

Sports Bits

By Joe Mottillo
Collegian Staff

Clam Chowder: The New England Patriots hired former New York Giants coach and TV analyst, Bill Parcells. Parcells replaces departed coach Dick MacPherson. Parcells is 7-3 in his career against the AFC East.

The Big Apple: The New York Giants replaced fired coach, Ray Handley, with former Denver Broncos coach, Dan Reeves. Reeves coached the Broncos to three Super Bowl losses. One of which was to Parcells and the Giants.

Holding On: Dallas Maverick's first round pick, Ohio State guard Jimmy Jackson, is still holding out on signing a contract with the Mavs. Jackson has been offered \$19 million.

Don't call it a comeback: Former Houston Rockets star Ralph Sampson is weighing the decision of whether or not to return to pro basketball. If he returns, it won't be the NBA. Instead it will be in the CBA, a minor league of sorts for the NBA. Sampson is currently an assistant at James Madison University. He hasn't played competitively since he played briefly in Spain last year.

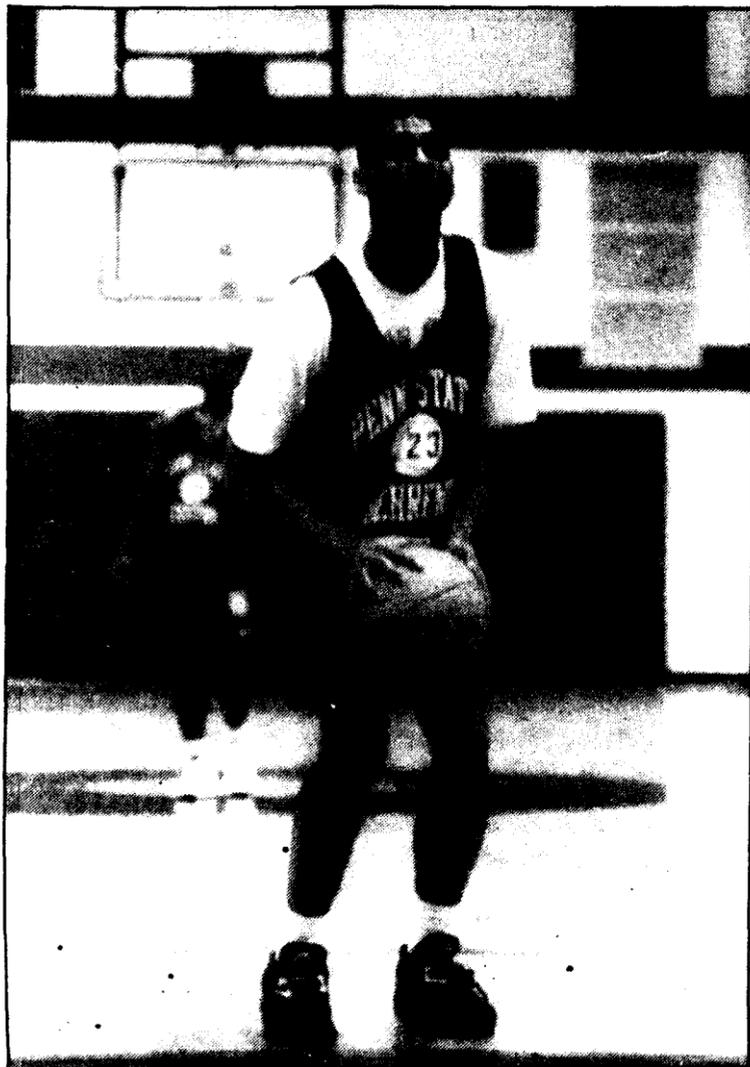
Deja Vu: The North Carolina Tarheels are 16-1 to start this season. The last time the 'Heels were 16-1 was when Jordan, Worthy, and Perkins led them to the NCAA championship in 1982. That was the only basketball title the Tarheels have won under coaching legend, Dean Smith.

The Right to vote: The leading vote getters in the Eastern Conference are in. Michael Jordan leads all players with 521,597. He is joined in the backcourt by Philadelphia 76er, Jeff Hornacek. The forwards are Scottie Pippen of the Chicago Bulls and Larry Johnson of the Charlotte Hornets. The man in the middle is rookie sensation of the Orlando Magic, Shaquille O'Neal.

Local Cagers: The Gannon Golden Nights Men's basketball team is ranked 12th in the nation in Division II. The Golden Nights are 14-4 on the season.

The ruling board: Sports editors Matt Cissne and Keith McFall have finally made their Super Bowl picks. Matt picks the Dallas Cowboys over the Buffalo Bills (You know how good his picks are). Keith picks the Cowboys also.

Thorne sticks out for Lions



Ainel Balcita/photographer

Concentration: Off-guard Byron Thorne eyes up the hoop during a practice session earlier this week.

by Matthew D. Cissne
Co-Editor

This week's Athlete of the Week is Byron Thorne, one of the leaders of the men's basketball team.

Thorne, an off-guard, has had to handle the ball more since an injury to starting pointguard, Don Plyler.

"Since the injury, I have had to be more of a leader. Much of the pressure of the on-court leadership is now up to me," Thorne said.

Thorne has had an excellent season. Through 18 games he is averaging 11.6 points per game, 3.9 rebounds a game and is leading the team in assists with 69.

Although Thorne is playing solid ball, he is not fully satisfied with his game. "I feel that I can improve my foul shooting, my outside jumpshots, and my leadership. I need to make sure that mentally, everyone is ready to play," Thorne said.

The Lions are currently 8-10 and have won three out of their last four games. Thorne said,

"The effort has been there, but we have made some bad decisions at the end of games."

Thorne enjoys the camaraderie of the team. "All eight members of the team are friends, and the five starters may be the five closest friends on campus."

Thorne started playing basketball in sixth grade, and during his senior year at Vincentian High School in Pittsburgh, he was named to the Pittsburgh Fabulous Five, a Pittsburgh all-star team.

Thorne is a big Pitt basketball fan, and used to be a big Michael Jordan fan.

"I really liked Michael Jordan until I read his book," Thorne said.

When he is not at class or watching or playing basketball, he enjoys sleeping.

Thorne is an MIS major and hopes to find a job that he will enjoy.

He coaches basketball in the summer, and he hopes to coach in the future.

"I really enjoy coaching and working with children. I plan on coaching after I graduate."

Lady Lions slumping

by Hal Coffey
Collegian Staff

After beginning the season at 11-3, the Lady Lions have hit a dry spell with two potentially damaging road losses to Waynesburg (60-67) and Buffalo State (67-79).

How could a team who had been holding opponents to an average of 26 second half points give up 46 second half points to Buffalo State and 79 overall?

Coach Jenepher Banker's explanation was a "lack of intensive defense," but an even stronger reason was the disparity of foul shots. Buffalo State made 37 of 63 (59%) foul shots, yes foul shots, while the Lady Lions made only 8 of 15.

Not only are those 63 free throws and 38 Behrend fouls a possible NCAA record, but to magnify the point Lupe Todd of Buffalo State made 11 of 16 free throws, one more attempt than all of the Behrend team.

Banker cannot explain how Behrend was so heavily penalized. "We played the same type of defense, but most of the calls fell against our side."

Statistically, it was Behrend's worst game in Banker's three year stint as coach.



Ainel Balcita/photographer

Listen up: Lady Lion's coach Jenepher Banker gives words of encouragement to senior guard Darcie Bradley.

Perhaps one of the few bright spots during the two game road trip was the performance of Krista Hershener against Waynesburg. Her 18 points and 14 of 17 (82%) free throws were both team highs.

Banker is not as upset with the rest of the offense as she is with the defensive drought. She believes that in order for the team to get on a needed winning streak, "We must go back to our

strength, woman-to-woman tight defense".

As to why the Lady Lions have lost only one home game, Banker believes that the crowd plays a big part, especially the band and cheerleaders.

The big games must translate to big wins for the Lady Lions to get an NCAA or ECAC bid. If fan support and defensive skills get back to the high level that they were at the beginning of

the season, then the bid will be theirs.

Editor's note: The result of the Lady Lion's game played last night against Washington and Jefferson came in after press time. The Lions lost 63-67 in overtime. No other details were available.