of the most decorated players in the University of Cincinnati's basketball history.

Roger played for the Bearcats from 1984-88, and finished his career as the second all-time leading scorer in the school's history, behind only Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson. Two players have surpassed Roger's 1,789 career points since his playing days ended, but that in no way diminishes the success Roger, a member of the school's basketball history. See FRESHMAN, Page 12.



Tori Waldner shoots in a game.

## Lions offense looking to buck trend in Columbus

By Andrew J. Cassavell  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Much has been made about the resurgence of Penn State's offense during the last three weeks. A long, difficult history for the Nittany Lions in Columbus —

where Penn State offenses have gone to die under Joe Paterno — suggests things might get a little trickier for the unit this week.

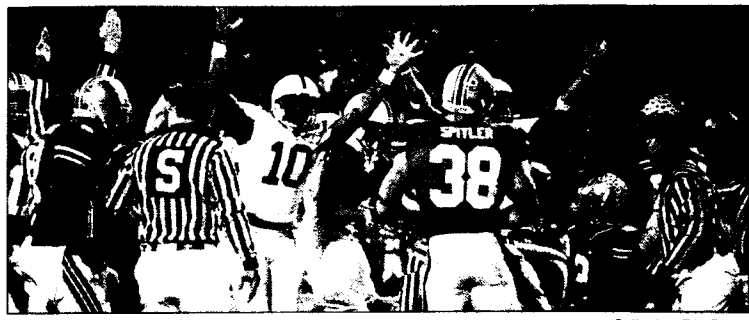
The Lions' last two offensive outbursts have come at home against below-average defenses, and the first came against Big Ten cellar dweller Minnesota in not-so-hostile TCF Bank Stadium. Now the Nittany Lions head to No. 8 Ohio State, where scoring has proven more than a chore for Paterno's teams.

Since he took over as head coach in 1966, no Penn State team has scored more than one touchdown in Columbus. No quarter-

back has tossed a touchdown pass there in that time, either. In fact, Penn State's 13-6 victory at The Horseshoe in 2008 was their first win there in 30 years.

For Paterno, the answer to why is simple: Ohio State's defense is very good, very often.

"They're very well disciplined," Paterno said. "They're very well See OFFENSE, Page 12.



Penn State players celebrate a touchdown in Columbus.

## THE LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV

NHL  
Philadelphia at Carolina  
7 p.m., CSN

### TRIVIA

Q: Chad Pennington will start at quarterback for the Miami Dolphins this week, when was his last start?

Wednesday's Answer: New Cowboys coach Jason Garrett is a native of Abington, Pa.

### A's land DeJesus from Royals

David DeJesus has been on the Oakland Athletics' radar for a while now. They like his near-perfect defense, baserunning and consistent bat.

The A's acquired the outfielder from the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday for right-hander Vin Mazzaro and minor league lefty Justin Marks. General manager Billy Beane immediately said he will start in one of the corner outfield spots.

"He's a guy we've always liked," Beane said. "He's been a well-respected guy and does everything very well. I think he's just another good player to add to the mix of players out there."

One of Beane's priorities this offseason was to find a capable hitter who could help the A's score more runs for their talented pitching staff.

### THOUGHTS

#### NHL made intriguing move

The NHL's decision to have two captains pick the squads for this year's All-Star Game will at the very least spice up a game that desperately needs it.

Rather than have the traditional Eastern Conference/Western Conference matchup, the league has opted for two captains to pick players from either league.

Now Sidney Crosby and Alexander Ovechkin won't be forced to play together and instead could play against each other, which is what hockey fans really want to see.

Maybe it won't work, or maybe it will. But at least the league is willing to try something different.