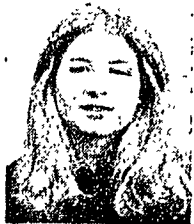


Consistency needed in ranking system

There is no unanimous choice for the national champion in college football this year.

For the first time in recent years, the United Press International, and the Associated Press have disagreed. The UPI is the coaches' poll and the AP is the sportswriters' poll. Now that the bowl games are over the UPI has named the University of Southern California No. 1 and the AP has picked Alabama.

The National Football Hall of Fame chose Alabama. So if majority rules in this case, the Crimson Tide has the bragging rights.



Joyce Tomana

What the AP and the UPI do agree on is that Oklahoma is third and Penn State is fourth.

The debate over Alabama and Southern California began after the Sugar Bowl. Penn State, the only team that could have won the national championship on the field, was decisively beaten by Alabama. The No. 2 team beat the No. 1 team. That should be enough to make Alabama top ranked. At least that's how most of the Penn State players and Alabama coach Bear Bryant saw it.

"There are a couple of reasons I would vote for our team as No. 1 — and I am — they overcame all the injuries and peaked today and our schedule was extremely difficult, there were no soft touches," Bryant said after the Sugar Bowl win. "Our team came from behind to win eight times this season and that's another thing I'm tremendously proud of."

This afternoon I thought we were the best team in America."

"Alabama beat an awfully good football team and has as much right to claim it as anybody," Joe Paterno said after the game. "They played a very tough schedule."

"If they beat us, they're the best," Lion senior Rich Milot said.

But the UPI mysteriously saw it differently. Southern California beat Michigan 17-10 in the Rose Bowl. But that one touchdown difference turned out to be an official's error. Southern California running back Charles White fumbled the ball before reaching the endzone. The television cameras saw it, the referees didn't.

Referees call the game as they see it, or in this case, as they don't see it. Human error has decided many games in the past and will decide many more in the future. Unfortunately, this oversight may have meant the national championship.

The controversy over the rankings makes it clear that there needs to be a better way to determine the national champion. At least something that everyone can agree on. Who is more qualified to choose, the coaches or the writers? Can the bowl game matchups really determine who is the best at the end of the season?

Paterno has been saying for a long time that a playoff system is in order. He never puts much regard in what the polls say. The Sugar Bowl matchup was the closest one possible to a national playoff. Penn State could have won the national title at the Sugar Bowl. Alabama should have but the polls didn't agree.

The Lions were No. 1 in 1978, since the voting after the Nov. 11 North Carolina State game. That is something to be proud of. The season was not a failure despite the Sugar Bowl.

Penn State is not No. 1. But then again, which team is?

AP picks Alabama No. 1

By The Associated Press

Coach Bear Bryant was elated Wednesday over Alabama's fourth national collegiate football championship, captured in the final Associated Press poll of sports writers and broadcasters following a 14-7 Sugar Bowl upset over previously undefeated and top-ranked Penn State.

"Naturally, I am thrilled for our players and coaches," said Bryant. "It is a great honor for them. They set their goals high and they will have a lifetime of pride for having achieved it. They worked awfully hard and overcame a great deal of adversity this year, not to mention the most difficult schedule we have ever had."

Alabama received 38 first place votes and 1,317 points from the panel of 68 voters in the final AP poll. The Crimson Tide finished 32 points ahead of No. 2 Southern California, which received 19 first place votes and 1,285 points. Oklahoma was third with 11 first place votes and 1,251 points. Penn State, No. 1 before the Sugar Bowl, slipped to fourth with 1,168 points.

All of the first four teams finished the season with only one loss. Early in the season, Alabama lost to Southern California, which beat Michigan 17-10 in the Rose Bowl; USC lost to Arizona State; Oklahoma lost to Nebraska, a defeat it avenged with a 31-24 victory over the Cornhuskers in the Orange Bowl; and Penn State lost to Alabama, ending a 19-game winning streak.

Despite the Rose Bowl loss, which

came on a controversial touchdown, Michigan remained No. 5 with 889 points. Sixth place went to Clemson, which moved up from seventh with 950 points after defeating Ohio State 17-15 in the Gator Bowl. Notre Dame jumped from 10th to seventh with 914 points after rallying in the final minutes to nip Houston 35-34 in the Cotton Bowl.

Nebraska dropped from sixth to eighth with 865 points after bowing to the Sooners in the Orange Bowl. Texas, beaten for the championship a year ago by Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl, climbed from 14th to ninth place with 706 points after routing Maryland 42-0 in the Sun Bowl.

Houston, ninth in the final regular season poll, completed the Top Ten with 698 points.

The Second Ten consisted of Arkansas, Michigan State, Purdue, UCLA, Missouri, Georgia, Stanford, North Carolina State, Texas A&M and Maryland in that order.

The final regular season Second Ten was Georgia, Michigan State, Maryland, Texas, UCLA, Pittsburgh, Purdue, Missouri, Iowa State and Ohio State.

The AP poll of sports writers and broadcasters is the oldest national championship award. United Press International's board of coaches voted Southern California first and Alabama second. The Football Writers of America and the Football Hall of Fame conducted separate votes and both awarded their versions of the national championship to Alabama.

Lady cagers bounce back to win

By DENISE BACHMAN
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Illinois State's women's basketball team discovered what poor sports the Lady Lions actually are when they go down in defeat.

After suffering two heartbreaking losses against nationally ranked teams in the Orange Bowl Classic over term break, the lady cagers certainly didn't waste any time getting back on the winning track; they handed the Redbirds their third defeat in six decisions, demolishing them, 74-48.

Despite the wide margin, Penn State's play was extremely shaky. The team got off to a slow start, until Jen Bednarek forged the team into the lead it never lost late in the first half. But then in the second half the squad fell back into defensive lapses.

"We did not play well at all," Coach Pat Meiser said. "We weren't in the game for the first 15 minutes."

"We just weren't ready to play," assistant coach Maura McHugh said. "The defense wasn't ever the way it should've been."

"Mentally we weren't in the game. We were tired from the trip (the squad returned from Miami yesterday afternoon) and we took the game more lightly than we should've. Our execution was poor and we made a lot of silly mistakes."

Bednarek led all scorers with 21 points. She scored 19 of those in the first half before being used sparingly in the second. The only other Lady Lion to hit double figures was Mary Donovan with 10.

In the Orange Bowl Classic, the 11th ranked Lady Lions captured fourth place, compiling a 1-2 mark. But these statistics are deceiving, as they lost one game at the buzzer and the other by only four points.

"I was very pleased with the way we played," Meiser said. "We used some

zones very effectively that we weren't used to using. But we did have some difficulty with the press that we should not have had."

Bednarek paced the team's only victory of the tournament, tallying 20 points, when it squeezed past No. 17 Mississippi, 82-79, in the opener. Penn State led at the half, 37-25, and maintained that lead throughout much of the second half, until the Lady Rebels pulled ahead by one, 75-74. But Donovan, Bednarek, and Nancy Kuhl struck back to preserve the win.

Their two losses came against No. 4 UCLA, 85-81, and No. 5 Tennessee, 74-72. Against UCLA, Bednarek once again sparked the squad's offensive attack, connecting for 31 astounding points. But it wasn't quite enough as the Bruins were able to hold off the Lady Lions' surge late in the second period.

And in the final game, the Lady Vols overcame numerous 10 and 12 point

deficits in the second half, to sink a shot at the buzzer and pick up the win.

ILLINOIS STATE	FG	FT	R	T
Norton	1-3	0-0	3	2
McKinzie	7-17	2-3	10	16
Yocum	3-8	1-2	0	7
Olson	0-2	0-0	1	0
Haukedahl	4-12	0-0	2	8
Landes	4-10	0-0	2	8
Roth	1-6	0-0	3	2
Robbins	1-6	0-0	4	2
Woodward	1-2	1-3	4	3
Smith	0-2	0-0	1	0
Totals	22-68	4-8	35	48

PENN STATE	FG	FT	R	T
Kuhl	2-6	1-1	5	7
Gabriel	2-5	0-0	4	4
Martin	2-6	0-0	9	4
Bednarek	10-16	1-1	6	23
Donovan	5-10	0-0	8	10
McGuire	1-1	0-0	2	2
Schwinge	4-6	0-0	5	8
Cornish	4-9	0-0	1	8
Christman	4-8	0-0	2	8
Lombard	0-1	0-0	2	0
Mikita	1-2	0-0	1	4
Adams	1-3	0-0	1	2
Totals	36-73	2-2	49	74

Halftime: Penn State 42, Illinois State 25

the daily Collegian sports

Cagers outleg Richmond Spiders, 69-63

By JON SARACENO

Daily Collegian Sports Writer

The new year has ushered in many new things, but it hasn't changed the manner in which Penn State plays basketball under pressure.

The Lions managed to win their fifth game of the year last night when they outlasted Richmond 69-63, and did it in characteristically difficult fashion.

With Penn State holding a 59-49 lead, and less than five minutes left in the game, Richmond began a mild comeback that saw the scrappy Spiders cut the lead to 63-57 on two free throws by leading scorer Mike Perry, who scored 19 for the game.

A Steve Kuhn tip-in off a missed free throw by Tom Wilkinson put State ahead by eight, and when Wilkinson went to the free throw line for a one-on-one situation the game appeared to be tucked away.

However, the junior guard missed the freebie giving Richmond new life with less than three minutes remaining.

Freshman Paul Sember hit a jumper for Richmond to close the gap to 65-59, and following a Penn State turnover, Richmond trimmed the margin to four points on a turnaround jump shot by Vince Cowan, who finished with 13 points.

But it was the Lions' unlikely hero for the night, Craig Buffie, who clinched the win with a layup and two clutch free throws in the final minute of play. The 6-

3 freshman guard, who came in to spell forwards Mike Owens or Steve Kuhn, finished with 15 points.

The final moments of the game brought back memories of earlier Penn State games — West Virginia, St. Francis, Syracuse and Colgate — where the Lions' shabby last-minute play cost them victories.

Lion coach Dick Harter cited his team's lack of clutch foul-shooting and heads-up play, despite the victory.

"We made every mistake we could have at the end, but we'll take the win," he said. "We did not play well in the first

half. We played good basketball for ten minutes in the second half."

Harter said Richmond did the things they had to do to stay in the game, and did them well.

"I don't think we played well, but you have to give Richmond credit. They played a good transition game and pushed the ball up the court well," he said.

The Spiders, 3-7, played Penn State even or better the entire first half, while holding a slim 31-30 halftime advantage, despite not having any seniors on the team and being relatively smaller.

Freshman guard Mike Edelman turned in another sterling performance for Penn State, scoring 23 points, while at one point making eight straight field goal attempts.

The Lions, however, were hurting somewhat from an absence of scoring from the pivot position. Penn State's three centers — Frank Brickowski, Gary Korkowski and just-returned Mike Ice — did not score any points, but did provide the muscle that Harter needed.

Forwards Kuhn and Owens added 15 and nine points, respectively, for Penn State.

Lions 2-2 over holidays; host Ursinus

By JON SARACENO

Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Penn State's basketball team didn't shake up the college basketball world with two wins in four tries over the holidays, but it continued to improve under first-year coach Dick Harter.

Tonight, Penn State will try to continue that improvement at Rec Hall, as it hosts a smaller, weaker Ursinus team at 8:10.

The unpredictable Lions won a squeaker over Colgate, 82-80, at Rec Hall, before splitting two games in the Dayton Invitational, first losing to Tulane, 54-50, then upsetting Florida State in the consolation game, 64-57.

However, the Lions went back to their losing ways against North Carolina State, losing badly to the Wolfpack, 80-58.

Against Colgate the Lions fell behind early, 31-20, before coming back to grab a 53-51 lead at the start of the second half, as Steve Kuhn finished the game with a career-high 36 points to pace Penn State.

In the Dayton Invitational the Lions lost to Tulane in a game described by the Dayton Daily News as "... not a game for the glory of basketball. The film of it will not be shipped to the Hall of Fame and savored for posterity..."

In the consolation game against

Florida State, Penn State showed the poise it has lacked all season as it rallied from an early 23-9 deficit to defeat the Seminoles.

In fact, the Lions' defense was exceptionally tough in that game, limiting Florida State to only four baskets in the second half.

"If we play that kind of defense, we will become a pretty good basketball team ... The comeback helps us. It helps our confidence," Harter said.

The Lions will need all the confidence they can get as they play seven of their last 12 games on the road, including games at Syracuse, Virginia Tech, Rutgers, Pitt and Temple.

Grapplers find competition tough at Midlands

By WILL PAKUTKA

Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Just think, in only one more year it will be 1980. Then, we'll start a new decade, elect a new president and, oh yes, hold another Olympics.

So, with the deadline drawing nearer every day, is it any wonder why some of the top athletes in the world are starting to polish their acts?

Over the holidays, a few members of the Lion wrestling team caught up with some of those who were getting ready when they flew to Northwestern for the annual Midlands Wrestling Tournament. No, the Lions didn't knock off most of America's hopefuls. In fact, none were lucky enough to place in the meet. But as it turned out, they were in some pretty good company.

The meet boasted names such as Olympic gold

medalist John and Ben Peterson, Clemson coach Wade Schalles and two-time NCAA champion Mark Churella. But even the mightiest were not safe in the meet as John Peterson did not even place and Churella finished third in his class.

"It was probably the best meet I've ever seen," assistant coach Andy Matter said. "It picked up a lot from last year because all the old men are coming back."

The team from Penn State was far from old but they still held their own with their elders. In the 158-pound class, State's John Hanrahan won his first two matches before falling to Chuck Yagla of Iowa. Yagla went on to defeat (previously second-ranked) Kelly Ward of Iowa State to win the title.

In the 167-pound class, the Lion's Rick Snyder won his

first two bouts before falling. Matter called the 167-pound class the toughest one in the meet. It was won by Schalles who pinned his man in the final round.

State's Bob Bury, Tom Bilodeaux and George Medina dropped their first round matches as did Geoff Brodhead and Dan Pfautz.

Many of the wrestlers in the meet competed as part of the Hawkeye Wrestling Club. The club is made up of ex-wrestlers from midwest schools such as Iowa and Michigan. Also, members of the Athletes In Action team were on hand. AIA's Mike McArthur, who narrowly defeated Bob Bury earlier in the season, took the 118-pound title and Ben Peterson was the heavyweight champ.

The Lions will be off until the ninth when they take on Temple at 7:30, in Rec Hall.

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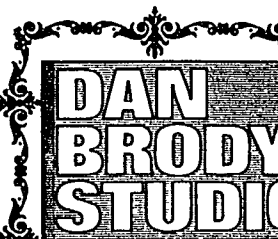
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