

Advance

From Page 8.

tallied six of the next seven points to tie it at 16. Trailing 18-17, setter Kristin Carpenter served the Lions to four straight points, as part of what would become a 15-7 run to come back and take a two-set lead.

Penn State and Virginia Tech were knotted up at 10 in the third set, but the Lions pulled away and won the final set handily, 25-13.

Riley, who on Friday night described the potential matchup with Penn State (28-5) as a "David vs. Goliath match," wasn't at all surprised David stuck with Goliath Saturday night.

"I think our strength and our speed was difficult for them to handle as big [as they are] and as well as they move," Riley said after the match.

"I think it's difficult for anyone to handle."

Penn State senior opposite hitter Blair Brown said her team knew they couldn't take Virginia Tech (20-12) for granted, as they can't overlook any team in the NCAA tournament.

"You can't think any team is not going to be a great team when you're going in," said Brown, who led all players with 11 kills, including two in a row to close the match.

"I think they had a great team coming in. They had a lot of energy and their fans helped them out a lot. They're very well coached and you can tell. They run a quick offense."

In the end, Penn State's big block made a big difference in the match. The Lions outblocked the Hokies, 15-4, and outhit them, 321-157.

Brown said the Lions still need to improve for Friday's Sweet 16 matchup against Oklahoma (23-10).

"They're very well coached and you can tell."

Blair Brown
senior

If they win, the fourth-seeded Lions — who are one of six Big Ten teams remaining in the tournament — would face either 12th-seeded Duke or Missouri on Saturday night at Rec Hall for a trip to the Final Four.

"I think every single game in the tournament, you have to get better, you have to progress," Brown said.

"This whole year for us has been about progression and we just need to continue doing that throughout the tournament."

To e-mail reporter: jyk5142@psu.edu

Big Ten

From Page 8.

statement.

"Following detailed discussions at [Sunday's] meeting, my colleagues and I can report that we believe that this process has reached its natural conclusion. We are pleased with the addition of Nebraska and look forward to working with our colleagues

there in the years ahead."

Earlier this season, Joe Paterno said he'd like the league to expand east.

Before Nebraska, the Nittany Lions were the conference's most recent addition after entering the league in 1993.

In the past, Paterno has been one of the most vocal supporters of further expansion.

But after meeting with the coun-

cil, Curley said more expansion won't occur any time soon — or even be discussed by the heads of the league's universities.

"We deliberated and had a very thorough review, and with that everyone decided to be content with Nebraska," Curley said. "Conference expansion is on the backburner."

To e-mail reporter: ajc5238@psu.edu

Bench

From Page 8.

"I thought one of the big keys in the game [Saturday] was Coach DeChellis went to a three guard lineup about five or six minutes into the second half," Duquesne coach Ron Everhart said after the game.

"That got us out of our press a little bit. We couldn't really trap those guys because they were so good put-

ting it on the floor and getting to the basket."

Battle stepped up and led the way with 31 points while senior Jeff Brooks picked up his game for 17 points.

However, it was the solid play of the bench that made the difference with Jackson and Oliver out with injuries as DeChellis made the decision to go with three guards, a strategy he has shied away from so far this season.

"Our bench has not been a strong

suit for us so we were really reluctant, but we were forced to do it and it worked pretty well," DeChellis said.

"Tre Bowman did a very nice job. I thought Jermaine [Marshall] did a very nice job in the first half. Cam [Woodyard] came in and made some big free throws for us and knocked them down. And I thought Taran had a solid performance off the bench."

To e-mail reporter: ada147@psu.edu

Blocking

From Page 8.

(20-12) led by five points at 15-10. The Hokies limited Penn State's offense to .160 hitting in that set.

However, the Lions' blocking held Virginia Tech in check, allowing them to fight back to win the set and take control of the match. The Lions registered 9.0 of their 15.0 blocks during the come-from-behind win in the second set.

But, it was the two blocks near the end of the set by Brown that really elated the crowd.

"I think any play you make is an energy changer on the court, and that's one of them," Brown said. "If I can help bring the energy up, that's what I'm going to do."

Brown led the Lions with six blocks, while senior Fatima Balza and freshman Ariel Scott each had five. Balza's blocks came in just one and a half sets, after she was inserted into the lineup midway through the match.

Virginia Tech senior Felicia Willoughby said the Hokies tried to move the ball around to different hitters, but she said they struggled to hit around the Lion blockers.

Though they found success at times, the Hokies were held to a .157 hitting percentage.

Hokies' coach Chris Riley believed his team did a good job of slowing down Penn State's offensive attack, but he said the Lions' blockers troubled his team.

"They were physical and had a humongous block," Riley said. "Against a team with 6-foot-6 and 6-foot-5 [players] blocking you, you've got to be able to move them around, and we struggled to do that at times tonight."

To e-mail reporter: rml5138@psu.edu

Fast start

From Page 8.

games in a good rhythm has been a bit of an issue, trailing at halftime in six of their nine games, but Sunday's success was a reassuring sign.

"It felt really good, we haven't done it all year so this game we finally stopped coming out slow," sophomore point guard Alex Bentley said.

The Lady Lions led 38-31 at halftime behind 14 of Nickson's 26 points, but couldn't replicate their first-half surge to start the second frame.

Normally, the Lady Lions have used the beginning of the second half to mount a run, but against Texas Tech, the players' tired legs started to catch up to them.

Since Thanksgiving, Penn State has played five games, including three on three consecutive days and the signs showed.

The team had turnovers on its first two second-half possessions, which prompted coach Coquese Washington to take a timeout with 17:48 left in the period.

"Some of that was Alex, I was in Alex's ear a lot [Sunday] because I know she was a little fatigued," Washington said.

"When Alex gets tired then she doesn't lead the team as well and so I wanted to make sure I stayed in her head about what we wanted to do offensively and defensively."

Washington said Bentley wasn't as crisp and focused as she is when she's rested and

when the guard's play drops, so does the rest of the team's. After Texas Tech scored a couple of quick baskets, the timeout was just meant to jolt the Lady Lions back into focus and restore a sense of urgency.

Penn State showed a good deal of zone defense, both because Washington said her team struggled guarding Tech's ball screens and several of Penn State's post players were saddled with foul trouble.

Despite 21 turnovers from Penn State, Texas Tech forward Jordan Barncastle felt her team wasn't able to capitalize on its many opportunities.

"I think we could have done a lot of things better," Barncastle said.

"Too many defensive breakdowns, too many offensive rebounds given away, not making enough shots, it's little things but it just comes down to mistakes."

But on the other side, the game provided a test for Penn State, and with all the factors involved, it showed Bentley the character of her teammates.

"Anytime our team hits adversity, we tend to just play at a higher level," Bentley said.

"Our fight and our heart are really, really strong and I don't think anybody was worrying when we were having those turnovers or getting down because we knew we were going to be alright."

To e-mail reporter: adr5079@psu.edu

CHRISTMAS TREES

One for Here or one to take Home

Choose and Cut or Fresh Cut (save provided) * Free delivery to trees Beautiful Fir, Spruce & Spruce Wreaths and more Free Shaker - cleaning and wrapping www.taitfarmfoods.com 814-466

Gift Boxes of Tait Farm Food Products

Great for Relatives & Friends Shippable View Product List & Buy examples www.taitfarmfoods.com

TAIT FARM
Open every day 9am-6pm

PENN STATE'S 9TH ANNUAL CLASSIC EUROPE GRADUATION TOUR
4 Countries • 11 Days • May 22-June 1, 2011

Celebrate your GRADUATION by going to Europe!

Only \$2,095 plus air



3 WAYS TO FIND OUT MORE:

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tuesday (12/7) & Wednesday (12/8)

at the HUB

Stop by to enter drawing for \$100 off the trip!

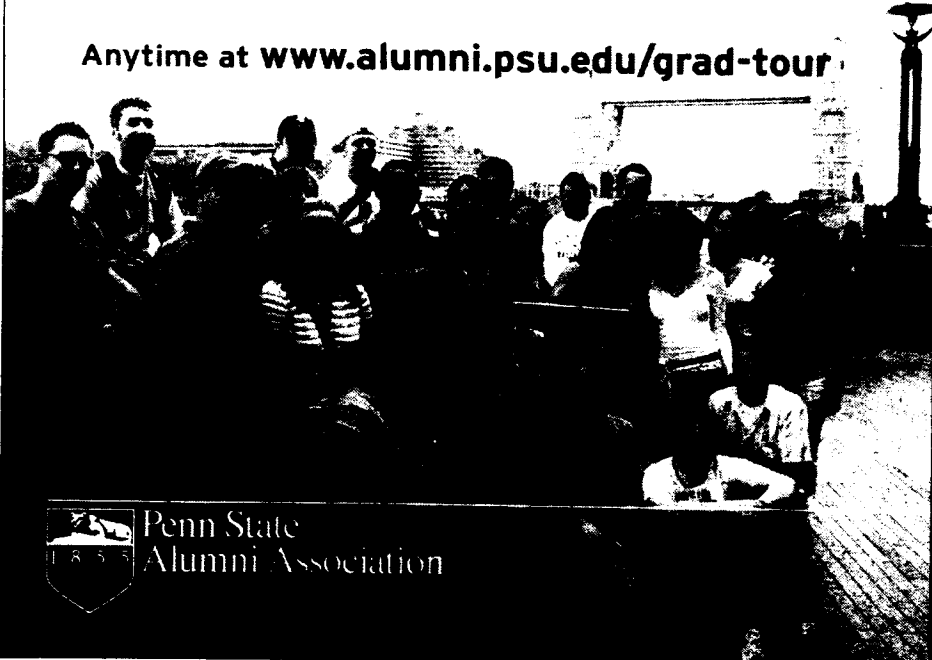
7:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday (12/7) & Wednesday (12/8)

at the Hintz Family Alumni Center

See video, talk to travel reps, enter drawing

Plus snacks!

Anytime at www.alumni.psu.edu/grad-tour



Penn State Alumni Association

Looking for a

Fun Job?

Join our team!

LionLine

is now accepting applications for **Spring '11**

Apply online today at:

www.lionline.psu.edu

Training classes are being formed now!

Spring Break isn't free!



Love the Greater Philly Area?

Check out the Daily Collegian's Classified section or online for today's listing of employment opportunities, real estate, and cars in the Greater Philly Area.

Collegian