



2012 PENN STATE MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

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27-Time EIVA Champions • 1994 & 2008 NCAA National Collegiate Champions

No. 7 Penn State Nittany Lions



Jan.

Penn State vs. Ohio State
7 p.m. • St. John Arena
Columbus, Ohio



Nittany Lion Preview

The seventh-ranked Penn State men's volleyball team is back in action in 2012. The Nittany Lions open the 2012 season against No. 8 and defending national champion Ohio State. Action begins at 7 p.m. at OSU's St. John Arena in Columbus, Ohio.

Head coach Mark Pavlik, in his 18th season leading the men's volleyball program, welcomes back 13 letterwinners, including six returners with starting experience for the 2012 season. Included in the group are 2011 AVCA First Team All-American Joe Sunder and AVCA Second Team All-American Edgardo Goas. Other starting returners include junior middle hitter Nick Turko, junior middle hitter Ian Hendries, junior opposite Tom Comfort and sophomore outside hitter Jace Olsen. Other letterwinners include senior setter Tor Covello, redshirt freshman Nick Goodell, junior outside hitter Kyle Mars, sophomore outside hitter Peter Russell, senior outside hitter Ryan Wolf and redshirt sophomore outside hitter Scott Kegerreis. Joining the squad this year are four newcomers, including setter Taylor Hammond and middle hitters Kyle Gregan, Matt Seifert and Aaron Russell.

The Nittany Lions are coming off a season where they posted a 24-7 record, won their 27th ECVL/EIVA title and earned a spot in the NCAA Tournament for the 26th time.

Last season, Penn State finished the year ranked 11th in the nation with a .309 hitting percentage. The Nittany Lions finished fifth with 13.55 kills per set, sixth in aces per set with 1.41, eighth in assists per set with 12.49 and in the top 30 in blocks per set with 2.02. Sunder ranked ninth nationally in hitting percentage at .361, while Goas' 11.03 assists per set ranked eighth and former Nittany Lion Dennis Del Valle led the country in digs per set with 2.65.

Penn State vs. Ohio State

The Nittany Lions are 65-25-1 all-time against the Buckeyes dating back to 1978. Penn State and Ohio State met three times in 2011. In the first meeting, Ohio State swept the Nittany Lions, 3-0, in Columbus, but Penn State earned a 3-1 victory against the Buckeyes on April 10 at home in Rec Hall. The squads met a third time in the NCAA National Semifinals with the Buckeyes winning, 3-1, before moving on to win the 2011 NCAA National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship.

Scouting the Buckeyes

Ohio State is 1-2 so far this season after traveling to the UC Santa Barbara Invitational on Jan. 6-7. The Buckeyes opened the season with a 3-2 win against UC Santa Barbara on Jan. 6. However, OSU suffered a 3-0 setback to UCLA and a 3-2 loss to LBSU to close out their opening weekend of play.

2012 Schedule

January

14	at No. 8 Ohio State	7 p.m.
20	at Loyola	7 p.m.
21	at Lewis	7 p.m.

Ken and Dave Dunlap Invitational (at Ohio State)

27	vs. Stanford	5 p.m.
28	vs. Pacific	5 p.m.

February

3	vs. Mount Olive	7:30 p.m.
4	vs. Cal-Baptist	7:30 p.m.
10	vs. Rutgers-Newark*	7 p.m.
11	vs. NJIT*	7 p.m.
17	at Harvard*	7 p.m.
18	at Sacred Heart*	8 p.m.
24	vs. Princeton*	7 p.m.
25	vs. George Mason*	5 p.m.

March

3	vs. Ohio State	7 p.m.
8	at Pepperdine	10 p.m.
9	at USC	10 p.m.
17	at Saint Francis*	7 p.m.
23	at NJIT*	7 p.m.
24	at Rutgers-Newark*	7 p.m.
30	at Princeton*	7 p.m.
31	at George Mason*	7 p.m.

April

6	vs. Sacred Heart*	7 p.m.
7	vs. Harvard*	2 p.m.
13	at BYU	9 p.m.
14	at BYU	9 p.m.
21	vs. Saint Francis*	7 p.m.
26	EIVA Semifinals	TBA
28	EIVA Championship	TBA

May

3	NCAA Semifinals	Los Angeles, Calif.
5	NCAA Finals	Los Angeles, Calif.

Home matches played at Rec Hall in **bold** • All times ET and subject to change • * Indicates EIVA match



Quick Facts

The University

Location:.....University Park, Pa. 16802
 Founded:.....1855
 Enrollment:.....44,112
 Colors:.....Blue & White
 Nickname:.....Nittany Lions
 Conference:.....Big Ten
 President:.....Dr. Rodney Erickson
 Director of Athletics:.....Tim Curley
 Acting Director of Athletics:.....Dr. Dave Joyner
 Facility (capacity):.....Rec Hall (5,812)

Volleyball Staff

Head Coach:.....Mark Pavlik (18th season)
 Alma Mater:.....Penn State, 1982
 Overall Record (Yrs/Pct):.....414/120 (.775)
 School Record:.....same
 Asst. Coaches:.....Colin McMillan (5th season)
Jay Hosack (3rd season)
 Office Phone:.....(814) 863-7475 or (814) 863-7474
 Office Fax:.....(814) 865-1746
 Office Address:.....235 Rec Hall

Season in Review

2011 Record:.....24-7
 Home: 15-2 Away: 7-4
 Neutral: 2-1
 Conference record (finish):.....10-0 (1st)
 Home: 5-0 Away: 5-0
 Final AVCA Ranking:.....No. 9
 Postseason Play:.....NCAA National Semifinal
 National Semifinal:.....lost 3-1 to No. 3 Ohio State

The History

First Year of Volleyball:.....1977
 All-Time Record (Years):.....897-258-9
 All-Time EIVA Record:.....236-11
 EIVA Win Pct.:......955 (96%)
 EIVA/ECVL Championships.....27
 EIVA Championship Titles.....23
 NCAA Tournament Appearances.....26
 NCAA National Titles.....1994 & 2008

2012 Penn State Roster

No.	Name	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown/High School
1	Taylor Hammond	Fr.	S	6-4	Mission Viejo, Calif./Santa Margarita Catholic
2	Tor Covello	Sr.	S	6-4	Yardley, Pa./Pennsbury
3	Connor Curry	RS-Fr.	L	6-0	Newport Beach, Calif./Newport Harbor
4	Nick Goodell	RS-Fr.	OH	6-4	Ambridge, Pa./Ambridge
5	Kyle Mars	Jr.	OH	6-3	Rochester, N.Y./Gates-Chili
7	Edgardo Goas	Sr.	S	6-5	San Juan, Puerto Rico/Colegio Marista
8	Aaron Russell	Fr.	M	6-9	Ellicott City, Md./Centennial
9	Peter Russell	So.	OH	6-5	Ellicott City, Md./Centennial
10	Nick Turko	Jr.	MH	6-5	Lewisberry, Pa./Red Land
11	Jace Olsen	So.	OH	6-7	Manhattan Beach, Calif./Mira Costa
12	Ian Hendries	Jr.	MH	6-8	Cardiff, Calif./La Costa Canyon
13	Tom Comfort	Jr.	Opp.	6-6	Orchard Park, N.Y./Orchard Park
14	Ryan Wolf	Sr.	OH	6-3	York, Pa./Central York
15	Scott Kegerreis	RS-So.	OH	6-6	Honeybrook, Pa./Twin Valley
16	Kyle Gregan	Fr.	MH	6-8	Pittsburgh, Pa./North Allegheny
17	Joe Sunder	Sr.	OH	6-7	Greensburg, Pa./Hempfield
18	Matt Seifert	Fr.	MH	6-9	Reading, Pa./Exeter Township Senior

Head Coach: Mark Pavlik (Penn State, 1982), 18th year
Assistant Coaches: Jay Hosack (UC Santa Cruz, 1997) 3rd year
 Colin McMillan (Ohio State, 2000), 4th year
Trainer: Kelly Saxton (East Carolina, 2006), 3rd year

Penn State Newcomers

The Nittany Lions welcome the addition of four newcomers to this year's squad, including 6-4 setter Taylor Hammond, 6-9 middle hitter Aaron Russell, 6-8 middle hitter Kyle Gregan and 6-9 middle hitter Matt Seifert. In addition, redshirt freshmen Connor Curry (6-0, Libero) and Nick Goodell (6-4, Outside Hitter) will also have the opportunity to see time on the court this season.

Returning All-Americans

Head coach Mark Pavlik returns two AVCA All-Americans from the 2011 squad. Senior setter Edgardo Goas and outside hitter Joe Sunder will compete in their final seasons as Nittany Lions this year.

Season-Opening Change

For the first time in five years, the Nittany Lion men's volleyball team will not open its season at the Hawaiian Outrigger Invitational in Honolulu, Hawaii. Penn State heads to Ohio State on Jan. 14 to take on the Buckeyes, who are 1-2 so far this season. The Nittany Lions last opened their season at Ohio State in both 2001 and 2002.

The Statistical Story

Here are last season's numbers for Penn State and Ohio State.

	Penn State	Ohio State
Hitting %	.309	.343
Kills per set	13.55	13.55
Assists per set	12.49	12.68
Aces per set	1.41	1.28
Digs per set	8.04	8.78
Blocks per set	2.02	2.47

AVCA Div. I-II Men's Coaches Poll

Rank	School	Pts.	Record
1	UC Irvine (12)	235	4-0
2	BYU (3)	218	2-1
3	UCLA (1)	209	2-1
4	Stanford	179	0-0
5	LBSU	168	2-1
6	USC	151	1-0
7	Penn State	140	0-0
8	Ohio State	129	1-2
9	Lewis	108	1-1
10	Pepperdine	96	1-1
11	CS-Northridge	68	1-2
12	UCSB	60	1-2
13	Hawaii	56	1-1
14	Loyola-Chicago	44	0-3
15	Pacific	30	2-0

Others Receiving Votes: UC San Diego
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