

Plizga's Picks

by Matt Plizga
Collegian Staff

This has been another great year for college basketball from the great players to the outstanding teams. Each year nearly every newspaper make its picks for various awards. Here are mine.

Player of the Year -- Prime candidates are Camby, Duncan, Iverson and Allen. Eliminate Duncan simply because he let Greg Newton show him up. Iverson is out because he hasn't realized that there are four other guys in Georgetown uniforms on the floor. I choose Camby over Allen because of his ability to dominate offensively, defensively and on the boards.

Team of the Year -- Kentucky has the most talent and the best coach, in Pitino. UCONN has Ray Allen, the second best player in college and another 20+ win season. Kansas has the great balance and the best all-around floor leader, in Jaque Vaughn. But UMass wins this one with its great defense, good chemistry, and gutsy play from Travieso and Padilla.

Freshman of the Year -- Marbury or Abdul-Rahim. Gotta go with the kid who makes his team go. Marbury turned Georgia Tech from an average squad to a sweet sixteen team.

Coach of the Year -- Coach Jerry Dunn is a lock. Penn State doesn't have the most talented players but somehow they keep on winning, must be the coach.

Surprise Team of the Year -- Penn State wins another one and its not just because I go to PSU. Nobody expected this squad of three point bombers to win, but they have.

Best Shot of the Year -- Miles Simon's running underhand toss from 65 feet doesn't need a prayer to win this one.

Best Game of the Year -- Arizona's three point victory over #4 Cincy on Simon's bomb just beat out GW's defeat of previously undefeated UMass.

Best Player-You Never Heard Of -- It's a tie between Bonzi Wells of Eastern Michigan and Jeff Nordgard from Wisconsin-Green Bay. Wells is averaging 26 ppg and 8 rpg on the year, with a 41 point explosion against Bowling Green. Nordgard has simply carried his team to a 22-1 record with his deft shooting touch and solid fundamental skills.

Best Team-You Never Heard Of -- Texas Tech, ranked eighth in the nation. Didn't even know they had a team until sharp shooting sixth man Cory Carr put them on the map.

Sixth Man Award -- Cory Carr has led Texas Tech in scoring most of the year with a 17 ppg average.

Biggest Disappointment-Team -- Virginia receives this dubious honor. With their starting back court, of Staples and Dean, back they could muster no better than a .500 season.

March is just around the corner bringing with it all the excitement of tournament basketball. With the tournament selection process taking place this weekend many teams are pressing for wins to improve their chances of getting to the "Big Dance." Despite not knowing where teams will be playing I am going to be bold and name my Sweet Sixteen picks.

The Big East will be well represented by UCONN, Villinova, Georgetown and the tremendous guards leading each team. The big surprise will be Conference USA's three teams-Cincy, Louisville, and Virginia Tech. Louisville makes it because of Coach Denny Crum, Cincy because of its depth and Tech because they have an Ace in the hole. Dean will once again guide his Tar Heels to sweetness and the backcourt of Marbury and Barry will make some noise. Pitino's powerhouse Kentucky should breeze through its first two games as will Kansas and UMass. UCLA will return to the Sweet 16 but they won't go much farther. PAC-10 foe

Club volleyball set

by Bryan Gomolchak
Collegian Staff

If you have not checked out the Men's Club Volleyball team, then you do not know what you are missing.

These guys really know how to play. I was at Erie Hall on February 24th and I was astounded to see how well these guys can play. It reminded me of watching the United States volleyball team play in the Olympics.

The team plays its matches against Allegheny, Baldwin & Wallace, Grove City, John Carroll, and Case Western.

The team is looking to make the playoffs and reach the divisional playoffs; perhaps even take the championship. To make the divisional playoffs the team must capture either the first or second place ranking in their division.



The men's club volleyball team has been practicing hard and is ready for competition.

Arizona will break its annual tradition of choking in the first round and Big Ten king Perdue will squeak into the third round. That leaves two spots left and I taking a couple of sleepers, Texas Tech and Wisconsin-Green Bay. Both teams may not make it but I will guarantee that one of them do.

There are 13 strong hearted volleyball players. Starters include: Aaron Schick at middle, Scott Horning at setter, Stoehr on the weak side, Shawun Bernat, Steve Jecker, and Paul Gruseck at the outside hitter position.

Strong players come off the bench to back the starters.

On the 24 the team beat a good Case Western team 15-5, 15-12. In the closing match, they lost a tough one to Gannon 15-3, 12-15, 9-15.

This was just two of the 12 matches that the Behrend men will participate in.

Overall, the team is at a comfortable 5-3 and is in a three-way-tie for first place with Baldwin & Wallace and Gannon.

It baffles me to see how well these guys play and hear relatively nobody clapping in the stands.

These players really need to hear their student body behind them cheering them on.

Dave Stoehr, player and coach, stated, "We have set a goal at the beginning to make the playoffs

and we really need some fan support."

If you choose to come down and see our men's volleyball team, then you will have to hurry because they only have three more home matches left.

Look for the men on March 11 at 5:30 and March 16 at 3:00 in Erie Hall.

They will also host a tournament on March 23 in Erie Hall beginning at 8:00 A.M. and it will run the majority of the day.

This tournament will host a lot of extraordinary volleyball and I look forward to seeing you there rooting on the team.



Putting up the big wall: Starter Ken Fierle and Co. apply the block in a recent volleyball match.

Two great things occur during the month of March, the NCAA basketball tournament and spring break. This year I recommend celebrating both events by sitting back with a brew and watching my predictions come true.

Feel a little different than Matt? Write us and tell us about it at The Collegian ATTN Sports Staff!

Penn State Behrend Lady Lions Softball

Last Year: IF Christy Wilcox (Fr), 2B/C Steph Roberts (Fr), 3B/2B Erin Terry (Fr), OF Lisa Fox (Fr), OF Amy Stranahan (Sr), INF Amy Beckner (Fr). Roberts had solid bat with Iroquois last year, should back up nice for Koza, Wilcox, Terry, and Stranahan will deepen teh bench. Fox moves to CF.

Exits: C Emmy Amett, OF Michele Carino, 1B Jen Leone, 3B Sue Mazur, CF Megan Musante, P Cherie Varrasa, Without Arnett Lady Lions lose 16 steals and 39 runs, also guidance behind plate. Mazur's production and Defense tough to fill at 3B as is Musante at center. Without Varrassa, the Lady Lions lose 108 innings of pitching and ten wins.

Returns: 2B-LF Shannon Angel, P-1B Beth Calhoun, C Casey Koza, P-1B Heather Norder, SS Becky Reed, 3B Marlesse Schlott, RF Julie Stocker. Lady Lions will return a heck of an offensive firepower with Angel, Calhoun, Norder, Reed, and Stocker. This group alone drove in 136 runs, stole 27 bases, and scored 132 runs. Reed topped the categories with 30 RBIs, 37 runs, and 13 steals. Koza had a solid arm behind the plate and her defense for most part was good.

Probable Starting Line-up:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. SS Becky Reed | 5. RF Julie Stocker | 9. DH ???????? |
| 2. LF Shannon Angel | 6. CF Lisa Fox | |
| 3. 1B Beth Calhoun | 7. P Heather Norder | |
| 4. 3B Marlesse Schlott | 8. 2B Steph Roberts | |

Outlook: Lady Lions have offensive firepower to score 300 runs this year. As season progresses the two sluggers Stocker and Reed will be shooting for every record in the Behrend record books. Injuries may be a problem as Koza and Reed have early nagging injuries. Bench is not to deep if they lose these two. Sometimes Lady Lion defense is suspect as they made 73 errors last year. Gregory will have to keep a close eye on this. Pitching looks good this year, but remember that Calhoun pitched 108 innings and Norder only 54 2/3 innings. They both may be required to go 150 this year, endurance will be a factor.

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