

Lady spikers in need of consistent offense

The women's volleyball team, recently plagued by an inconsistent offensive attack, travels to the University of Pittsburgh this weekend to compete in the Pittsburgh Invitational Tournament.

The Lady Lions, who displayed a somewhat inconsistent offensive attack last weekend at Temple and earlier this week against East Stroudsburg and Rutgers, are looking to the Pitt journey to put their attack together.

"We're making progress, that's what counts," said coach Tom Tait. "Every part of our game is getting better as it goes along."

Tait said that the lady spikers began executing with some regularity against Rutgers. "We're still not executing at a consistently high level to beat the higher teams," he added.

Tait attributed the inconsistency to the new, multiple offensive attack that the Lady Lions are using. "Running a more sophisticated offense takes more time to put together," Tait said.

For this weekend's tournament, the Lady Lions are seeded second in their bracket of competition. Also in the bracket are top-seeded University of Maryland, the defending Eastern champions, along with Virginia Commonwealth and Oneonta.

Tait said his team would have to make sure to finish in the top two since only two teams from each bracket have a chance at the championship.

"We're starting to come along," Tait said. "I'm hoping we're at a stage now where we can put some teams away."

—by Ed Socha

Polomen aiming high

Penn State's water polo team will be disappointed if it does not win all four games it plays here in this weekend's tournament at the Natatorium, according to its coach.

Brian Kaiser, who also plays on the team, said that Johns Hopkins and Lehigh will give the Lions the most trouble in the first league tournament of the season, but the team avoids the league's strongest teams.

"The toughest teams in our league are Princeton, Villanova and Monmouth, and we play them in the next tournament," Kaiser said.

The Lions lost to Princeton in overtime, 18-17, in last week's tournament,

but the game did not count in the league standings.

"We played last week without two starters (Jim Ward and Brian Muller) and we were hurt by a lack of depth," he said. Both will play this weekend, he said.

The team also lost to Pittsburgh, 18-13, before crushing Millersville, 25-14.

Lack of depth hurt the club in the Pitt game as the Panthers outscored the Lions 8-3 after Kaiser and Joe Mertz fouled out.

Kaiser is confident despite the two losses. "We looked good last weekend," he said, and he calls his team "one of the best in the league."

—by Carl Smith

Netwomen in NY tourney

The Lady Lions tennis team faces off against some tough competition this weekend when they take part in the Eastern Collegiate tournament in New Paltz, N.Y.

Teams from 36 schools are expected to participate in this year's tournament and Coach Candy Royer said she expects that "it's going to be tough."

"Virginia and Princeton will be the teams we have to beat at Easterns," Royer said.

Joy McManus and Carole Zajac will represent Penn State in the singles while the teams of Joan Backenstose and Gail Ramsay and Donna DiRenzo and Carol Daniels are entered in the doubles.

Last year Penn State finished fourth in

the tournament and McManus reached the quarterfinals in singles competition.

This year McManus is seeded third in the singles behind Cindy Brinker of Virginia and Debbie Campbell of Princeton. In the doubles, Penn State's team of Joan Backenstose and Gail Ramsay are seeded third. Virginia and Princeton are also seeded first and second, respectively, in the doubles.

In action yesterday, the netwomen trounced Colgate, 8-1. All the Lady Lions were victorious except Carole Zajac, who lost to Sue Aery, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2. The doubles competition was played in 10 point pro sets because of the lack of time available.

—By Caryl Kauffman

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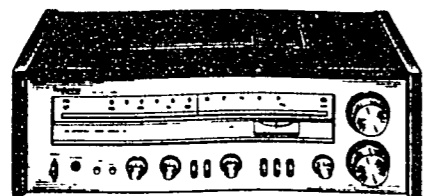
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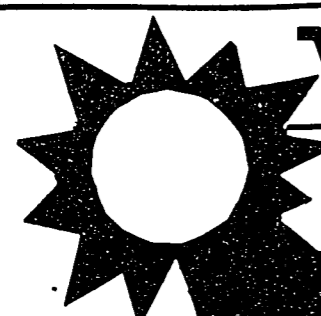
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