

# Eye on Sports

## Men working on chemistry

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Adjustment, dedication and sacrifice ... all things we experience when trying something new. The intensity of the change depends on the nature of the situation, and things can be as simple as trying a new type of food or as complicated as marriage.

More often than not, college athletes are located much closer to the complex end of that spectrum. Trying to mesh a group of individuals — all with different personalities, desires, class schedules, work schedules and personal lives — is not an easy task.

And so it goes for the PSU Delco men's basketball team, which started this season in late November.

"Building chemistry and finding the right leadership are the most important things at this point," said head coach Frank Farnese.

The only time most teams can truly work out their issues is at practice. The problem with that concept here at PSU Delco is that we're a commuter campus, and some of the players aren't finding the time to get to practice. Nothing can be more damaging to a team's chemistry and overall improvement than missing players.

But Farnese knows you can't underestimate the importance of high attendance at team practices.

"The guys that are getting to practice are continually getting better," he said. "If everybody makes that effort, we'll

definitely make a good run in the playoffs."

The team is 2-2 in the conference, a decent way to head into the holiday break. Based on the current situation, free time that the break provides is exactly what this team needs.

Adding to the early-season nuisances, Delco already has three injured players. Rob Clupp has a broken wrist, Steve Fuller a nagging back and knee problems and Mike Johnston a strained hip flexor. Thankfully, most if not all of the players will be able to return relatively shortly.

Doing his part to make the best of the situation is freshman Will Stewart.

"I am very impressed with Stewart's work ethic and tenacity on defense," said Farnese. "I really enjoy watching him dive for loose balls; it definitely helps to motivate the team."

There's no mystery why Stewart is so willing to contribute.

"I just got out of the Navy," he said. "I was in a transition period and I needed something to fill the emptiness I had."

Apparently, Stewart came to the

right place. He now enjoys the fact that basketball has helped him meet people and how he can help his teammates by whatever means possible.

This team should still have its better days ahead of it. With the practice time the holiday break provides, and the relief of a completed semester, the team members can head back to the drawing board and compose themselves for a



Photo by Luanne Sims

The ball goes up and the Penn State Delco men begin their game against Penn State Scranton recently. The Lions have found cohesiveness a struggle during the pre-holiday schedule.

challenging season.

Also coming in January is senior Nick Spinosa, out of Springfield High, who has decided to finish his PSU career at the Delco campus.

"Spinosa is a decent-sized player that should give us some serious post presence," said Farnese.

Spinosa will be teaming up with his younger brother Chris, who is compet-

ing with Delco's squad as a freshman.

As Delco students finish up their semester and make plans for vacation, the men's basketball team will be spending its time a bit differently.

True, everything is still a bit new, but with adjustment, dedication, and sacrifice, fans can most definitely expect to see different team hit the courts in January.

## Sims gets the reins of athletic department

By SEAN ORNER  
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At the end of the spring semester Penn State Delco will be losing long-time athletic director Tiz Griffith.

Replacing Griffith will be the current Assistant Director of Student Affairs Luanne Sims. Sims has been in that position since March, and beginning the spring semester of 2004, will be working in coordination with Griffith to get the hang of things until Griffith retires in May and Sims takes complete control as athletic director.

Sims has been associated with Penn

State for more than 10 years. She received her degree in speech communication from Penn State in 1993, with a minor in exercise and sports science. Sims went on to receive her master's from Penn State in exercise and sports science in 1997. She also has experience playing and coaching sports for Penn State. Sims was a member of the softball team at Penn State Ogontz and member, adviser and coach of the Penn State rifle team.

Sims has additional impressive experience in the world of sports. She was a grant recipient of the

Ronald M. Friedman Award in 1994, which was a competitive grant to fund a research trip to the NCAA national office. More impressively, Sims was selected as the United States' representative to the International Olympic Committee.



LUANNE SIMS

Sims says she is aware that being athletic director at Penn State Delco will not be a walk in the park. As athletic director, her responsibilities will include coordinating varsity games, hiring and supervising coaches and scheduling practice times. Sims is

also in charge of things that many people wouldn't consider, such as handing out and collecting uniforms, running intramural sports, and supervising the fitness center.

She will also be responsible with working with club sports, which will be a new responsibility for the athletic director as of the fall semester.

Although Penn State Delco is losing a very experienced and well-liked athletic director in Tiz Griffith, who will remain on campus as a faculty member, it is gaining an educated and competent new athletic director.

Sims seems to be a perfect choice to fill such big shoes.