

# Lions raise raquets to defend 3rd spot

Men's tennis coach Holmes Cathrall said his team just won't play any "patsies." That's why the Lions have Mercyhurst on the schedule.

Mercyhurst is anything but a pat-sy.

"They're probably ranked behind Penn now," Cathrall said. "And we beat Penn 7-2, so we'll have a good match for them, a very good match."

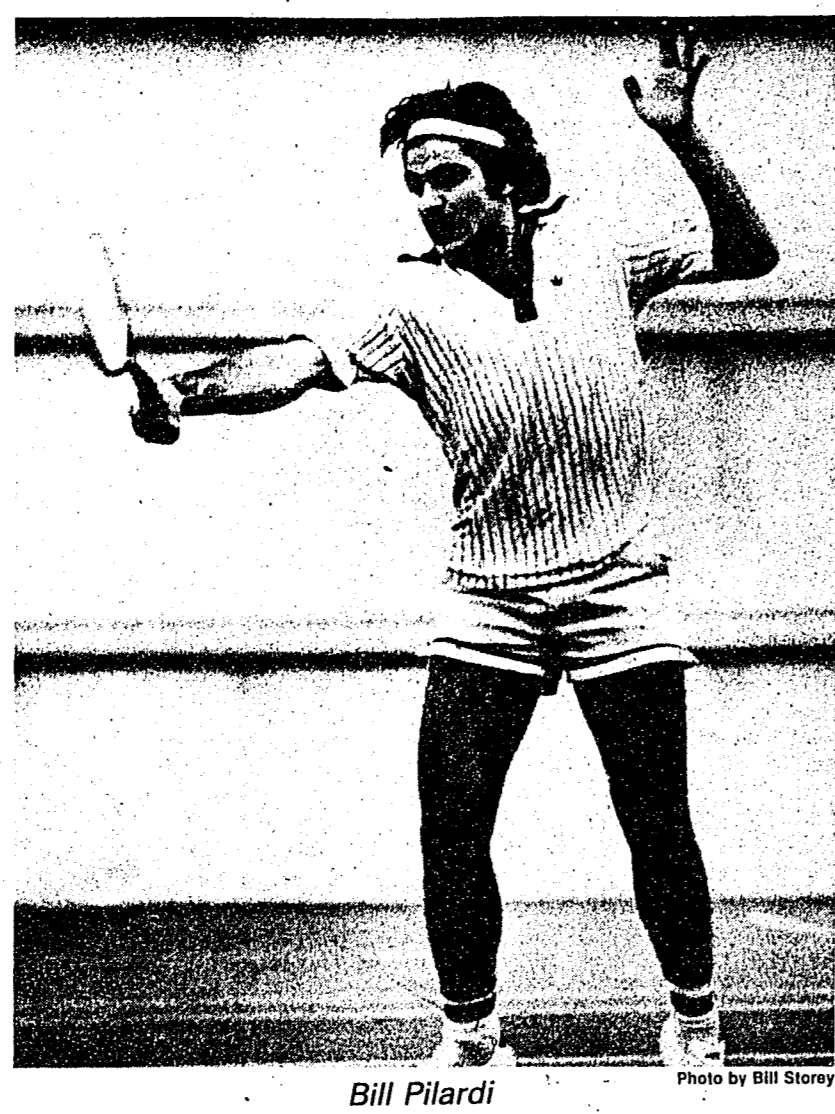
The Lions take Mercyhurst on at 2:30 p.m. today at the indoor tennis courts, and once again, the Lions' national ranking is on the line.

In the Middle State Tennis Association, Penn is ranked second, Penn State is third and Mercyhurst couldn't be closer competition for the Lions — it's ranked fourth.

"They're already invited to nationals, because they're the best in Division II," Cathrall said. "They also beat (fifth-ranked) Bloomsburg 6-3."

"It'll be a super big afternoon with our No. 10, Ravinder Sabherwal is their No. 1 player and he beat (the Lions' top man, Bill) Schillings twice in the last two years. As the man says when he's picking the racing form, 'Schillings is due.'"

Penn State's No. 2 man, Bill Pilar-



Bill Pilardi Photo by Bill Storey

# Nebraska place where Pitt readies for Lions

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Pitt football coach Jackie Sherrill found a place to park his Levis and cowboy boots and recall his last Nebraska spring football practice before viewing a workout this week.

"It was about seven or eight years ago," Sherrill remembered. "There wasn't that much intensity. It was kind of blasé. I couldn't imagine how Nebraska could be so great and not practice harder than they were."

"Then, all of a sudden, the whistle blew. Nebraska started to go into its contact drills and it was something to watch. They really went out after each other."

"That's the one thing I'll always remember about Nebraska. When the whistle blows, they'll slobber-knock you. That's probably the best thing they do."

The Cornhuskers' ability to relax when possible and hit when asked is something Sherrill has incorporated into his own coaching philosophy.

Sherrill and five of his assistant coaches arrived in Lincoln Tuesday during a break in Pitt's spring practices to assimilate more new ideas.

"The Panthers' major mission is to see how Nebraska gets the ball so much to its wingback."

"We have the best freshman receiver in college football," Sherrill said of

Dwight Collins, a 6-3, 208-pound flanker who runs the 40-yard dash in 4.38 seconds.

"We have to get him the football," Sherrill said. "Nebraska has the plays to get that done."

The exchange of ideas among football coaches is fairly common during spring practice. This spring, North Carolina State's Monte Kiffin, Tennessee's Johnny Majors and Michigan State's Muddy Waters also have visited Nebraska.

NU Coach Tom Osborne visited Michigan before the Huskers' spring practices began.

After Pitt finished second in the final Associated Press football poll behind Georgia, Sherrill has more than a casual interest in two Nebraska opponents this fall.

Like last year, Nebraska and Pitt both will play Penn State and Florida State.

"The only time I'd like to play Nebraska is in a bowl game," Sherrill said.

The Pitt coach also said neither team is going to enjoy playing Penn State again, even though both have beaten the Nittany Lions the past two seasons.

"Penn State will be a great football team," Sherrill predicted. "Their whole team returns just about intact. Their offensive line is super. Offensively, they'll be a great, great team."

# U.S., Soviets tally wins in World Hockey tourney

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — The United States defeated West Germany 10-6 in a see-saw shootout yesterday for its first victory and the Soviet Union blitzed Canada 9-2 to keep its unbeaten streak in the final preliminary round of the World Hockey Championships.

The Soviets, 9-0, exploded for five second-period goals to put the game out of reach. It was a wide open contest in Stockholm until the half-way point, when the Red Machine got going.

That left the Soviets atop the final-round standings with two points, ahead of Sweden and Czechoslovakia, both with one point.

The three periods were the key to the Americans' heroic Olympic victory at Lake Placid, N.Y., last year — they outscored their opponents 16-3 in seven games.

Although only six Olympians remain on the team, they showed that

# Pens' Johnston already looking ahead

By GARY MIHOSES AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The hockey season was over yesterday for the Pittsburgh Penguins, but coach Eddie Johnston remained on the edge of his seat — literally.

Workers at the Civic Arena had already drained the rink, and Johnston himself was emptying a can of beer.

But he looked poised for action as he leaned forward in his office chair to recount Pittsburgh's double-overtime Stanley Cup playoff loss in St. Louis barely 12 hours earlier.

"That was probably the greatest hockey game I've seen in the last 15-20 years," Johnston said of Pittsburgh's 4-3 loss to the Blues in the final game of their best-of-five series.

Johnston played goalie with the Boston Bruins' Stanley Cup winners, and he watched Tuesday night as Pittsburgh's Greg Millen and St. Louis' Mike Liut made save after save in the extra periods.

Finally, St. Louis Mike Crombeen won it with 5:16 gone in the second overtime. "I don't think you'll see more good opportunities missed or better goalkeep-

ing than in those two overtimes," said Johnston.

"The whole series was great, and it's really unfortunate we had to lose. I really believe in my heart we had the superior chances in that game. We missed the open net, we hit the post... It was bad for the heart."

But Johnston was buoyed by the strong showing by a young Penguin team that placed next-to-last among 16 teams in the playoffs.

Center Mike Bullard, who played most of the season in juniors, and defenseman Marc Chorney, who recently completed a college season at North Dakota, both played key roles for the Penguins in the playoffs.

Former Olympic hero Mark Johnston and goalie Greg Millen were other youngsters who came through.

"The feedback has been incredible. Our phones have been going here all day," Johnston said.

"I've had people call me at my home and say, 'Listen, we're getting season tickets next year because of what that game meant to us.'"

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# Canadiens' coach Ruel resigns

MONTREAL (AP) — Claude Ruel, who guided Montreal to a divisional championship and third place overall in the 1980-81 National Hockey League regular season, resigned yesterday as head coach of the Canadiens.

Managing director Irving Grundman said Ruel "felt it was in the best interests of the team that he step down."

Ruel accepted the Canadiens' coaching job for the second time on Dec. 12, 1979, succeeding Bernie Geoffrion who quit after two months at the Habs' helm.

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