

Senior forward Andrew Jones (left) defends a shot by Furman junior forward Chris Toler during the Lions' 70-49 win vs. the Paladins at the BJC.

Lions earn No. 4 seed

Rec Hall to host rounds

By Jake Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The No. 7 Penn State women's volleyball team's road to the Final Four will go through Rec Hall.

The three-time defending champion Nittany Lions (26-5, 16-4 Big Ten) are the No. 4 seed in the 2010 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship's 64-team bracket, the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Committee announced Sunday afternoon.

Penn State, which earned an automatic bid with its eighth straight Big Ten title, will host Niagara (25-8), the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) champion, Friday night at Rec Hall, with a time to be determined.

The winner will face either Virginia Tech (19-11) or Delaware (26-5) on Saturday night at Rec Hall, the same building where the Lions have won 90 consecutive matches dating back to Sept. 1, 2006, tying Nebraska's NCAA record.

Rec Hall is also one of four sites hosting the NCAA Regional semifinals and finals on Dec. 10-11, meaning Penn State would not have to travel until the national semifinals in Kansas City, Mo.

"We're excited about participating in the NCAA championships," said Penn State coach Russ Rose in a press release, whose team dropped its season finale Saturday night in a five-set thriller at Minnesota.

"After coming off a tough road loss to a solid Minnesota team, we have to regroup and focus on the things that allowed us to win the Big Ten championship this year."

Florida (27-1), Nebraska (27-2) and Stanford (24-3) are the

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Tournament's top seeds

1. Florida (27-1)
2. Nebraska (27-2)
3. Stanford (24-3)
4. Penn State (26-5)
5. Northern Iowa (30-2)
6. USC (25-4)
7. California (25-3)
8. Illinois (22-8)

Hot shooting beats Furman

By Jared Shanker
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It wasn't even two weeks ago when the Penn State men's basketball team couldn't buy a basket from the 3-point line.

In the Nittany Lions' 70-49 win against Furman on Sunday at the Bryce Jordan Center, the Lions couldn't miss. The Lions were hitting their 3-pointers at a nearly 73 percent clip in the first half before finishing 12 of 19 from 3.

The Lions' 63.2 percentage from 3 is their best mark since shooting 75 percent against St. Francis in 2005.

It's a shocking number considering in a game against St. Joseph's on Nov. 16, the Lions shot just 1 of 21 from 3.

Four of the Lions' first six made baskets were from beyond the arc, helping them build an early double-digit lead. When the Paladins (3-2) cut the lead to five with eight minutes left in the first half, the Lions (5-1), powered by four 3-pointers, went on a 17-4 run.

The Paladins wouldn't cut the lead to single digits the rest of the game.

The Lions were especially effective against the Paladins' 2-3 zone defense, breaking the zone a number of times with a 3 and forcing the Paladins to go back to man-to-man.

"It's a thing the coaches stress us to do in practice — make shots," senior forward Jeff Brooks said. "We're getting a lot of open 3s."

See SHOOTING, Page 11.

Team rebounds from loss

By Emily Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

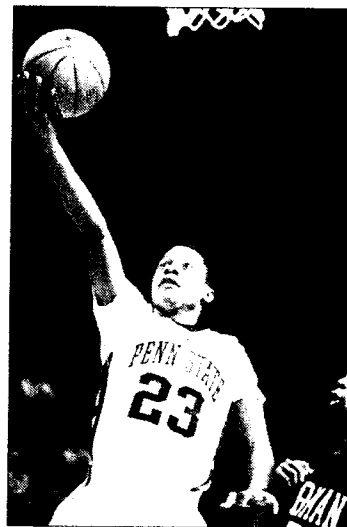
When the Penn State men's basketball team squared off with Mississippi Friday night in the Nittany Lions' first road game of the season, Penn State had no trouble scoring points.

The problem was that the Rebels didn't, either.

Mississippi relied on a barrage of 3-point shots — some of which coach Ed DeChellis said were wide open — to hand the Lions an 84-71 loss, their first defeat of the season.

"We had a great offensive game, but we didn't defend," senior co-captain Tador Battle said. "So our mantra [Sunday] was come back and try to defend. I think that was the key."

See LOSS, Page 11.



Sophomore guard Tim Frazier (23) attempts a layup Sunday.

Men's soccer falls to Maryland

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

COLLEGE PARK, Md. Sometimes soccer twists fate in a cruel manner and it does these things without remorse.

But it also finds ways of repaying those cruel moments with fantastic ones.

It was exactly that turn of events that cost the Penn State men's soccer team a chance to upset the Maryland Terrapins on their home field in the third round of the NCAA Tournament. After battling with a taller Maryland squad, a miscue by the Lions' defense turned into the only goal the Terps needed to seize a 1-0 win and a date with Michigan in the quarterfinals.

With just 2:02 left in regulation, a ball was headed out of the Nittany Lions box by a diving defender and right to the foot of Terps defender Taylor Kemp just outside the box. Kemp stepped in and fired a full volley into the top right corner of the net, where Penn State goalkeeper Brendan Birmingham had no shot of saving.

"It felt amazing, it couldn't of gone at a better time," Kemp said. "I love this team so much, I'm glad I could do my part to help us through."

The match started distinctly in Maryland's favor. The Terrapins' attack, and their size and ability in the air, put the Lions on their heels early, but the defense

See SOCCER, Page 11.



Senior Andy Parr (12) fights off a Terrapin Sunday.

Lady Lions finish with 2-1 record in Mexico

Caribbean Challenge schedule

- Thu., Nov. 25: Penn State 70, Utah 58
- Fri., Nov. 26: Green Bay 79, Penn State 74
- Sat., Nov. 27: Penn State 71, Hartford 65

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Lady Lions suffered their first loss of the year, but compiled an overall 2-1 record in the Caribbean Challenge held in Riviera Maya, Mexico this past week.

Penn State (6-1) defeated Utah on Thursday before falling to No. 23 University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, then finished the tournament with a come-from-behind win over

Hartford on Saturday. Freshmen Maggie Lucas and Ariel Edwards continued their strong starts to the year, while sophomores Alex Bentley and Nikki Greene turned in solid performances.

After starting their season 5-0 for the first time since 1996-1997, they fell to Green Bay, 79-74, despite a strong comeback. The Lions shot 51.3 percent from the floor in the game, but couldn't overcome 29 team turnovers.

Again the Lions trailed at half-

time, but came out with a 9-2 run to start the second half and cut Wisconsin-Green Bay's lead down to 33-31. The Lady Lions and Phoenix exchanged runs for the rest of the game, but the Phoenix hit eight foul shots down the stretch to put Penn State away.

Junior guard Zhaque Gray continued her hot shooting from the outside, hitting 5-of-8 from 3-point territory in the loss, while Bentley tied her career-high with nine assists.

After the loss, the Lady Lions finished their three games in three-day stretch with another rally, this time topping Hartford. Penn State trailed 25-12 early in the first half before the team found its touch from beyond the arc. Overall, the Lady Lions sunk 10 3-pointers and shot their way to a 71-65 win.

Lucas came off the bench to score 27 points, her career-high, on a 9-of-16 shooting night, going

See MEXICO, Page 11.

Indiana pulls plug on Lynch

After a promising start, Bill Lynch's tenure as Indiana coach ended with the Hoosiers in their familiar spot at the bottom of the Big Ten.

Lynch was fired Sunday with one year left on his contract, a day after Indiana reclaimed the Old Oaken Bucket from Purdue to earn their only conference victory in a third straight losing season.

"My view was that, given the circumstances of the last three seasons, that extending the contract was not a viable option," athletic director Fred Glass said. "It would send the wrong signal of what merited an extension at Indiana University."

Players insisted that Lynch wasn't the problem after Saturday's 34-31 overtime victory at Purdue.

Tough times for Pitt football

Are you a Penn State football fan bummed about the Lions' mediocre season this year?

Cheer up. Pittsburgh's football team — picked to win the Big East in the preseason — is currently projected to play in the BBVA Compass Bowl in Birmingham, Alabama.

No disrespect to the fine people of Birmingham — ironically nicknamed "The Pittsburgh of the South" — but their bowl game is the perfect punchline to a Pitt football joke for the next year should the Panthers end up there this December. "BBVA Compass Bowl Champions" just doesn't have any ring to it whatsoever.

Federer tops Nadal in final

Roger Federer turned his high-profile, season-ending match against Rafael Nadal into little more than an exhibition.

Federer gave his rival little chance to mount a challenge in the 22nd meeting between two of the greatest players of all time, winning his fifth season-ending title 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 at the ATP World Tour Finals on Sunday. Federer won an incredible 92 percent of the points played on his first serve in the final, and lost only 13 points on serve in the entire match.

"I was able to stay offensive. Rallies were never that long," said Federer, who has won the season-ending tournament in Houston, Shanghai and London.

NFL

San Francisco at Arizona
8:30 p.m., ESPN

Q: Which American university did Canadian-born kicker Shaun Suisham attend?

Friday's answer: In both 1980 and 1981, both league's Cy Young Award winners wore the same jersey number.