

SPORTS

NCAA Top 20 Tip-Off

by Michael A. Cifelli
Collegian Staff Writer

The NCAA college basketball shuffle is back. Teams nationwide will once again battle for one of the 64 spots that comprise the NCAA tournament. The road is a long one to the Final Four in Seattle, but here is a preseason list of 20 schools who look fit for the journey. Take notice that defending champion Kansas will not make this list. The Jayhawks are on probation for three years for recruiting violations and they cannot participate in post season play this year.

1.) Duke - A surprise appearance in last years Final Four was an indication of things to come. The Blue Devils are the top team to watch in the ACC, another team lead by a man named Danny - Danny Ferry, that is.

2.) Georgetown - Hoya-ball is back in D.C. John Thompson has the always resourceful point guard in Charles Smith and freshman deluxe Alonzo Mourning to lead a squad that will shine in the highly competitive Big East.

3.) Louisville - The Cardinals may be able to keep their rich tradition of Final Four appearances going, but Pervis Ellison will have to take charge. Felton Spencer and LaBradford Smith are players to watch.

4.) Michigan - Look for guard Rumeal Robinson to run the Wolverines' game. They are strong in talent, and when it comes together, this young squad will be tough to tangle with.

5.) Iowa - Roy Marble and superb point guard B.J. Armstrong lead a Hawkeye attack that could turn many heads in the Big Ten.

6.) North Carolina - Success in Chapel Hill will depend on how strong J.R. Reid can come back from a foot injury. Dean Smith's Tar Heels will have to keep pace with Duke.

7.) Illinois - The Illini depend on a stingy defense and the inside force of Kenny Battle. Last season's top recruit, forward Marcus Liberty, will be ready for action after sitting out last year. He could be a dominant force.

8.) Syracuse - Senior guard Sherman Douglas directs an Orangemen attack that will count on Derrick Coleman to take charge of the baseline. The Orange came up with the head of the freshman class in forward Billy Owens, the nation's top recruit. His all-around play should ignite this squad.

9.) UNLV - Olympian Stacey Augmon leads the Runnin' Rebels, who have many new faces. Augmon, and newcomers Moses Scurry and Greg Anthony will be the key to gettin' the Rebs runnin' in the NCAA's.

10.) Oklahoma - Star center Stacey King will lead one of the highest scoring offenses in the land. The Sooners may also have the best senior playmaker in the country in Mookie Blaylock, a backcourt pickpocket. OU's lightning-quick attack and full court defense will be a tough combination to beat.

11.) Arizona - Pac 10 Player of the year Sean Elliot will assume many roles to guide the Wildcats. He'll get help from defensive specialist Ken Lofton, a center fielder in the Houston Astros farm system.

12.) Georgia Tech - The versatile Tom Hammonds will team-up with transfer Mo Brittain, the top center from national junior college champion Hutchinson (Kansas). This strong combination should give the Yellow Jackets some added punch in the ACC.

13.) Missouri - The Tigers will look to the backcourt duo of Lee Coward and Byron Irvin to run the show. Top freshman Anthony Peeler will also be a key player. The question mark in the Tiger's game is defense.

14.) Ohio State - Two ineligible from last season, forward Treg Lee and point guard Eli Brewster will return to spark the Buckeyes. Along with top scorer Jay Burson, Ohio State will be a new force in the Big Ten.

15.) Florida State - Many call the Seminoles a team on the rise. George McCloud, Tat Hunter and Tony Dawson will be key players for the team who should rule the Metro Conference.

16.) Florida - If the Gators behave themselves (i.e. no brawling and no violations) and Dwayne Schintzius develops the correct attitude, there will be plenty of wins for Florida. Forwards Livingston Chapman and Dwayne Davis should help.

17.) Villanova - Rollie Massimino's Wildcats will count on the development of a promising big man, Tom Greis. Talented guard Kenny Wilson will also be essential to Nova's success.

18.) North Carolina State - Jim Valvano's Wolfpack attack will feature the accurate shooting of Chuckie Brown. Brown will assume a big role underneath with the loss of Charles Shackleford, who left school early and fled to the N.B.A. Little point man Chris Corchiani and outside bomber/lane penetrator Rodney Monroe highlight a solid sophomore backcourt.

19.) Georgia - The Bulldogs have junior college sensation Marshall Wilson form Connors State (Oklahoma) and freshman playmaker Litterial Green to make Georgia a young but tough opponent.

20.) Connecticut - The Huskies are this year's surprise in the Big East. UCONN has all five starters returning from last season's NIT Champion squad, including Cliff Robinson - a favorite for Conference Player of the Year. The backcourt is one of the best with Phil Gamble, MVP of the NIT, and playmaker Tate George. The Huskies are a team to watch.

Other teams to look for :

Temple
UNC-Charlotte
Loyola(CA)
Murray State (KY)
SMU
Wichita State
New Mexico
Virginia Tech

Top Conferences:

1.) Big East
2.) Big Ten
3.) Atlantic Coast Conference
4.) Metro

Gannon Sees Football in Future

by Todd J. Irwin
Collegian Staff Writer

It has been a long off-season for football at Gannon University, but it now seems that the Golden Knights will once again take to the gridiron next fall. The last time there was a football team at Gannon was 1950. The President of the U.S. was Harry S. Truman and the head coach of the team was Louis Tullio. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees, the next time will be 1989, when the President will be George Bush and Lou Tullio will still be the mayor of the city of Erie.

According to Richard Love, the Sports Information Director at Gannon, the Board of Trustees will meet sometime before the Thanksgiving break to vote on approval of the program. If the program is instated, the team will compete at the Division III level of the NCAA. This proposal has already been approved by Gannon's athletic committee, faculty senate, and Strategic Planning and Management Committee.

The main reasons for starting the football team at

Gannon are to increase enrollment and build on school spirit. In addition, a football program would increase the visibility of the institution. The program is expected to draw 60 more new students next year and 30 more each succeeding year. It has also been projected that the program would completely pay for itself by bringing in new students. Considering that the team would be mainly made up of underclassmen, and that most other schools have had their schedules made several years in advance, the Gannon team would probably be playing against JV and club teams for the first season.

There are many concerns among students and faculty though. For example, will the quality of education at Gannon suffer? Does the new program have anything to do with a proposed increase in tuition? Will there be a cut in the funds of other programs? Is the proposal moving too fast? These are all questions that will have to be considered by the board in their decision. Depending on their findings, there may be an end to Gannon's 38 year long off-season.

Behrend All-Stars

Five members of the Penn-State Behrend Men's soccer team were selected to participate in the conference All-star Match.

The Western Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Soccer Conference, by the vote of the coaches, nominated junior midfielder Ken Crumb, sophomore back Paul Hurley, freshman forward David Beck, and brothers Jay (junior) and Jeff (freshman) Varcoe, both fullbacks.

The All-star match was held on November 15th at Slippery Rock University. The conference was divided into two regions, with the Lions on the Northern team.

Photos by M. Zawistoski



Ken Crumb



Paul Hurley



Dave Beck



Jay Varcoe



Jeff Varcoe

The Erie Panthers

by Robb Frederick with Kevin Kapsar
Collegian Staff Writers

As a Pittsburgh native, there's only one thing that I miss more than my mother's cooking - Penguins Hockey. OK, so maybe they never had a winning season, but the competitive spirit was always present, and the games were always electrifying.

My transition to college, however, deprived me of my beloved Pens. As my friends noticed my growing despair, they realized that something had to be done, thus I was introduced to Erie Panther Hockey.

I must admit that I was at first skeptical about minor league hockey. I expected players to trip over their own feet, consistently pass to the opposing team and fight whenever the puck was lost. Although these expectations were fulfilled, the Panthers easily succeeded in providing an exciting evening for avid hockey fans - as well as spectators without a clue to the meaning of a power play.

The players, united for the first time this season, proved to be very skillful both individually and as a team. The incredible amount of enthusiasm and effort produced by the team could easily satisfy any fan who respects the talent and skill the sport demands.

The Panthers are in the East Coast Hockey League. They other teams in the league are: the Virginia Lancers (Vinton, VA); the Johnstown Chiefs (Johnstown, PA); the Knoxville Cherokees (Knoxville, TN); the Carolina Thunderbirds (Winston-Salem, NC).

The team consists of a fifteen man roster composed of eight Americans and seven Canadians. Ron Hansis is the teams head coach, general manager and father figure for the team. The average age of the

players is twenty-two and this provides for a quicker, more physical game.

A majority of hockey fans, unfortunately, prefer to watch players pound each other's faces into the ice. This is definitely a part of the Panthers game plan and must be expected in minor league hockey. With only five teams competing, rivalries are inevitable. When officials miss a foul against a home player, and they do constantly, it's impossible for the players or the fans to remain objective.

During a recent game, the focus of the fans anger was directed at the Johnstown Chiefs' goalie, Lance Carlson, who had a nasty habit of swinging at Erie players. When a Panther finally decided to accept Lance's offer, a Johnstown defender was recruited to save his cherished goalkeeper. For the hour of playing time that night, the Erie Civic Center became the Roman Coliseum, and the Johnstown Chiefs were being fed to the lions.

The Panthers, however, would still be entertaining without all the violence. Although their team is young and has not played together for long, the players are extremely skillful and enthusiastic about their sport. The exciting competition can please any spectator.

A college student can attend any game for only \$5.00 in center ice seats or \$4.00 in any other seats. The small crowd size allows ticket-buyers to find themselves in the front rows, where every hit or fall can be heard perfectly. Similar seats for Penguins Hockey would cost about \$13.00, and the Pittsburgh games are not that much more exciting. There is no excuse for any student to complain about boring evenings or weekends when an opportunity like this is so readily available.

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3:30 p.m. - Leave Millcreek Mall for Penn State-Behrend

4:00 p.m. - Leave for K-Mart

4:45 p.m. - Leave K-Mart for Penn State-Behrend

5:30 p.m. - Leave Millcreek Mall for Penn State-Behrend