

Lady hoopsters in Pitt tourney

By **BARB FARMER**
Collegian Sports Writer

Last year, the Penn State women's basketball team saw the tournament action for the first time in its 11-year existence. And, for the most part, it was a disaster.

Some 10 players, six of those freshmen, made the trip to the Pitt Invitational Tournament last December. The rookies were introduced to collegiate basketball life the tough way — two heartbreaking losses that painfully bore out the youth of the squad.

Four of those same freshmen are making the trip this weekend as sophomores, only this time, they are a little older and a lot more experienced.

"We have more experience going into the tournament, and we're a lot stronger because of it," sophomore guard Hallie Bunk said.

While the squad is still young by most standards — only one senior with six sophs and three frosh — six of the ten members making the journey west have at least one year of college ball under their belts.

"I'm really excited about the morale," sophomore Mag Strittmatter said. "The morale has increased about 100 per cent."

"We're able to run longer; we're able to keep up a high tempo in scrimmages, and that's a good sign," the 6-0 center added.

Conditioning will play a key role in the first game of the Pitt Invite tonight, as the women challenge a fast-breaking Slippery Rock team. The Lady Lions have come up empty-handed in their past four contests against the Rock, most recently a 64-59 loss last February.

"We have a lot more plays and I think by playing Slippery Rock over the years, we know what to expect more, too," captain Loretta Adams said. "One of the main things that's

going to be important is whether we can stop them from fast breaking."

"Last year, they killed us on the fast break," Penn State head coach Pat Meiser said. "We've got to put some pressure on the rebounder and stop the outlet."

The fast break works best for the Rockets on a 6-3 center Karen Frauenhoff rebound and pass to speedster guard Melinda Hale. Hale turned the Lady Lions for 25 points in last season's contest.

However, Hale and teammate, Bev Miller may be absent from the Pitt fieldhouse because both are trying out for the U.S. women's handball team in Russia.

If the pair returns from its trip abroad in time for the 6:00 contest, the Rockets will field five returnees from last year's top eight players. The 1975 squad suffered only two losses in 18 games — one to defending Invite champs Pitt and one to nationally rated Immaculata in regional competition.

Penn State will match Strittmatter and 6-2 freshman Peggy Schwinge against Frauenhoff in the first round of the tourney. Up front, the women will have Adams, sophomores A.J. Carlson and Corinne Leparik, and freshman Toni Clarke. In the backcourt Bunk will team up with sophs Cathy Boyanowski and Sharon Beagle, and freshman Nancy Kuhl.

After the first contest, the women will either advance in their bracket or drop into the consolation round, depending on the outcome of the game. If the women get by the Rock, they will face one of two strong opponents in Edinboro or Cheyney. Cheyney was one of five teams in this tournament who participated in regionals last March.

"I think it's going to show mainly how well we can work with various people, and it's also going to show how quickly we can think," Adams said of the tournament.

"Experience is the key. You can never learn enough and that's what these tournaments teach you," Strittmatter summed up. "We're so young, and if we can get it together now, our chances for the future are better."

DRIBBLES — Penn State is looking for its first tournament victory. Glassboro, Indiana of Pa. and Lock Haven round out the field of eight teams. The Lady Lions are 0-4 in tourney play. Pitt must win three straight to retain the Invite crown.

when the two 15-person Penn State squads meet The Centre County All-Stars, comprised of this area's top male and female bowlers, in a co-ed match. The exhibition at Centre Lanes will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Steelers' White OK

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Defensive end Dwight White returned to practice yesterday as the Pittsburgh Steelers completed heavy drills for their Saturday showdown with the Cincinnati Bengals.

White had been sent home Wednesday with a sinus condition, which the Steelers said "improved considerably" overnight. He will start against the Bengals.

The condition of defensive tackle Joe Greene is not so clear and Chuck Noll doesn't expect to make a decision on his playing status until tomorrow morning. Greene has missed three out of the last four games with a pinched nerve in his neck and a groin injury.

Greene did practice all week for the first time in six weeks, but if he is unable to play, Steve Furness has been outstanding in a reserve role.

This time around, the Steelers, 11-1, need the win to assure themselves of the division title, while a Cincinnati victory would guarantee the Bengals, 10-2, at least a wild-card berth and a shot at the title.

In order to capture the title outright, Cincinnati would have to win this week and beat San Diego next week and would need to count on Los Angeles to defeat Pittsburgh in the Steelers' final game.

Although the Steelers are already assured of being in the playoffs, one more victory would guarantee the homefield playoff advantage that goes with the division championship.

Lion keglers divide

The first winning streak of the Penn State's men bowling team was ended at one yesterday with a 2620-2619 heartbreaking loss to Edinboro, but the Lady Lion keglers did make it a split for the day by defeating the Lady Scots, 2393-2240.

The men's squad, which this year is competing for the first time at the varsity level, opened its season with an impressive win over Glenville Saturday. The male quintet had its problems, at Edinboro, however.

"They started out strong," said coach Margot Beldon. "Their first game was 973, but then we went to 868 and then 778."

"I think experience was part of it," she continued.

"They were getting uptight and weren't letting the ball roll. But it's hard to say for sure."

Ted Long, on the strength of games of 230 and 202, led the Lions for the second straight match with a 588 three-game total. Jim Gump added a 532 and Scott Goldbach a 210-530, while teammates Chris Ruch and Jon Abelow shot 521 and 448, respectively.

Pam Schaffer and Pat McClellan tied for top individual honors for the women with 504 each, with Amy Farkas close behind at 501. Millie Serrano's 466 and Claire Timm's 418 rounded out the scores.

"The lanes were really tough and both teams left a lot of splits," Beldon said, explaining the relatively low scores.

The Lady Lions' victory kept the squad marked unblemished at 2-0, and also kept alive their hopes for a fourth consecutive unbeaten season.

The next action for the two teams will be tomorrow,

Swimmers visit Lehigh

By **GERRY HARTSHORN**
Collegian Sports Writer

The Lion swimmers debut their dual meet season tomorrow on the road at Lehigh with even more problems than in past seasons.

Essentially, it is the same sad song as in past seasons without a big payroll in the guise of grants-in-aid, the top calibre athletes stay away and the program goes on. Coach Lou MacNeill does what he can with his amateur, walk on team, while facing some highly talented, big budget programs such as Maryland and the new eastern powerhouse Pittsburgh.

But this is the year of the trimmed budget and the NCAA traveling squads. Home and away teams are not exclusive to the gridiron or the basketball court (but extends to the swimming pool).

Intercollegiate swimming and diving teams are limited to 15 on the traveling squad and the home team suits 20, a marked advantage from the start.

MacNeill said that he thought it was a stupid rule and questions the real savings in swimming for the extra five men while limiting the number of swimmers in each event.

But the swim team unlike the other sports in Happy Valley are not out to dominate the world and set new records at every turn. They are individuals who have come out for a team because they want to and MacNeill has based the

program on that point.

"The main goal this season is the same as in the past," he said. "It's a little early to break any Penn State records, our goal right now is to get some good dual meet time trials. I hope to see everyone's times improve, we've got some freshmen and I don't know how they'll swim under these conditions, stress conditions."

MacNeill continued, citing the four points of the Penn State swim program: 1. the measure of success is in the individual times and performances, 2. bettering personal times in dual meets, 3. setting new Penn State records, 4. a concern for winning or losing the individual dual meet.

Tomorrow's success depends a great deal on the freshman, whether or not they can perform in a dual meet situation and if the training program has been right.

MacNeill said that Lehigh is a strong team and has already beaten Temple, another strong team, in the final event of the freestyle relay. He added that the Lions have a chance at defeating the Engineers if they can get a lead before the freestyle relay, one of the Lehigh's strongest events.

In most places the Engineer's are weak, the Lions are strong and the Lions weak where the Lehigh is strong. The backstroke is a good example, the Lion's

have a good team as evidenced by last week's relays and should get a win here. Also in the individual medley relay Penn State should come out on top, with prep school All-American, Lance Duffy and Craig Herr in the event.

The Lehigh meet should answer some questions about this year's freestylers and in the process may decide the meet with some excellent swimmers from Lehigh. MacNeill is going to gamble with Mike Noel who usually swims the shorter, distances in the 1000 freestyle. He'll be joined in the event by Bruce Balderson.

In the 500, Mike Noel is the Penn State record holder. But, the 200 butterfly is a real problem with no star Lion swimmers and in the 200 breaststroke there are two top Engineers. These short commings could spell a long afternoon for sprinters Steve Morrill and Larry Close and captain and all-around man, Bill McConnell.

The strong point of the Lion swim team may, again this year, be the divers with one of the best in the east and Penn State record holder, Rich Maurone and Eastern's qualifier Scott Linnon.

For Penn State to win, according to MacNeill, the Lions will have to get some points early. The Engineers want revenge from last year's defeat here and the Lions have a morning van ride to Bethlehem.

Swim women on road

By **BARB SHELLY**
Collegian Sports Writer

Bloomsburg appears to be an easy opener when the Penn State women's swimming and diving team travels there tomorrow to begin its dual meet season, but coach Ellen Perry said the meet cannot be taken lightly.

"Bloomsburg is an up-and-coming team," she said. "It will be a good meet." Bloomsburg defeated Binghamton State University in New York 84-44 last weekend while the Lady Lions placed third out of eight teams in the Pitt Relays.

Perry said Bloomsburg appears to have a good backstroke, Tina O'Hara, judging from the results of last weeks meet. O'Hara won the 50 yard backstroke event in 31:38. Other Bloomsburg swimmers who looked strong were Mary Mandell, who won two butterfly events, and Cheryl Devries, who placed first in the individual medley.

Perry said O'Hara, Devries, Mandell and freestyler Jane Crossmore may provide strong competition in the 200-yard medley relay.

"The meet provides an opportunity to keep building endurance," Perry said. Endurance is a vital factor right now because Penn State has an important meet with Springfield January 10 and the swimmers must stay in shape.

Penn State presently holds a 2-0 record against Bloomsburg. Those who miss Colette Bizal at the gymnastic meets can see her at the Natatorium this winter in her first season of diving. Bizal made the switch because of a shoulder injury and potential knee problems. She will be joined by another former gymnast, Janet Cantwell, also plagued by knee problems.

Diving captain Diane Celecke, a sophomore, is the only diver with collegiate competitive experience. Celecke holds

the team record from the one meter board for six dives. Freshman Shawn Lindsay is the fourth member of the diving team. The men and women divers are coached by Bob Goldberg.

Penn State will face its toughest dual meet competition at home this season. Springfield, Pittsburgh, West Chester, Shippensburg and Clarion will give spectators at the Natatorium a chance to see top competition in the east.

Wildcats 'not solid'

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky's basketball victory over Miami of Ohio after two straight losses was "a temporary reprieve, but we're still not a solid club by any means," Coach Joe B. Hall said yesterday.

"We're making progress, but our schedule is very tough through December, and gets tougher as we go. We're trying to gain experience as fast as we can," Hall said.

Hall wasn't surprised at all that Kentucky lost its first

two games of the season for the first time in 50 years. In fact, he said, "We could have lost the first three."

Kentucky lost four of its top six scorers from last year, when the Wildcats handed powerful Indiana its only loss of the season and finished second to UCLA in the NCAA playoffs.

That left Hall with one of the youngest teams ever fielded at Kentucky — one senior, three juniors, five sophomores and three freshmen.

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