

Lady netters suffer tough loss

By **BARB SHELLY**
Collegian Sports Writer

The season of the Penn State's women's tennis team (5-3) can be measured in terms of successes, but Saturday's 5-4 loss to Ohio State left coach Joan Nessler with a slightly bitter taste in the mouth.

"The only match I was disappointed in was today's," she said afterwards. The Lady Lions' other losses were at the hands of Princeton and Virginia, perennial powers in women's tennis.

Penn State started the season with only one veteran player, second singles Wendy Gavett. The rest of the team was comprised of four freshmen and one transfer. Besides victories over tough opponents such as Maryland and West Chester, the Lady Lions placed second in the two tournaments they entered.

Saturday's loss to Ohio State came after Princeton beat the Lady Lions 8-1 Thursday afternoon, and then defeated Ohio State by the same score the next day.

"Ohio State was good, but I really thought we should have been able to beat them," Nessler said, adding that the visitor's wins in the third and fourth singles spots made the difference.

On the third court, Molly Wesner fell victim to another tough loss in the third set. She was defeated by Wendy Stewart 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. Wesner described her opponent as an aggressive player with a tough spin serve. "In the first set I was really hitting too hard," she said, continuing that she slowed down and took the second set, and the third set was a matter of which player could win the crucial points.

At fourth singles, Ohio State's Laura Schubert had freshman Joan Backenstose on the defensive throughout a 6-2, 6-1 match.

Gavett also failed to win the crucial points and ended with a 6-3, 6-2 defeat to Leann Grimes at second singles. On the sixth court, Bailey Symington struggled with opponent Ellen Shewalter's cross court attacks, before losing 6-4, 6-3.

Singles winners for Penn State were Joy McManus, who ended her freshman season at first singles with a 6-2 record, and fifth singles Micki Larkin. McManus put on an impressive showing as she defeated Ann Wilson 6-3, 7-6. Afterwards, McManus said she was pleased with the match. "I played more consistently, and didn't hit so many out," she said.

Larkin, again the last singles player to leave the courts, survived a three set match with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 win.

Nessler said the doubles matches turned out the way she expected, as Ohio State's talented first doubles team beat Gavett and Backenstose 6-3, 6-4. Penn State picked up the final two doubles wins, but by that time it was too late for a team victory. McManus and Larkin won 6-4, 6-4, and Wesner and Symington pulled out a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 victory.



Photo by Barb Farmer
Joy McManus, Penn State's number one singles player, played the corners well en route to her two-set win Saturday

S P O R T S T R I V I A

Friday's answer: The Oakland A's were the team beaten by Denny McLain in 1968 that gave the Detroit hurler his 30th win.

Today's question: What National Hockey League player, besides Bernie Parent, is a two-time winner of the Conn Smythe trophy, awarded to the most valuable player in the Stanley Cup playoffs? (Hint: The awarded was first given in 1965)

NCAA chances slim for linkers after Indiana

By finishing second on Friday at the Indiana (Pa.) Tournament, the Penn State men's golf team may have lost a trip to the NCAA Championships.

The Lions have not fared well in their two road tournaments — including an 18th place finish at Ohio State — and an NCAA selection relies heavily on away performances.

"We haven't stood up away from here (Penn State's Blue Course)," said coach Joe Boyle.

"We've got to prove that we're that kind of caliber (to play in the nationals this June)," he said. "We just haven't done it."

At Indiana, the host Indians' seven-man 529 total easily beat Penn State's 547. Lion medalist was freshman Gary Durbin, shooting a three-over 74 on the Indiana Country Club, good enough for a third place tie.

"We played lousy as a team," said Boyle. "That course wasn't that hard."

The disappointed Boyle couldn't find fault with Durbin, a Binghamton, N.Y. native who didn't start any of the Lions first four matches.

Had he not double-bogied the 16th, Durbin would have bettered the winning 73 carded by Wooster's Roger Loesch. Putting troubles had kept Durbin out of the lineup early in the season.

"I've never played in the spring before," said Durbin. "It's always been cold in Binghamton."

"My putting is just starting to come around," he said, and along with it confidence, as he makes the adjustment to collegiate golf.

"Things are just starting to jell for me," Durbin added. "I'm sorry there is only two matches left."

The first of those matches is tomorrow at Bucknell, a team the Lions have defeated 32 of 34 times.

Other Penn State scores at Indiana were Sherm Hostetter's 76, Tim Wilson's 77, Bob Dine's 79, 80's by both Dick Conn and Tom Amendola, and an 81 by Rod Franc.

—Bill Kline

Spittoon back home

There was some good news and some bad news for the Penn State Rugby Club this weekend.

First the bad news. The club's scheduled match with the Carlisle club was cancelled when Carlisle failed to show up on Saturday.

Now for the good news. The Phyrst Cup (actually a brass spittoon in disguise as a trophy) which had been missing since last week has been returned to the club. The cup will now return to its hallowed residence in the Phyrst Bar.

The club's season finale will be at home next Saturday at 1 p.m. against the Wilkes Barre club.

— TM

Air-Hockey title decided

Keith Sapanski defeated Mike Dickstein Saturday in the finals of the Big Ten Air-Hockey Circuit Tournament at the Nittany Mall.

The tournament was held by the Penn State Air-Table Hockey Club in cooperation with Free University, Playland, Funtime U.S.A., Campus Casino, A.R.H.S. and the individual area governments, and Houser Vending Co. (which donated \$150 and the hockey tables).

Ten legs (tournaments) were held this term and the top 16 point-getters were seeded into the finals.

Points were awarded on the basis of each leg finish.

Dickstein was seeded first, but the tournament was all Sapanski's, who was seeded second. Sapanski won 16 games in the contest while losing only two. In the finals he disposed of Dickstein 7-4, 7-2 in the first set and 7-3, 7-5 in the second (the final match was the best of three sets, best of three games).

Sapanski won \$100 for his first place finish, and Dickstein won \$50 for second.

The other top five finishers were John Booth, \$35, John Terry, \$20, and Bruce Handel, \$12.50.

— JT

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