

Eye on Sports

Men's hoops: Is bigger better?

Lions add size, and count on experience, to take next step

By **JOHN HICKEY**
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Penn State Delco's men's basketball team is coming off a relatively solid finish last season.

With a 10-6 record in the conference (CCAC), the Lions missed a trip to the playoffs by a mere tiebreaker loss. No one likes to see a season end like that, and anyone who saw last year's squad in action knows it had the heart and skill to advance, but lacked one other key element for a successful basketball team ... size.

With that in mind, head coach Frank Farnese, along with assistants Jimmy Halligan (a former PSU student-athlete) and John Daniels, set out to mend the broken link with strong recruiting, the logical yet sometimes difficult solution.

"Our goal this year was to focus on recruiting height and size," said coach Farnese. "Most of our team was usually forced to play out of position last year due to our lack of size."

With some hard work and a new, very appealing four-year eligibility amendment, the Lions welcomed a few new bodies during tryouts, and large ones at that. New recruits such as Steve Fuller (an extremely talented transfer from DCCC), Brandon Easley, Rob Harris, Mike Johnson, and Will Stewart, ranging from 6-foot-3 to 6-8, should definitely resolve the size deficit.

"This is the first time in five years that I'm not worried about my post play, forwards or centers," said Farnese. "Now I'm more concerned with our guards and contributors in the backcourt."

But size alone won't win games. The coaching staff now faces the challenge of finding the right blend of players along with a different strategy to accommodate their new "bag of tricks."

One thing's for certain, we can expect to see more rebounds and blocks than before. We also might anticipate a slower-paced game with less transition, but can we expect more?

You better believe coach Farnese is planning for more, a lot more.

"We have a new offensive system that will utilize our power forwards and size. We can also afford to play some more zone, trapping, and half-court defense," he said.

When asked about returning players, Farnese mentioned Kenny Jackson, Rob Clupp, Chris Pierce, Sesa Bowman, and Oliver Garcia as key contributors.

"Now that we have the size we need, my returning guys can go back to their natural positions," said Farnese.

It seems as though the recruits will not only be an asset to the program as a whole, but to the returning veterans as well.

MEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER

Kenny Jackson	G	So.	6-0	Msgr. Bonner
Hisham Rahmi	F	Jr.	6-0	Upper Darby
Jacque Hall	G	Jr.	5-9	West Catholic
Tyrone Lecato	G-F	Jr.	6-0	Coatesville
Sesa Bowman	G-F	So.	6-1	Sunset, Fla.
Frank Flaim	G	So.	6-0	Rnd.-McN., Ga.
Mike Johnson	F	So.	6-2	Haverford
Will Stewart	C	Fr.	6-7	Conestoga
Rob Harris	F	Fr.	6-4	Mercy Catholic
Chris Pearce	G	So.	5-10	Springfield
Chris Spinosa	G-F	Fr.	6-2	Springfield
Rob Clupp	G-F	Jr.	6-3	Interboro
Brandon Easley	F	Fr.	6-3	Overbrook
Steve Fuller	F	Jr.	6-4	University City
Oliver Garcia	C	Jr.	6-5	Conestoga

"I expect us to have a great season," said Jackson. "We have a lot of experience for leadership and now we have the size we needed."

"I expect us to be very successful."

If the personnel changes aren't drastic enough for fans, they can expect to see some other new things going on this season. For the first time, Penn State Delco has been invited to play teams in western Pennsylvania during the season as opposed to a playoff-only experience. The team will travel to Pittsburgh on two



Photo by John Hickey

Steve Fuller, 52, is a 6-foot-4 transfer from Delaware County Community College taking advantage of PSU Delco's new four-year eligibility.

separate weekends, hotel accommodations and all. Not only will this attract a larger range of competition, but it will also give the players something to look forward to.

Take returning sophomore Sesa Bowman for example.

"We get to travel out west this year to places like Pittsburgh. That should definitely make for a more interesting season," said Bowman.

As we approach the start of the 2003-04 season, it might be hard to recognize the PSU Delco men's basketball team.

With players nearing 7 feet, new offensive coordination and strategy, and returning leaders from last year, who knows what we're about to witness?

Sometimes you just have to wait and see. The wait ends Monday, Nov. 17, when the Lions visit archrival Delaware County Community College.

DiAntonio gives women's hoops a fresh start

By **STACIE MANN**
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It's that time again; the changing of seasons.

The fall sports teams have finished their seasons, and the winter sports are starting. If you haven't been paying attention the last few weeks, here's what has happened in the world of Penn State Delco sports.

The women's volleyball team was shocked to find out its season was over after a win against Schuylkill Oct. 7. The team ended with a record of 9-7 in the CCAC. Although the Lions missed advancing to playoffs by a game — even after they thought they'd clinched a berth — they finished third in the Southern Division. The

team will look to improve next year with a few returning players. With women's volleyball going to four-year eligibility, the team has high hopes of building an even stronger program in the years to come.

The coed tennis team finished its season at University Park Oct. 19. The team, led by Jacquelyn Clark, Oahn Dinh, and Emily Jackson went on to take second in the doubles tournament. The team made a lot of progress this year with a lot of new players under a new coach. The team is hoping to build upon a new style of coaching and a good foundation of returning players for next year.

Of course, with these sports ending, a different sport is taking over — basketball. The women's basket-

ball team started practicing and the team has a new coach in Joe DiAntonio.

This is the second sport DiAntonio is part of at Delco, as he's also the assistant baseball coach.

The women's basketball team is in the process of rebuilding after many changes from last year.

In addition, the team has only one returning player in Stacie Mann, but has a 10-player roster to work with.

The Lions' first game is Nov. 13 when the team plays Philadelphia Community College at home at 6 p.m. in the Commons Building gymnasium. A full preview will appear in the next edition of the *Lion's Eye*.

Stacie Mann is a member of the Penn State Delco volleyball and basketball teams.