

Women prepare for annual tournament

by Brian Gregory
Collegian Staff

It's time for the Lady Lions to begin to get focused toward their long and vigorous basketball season. And the action kicks off on Friday night in the annual Penn State-Behrend Tournament.

The last time the Lady Lions won the tournament was in its inaugural year of 1991. This year, they face a tough cast of teams if they plan on doing that again.

"With the three teams in the tournament [this year], we could have just put them all in a hat and picked one," said Head Coach Rosalyn Fornari on the strength of the field. "There is no sure-win in any one of these teams."

The teams in the tournament are Bridgewater State, Lycoming, and Pitt-Bradford. BSC is a former powerhouse, Pitt-Bradford had a 20-plus winning season last year, and Lycoming received an NCAA Division III Tournament birth last year. The Lady Lions will open up against the Lady Bears of Bridgewater State.

"[In the 1993-94 season] this team beat us by one point on the road," commented Fornari on BSC. "They have three very good players and a lot of athletic players. We'll match up well against them because they are a

running team like we are."

Bridgewater State has a solid program, and last year they were good enough to earn an early national ranking.

The captain of the Lady Bears is 5'8" senior Laurie Berryman. Berryman scored 13.0 points per game and 7.5 rebounds per game to mark second place in both categories. She had a single game high of 27 points against Worcester State last year.

"Berryman is extremely athletic," said Fornari. "She runs the floor well."

Also leading the charge for the Lady Bears into Eric Hall are guards Kelly DeMello (7.9 ppg), and Michelle Jodoin (5'4" 1.6 ppg), forwards Alicia Siryon (2.0 ppg), and Kristen LeBlanc.

Fornari foresees a tough game against BSC. "They're not very defense oriented, they're very run oriented, and a team like that sometimes scares you because they don't care how many times you get them. They can bring the ball down the court and put it in the hole."

Fornari hopes to match up Emily Marini against the tough post play of Berryman. Becky Reed, whom Fornari calls "the Jordan of the team" will be used to provide the pressure on DeMello.

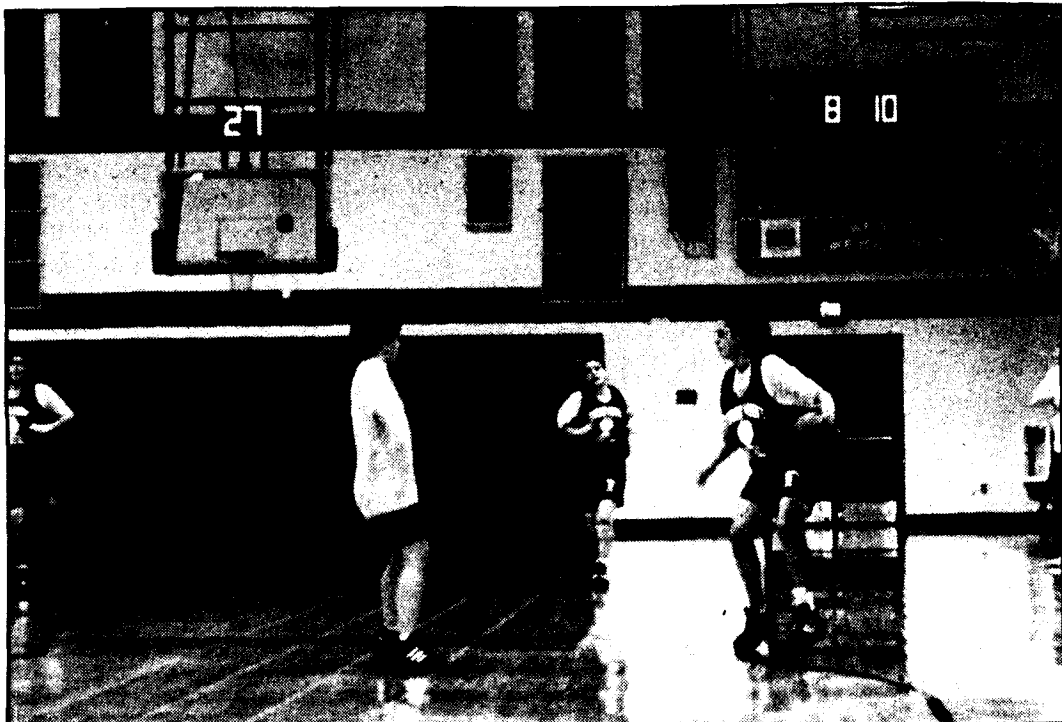


Photo by Colleen Gritzer/Collegian Photographer

Look to pass the rock: Sophomore guard Nikki Bohn (with ball) looks to set up the offense during a recent Lady Lion practice.

"Our running game is started up by the defense, and so we're a little different as far as Bridgewater State is concerned," remarked Fornari. "We really need to execute, play our game plan throughout the weekend in order to really beat anyone. And we're really going to go for it."

Junior guard Kate Delaney agreed saying, "We're going to win the tournament."

The Behrend women open with a starting line-up of guards Melanie Banas and Nikki Bohn, forwards Becky Reed and Emily Marini. Marlesse Schlott starts at center.

The opening game of the tournament pits Lycoming at Pitt-Bradford. Behrend plays Bridgewater State at 8:00 p.m. The runner-up will be decided Saturday at 1:00 p.m. with the championship at 3:00.

Just my opinion... on MLB and the NBA

Flashing dollar signs

This time of year is the favorite time for major league baseball players. It's the off-season and time to negotiate rich new contracts. Those players that are free agents are licking their chops to have clubs begin the bidding wars.

The list has risen to 138 players that are unrestricted free agents. Firstbaseman is the position where some of the most highly touted free agents are. The list includes Fred McGriff, Mark Grace, Don Mattingly, and Hal Morris.

Look for Grace to sign with the Chicago White Sox. Grace nearly did last year, and manager Terry Bevington would love to have a quality first baseman to hit behind Frank Thomas, so Thomas can be the permanent DH.

Mattingly said during the regular season he would play in Japan if the offer is right. I don't think he will go to another continent to play baseball, but he certainly will not be back in Yankee pinstripes. Mattingly could be a great fit for Tony LaRussa in St. Louis. Mattingly could be the veteran, left-handed bat that could really help LaRussa in his first season with the Cardinals.

McGriff will probably attract the most attention of firstbase free agents. It could end up to be a bidding war between Ted Turner's Braves and George Steinbrenner's Yankees. McGriff

could have a career season if he hits in the short right field porch of Yankee Stadium.

Morris more than likely will stay in Cincinnati. Though the Reds are trying to cut costs, losing the great left-handed bat of Morris would be a huge mistake.

A long list of quality pitchers is also among those 138 free agents.

Yankees' one-two pitching punch of Jack McDowell and David Cone will be shopping their services to the league. Knowing the shrewd businessman Steinbrenner is, McDowell and Cone will still be wearing the pinstripes, even if there are no other decent pitchers on the staff. But maybe if the Yankees got rid of pitchers like Steve Howe, (who has more reinstatments than a cat has lives), they might be better off anyway.

Seattle's Andy Benes is another big name pitcher who is a free agent. The hard-throwing right-hander will want a large chunk of money for his services, but his pitching performances during the post season might make general managers leery of paying the big bucks.

Well time will tell what kind of money these free agents will get, but more than likely, it will be more than enough to pay for the rest of my college education, and those that read this column.

NBA Highs and Lows

Though it is very early in the NBA season, my congratulations go out to the Sacramento Kings. Not only can you say they have five wins long before Thanksgiving, but they might just look like a contender in the Western Conference.

Head Coach Gerry St.Jean is having his team play as a team. (What a concept!) All-Star guard Mitch Richmond is playing like an All-Star. Richmond leads the team with 20.2 points per game. He is shooting 50 percent from 3-point range.

But Richmond does not have to do it all himself. The Kings have five other scorers in double figures. Walt Williams (17.2), Olden Polynice (12.5), Brian Grant (11.2), Sarunus Marciullonis (10.8), and rookie Tyus Edney (10.0) give the Kings scoring from everywhere on the court.

Bench players Michael Smith and Bobby Hurley give the team added depth needed to make serious run at the NBA Championship.

The Kings can also play defense. Sacramento allows just 90 point per contest.

Another team I really like is the Dallas Mavericks. The trio of Jamal Mashburn, Jimmy Jackson, and Jason Kidd make this team one of the most exciting to watch in the NBA. But it's not just hot-dogging and one-on-one moves that makes this team good, they also play

defense, allowing just 95 points per game. The three J's will be a force to reckon with come late in the season.

But with improving teams, come teams that seem to be heading in the opposite direction. The most obvious of this is the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The Cavs made major trades during the off season, sending John "Hot Rod" Williams to Phoenix and Mark Price to Washington. Neither trade has helped the club.

The most disappointing player to come out of both trades is swingman Dan Majerle. Majerle is scoring just 7.2 per game and is 5-26 from 3 point range, not the numbers that made him an All Star with Phoenix.

As a whole the entire Cavs' offense is close to pathetic. The Cavs score just 84 points a game. When college team can average more than that, you know there is a problem.

-by Nick Zulovich
Sports Editor

Cold Turkey

was cancelled for last night.
A tentative rescheduled date is set for
Wednesday, November 29.
Sorry for any problems this may
have caused.
--Russ Campbell, President of Round
Table Society

The open forum on
"Latino: The Other
Minority"
was cancelled last night due to
inclement weather.
It is tentatively rescheduled for
Wednesday, November 29 at 8 p.m.
