

The NBA: at a glance

by Michael A. Cifelli
Collegian Staff Writer

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division:

1st Boston Celtics - Don't count out old Celtic magic. Larry Bird and company are aging, but they'll be back strong. Young Reggie Lewis and Brad Lohaus are bright spots on an inexperienced bench. Rookie Brian Shaw of U.C.-Santa Barbara will provide first year coach Jimmy Rodgers with the ability to run the point, and add much needed speed on the floor.

2nd New York Knickerbockers - With a little more maturity, the Knicks will be a hit on Broadway. Patrick Ewing looks ready for that big season (finally), and he'll have big help underneath with the acquisition of board-crashing Charles Oakley. The talented backcourt duo of Gerald Wilkins and playmaking wizard Mark Jackson are the perfect supporting cast to an attack that should bring the Knicks great reviews and a play-off spot.

3rd Philadelphia 76ers - Except for Charles Barkley, the Sixers are a team with little identity. Maurice Cheeks is their consistent floor leader who must now score as well as assist. He will have an ideal running mate in rookie Hersey Hawkins. Hawkins should prove to be the complete off-guard and help Barkley and Cheeks bring Philly back into the play-offs.

4th Washington Bullets - It is up to Jeff Malone and Bernard King to run the show. They'll get help underneath with no.12 pick Harvey Grant of Oklahoma, but it won't be enough.

5th New Jersey Nets - Star forward Buck Williams can't do it alone. Rookie Chris Morris of Auburn should add some punch to the Nets game but, overall, the Nets are looking at a frustrating season.

6th Charlotte Hornets - Don't expect the expansion Hornets to win much. Owner George Shinn will go with vets like Kurt Rambis, Robert Reid and Dell Curry along with tiny point man Tyrone "Muggsy" Bogues. He also added former Kentucky standout Rex Chapman to form a squad that will attempt to win over a basketball-crazed city.

Central division:

1st Detroit Pistons - Here is the most complete roster in the league. Chuck Daly's bullies can run, pass, score and rebound - and do it very well. Isiah Thomas, Joe Dumars, John Salley, etc. Watch out for rookie guard Michael Williams as well. The Pistons

are a prime contender for the N.B.A. title, and they have a starting five and a bench to do it.

2nd Atlanta Hawks - This team is difficult to figure out. Despite all their talent, they still find a way to falter in the play-offs. Dunkmaster Dominique Wilkins will guide the Hawks, and do it in a big way. Doc Rivers and Kevin Willis are also key pieces to the Atlanta puzzle. The addition of Moses Malone and Reggie Theus probably won't be the final piece needed to propel the Hawks past the Pistons, but it should be close.

3rd Cleveland Cavaliers - A young team on the rise, the Cavaliers balance will make them a contender in the East. Larry Nance, Brad Daugherty, "Hot Rod" Williams and rookie Randolph Keys will provide effective scoring, shot blocking, and rebounding under the boards. Mark Price has turned into a solid point guard and scorer. The explosive Ron Harper has Jordan-like moves and is a future star. Beware of the Cavs.

4th Chicago Bulls - Trading rebound master Charles Oakley was a mistake. Air Jordan will dominate as usual, but must also carry the Bulls as usual. Second-year players Scottie Pippen and Horace Grant will need to mature quickly, and they both have the talent. Heaven forbid should Michael ever get injured.

5th Milwaukee Bucks - Don't write off the Bucks. They have a strong lineup in veterans Sidney Moncrief, Jack Sikma, Paul Pressey, Terry Cummings and Ricky Pierce. In addition, former Iowa State star and Olympian Jeff Grayer has joined the team. The Bucks will continue their play-off tradition with a tenth straight appearance.

6th Indiana Pacers - The Pacers have regressed. They have plenty of talent, but are a mystery in Indianapolis. If Chuck Person, Vern Fleming and Wayman Tisdale can get their act together, who knows?

Western Conference

Midwest Division:

1st Dallas Mavericks - The Mavericks have the weapons to go far. The key is super-sixth-man Roy Tarpley. His play is essential to this club's success. The question is Mark Aguirre. Will his attitude continue to be a problem? Sam Perkins, Rolando Blackman and Derek Harper will also help to make the Mavs a tough team to beat.

2nd Denver Nuggets - Doug Moe's motion offense is the key to this team. Newly acquired Walter Davis will fit in well and rookie Jerome Lane of Pitt can provide much needed muscle. Alex English will

score; Fat Lever will score and rebound; and Michael Adams will fire up three-pointers. The Nuggets may strike gold.

3rd Utah Jazz - Jazz fans will be singing again. Last year's Cinderella team has become stronger. A big reason is Karl Malone, one of the game's premiere players. He is complimented by John Stockton, the human assist. Thurl Bailey will continue to emerge as a big league forward, and the comeback of Darrell Griffith is promising. The lack of a bench is Utah's only setback.

4th Houston Rockets - Akeem Olajuwon finally has some assistance underneath with the acquisition of Otis Thorpe from Sacramento. Thorpe will provide plenty of scoring and strength to compliment the best center in the league. The Rockets will almost be complete with Sleepy Floyd running the point, but still lack a shooting guard. New coach Don Chaney should help to pull together a once-divided team.

5th San Antonio Spurs - Sorry, Navy man David Robinson will be out at sea for one more year. However, new coach Larry Brown has arrived to run the show. The Spurs are beginning to jangle with a talented backcourt of Alvin Robertson and Johnny Dawkins. Olympian Willie Anderson of Georgia will be the perfect compliment to these quick and crafty guards. The Spurs are strong up front with Greg Anderson. This young squad has the right coach, now they just need their center. When Robinson arrives, look out.

6th Miami Heat - The Heat will definitely be hotter than their expansion counterpart, Charlotte. Their success will depend partly on the progress of Rony Seikaly at center. Pearl Washington was acquired to run the point, and former Louisville star Billy Thompson will get a chance to show his stuff after sitting on the Lakers bench for two seasons. Watch 20th pick Kevin Edwards of DePaul, he will be impressive in the Miami backcourt. With this blend of "veteran" youth and rookies, the Heat will be on in a few seasons.

Pacific Division:

1st Los Angeles Lakers - Can they make it three in a row? Maybe as a farewell present for Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who is playing his last season. James Worthy will demonstrate why he belongs among the league's elite, and Byron Scott will continue to dominate at the shooting guard position. Of course, Magic Johnson will run this beautifully orchestrated offense in superb fashion. Look for ex-Notre Dame star David Rivers to fit in well with the Lakers' running style. Pat Riley's crew will be tough to dethrone.

2nd Seattle SuperSonics - The Sonics will make a serious challenge for West supremacy. They acquired rebound king Michael Cage from the Clippers to team up with the intimidating Xavier McDaniel. They also possess a high-scoring guard in Dale Ellis, and an unselfish point-man in Nate McMillan. There

is depth at center with Alton Lister and Olden Polynice, versatility with Derrick McKey and leadership with coach Bernie Bickerstaff. For all these reasons, look for the SuperSonics in the Western Final.

3rd Portland Trail Blazers - The Blazers have returned as a league power. They have a center in overnight sensation Kevin Duckworth; one of the top point guards in the league with Terry Porter; plenty of scoring in Jerome Kersey and the remarkable Clyde "The Glide" Drexler. With this strong of a nucleus, the Trail Blazers could be a sleeper in the play-offs.

4th Phoenix Suns - The Suns are this season's most improved team. They will look to Tom Chambers, acquired from Seattle, to lead them to the play-offs. Young point guard Kevin Johnson, Mark West and three-point threat Craig Hodges are key players. They have solid rookies in Dan Majerle of Central Michigan and Tim Perry of Temple. Ultimately, their success will depend on second-year star Armon Gilliam. If Gilliam has a big season, the Suns will rise.

5th Los Angeles Clippers - Showtime II will finally break 20 wins this season. It would be nice if Danny Manning would come down off his pedestal and play ball, but the Clippers still have a wealth of rookie talent. Charles Smith of Pitt and Gary Grant of Michigan will both make the all-rookie squad. With so much inexperience, the Clippers will need consistent play from center Benoit Benjamin and a spark from former Georgetown star Reggie Williams who had a disappointing rookie season. Veteran point guard Norm Nixon will be their faithful leader.

6th Golden State Warriors - Seven-foot stick figures Ralph Sampson and Manute Bol won't do the job. The most impressive part of this team is the backcourt, Winston Garland and Otis Smith will continue to improve. The Warriors also gained the best athlete in the draft with Olympian Mitch Richmond of Kansas State. Richmond will shine, but the Warriors' season won't.

7th Sacramento Kings - Kenny Smith is a future star at the point, but he needs help, and there isn't much to work with. The Kings got a shooter in Randy Wittman via Atlanta, and ex-Villanova stand out Ed Pinckney has the potential, once they find the right spot for him. To make matters worse, the Kings have moved from the Midwest Division to the Pacific, which puts them in a deeper basement.

Post Season Picks:

Eastern Conference Final: Pistons over Hawks in 6 games

Western Conference Final: Lakers over SuperSonics in 7 games

N.B.A. Final: Pistons - Lakers rematch. A toss-up!

Let them throw toast

(CPS)--Students at University of Pennsylvania football games have won the right to throw toast, but not bagels, from the stands.

Security officials infuriated some Penn fans by confiscating toast from them at the Sept. 24 game at Franklin Field against Bucknell University. Penn students have been throwing toast from their seats onto the field when Penn's band gets to a certain point of the song "Drink A Highball."

The toast throwing began at a 1984 game, when the students decided to respond literally to a line in the song worded, "So here's a toast to dear old Penn," explained Steve Hurlbut, Penn's sports information director.

"Like fans at the Rocky Horror Picture Show, the students decided to throw a piece of toast instead of raising their hands as if they held a glass," Hurlbut said.

After security officers took toast from some fans, students began writing protest letters, circulating a petition even threatening to pelt Penn President Sheldon Hackney with toast at future games.

In response to William Epstein, Hackney's assistant, finally announced in late October there had been a "communications failure. We have no intent to try to stop the toast tradition. We intended to stop people from bringing frozen bagels."

Bagels, he said, are heavier and could hurt people.

Hurlbut agreed, but added the ban should extend beyond bagels to large packages of bread.

"We don't want anyone getting whacked with a whole loaf," he said.

Epstein said Penn would let security officers at the games confiscate large and/or frozen bread products "at their own discretion" if they thought they might pose a safety hazard.

Skateway Roller Rink
4646 Buffalo Road
899-6100

Sports Retort

Dear Editor,

We are writing this letter in response to the N.H.L. Preview in the October Collegian. We feel some of the opinions pertaining to the Pittsburgh Penguins need to be corrected or updated.

First, the division standings may have been valid assumptions before the start of the season, but currently they are not so valid. Being six weeks into the season, the Penguins are presently in first place in the Patrick division, and they have demonstrated the ability to keep a firm reign on this position.

Next, we recognize Lemieux's superior offense talents; however, we also feel the need to recognize the rest of the team. As that is what the Penguins emphasize: team players, team spirit, team hockey. In the October 22 game, the Pens scored 7 goals, 2 of which were scored by Lemieux. In the October 25 game, the Pens scored 6 goals, once again, 2 by Lemieux. We feel credit should also be given to scorers Quinn, Cunneyworth, Borque, and Brown. Also to Johnson, Zalapski, and Coffey - the defensemen who also scored in these games. So, yes, Lemieux can enable the Pens to win when the defense fails; however, he has not yet been called upon in this capacity as the defense has not yet failed.

Lastly, we feel the goalies are young, but extremely capable of executing the essential elements of goaltending. In the October 25 game, Steve Gueneté not only blocked 44 shots on goal by the flames, but also won "Player of the Game". This doesn't demonstrate questionable goaltending on the Penguins part. Back up goalies Young and Tabaracci are extremely young, but have already demonstrated exceptional potential or they would still be in the minors.

In the future, when rating the Penguins, you're going to have to recognize the abilities of the team as a whole. At the present time, that is as Number 1!

Carla Lagattuta - senior
Becky Neil - sophomore

Dear Carla and Becky,

What you have written about the Pens is all very true, but you seemed to have missed the scope of our recently printed N.H.L. preview. The idea was to give an unbiased look at the entire league. To have used the article to over-emphasize the writers favorite team would have been unethical.

You have to realize that what we (the Collegian staff) are trying desperately to produce here is a newspaper, and the job of a newspaper is to give the public the unbiased truth. What you suggested we publish could only be found in the Pittsburgh Penguins media guide.

Richard G. Cain - Sports Editor

Paterno, Nittany Lions Looking at Losing Season

by Todd J. Irwin
Collegian Staff Writer

In Joe Paterno's 23 seasons as head coach, Penn State has not had a losing football season. In fact, Penn State has not experienced a losing football season since 1938. However, with their present record at 5-4 with only two tough games remaining, Paterno and the Nittany Lions undoubtedly have the thought of a losing season lurking in their minds.

It's not surprising that, with the Lions' luck this season, those two games are cross-state rival Pitt and number one rated Notre Dame. As all Penn State fans know, anything can happen when Pitt and Penn State meet in the annual Pennsylvania Bowl. On top of that, the Nittany Lions must face the number one ranked Irish at Notre Dame. Talk about chances being slim to none!

You may be asking yourself, "How did this turn of events come about?" Well, it hasn't been pretty. Everything started off fine as Penn State beat Virginia and Boston College. Then the shocker came as the Lions were upset by Rutgers. The team got back on track with victories against Temple and Cincinnati, but completely crumbled as they dropped three games in a row for only the third time with Paterno at the helm. The three losses were dealt by Syracuse, Alabama, and (resounding thud!) West Virginia. The Mountaineers buried the Lions' 51-30 and put the most points on the board against a

Paterno coached team than anyone ever has. This past weekend, Penn State did show signs of life with a 17-10 victory over Maryland. This brings the Lions to their present 5-4 status.

The number one reason for the Nittany Lions' dire straights is their lack of offense. Freshman quarterback Tony Sacca is very talented and has been working hard, but is just too inexperienced to lead Penn State. The Lions just can't generate points. There are bright spots, though. As usual, Paterno has sculpted one of the nation's top defenses. (Wait, why are you laughing? I see, you saw the West Virginia game.) Also, most young, inexperienced quarterbacks with the raw talent that Sacca possesses usually turn into well-seasoned team leaders.

What it all boils down to is this, the Nittany Lions must either beat Pitt or upset Notre Dame to keep from having their first losing season in 50 years. However, if they do lose both games, what does it really matter? Penn State fans should realize that Joe Paterno and his Nittany Lions work in cycles. Each year that Penn State wins the National Title, it follows that there will be a few years of mediocrity and rebuilding until another serious run is made at title. So take heart P.S.U. fans, 1990 should, once again, be the year of the Lion.

Puzzle Solution on page 9

The Weekly Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15		16					17	18		
		19					20			
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39	40						41	42		
		43					44	45		
46	47						48		49	50
51			52	53				54		
55			56					57		

ACROSS

- Opening
- Slumber
- Solemn promise
- Ventilate
- Kind of beer
- Retirement-plan
- Delaying
- Spanish pots
- Doom
- Bad
- Twirl
- Russian tea
- Liquid measure
- Same as
- Italy: abbr.
- Abstract being
- Choice part
- Resort

DOWN

- Latin conjunction
- Danish measure
- Guide
- Channels
- Organs of hearing
- River islands
- Fruit
- Middle East peninsula
- Flying insect
- Sum up
- Small bottles
- Born
- Dance step
- Roman official
- Female: colloq.
- Narrow opening
- Paths
- Urge on
- College degree: abbr.
- Existed
- Diminish
- Animated
- Send forth
- Slumber
- One of Columbus's ships
- Place in line
- More mature
- Asterisks
- Pertinent
- Limbs
- Scorching
- A continent
- Athletic group
- Smoothies
- Short period
- Gaelic
- Weaken
- Mountain on Crete
- Siamese native
- Beverage
- Lamprey
- Cyprinoid fish