

Volleyball players ready to "kill" opponents

By Abby Long
assistant sports editor

With an experienced group of returning starters, including Penn State's Coach Emily Jacobelli, the Women's Volleyball team is looking forward to a winning season.

Coach Emily Jacobelli returned for her fourth year as head coach. She is looking to lead the team to a successful season. A powerful outside hitter, she is one senior to lead the young squad. Also returning are Brianna Engelbert, Sarah Peterson, Rose Boni, and Karen Walters.



Karen Walters (left) and others converse between points at practice.

The group of newcomers is led by Danielle Bemis, a sophomore transfer student. Bemis has great potential to impact the team with her hitting abilities on both sides of the court. Other newcomers are Jessica Niedermeyer, Lauren Senkevich, Kelly Simons, Nichole Spindler, Kim Wagner, Katie Butler, and Sonseerhay Parker.

Although it's early in the season, Coach Jacobelli has already noticed key qualities in the returning players as well as newcomers. The team has been noticed for their athleticism and dedication on

the court. Their hard work is evident in their practices. More important, though, Coach Jacobelli is impressed with the competitiveness on the court. The newcomers strive to contend with the starters, making the whole team work harder. There are certainly many new players to contend for a first team position. These enthusiastic newcomers are pushing the program to a higher level.

Now some may be contemplating why to attend these volleyball games, despite the comments from Coach Jacobelli. Sure, there's not a religious Sunday afternoon volleyball game, or a world champi-

onship game televised on all stations including the Cartoon Network. Although volleyball is not popular on a national level, volleyball, more specifically, GOOD volleyball, is very exciting. For example, how many spectator sports encourage yelling "KILL!"? Not many.... Despite low interest in the Erie area, Behrend has been known for their fans throughout the conference.

So, brave the outside, put away your books, and come cheer for the Women's Volleyball Team as they work to earn an ECAC or NCAA playoff berth.

The Penn State Behrend women's volleyball team opened their season on a positive note at the Cortland Tournament with a 3-1 record. The Behrend Lions defeated Buffalo State in four games and Rochester in three games, before losing to Nazareth in four games. In the third place game, Behrend handled the Hawks in four games and finished out of fifteen teams. Danielle Bemis (Gorry/Corry) was named to the All-tournament team with 38 kills and 75 digs. Leading in the assist column was Karen Walters with 124 assists.



St. Louis Rams deserve respect...now

The answer
is in the numbers

It took the St. Louis Rams until the Super Bowl last year to finally gain some respect among NFL fans, and there wouldn't be much of a surprise if it happened again this year.

Paging through preview magazine after preview magazine before the season started, it was apparent that teams like Tampa Bay, Washington and even Detroit had taken over as the NFC's perceived powerhouses, with teams like Dallas, Green Bay and Denver still getting some respect in the way they are expected to finish the season.

After week one of the 2000-2001 season, the Rams, along with some other cellar dwellers of three years ago, stayed consistent in their quest to earn respectability. Despite what football analysts say about the Rams and other up-and-coming teams, the numbers prove differently.

Take Indianapolis, Baltimore, Atlanta, Philadelphia and St. Louis; teams that combined for a 27-51 record just three years ago that currently combine for a 5-0 record right now. Not just squeaking by teams either. They beat teams by an average of almost 14 points in week one, including the Eagles' 41-14 route of the Cowboys and the Ravens' 16-0 shutout of the Steelers.

Now take Denver, Green Bay, San Francisco, New England and Pittsburgh; teams that combined for a 59-21 record three years ago. Week One 2000...a combined 0-5, losing games by an average of almost eight points.

The Super Bowl Champions since 1995 (San Francisco, Dallas, Green Bay, Denver, St. Louis) combined for a 1-4 record in week

one, the only win coming from the Rams, the winner of last year's Super Bowl that spurred on this sudden change of power in the NFL.

It's as if you could start a new timeline in NFL history, separating the predictable days of the past (meaning two years ago) where most fans' Super Bowl predictions came true, from the chaotic and confusing days of the NFL now.

So why is it taking so long for football fans everywhere (including myself) to say goodbye to the powerhouses of two years ago, and welcome the state of unpredictable insanity that the NFL is in now?

The answer? We hate not knowing who's going to win, how much they're going to win by, and how often they are going to do it.

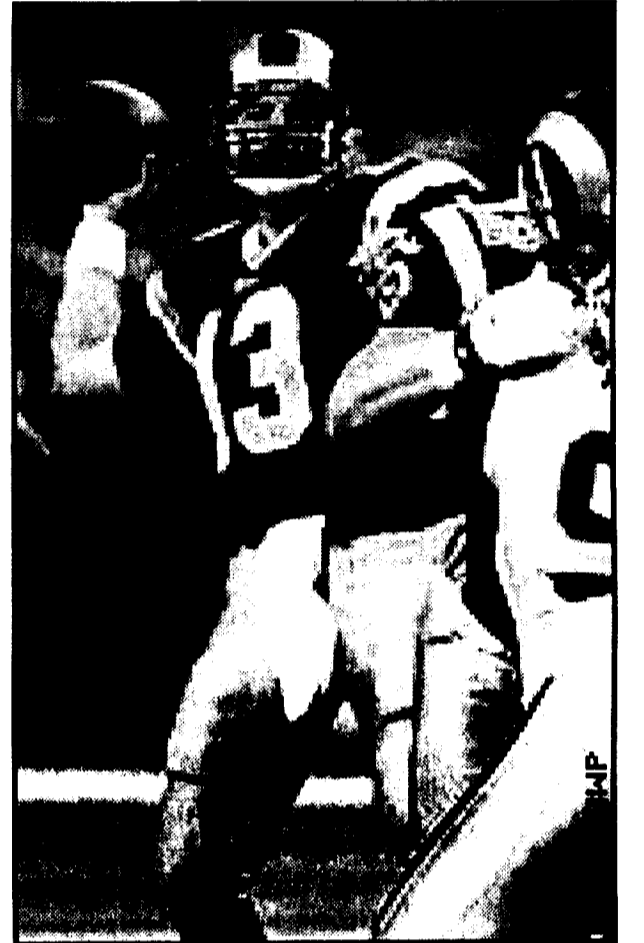
All sports fans are programmed to know that when an underdog starts the season off 6-0 such as the Rams did last year, a collapse is comparable to Kerry Collins' NFL career is sure to follow.

So when the Rams finished the regular season as a top contender, fans were surprised. When they made it to the Super Bowl, fans were

confused. And when they won it all, everyone was shocked.

Well, not again. The Rams proved in week one, displaying their perfect offense, that they haven't slowed down. Don't wait until after the Super Bowl to believe. The Rams are Super Bowl favorites. Unless there's some other supermarket stock boy, gone NFL quarterback that can throw for numbers comparable to Joe Montana in less than one month. Doubtful.

Snyder's column will appear every other week



Quarterback Kurt Warner prepares to throw a pass in last Monday Night's game. The Rams beat Denver 41-36 in the opener.

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