

Season summary

A look at Condor basketball

By Donna Rose Roberts

The Hazleton PSU Condors sporting a 5-2 league record have clinched first place in the Northeastern Division. In doing so, the men's basketball team has earned a berth in the Eastern Regional Playoffs, the first time since 1949.

Coach Tom Caccese, who is not having one of his best seasons in his nine years of coaching at Penn State, proudly proclaimed, "The team is having a fine season! To date they have a 12-5 record overall and have accomplished two of their preseason goals".

At the first team meeting, the men said they wanted to win the Highacres Holiday Classic (see related article) and they wanted to be in the playoffs. Their third goal was to win more than seventeen games; seventeen games are the most won by the Highacres team.

The accomplishment of the third goal will not be an easy one. The conclusion of the season promises to be an exciting one as the Condors will be squaring off against some of the better teams on their schedule. Of their remaining six games, four will be on the road against such schools as Keystone Junior College and Scranton P.S.U. All of the remaining teams are perennially strong and could give our Condors a rough time.

The Condors have participated in some extremely exciting games already. On Wednesday, January 20, the team traveled to Delaware and won by a score of 100-97. With only four minutes remaining in the game, the Condors were down by seven, but were able to rally behind the outside shooting of Freshman Jim Donlan. Donlan and Captain Lenny Kott both turned in one of their better offensive performances finishing the game with 41 and 27 points. The 100 points scored was the team's top offensive performance, while the 97 points yielded to Delaware were the most given up by the Condors. Two reasons explaining the high scores were the run and gun style played by both teams and the fact that both shot over 50% from the field.

Another exciting win took place at the Highacres Omni on Monday, January 25, against Williamsport Area Community College. The Condors were declared the victors, when the game was called with four seconds remaining. Williamsport behind the superb shooting of Northwest graduate, Chris Gleco, who canned 22 of his game high 31 points in the first half was able to take a comfortable lead to the locker room. When the second half started, the Condors changed defenses and sandwiched Gleco. Williamsport's head coach began fall apart as not only did his

team's lead dwindle, but it totally disappeared. As he fell apart so did his team and a couple of technicals were called before the referees walked off the court.

On Wednesday, January 27, the Condors traveled to Northampton County Community College and it appeared to be a rematch between David and Goliath, with Goliath's hight just too much to overcome this time.

Northampton was led by 6'9" All-American Dominic Snowden, who had seven dunks in the game. Behind him were 6'8" Emmanuel Davis and 6'7" Jim Ross. "We were down by twenty at the half and managed to close the gap to fourteen with seven minutes to go by applying full court man pressure. Unfortunately we got into foul trouble and that's what made the difference."

Another big loss came at the hands of York P.S.U., who Hazleton will probably see again on February 15 in the first game of the playoffs. Coach Caccese explained, "They played their best game of the season and we played our worst. We can beat them if we have to play them again."

"I've got to hand it to Tom Caccese. Last year Tom had great talent. This year he has less talent and is just as successful."

Glen Begley
Lions' head coach

In comparison with last year's team, this year's Condors are averaging ten points per game on offense and are giving up nine more points per game on defense. "Because of the quickness of our players, we are able to play a run and gun style, and thus we are able to score more points. If we are scoring more, the opposition also has a chance to score more. Even though we are giving up more points per game, our defense is just as good as last year."

"This year our tallest player is 6'2.5" and yet we are rebounding as well as last year. Last year we sported three big men, 6'7" Bryan Brassington, 6'4" Bob Stoffa, and 6'2" Ron Cann, who holds the record for the most rebounds in one season at Hazleton. All our men this year are great jumpers."

"We don't have to worry about our players tiring out our bench is so strong. We can put anyone in and never lose any of our strength".

Coach Caccese would like to thank everyone who has come to the games. "So far we have had in excess of 2500 people at our home games and Monday, January 25, when it was bitter cold out, over 300 people attended the game."

Roberts Writes

By Donna Rose Roberts

"The students claimed this year would be different, but the amount of students who use it on weekends never changes," commented Bruce Young.

What Young is referring to is the physical education building and its use, or rather its lack of use on weekends. The building, a three million dollar investment, and every year the students have petitioned to have it opened. "At least four of those years the building has been opened during the winter term and the results have been the same every time," criticized Young.

"Last Saturday, (January 23), approximately 25 students used the building, the most this term." Added Young, "The only people who consciously and consistently use the facilities are the weightlifters, who are on a three day per week lifting schedule."

The hours on a weekend this year are from 1 to 4 P.M. on Saturdays, but other combinations have been tried. In fact, every conceivable combination of hours have been tried. The physical education department even allowed the students to choose the hours one year, and still no one used the building.

The petition this year was signed by approximately 200 of the students who live in the dor-

mitory and was presented to Dr. William David midway through the fall term. Being a self-proclaimed "eternal optimist" Dr. David decided to once again "open the building for recreational purposes."

"We had experimented with opening it in the past and discovered that with the combination of the Penn State football season and the usually pleasant weather no one was interested in staying indoors. But once the weather turned cold, the students pursued the indoor activities."

"If the amount of students who use the facilities does not increase, we cannot afford to open the building. We want to make the best use of the money in our budget. If we don't open the building, we could divide the money between some clubs or buy new books for the library," commented Dr. David.

One example of the money expenses incurred when the building is opened is the two lifeguards. Explains Bruce Young, "We are required to have two lifeguards on duty any time the pool is open. The wages of the two for a Saturday amount to \$20.10. On the average, about five to seven students have been using the pool on a Saturday. That is five to seven students over a



three hour period."

What this means is that maybe four students will decide to go swimming at one time and stay in the pool for half an hour. The next half hour no one is in the water and the lifeguards are being paid.

Will the building be opened in the spring? According to Dr. David, "This decision will be based on Bruce Young's report of its use this term."

"I don't think the building should be open in the spring," said Young. "If no one uses it now when it's too cold to be outside, who is going to use it when the weather is nice?"

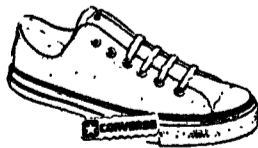
Dr. David feels the bad weather might very well be the reason for the students not using the facilities. "The students might not be too anxious about braving the bitter cold and snow."

I personally do not think this is the reason. I feel the students will always cry for something they don't have. Even if they don't intend to use it, they will kick up a storm until they are given their own way. Six years is a long trial period... the building should not be open on weekends.

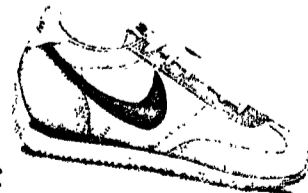
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