

Oklahoma provides tough test for Lions

By Jake Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Oklahoma women's volleyball team is accustomed to facing some of the nation's top teams — it's in the Big 12 with perennial national championship con-

tenders Nebraska and Texas. That is just one of the reasons Penn State coach Russ Rose knows his fourth-seeded Nittany Lions are in for a tough match tonight.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

No. 8 Penn State (28-5) hosts Oklahoma (23-10) at 7 p.m. in the NCAA Regional Semi-Finals at Rec Hall. The winner will face either 12th-seeded Duke (26-6) or Missouri (22-10) at 6:30 Saturday night with a trip to Thursday's Final Four in Kansas City, Mo., on the line.

"They do a number of things that hopefully we'll be able to contend with," Rose said in a press conference Thursday evening. "We know that every match has a different personality and we're not sure exactly which direction this one is going to go. But we're going to have to play well if we have hopes of advancing."

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For up-to-the-minute coverage on the regional games in Rec Hall this weekend: twitter.com/Collegian_WVB



Ariel Scott (1) goes for a kill.

Lions land ISU's Long

By Brandt Gelman
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With the success Penn State's freshman class is having this season, the team's future seems to be a bright one.

After Iowa State Sports Information released a statement Wednesday saying Andrew Long, a former Iowa State wrestler, intended to transfer to Penn State, the future may have gotten even brighter.

WRESTLING



Long

The Iowa State athletic department had not returned a call seeking confirmation, and the Penn State athletic department had not responded to an e-mail regarding the situation as of press time.

Long was the 125-pound runner-up at the NCAA championships last March, but was dismissed from Iowa State in June for violating team rules.

He was arrested twice while on Iowa State's wrestling team, most recently in April for possession of a fake ID. Both offenses were alcohol-related.

"The team gave Long a series of steps to accomplish to rejoin the team," Iowa State coach Kevin Jackson said in the release. "During that process, Andrew decided that he could best address those issues in a place where he would be starting over."

See LONG, Page 12.



Senior forward Billy Oliver (35) shields a defender during the Lions' 66-52 exhibition win vs. East Stroudsburg University in October.

Oliver overcoming head injuries

By Alex Angert
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Laura Oliver could feel Andrea Jackson's pain.

As a hush swept through the Bryce Jordan Center during Saturday's game against Duquesne, Oliver and Jackson — the mothers of Penn State basketball forwards Billy and D.J.,

respectively — sat next to each other and watched as Andrea's son laid on the floor in pain.

Watching her son's teammate struggle to get up, flashbacks began to appear right in front of Mrs. Oliver's eyes.

"I was frantic when D.J. went down in that game because I knew what was probably going through his head and what was going through his mom's head, who was sitting right next to me," Mrs. Oliver said. "My heart went

out to her because I was like, 'Oh, man, I've been there.'"

In fact, she has been there plenty of times in the past.

And little did she know then that she would be back there with in the hour.

At the start of the second half, her son was hit in the head by Jeff Brooks' knee, causing Oliver to sit out the rest of the game on the bench with a headache.

To most, a sip of water and two Advils would have done the trick.

But not for Billy. Headaches to Oliver can be much more worrisome after he was forced to redshirt the past two seasons after suffering two concussions and unrelated migraines during his freshman and sophomore year.

Finally healthy and the first Lion off the bench this season, it appeared for a brief time Saturday that Oliver's return to the court was back in jeopardy.

See OLIVER, Page 12.

Fifth-year senior leading Lions in final season



Brown (left) attempts a spike vs. Niagara last weekend in Rec Hall.

Series Note: This is the third of a three-part series highlighting the senior co-captains of the women's volleyball team.

By Ryan Loy
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Blair Brown ended her Penn State career, alongside Megan Hodge and Alisha Glass, as the core players who helped the program to three consecutive national titles and 102 straight wins.

At least, that's how it could have happened.

Instead, Brown redshirted her freshman season in 2006 and is

now a senior co-captain for the 2010 Nittany Lions — attempting to help her adoptive class capture an unparalleled fourth straight NCAA championship.

As far back as she can remember, Brown has had a key attribute for playing volleyball: height.

Early in her childhood, Brown said her height helped save a cat from a tree, but as she grew, it became a tool for athletics. After playing a variety of sports as a child, she focused on volleyball and track in high school.

When she came to Penn State, she had the size and ability to play, but the opposite hitter said redshirting was the right thing to do.

See BROWN, Page 12.

ACC's Hokies provide challenge

By Jared Shanker
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Before the season started, one glance at Penn State's non-conference schedule was enough to see that three games could end up defining the Nittany Lions' season. A road game at Ole Miss, a home game against Maryland and finally a road date at Virginia Tech immediately stood out as early-season tests for the Lions.

Well, through the first two games, the Lions are 0-2 with Virginia Tech remaining. A win at Virginia Tech at 1 p.m. Sunday in Blacksburg, Va. will go a long way come March for the Lions as they build their case for the selection committee.

"It's a huge resume builder for us, we know that," forward Billy Oliver said. "These are the games you look back at come March, that we went to Virginia Tech and won."

See HOKIES, Page 12.

NBA
Los Angeles Lakers at Chicago
8 p.m., ESPN

Q: Which NFL team did Auburn quarterback Cameron Newton's father, Cecil Newton, play for?
Thursday's answer: Florida coach Urban Meyer attended the University of Cincinnati.

Frosh Sullinger drops 40

Jared Sullinger set an Ohio State freshman record with 40 points, leading the second-ranked Buckeyes back from a nine-point second-half deficit to beat IUPUI 75-64 on Thursday night.

The 6-foot-9 Columbus native hit 12 of 17 shots from the field and 16 of 23 free throws — both of which were also records — and had 13 rebounds as the Buckeyes (7-0) escaped on a night when the pesky Jaguars (4-6) shot 51 percent from the field and constantly applied pressure.

William Buford added 14 points and Jon Diebler 13 for the Buckeyes, who looked rusty at times after a nine-day layoff. Alex Young had 20 points.

KG leads Celts past 76ers

Kevin Garnett banked in a shot off an alley-oop pass with 1.4 seconds left to give the Boston Celtics their ninth straight victory, 102-101 over the Philadelphia 76ers on Thursday night.

After Philadelphia's Andre Iguodala drove for a hook shot with 6.6 seconds left to give Philadelphia a 101-100 lead, Rajon Rondo flipped a long pass to Garnett for the winner.

Garnett then raced to midcourt to intercept the 76ers' inbound pass.

Ray Allen led Eastern Conference-leading Boston with 23 points, Rondo had 19 points and 14 assists, Glen Davis added 16 points, and Garnett finished with 14. Jodie Meeks led Philadelphia with 19 points, and Lou Williams and Thaddeus Young had 16 each.

OUR THOUGHTS

Lee deal could decide East

The Red Sox have struck deals with Adrian Gonzalez and Carl Crawford. And suddenly, the American League East title could come down to one man who hasn't signed yet: Cliff Lee.

The New York Yankees played chicken with the Sox and the Sox won. The Big Apple team is now in the hot seat.

Lee's potentially monster deal might be what is going to decide the East.

Yankees Chairman Hal Steinbrenner and G.M. Brian Cashman had better consider what this deal means.

If the Yankees don't get Lee, the Red Sox will enter 2011 as the team to beat in the division.