

Fall sports preview

By Charles Reed
Staff writer

It's beginning to look like a grim fall for Philly sports fans.

The Phillies seem to be content in their position as the boys of summer while helping the usual contenders surge into autumn as the men of October, and all they had to do was rid themselves of their ace, Curt Schilling.

The Flyers, apparently not happy enough with the loss of team leader, Eric Lindros, are bickering over dollars with one of their two remaining superstars, John LeClair. Best of luck to General Manager Bobby Clarke, who has almost succeeded in his mission to turn the fabled "Legion of Doom" line into the "Legion of Doomed."

In the NBA, it seems the Sixers would have their fans believe that Tony Kukoc — not that Jordan guy — was the real catalyst behind all of those Chicago championships.

As if in emulation of the Flyers and the Phils, the Sixers almost ran Allen Iverson, their sole superstar, out of town as well.

Look for only conflict in and around the First Union Center this fall. But, of course, with the tumultuous spring for the Flyers and the violent summer for the Republicans, conflict around the F.U. Center is what this town has come to expect.

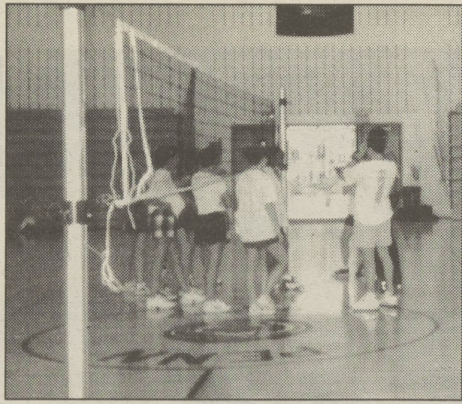
Even up in Happy Valley, Pennsylvania's only "sure thing" has crumbled, as Joe Pa has his hands full and his bench empty. Indeed, Penn State's football fans are gnashing their teeth, seeing more blue than white, as the Nittany Lions stumbled to an 0-2 start against such perennial AP powerhouses as Southern Cal and ... Toledo?

So, with Philly's only ray of hope (hopefully) shining on Sundays with the split-personality Eagles, where else can Delco students go except home?

Thus, we arrive at the much heralded, highly anticipated, Penn State Delco Fall Sport Preview.

Team Tennis:

Rumor has it that Andre Agassi didn't drop from the U.S. Olympic Team because of personal problems, but because he



Coach Tom Pflieger gives the volleyball team instructions.

heard that there was an open spot on Delco's co-ed tennis team. No word on Anna Kournikova's desires to follow suit.

Led by Coach Bill McCourt, who expects nothing less than a first-place finish in the CCAC, Delco tennis looks to continue a winning tradition despite being severely short-handed. Only four players are returning from last year's 8-2 squad.

For the women, Kathy Nguyen and Tori Davidson will be battling for the number one singles spot, with Tara Martini and Nicole Culin closing it out.

On the men's side, An Shih and Steve Spera, who went undefeated last year, will be vying for the top spot, with Naresh Reddy following close behind.

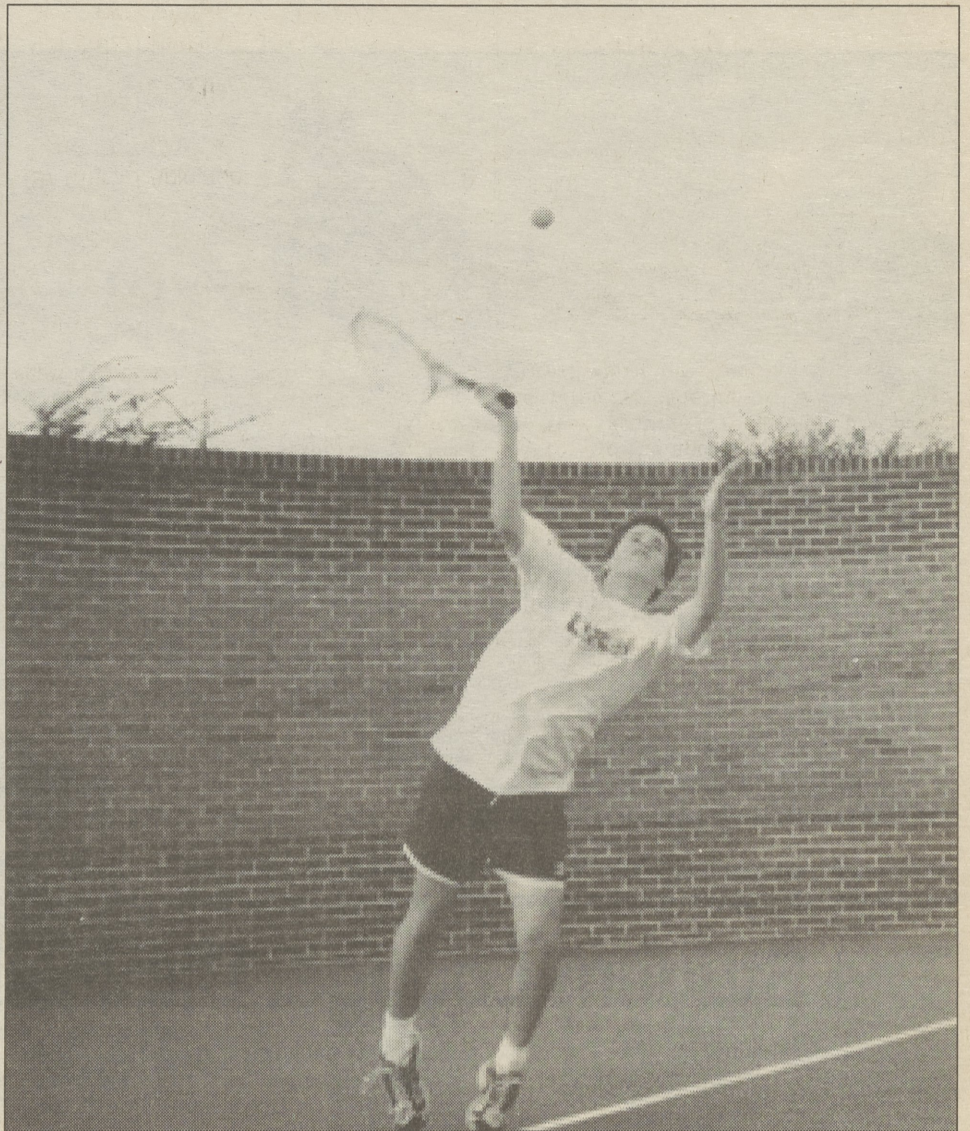
Soccer:

Despite losing its only pre-season game, Delco Soccer is expecting big things. And it hopes to do them with a kicking game that is powerful, though not always accurate.

Helmed by first-year coach Bill Munger and the captaining triumvirate of Andy Slowik, Bang Duong, and Rich "Noodle-leg" Neal, the team has seven returning players from last season, including the Hadrian's Wall of Goalies, Osmond Mbaeri.

"We have a lot of high hopes," said Slowik. "We have the best goalkeeper in the league, as voted last year by the [CCAC] coaches."

The team isn't just looking to build on last year's 7-9 record — it's looking to bury



Jose' Mancia serves one up.

(Photos by CHARLES REED)

it. How did Coach Munger describe this year's squad?

"Good, real good."

And he said it with a face of stone.

Women's Volleyball:

Fourth-year coach Tom Pflieger has a tough road ahead.

Not only must his team start the season without returning star starter Vanessa Behl, who's out until at least the first week of October with a stress fracture, Delco Volleyball must also forge through the sadness surrounding the death of Sarah Stover.

Instead of the usual pre-game shout of "DELCO!", plans have been made for a ceremonial homage to Stover instead.

"Sarah is a loss ... She was a big player. With Sarah — and if Vanessa were healthy — we'd be the best team in the league," said Coach Pflieger.

Still, the team is built around the blistering serves of returning sophomores Colleen Kelly and Julienne Balmer, and as Coach Pflieger said, "Every point starts with a serve."

It was the voice of optimism amidst long odds — a voice that ensures that no team that plays behind it will lose games, regardless of the final score.

Baseball:

The "Ping!" of the bat, the smell of the grass ... these are the sensations of fall baseball.

"We have a pretty good squad with a lot of potential," said assistant coach John Winters.

Potential, as we've seen over and over with the Phillies, is a word for a rebuilding team. But, as only a two-year campus, it seems that every year is a rebuilding year for Delco.

Fifth-year coaching brothers Adam and John Winters may not see it that way, but with only three starters returning from last year's 8-10 team, rebuilding is basically what it all comes down to.

Returning are first baseman Jim Sofranko, pitcher Dan Romano, and All-Conference shortstop/pitcher David Boyle, who are, as assistant coach Winters said, "Looking to get to the championship."

That may seem a little far-fetched, but never discount determination, especially in a young team that has an optimistic outlook toward the upcoming season.

"Team attitude is really good this year," said Winters. "The kids who want to win are really pushing the others."



There's no shortstop shortage for Delco Baseball.

Volleyball

- 9/9 CCAC South PSU Mont Alto
- 9/12 Delaware CCC
- 9/16 CCAC North and South PSU Hazleton (A, 11 a.m.)
- 9/18 Bucks CCC Delaware CCC (H, 6 p.m.)
- 9/23 CCAC North and South PSU York (A, noon)
- 9/27 Bucks/Phila. PSU Abington (A, 6 p.m.)
- 9/30 CCAC South PSU Abington (A, noon)
- 10/3 Phila./Central (A, 6 p.m.)
- 10/5 CCAC Eastern Finals (TBA)
- 10/7 CCAC Finals at University Park (TBA)
- 10/9 Central Penn (A, 6 p.m.)
- 10/12 EPCC Playoff (TBA)
- 10/14 EPCC Tournament (TBA)

Soccer

- 9/6 Gloucester CCC, L 4-2 (Scrimmage)
- 9/9 PSU Hazleton
- 9/13 Manor (H, 4 p.m.)
- 9/15 PSU Abington (A, 4 p.m.)
- 9/20 Phila. C.C. (H, 4 p.m.)
- 9/23 PSU Berks (H, 11 a.m.)
- 9/26 Bucks CCC (A, 4 p.m.)
- 9/30 PSU Scranton (A, 1 p.m.)
- 10/4 Delaware CCC (A, 4 p.m.)
- 10/7 PSU Wilkes Barre (H, 1 p.m.)
- 10/10 Williamson (H, 4 p.m.)
- 10/12 PSU York (H, 4 p.m.)
- 10/14 PSU Mont Alto (H, 1 p.m.)

Tennis

- 9/9 PSU Berks
- 9/13 PSU Abington
- 9/16 PSU Mont Alto (H, 1 p.m.)
- 9/19 PSU York (H, 3 p.m.)
- 9/23 PSU Berks (A, 1 p.m.)
- 9/25 PSU Hazleton (A, 3 p.m.)
- 9/29 PSU Abington (H, 3 p.m.)
- 10/5 PSU York (A, 3 p.m.)
- 10/7 PSU Mont Alto (A, 1 p.m.)
- 10/11 PSU Hazleton (H, 3 p.m.)
- 10/14-15 CCAC Tournament at University Park

Baseball

- 9/2 NorthamptonPostponed (rain)
- 9/9 Wilkes Barre
- 9/12 Phila. CC
- 9/16 PSU Hazleton (H, 1 p.m.)
- 9/20 PSU Berks (A, 2 p.m.)
- 9/23 Luzerne CCC (H, 2 p.m.)
- 9/26 PSU Abington (H, 2 p.m.)
- 9/30 PSU Mont Alto (A, 1 p.m.)
- 10/1 Penn College (A, 2 p.m.)
- 10/7 EPCC Tournament

** ALL EVENTS ARE DOUBLEHEADERS