



Bryan Meehan/Collegian

Women's volleyball players Blair Brown (9), Fatima Balza (3) and Deja McClendon (18) block a shot vs. Virginia Tech on Saturday in Rec Hall.

## League stays with 12 teams

By Andrew J. Cassavell  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Last summer, college football's biggest offseason storyline was conference expansion — specifically in the Big Ten.

In the 2011 offseason, don't expect to hear much of the same talk.

In a statement released by the Big Ten following its winter meetings in Park Ridge, Ill., the Council of Presidents and Chancellors announced it will no longer pursue expansion following this season.

### FOOTBALL



Delany

"Although the conference will continue to monitor the intercollegiate landscape, it will not be actively engaged in conference expansion for the foreseeable future and does not expect to be proactively seeking new members," the statement said.

Twelve months ago, Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany gave the conference a 12-18 month timeframe to investigate expansion.

The league capitalized in June by adding Nebraska, which will officially become the conference's 12th member next season.

But Penn State Athletic Director Tim Curley said that's as far as the league will go — at least for now.

"We took a look at the college football landscape, and we figured that with Nebraska, we were content," Curley said.

At Big Ten media days in early August, Delany said he'd continue to look at expansion possibilities as the season progressed.

Now, with the Big Ten set to enter the postseason, Sunday's statement ended any question of whether Delany would opt to expand further during his self-imposed timeframe.

"We have been thoroughly engaged in the process since last December," Big Ten Council of Presidents and Chancellors Chair and Indiana President Michael McRobbie said in the statement.

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For a link to quarterback Kevin Newsome's first recorded song, check out the Footblog: [psucollegian.com](http://psucollegian.com)

## Lions sweep Hokies, advance

By Jake Kaplan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Before Saturday night's second-round match, Virginia Tech coach Chris Riley told his Hokies not to be surprised if they confronted with Penn State, the three-time defending national champions.

That turned out to be the case as the Hokies hung with the

Nittany Lions, making for a competitive second round match in the NCAA's at Rec Hall on Saturday night.

But ultimately, Penn State pulled out a victory in straight sets, sweeping Virginia Tech, 3-0 (25-22, 25-22, 25-13), to advance to the NCAA Regionals for the eighth straight year. The Big Ten cham-

### Penn State

### Virginia Tech

pions, who have won 20 straight postseason matches and an NCAA record 92 straight at home, will play Oklahoma on Friday night at Rec Hall.

"It was a tough match against a great opponent that played very hard," Penn State coach Russ Rose said after his team knocked the Hokies out of their first-ever NCAA tournament. "Anytime you can advance in an NCAA tournament, you put your next foot forward and you're pleased about that and try and recharge your

battery for even greater challenges next week."

The first two sets were closer than some of the Lion faithful might've expected. The teams went back and forth in the first set, and a kill by Virginia Tech outside hitter Justine Record tied it at 19 before Penn State went on a 6-3 run, capped off by an Arielle Wilson kill, to give them a one-set advantage.

In the second set, the Hokies held a 15-10 lead before the Lions

See **ADVANCE**, Page 10.

## Blocking key in victory

By Ryan Loy  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With Penn State's offense struggling and the momentum in Virginia Tech's favor, it seemed possible that Saturday's NCAA second-round match would be deadlocked at a set apiece at intermission.

Late in the second set, the Hokies had two chances to get kills along the left side of the court

against a lone Penn State blocker. Both times the attacks were sent straight down by 6-foot-5 Penn State senior Blair Brown.

Suffocating blocking by the Nittany Lions made up for an inconsistent offense, as the Penn State women's volleyball team (28-5) swept Virginia Tech (25-22, 25-22, 25-13) Saturday at Rec Hall.

Coming into the game, Penn State coach Russ Rose said he knew blocking would be a key to

the Lions' success. Rose said Virginia Tech's offensive style makes it difficult to defend attacks from the back row.

"We needed to block because I didn't think we would dig," Rose said. "They run such a fast offense behind the block. Really for us [Saturday], it was about blocking."

That was especially true in the second set, when Virginia Tech

See **BLOCKING**, Page 10.



Tim Riane/Collegian

Wilson (7) unleashes a spike.

## Fast start propels Lady Lions

By Andrew Robinson  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It took Alex Bentley just two seconds to zip into the lane and score the game's first basket.

But instead of letting their opponent take over the early flow of the game, the Penn State Lady Lions raced out to a nine-point lead over visiting Texas Tech.

After that initial surge, the Lady Lions (7-2) never trailed as they defeated the Lady Raiders (8-1), 76-68, as part of the Big Ten/Big 12 Challenge Sunday at the Bryce Jordan Center.

Redshirt sophomore Mia Nickson led Penn State with a

career-high 26 points and pulled down 14 rebounds, but it was the team's early start that set the tone.

"I thought that the 9-0 start by Penn State really caught us in the end," Texas Tech coach Kristy Curry said.

"We got off a slow start then it's a one-point game in the second half, we just didn't play it even in the first half."

For the Lady Lions, starting

See **FAST START**, Page 10.



Kelley King/Collegian

Bentley (20) drives to the hoop.

## Bench play sparks victory after injuries to forwards

By Alex Angert  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After the bench shot only five percent from the field in the team's previous game against Maryland, coach Ed DeChellis may have been reluctant to use his reserves in big moments against Duquesne on Saturday.

But his reserves proved him wrong, helping lead Penn State to victory while filling in for forwards D.J. Jackson and Billy Oliver, who left the game after separate colli-

sions under the basket at the start of each half.

The bench will need to carry over its success against Mount Saint Mary's on Tuesday, as the Lions coach said neither player is expected to play.

"[Duquesne] played pretty physical," senior Talor Battle said. "Some guys were getting hurt left and right. Hopefully those two guys on our team that got banged up will be all right and get back out there soon."

Jackson was the first to go down after colliding with an opposing player underneath the basket three minutes into the first half.

Following the injury, the senior was sent to the hospital for precautionary tests, which showed he had a "stinger" in his neck.

Oliver, who was filling in for Jackson, then left the game after he hit his head following a collision of his own in the paint at the start of the second half.

Oliver, who has missed the last two seasons with the recurring migraines, watched the rest of the game from the bench with what DeChellis called a "cutting headache."

DeChellis said he is hoping to have both players play in a huge nonconference road game against

Virginia Tech this weekend.

With Jackson in the hospital and Oliver on the bench three minutes into the second half, the Lions were losing by four and struggling to find an answer for Duquesne's frantic style of play.

At that point, DeChellis made an adjustment in his game plan and got a spurt of energy and production from freshmen Taran Buie and Tre Bowman, who has rarely played such this season.

See **BENCH**, Page 10.

More coverage on the Lions' win vs. Duquesne. | **SPORTS**, Page 12.



Chloe Emmer/Collegian

Jackson (right) walks off the court.

**NFL**  
New York Jets at New England  
8:30 p.m., ESPN

**Q:** Before the Phillies, which team was Jayson Werth most previously a member of?

**A:** Friday's answer: Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored eight points in his first career home game with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

### Lions post season-best times

The Penn State women's swim team faced three of the top 10 teams in the nation this weekend at the Georgia Invitational.

Despite finishing behind all three top 10 teams with a fourth place finish out of six teams, the Nittany Lions were pleased with the way they competed.

"The fact that we were keeping up with them in races, and they're teams that are top, top in the country, was a really big deal," said sophomore Paige Whitmire, who had a personal best time in three events on the weekend.

To read the rest of Matt Clancy's story, check out [psucollegian.com](http://psucollegian.com)

### Nationals acquire OF Werth

Some general managers had just arrived at the winter meetings and some were not even at the winter meetings yet when the Washington Nationals made a startling announcement Sunday evening: They had agreed with right fielder Jayson Werth on a \$126 million, seven-year contract.

"I thought they were trying to reduce the deficit in Washington," new Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said.

The 31-year-old Werth, who helped the Phillies win the 2008 World Series title, hit .296 this year in his fourth and final season with Philadelphia. He had an NL-high 46 doubles, 27 homers and 85 RBIs.

"To just spend money wildly on people is not the point. What we're going to do is create an atmosphere ... of winning," Werth said on a conference call.

### OUR THOUGHTS

#### Temple snub shows flaws

Al Golden should be livid. The coach of the 8-4 Temple Owls will be sitting at home this bowl season after his Owls were not one of the 70 teams picked to play in a bowl this year.

The same Owls team that beat Fiesta Bowl-bound and Big East Champion UConn (also 8-4) earlier this season, will be sitting at home while teams like 6-6 Middle Tennessee State received a bowl bid due to a Sun Belt conference tie-in with the Little Caesar's Bowl.

These automatic tie-ins leave deserving teams like Temple out of the picture and is just one of the many flaws with the BCS system.