

# Cagewomen fall to Pitt

By DARLENE HROBAK  
Collegian Sports Writer

The traveling Lady Lion cagers saw history repeat itself Saturday as the Pitt Pantherettes dealt them a 69-68 hand; defeat was again in the cards.

Not so long ago, December 5 to be exact, the Lady Lions had fallen to this same Pitt team in the Pitt Invitational Tournament, 71-66.

And it was only Tuesday night when they dropped the first of their one-point decisions, 74-73, to East Stroudsburg. But fate wasn't kind, and the Penn Staters again came out on the short end, only this time the Pantherettes were the conquerors.

The score was tied with 33 seconds remaining when Pitt's Mimi Senkowski, 12 points in the contest, went to the foul line in a one-and-one situation. She sunk the first shot and Pitt was ahead by one, 67-66.

The second toss missed its mark, and Penn State came out from under the basket with the rebound. They didn't hold on to the basketball tight enough, and a turnover led to another Pitt score.

Kelly Cornish responded by sinking a frantic basket at the opposite end of the court, and Penn State was again within one. But only two seconds remained on the clock, and no miracle transpired to

change that 69-68 final score.

"Turnovers were probably the key to the game," said Lady Lion coach Pat Meiser. "You just can't do that."

By "that" she meant Penn State's 24 give-aways. Pitt committed only five. The Lady Lions found difficulty in handling the 1-2-1 full-court zone press Pitt utilized in the first period. Wanda Randolph, Pitt's 6-3 center, was on top, guarding the inbound pass, and the Lady Lions turned the ball over in nine of the ten situations Pitt used the press.

Coach Meiser was also disappointed in the officiating, specifically the calls of walking the ball against Kelly Cornish and the fouls Penn State committed on Wanda Randolph, Pitt's 6-3 center.

Randolph (12 points and 12 rebounds) was the recipient of six free throws. Meiser believed that many of those were unnecessary shots, with the contact that initiated the foul calls not being substantial enough to warrant a misdemeanor.

Jen Bednarek led all scorers with 18 points. Teammates Betty McGuire (15 points), Kelly Cornish (10 points) and Mag Strittmatter (12 points and 19 rebounds) joined her in double figures.

Kathy Taczowski paced the Pantherettes offensive attack with 14 points.

Guard Mimi Senkowski added 12, and 5-11 forward Kim Raymond (who is back on the court after a recent knee injury) chipped in 11 tallies.

The loss dropped the Lady Lion's record to 9-5. They have lost three of their last four contests.

Jen Bednarek pointed out the inexperience of the young Penn State team. "Saturday night we were playing four freshmen at one point," Bednarek said. "I just think we have to play together more, and we're gonna win."

Coach Pat Meiser shared her sentiments and had some thoughts of her own. "I would like to see us get it going," she said. "Wednesday's game against Edinboro is a must."

The Lady Lions will meet Edinboro at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday on the floor of Rec Hall preceding the men in a women-men doubleheader.

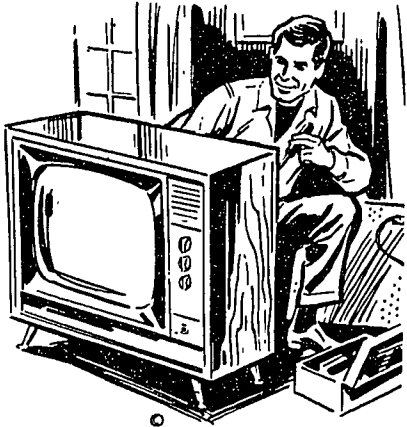
The contests with Pitt and East Stroudsburg are past history, and the one-point losses can't be changed. Jen Bednarek, though, was one who wished she had the games to do over again.

"We should have won," Jen sighed. "We definitely should have killed East Stroudsburg."

"And," she added, "we should beat Edinboro."

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