

The Harrisburg Horizon: Penn State Harrisburg's only team

By **PETER STRELLA**
Editor

Though intercollegiate sports may not come to Penn State Harrisburg for a few more years, many students remain unaware that a professional basketball team plays eight home games a year in the Capital Union Building.

The Harrisburg Horizon men's and women's basketball teams are set to kick off their season on March 6, at home against the New York Pride. The Horizon teams will play at home almost every Saturday until the play-offs begin in early May. Tickets are only \$4 with a student ID.

The men's games are typically high-scoring, with both teams usually tallying over 100 points each. All of the players have college basketball experience, some of them having played at Division I schools such as Pittsburgh, St. Joe's, and Princeton.

This year, the Horizon men are attempting to three-peat as league champions. The team has a 23-1 record over the past two years and is poised to make a solid run for the title this year. The season opener against New York will be crucial, because they were the second place team last year.

"They have a strong team because they have a big contingent of players to pick from up in New York City," said Horizon men's Coach Al Clocker. "I'm sure they'll have a fine franchise coming in."

Even though the Horizon lost their two best players, Clocker is confident that his new class of talent can pick up where last year's team left off. Jamal Palmer, a 6'9"

center from Millersville, is expected to put in good minutes in the frontcourt, pending what is believed to be a slight knee sprain that has him listed as day-to-day.

Lebanon standout Mike Bechtold, who played at Princeton University, is expected to pick up a little of the scoring void while adding solid defense and rebounding.

Clocker has also found a hidden treasure in former University of Scranton standout Al Callejas. Callejas led the Division III in three-point percentage for the 1998-99 season by shooting over 54 percent from beyond the arc. In addition, he is an excellent passer, dribbler, and free-throw shooter with a 92 percent average from the line his senior year of college.

Returning for the Horizon is 6'10" power forward and team leader Kevin Rowe, who can shoot from anywhere on the court. Mike Shue, who has turned into a team leader alongside Rowe in recent years, is also returning and will bring some experience into the backcourt. The blend of experienced veterans and talented newcomers has Coach Clocker confident that his team can make a run at a third consecutive title.

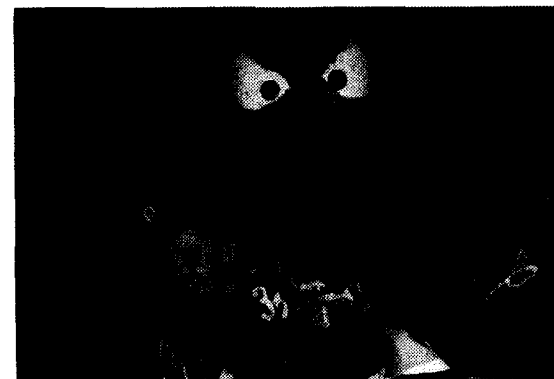
The Horizon women's team is looking to improve upon their second place finish last year. They will have to start against New York, who handed them their only two losses of the season last year.

The team has picked up three new players, all with college experience. Forward Sasha Leverentz, from Northern Michigan, will bring professional experience to the table after winning league MVP in England. Small forwards Katie Ulrich and Christina Vouriotis are set for their first professional season.



ABOVE: Harrisburg Horizon point guard Dave Jannuzzi signs autographs after his EBA record 67 points against New Philadelphia. **BELOW:** The Harrisburg Horizon mascot plays around with the kids.

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