

Women spikers aim for nationals — again

By PETE WALDRON
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Usually during the pre-season practice of an athletic team, the fans, players, coaches and writers harp on the past accomplishments and defeats of the previous season. But for women's volleyball coach Russ Rose, there is no dwelling upon past successes.

Yes, it's true last season the Lady Lions compiled their best record yet, 24-11. And they also captured the Eastern championship, enabling them to make their first trip to the national championships and finish as the 13th best team in the nation.

But as far as Rose is concerned, "last year is history."

"We are much further along at this point now than we were last season," Rose said. "These women are a talented group of athletes and the system should reflect that. Four returning seniors have been playing long enough to know each other's movements and help the game flow better."

One of these returning seniors is co-captain Ellen Crandall, a member of the U.S. national team. Rose said she is eager to play. And she is.

"I am looking forward to the season starting more than ever this year," Crandall said. "I was supposed to play with the World University Team in Rumania, but I took the summer off. So I am itching to play."

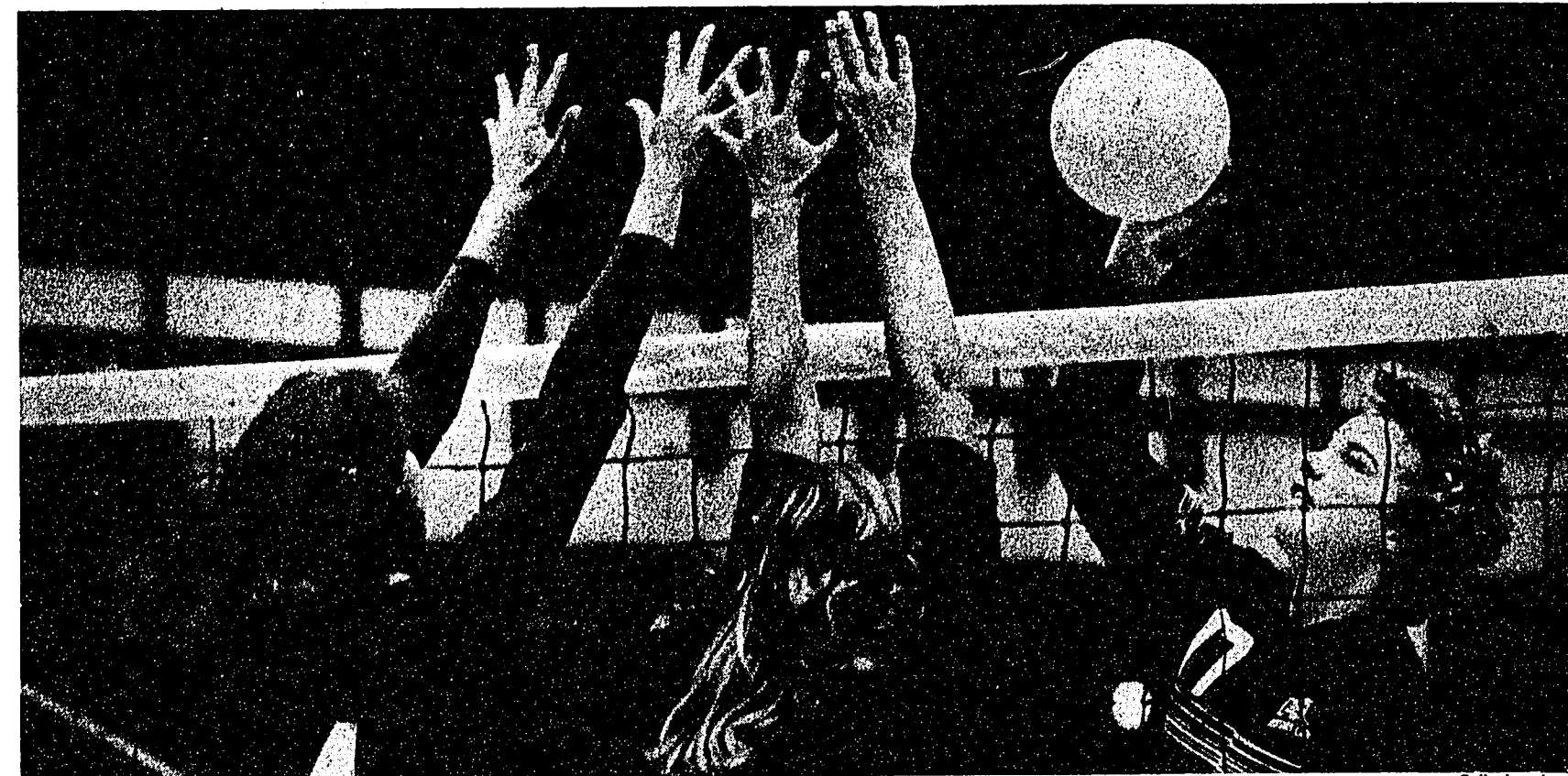
Assisting Crandall are seniors Karen Connelly, Lisa White and Janet Fox, a co-captain. Fox, who will control the outside position, is termed the team's most competitive player by Rose. Connelly is a back row specialist, while White takes charge of the outside hitting.

The Lady Lions have additional strength in their junior and sophomore players. Junior Jan Mastier, who competed at the National Sports Festival in July, and sophomore Patty Skadeland will aid in the outside hitting. Backcourt specialists for Penn State include sophomores Pam Schaffer and Carla LeJeune. According to Rose, Schaffer is one of the best defensive players in the country.

"The reason why is because she practices all the time," Rose said. "Pam is the perfect example of determination."

Rose believes much of the success of the team lies with the setters and the undersiders as to who the starter will be. The team's strength there lies in sophomores Joan Susinkas and Leslie Peters.

Rounding out the returning players are junior back row specialist Mary Susinkas and junior serving specialist Laurie Lokash.



Co-captain Ellen Crandall (right) will be leading the Lady Lions in their quest to repeat as Eastern champions and earn a return trip to nationals.

When asked about his recruiting year, Rose tells everyone it was great. Heading the list of recruits is middle-hitter Lori Barberich of Norwin High School, North Huntington. According to Rose, Barberich is the top schoolgirl recruit from Pennsylvania and one of the best players in the East.

"Lori is going to need time to get accustomed to college volleyball," Rose said. "There is a major transition from the high school to the college level. The tempo is different plus more will be expected from her."

Rose's three other recruits include outside player Marcia Leav of Connecticut Lake High School, outside hitter Beth Hoffman of Richland High School in Johnstown and frontcourt player Meredith Aronson of Upper Darby High School in Drexel Hill.

Rose said that in three to four years, the group of freshmen should be strong.

"The freshmen are here to train," he said. "I want them to see what volleyball at college is about. They need confidence and reassurance because they never trained like this before."

"Volleyball is just a game, but I train them as if it's a war."

With the talents of Barberich and Hoffman, Rose will be looking at his bench to help him tackle the Lady Lions' tough schedule.

"Penn State has the top schedule on the East Coast," Rose said. "I'm glad about it. It gives us good exposure as well as a competitive edge."

"If you play good teams you are going to be a good team."

Five teams on Penn State's schedule are ranked in the top 20 of the coaches' poll: Northwestern at No. 11; Texas-Arlington (12); Southwest Missouri State (13); Purdue (18) and Houston (19). The Lady Lions, the only Eastern team ranked, are 15th.

Rose said the tournament at Southwest Missouri State will be the best of the season for the Lady Lions. Southwest Missouri State has been in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women championships the last seven years. And they are one of the few teams still affiliated with the AIAW.

Penn State, as was announced last spring, has elected to participate in the National Collegiate Athletic Association championships and Rose said there is no question the NCAA will be better than the AIAW.

"I'm not anti-AIAW," he said, "but all the top teams will be competing in the NCAA tournament."

"If that's where the competition is going, that's where I'm going. I want to play the best teams — win or lose."

NL suspends Cedeno for fighting fans

ATLANTA (AP) — Houston first baseman Cesar Cedeno was suspended indefinitely by the National League yesterday for charging into the stands at Atlanta Stadium Tuesday night after a fan who the player said had called him a "killer."

The suspension was disclosed by the Astros who said Cedeno had appealed through the Player's Association, and will remain on the active roster until the appeal is acted on by the National League office.

The incident took place in the first inning of Tuesday night's 3-2 Atlanta victory over Houston, and Cedeno was ejected.

Cedeno claimed the fan had been heckling him for two nights and that the insults were of a personal nature.

Joe Shirley, director of Stadium operations at Atlanta Stadium, said two fans were involved but neither was charged.

Cedeno's agent, Tom Reich, said in New York that the suspension was unfair.

"It's being done without any process," Reich said. "I thought there was due process in baseball."

"What precipitated Cedeno's fight was that he was abused for two days by one person. The guy called him murderer and killer."

Reich said he had hired an investigator in Atlanta who will look into the incident.

"There's a fine line over what a player has to endure. That person should have been ejected," said Reich.

"There's a limit to the abuse a player should have to endure. It wasn't a boo or 'you stink' or your usual catcall."

Compton excellent Pitt catch

By GARY MIHOSES
Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Barry Compton is listed as a junior flanker in the University of Pittsburgh football program. Coach Jackie Sherrill calls him something else.

"Barry Compton is a tough, tough football player," says Sherrill.

Compton, a 5-10, 175-pounder from Chalton, Pa., started Pitt's 1980 season opener against Boston College. But he suffered torn knee ligaments early in the game and underwent surgery that sidelined him for the season.

He became something of a forgotten man in 1980 when his replacement, freshman Dwight Collins, burst onto the scene by catching 30 passes for 827 yards and 10 touchdowns.

But Compton, after a year of rehabilitation, was back in uniform last Saturday in Pitt's 1981 opener against Illinois.

This time it was Collins who was sidelined with a minor hamstring muscle pull, and Compton responded with five catches for 86 yards to help Pitt to a 26-6 victory.

With his quick cuts, leaping ability and sure hands, Compton showed he'll get playing time even with Collins on the scene.

"I'm just glad I can contribute to the football team," said Compton.

"Dwight is the starter and I'm the backup, and it's my job to come in and do the best that I can. Injuries are part of the game. You never know who is going to get hurt. You always have to be ready."

When he underwent surgery last fall, Compton knew he faced a challenge.

"The doctors said I was finished for the season and they weren't really sure if I'd ever be able to come back to play," he said.

"But I had it in my mind that I would do everything in my power to get my knee back in shape to play football."

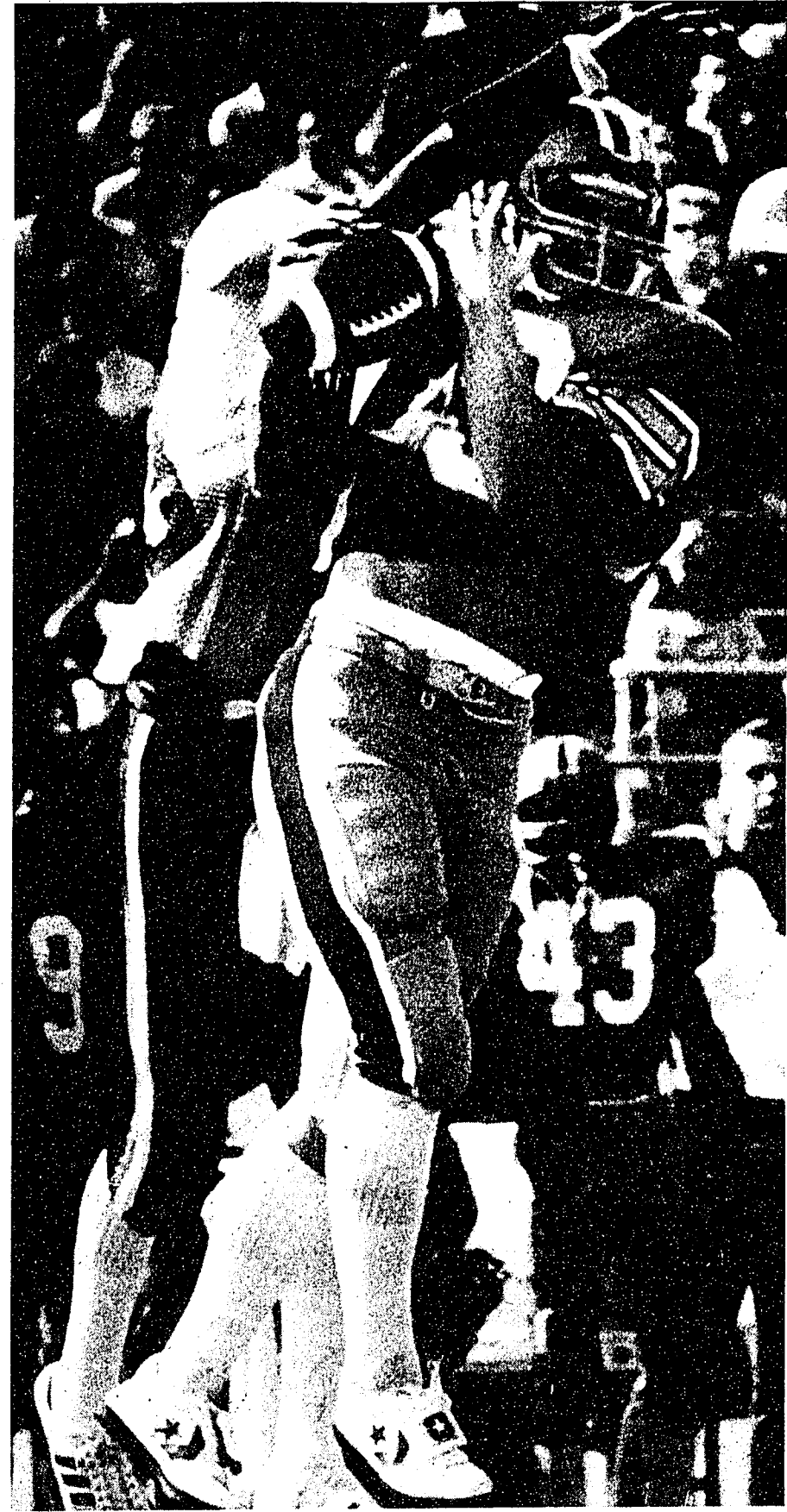
Compton went to work with the leg machines in the Pitt football weight room. The test came when he reported to camp this fall.

"I got a few bumps on the knee in fall camp and it was all right," he said. "That's when I got my confidence back. I just hope it goes well the rest of the season."

Compton, who attended Central Bucks West High School, played halfback and safety at Pitt as a freshman and sophomore. He was moved to flanker in 1980, and it look like he has a future there.

"Barry Compton is the young man we thought he was," Sherrill said.

"We have an awful lot of regard and respect for him."



Pitt flanker Barry Compton (right) goes up for a pass against Illinois during Pittsburgh's season opener last Saturday.

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