



Lady Lion guard Nancy Kuhl (10) brings the ball upcourt against Texas' Linda Waggoner in last year's Penn State Invitational. The Lady Lions hope to meet Texas in the finals of this year's tournament, which starts tonight.

Cage invite should be a dandy

By DENISE BACHMAN
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

The Penn State Invitational. It might not be the World Series or the Super Bowl, but for the women's basketball team, it might prove to be its last chance to claim a spot in the Top 10.

The tournament features two nationally-ranked teams — No. 7 Texas and No. 11 Penn State — plus Ohio State and Southern Connecticut. Should the Lady Lions clash with the Longhorns in the championship game and win, it would almost assure them of gaining some ground in the rankings. But right now they are only concentrating on their first foe, Southern Connecticut.

"We're not looking past Southern Connecticut at all," Coach Pat Meiser said. "They're not ranked, but they very well could be; they can play anybody, period. They've had some good losses, if there is such a thing as a good loss."

"They have veterans with national-caliber experience and seem to be solid in every spot. They have depth, experience, some size, and are very aggressive."

Senior Jody Rajcula, a 6-1 center and one of four veterans, returns to lead the Owls' attack. Last year she led the lady cagers in rebounds, 8.6 per game, and was second behind graduate Marnie Danko (17 ppg) in scoring, averaging 13.4 ppg. Other veterans complimenting Rajcula are forwards Cathy Ingles and Loretta McDonald, and guard Joan Van Ness. Delta State transfer, Jill Rhodes, rounds out the starting five.

Recently, the Owls added three transfers, all outstanding prospects, to their roster: Laura Flower, a junior guard who averaged 9.1 ppg for St. John's University in its first 10 games this season; Sandy Serra, freshman forward from the University of Con-

necticut; and Portia Andrews, freshman center, who at 6-3 is the tallest lady cager ever to play for Southern Connecticut.

"They are the kind of team that you can't key on one person," Meiser said. "They have offensive threats in just about everyone, and Jody (Rajcula) is a very fine center forward with a good medium range shot. They are limited as far as range goes, but then their offense is geared to their range."

"Defensively, they press a lot and just do a lot of different things."

Texas, the defending invitational champions for two consecutive years who blasted the Lady Lions, 96-67, last season, come to Rec Hall sporting a 10-1 record. They suffered their only setback against Tennessee, 84-60, the same team defeated Penn State at the buzzer in the Orange bowl classic.

"Without a doubt, the second half of

last year's game) was the worst Penn State has ever played," Meiser said. "If we get a chance to play them, we must stop their inside game."

The Longhorns, coming off an 83-68 victory over St. Joseph's University, return their top three scorers from last season. They are forward Linda Waggoner, 19.2 ppg, USA National Select team member Retha Swindell, 13.6 ppg, and Kim Basinger, 13.3 ppg.

And like Southern Connecticut, they got three transfers. Jackie Swaim, out of McLennan Community College, connected for 23 points in the Longhorns' most recent win, and guards Hattie Browning and Ewrella Munn, both from Temple Junior College.

Texas and Ohio State will open the tournament tonight at 7, followed by the contest between Penn State and Southern Connecticut. Play will resume tomorrow at 1 p.m.

Bergey inks four-year pact worth \$1 million

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bill Bergey has signed a four-year contract with the Philadelphia Eagles that may be worth \$1 million over its duration, according to one report Thursday.

General Manager Jim Murray refused to disclose the terms of the agreement, but he hinted the series of four one-year contracts will place the All-Pro linebacker on a competitive financial level with other superstars in the city.

"Now he can afford to take Pete Rose and Dr. J. out to

dinner," Murray said.

The Philadelphia Bulletin reported that Bergey's contract could approach the \$1 million mark over its duration, and that speculation was the contract is the richest in Eagles' history.

"Is Bergey's new contract better than any linebacker's in the league?" Murray was asked.

"Let me put it this way," he replied. "He wouldn't have to be embarrassed showing it around at the Pro Bowl."

Bergey, 33, in the option year of his contract and eligible to become a free agent after the 1979 season if unsigned, insisted he had never thought of going elsewhere.

"It's been pretty well documented what the Eagles' organization and the fans of Philadelphia mean to me," said Bergey, who led the Eagles in tackles for the fourth straight season last year. "This is where I want to finish my career."

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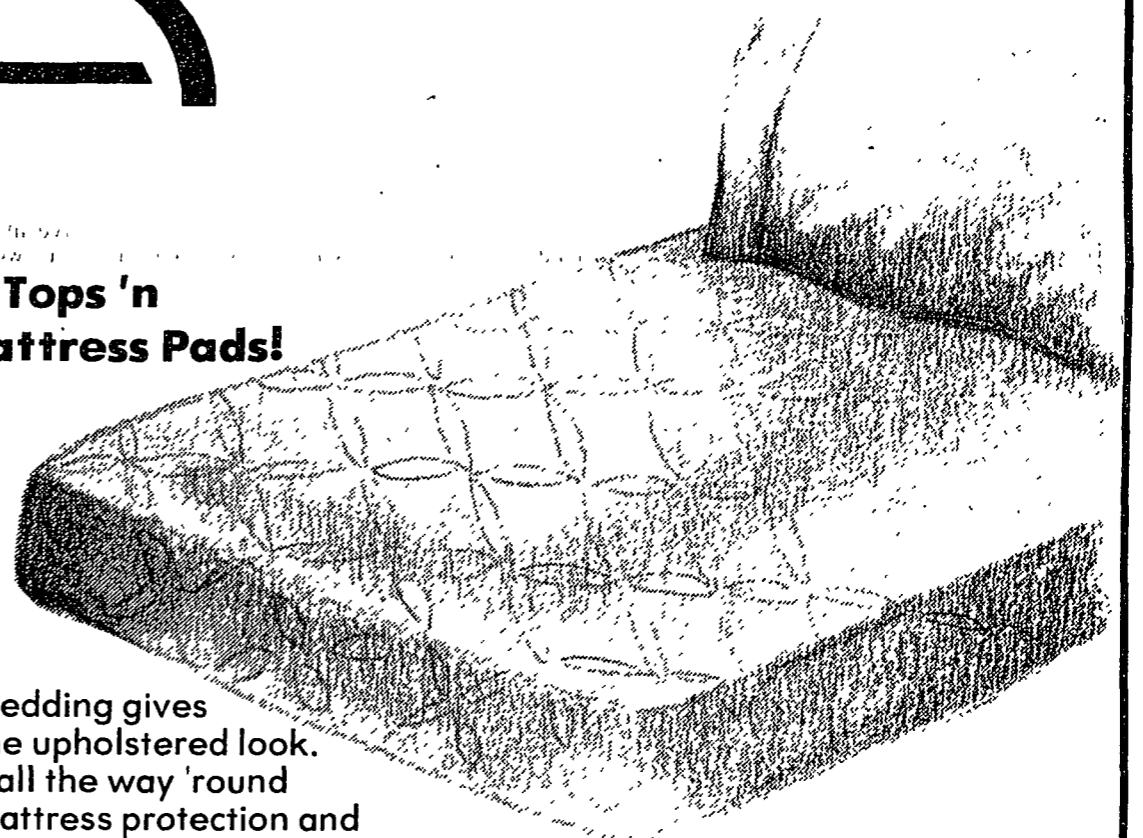
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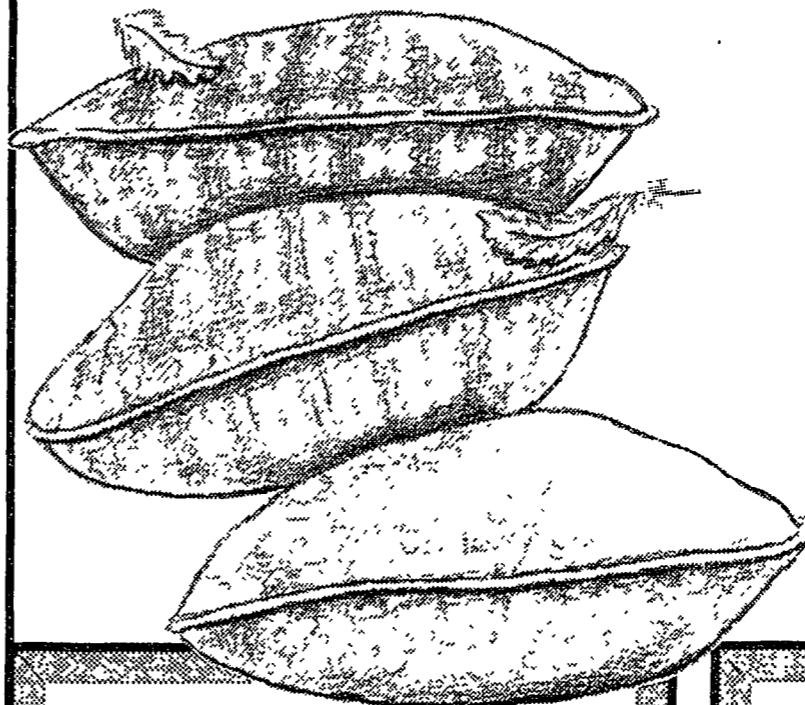
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