

# Final 4 field bracing for NCAA semifinals

By JOHN NELSON  
AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Dean Smith has taken North Carolina to the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament seven times. Denny Crum of Louisville is heading into his fourth Final Four. Houston's Guy Lewis is working on No. 3, and John Thompson of Georgetown is the rookie.

"It's a new experience," says Thompson. "I just hope that I can control my excitement to the extent that I can be rational enough to coach."

Showing the impatience of newcomers, the sixth-ranked Hoyas were the first to arrive for the Final Four. However, as he has done in the past, Thompson chose to keep his players out of harm's way. They arrived at their hotel Wednesday in Biloxi, Miss., about 60 miles down the "pike from New Orleans."

The Final Four begins Saturday at 2:30 p.m. CST before a sellout crowd of 61,000 at the Louisiana Superdome. Georgetown and 20th-ranked Louisville start the show. They will be followed by No. 1-ranked North Carolina and Houston. The final will be held Monday night.

The Hoyas, 29-6, came into the Final Four on a tear. They won their first three games of the tournament by an average margin of 16.6 points, including a 24-point victory over fourth-ranked Oregon State in the final of the West Regional at Provo, Utah.

"I feel like we must sustain the play we have had," Thompson said. "We were really pleased with the way we played in the regionals, and, as in any tournament, I hope we can sustain a certain level of consistency so that our team is able to survive."

"Basically, that's what it takes," he said. "While trailing Smith in number of appearances, Crum is the only coach among the four that has won the title. The Cardinals, led by Darrell Griffith, won the 1980 national championship."

and Crum has seven players, including four starters, back from that squad. Crum guided Louisville to a third-place finish in the 1975 Final Four, and the Cardinals were fourth in 1972.

Louisville, 23-9, matches Georgetown in the depth of its bench and speed. Each team also uses a full-court pressure defense, but the obvious difference is in the middle. Patrick Ewing, a 7-0 freshman, patrols the middle for Georgetown and, although he has yet to fulfill his offensive potential, he has become a strong factor on defense, leading the nation in blocked shots with 116.

Another major concern for Louisville is its physical condition. Reserve forward Pancho Wright has a stubbed toe, and freshman guard Mill Wagner is suffering from a virus. Starting forward Derek Smith has six stitches in his upper lip and a sore jaw, suffered in the regionals.

"And they say this is a non-contact sport," Smith said. "I believe it's more a collision sport."

North Carolina, 30-2, will be a big favorite over the Cougars, 25-7, although Houston is the only team that has played in the Superdome this season. Houston beat Louisiana State 72-49 for the title of the Sugar Bowl tournament, which was held the week after Christmas.

Roy Danforth, former Tulane coach and now an associate athletic director, has seen teams founder in their first trip to the Superdome.

"Initially, there is a problem of depth perception," Danforth said. "A player, going into the dome for the first time, often playing in the normal basketball arenas, tends to overshoot. He finds his shots hitting the back of the rim."

Smith, who has yet to win the tournament in six appearances, may have assembled the best starting five of his 20 years at North Carolina.

# Finn-less Lady Lions open season

By MARIA MARTINO  
Collegian Sports Writer

Along with the normal round of opening-day anxieties, the first women's lacrosse game of the season will serve up its own helping of problems and promises.

Problem One: When the Lady Lions travel to play James Madison at 2 tomorrow, they will be without seven of 12 players who started last year.

Make that eight — Problem Two — as senior All-American Candy Finn will also be sidelined for the season opener with an injured knee.

Finn said she sprained a ligament six weeks ago on the Astroturf at the Indoor Sport Complex when she "was in the air and came down on (her leg) the wrong way." She is waiting for a restrictive brace to arrive before working her way back into the lineup.

"I have to be patient," she said. "I've been running, but I've been helping out the attack mostly. I'll be starting some drills, then a scrimmage. I'll take it in steps."

The Lady Lions, who have won three national titles in the past four years, intend to take this season step by step. With only two seniors and six returning varsity players, the squad is relatively young.

"I'm reluctant to say we'll win the national championship," Finn said, "but we have a team that could be in there."

The team promises to be almost as strong off the bench as on the field. Now with the new Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women rule that allows unlimited substitution, the Lady Lions will be able to take full advantage of their depth.

"We're optimistic," Penn State coach Gillian Ratray said. "We hope the pressure will be off of us. We have the skill. We have the potential but not the experience. The tough thing is molding it into a team."

Ratray has Betsy Williams slated to start at first home. Marcia Fiore at second home, Laurie Gray at third home, Lindsay Sheehan at center and Laurie Hoke at left attack wing, with senior Janet Dolan and sophomore Chris Moon fighting it out at point.

"It doesn't matter who's starting, because whoever's backing up is just as strong," cover point Pattie Sue Ewan said. "We have a lot of depth. We look very strong."

"Our game is still one of quick, short passes and finesse, not running with the ball. The girls we have, though they're young, I don't think we'll be lacking in experience. They'll pick up the slack. We have a lot of faith in them."

Ratray said Ewan was in-and-out twice with a hyperextended knee, but Ewan said she will play tomorrow. Ewan and junior right defensive wing Jane Koffenberger are the only two returning defenders.

They'll be joined at left defensive wing by freshman Barb Jordan — one of the Lady Lions' brightest promises for spring.

"She's doing a real good job," Ewan said. "She's a really good little player."



The women's lacrosse team will be without the services of senior All-American Candy Finn (right) when it opens its season at James Madison at 2 tomorrow afternoon.

But as young as Penn State's team is, James Madison should field an equally young squad that has should be much stronger than the Duchesses that Penn State beat 18-0 last year.

5 record while winning the Virginia state championship over such powers as William & Mary.

"If that's any inkling of their team this year," Ewan said, "it's not going to be a blow away. But we should win, just because of our explosiveness."

# Lions start 'Shorty' season

By LEE DeORIO  
Collegian Sports Writer

A new era in Penn State baseball begins tomorrow when the Lions travel to Annapolis, Md., to face Navy in a double-header.

For 19 years, Chuck Medlar was the Lions' coach on opening day, and over the course of those 19 seasons, Medlar guided his club to 112 victories — the second-highest total in school history.

Medlar, who served as an assistant for 14 years prior to being named coach, announced his retirement last May. The Lions' new skipper, Clarence "Shorty" Stoner, was barely three years old when Medlar began his Penn State coaching career.

It would seem that succeeding a coach with Medlar's record would cause Stoner a few sleepless nights, but Stoner thinks the pressure to win comes from another source.

"I feel the pressure from Chuck a little. I think he only had one losing season," Stoner said. "The real pressure comes from the other sports — they're so successful. Just look around you, nobody less."

Stoner didn't have to worry about the other sports at Behrend College, where he managed the last 12 seasons. His teams racked up 147 wins during that time and appeared in the NAIA playoffs the last four years.

Stoner has had no trouble adapting to Division I coaching, but he has noticed the differences.

"The big change is facilities," Stoner said. "The indoor complex is a tremendous asset. Now, if it's wet or muddy outside, we can still work out. We are able to use machine baseballs on the Astroturf."

The only problem Stoner has encountered so far is one that every manager can live with — too much talent. The Lions can have only 19 players on the traveling squad, so players like Gary Bindigs and John Almino have to stay home.

"The competition is good," Stoner said. "There are some people who are really pushing the others. It was a toss-up on who we decided on. We know if someone gets hurt, we have the

people who can fill in without hurting the team."

The Lions' leader on the field this year is, without a doubt, captain Bob D'Ambrosio. The senior from Wethersfield, Conn., hit a lolly 330 last year, led the team in at-bats and doubles, and was second in RBIs.

"Bob commands a lot of respect. He's a very heady ballplayer," Stoner said. "He's one of the better second basemen I've seen in a long time."

The only other .300 hitter returning from last year's team is first baseman Randy Simcox. Despite returning only two .300 hitters, Stoner expects the Lions to be a good offensive club.

"We're hitting the ball pretty well," he said. "We emphasize being aggressive and making contact. Our third, fourth and fifth hitters have the potential to get some extra base hits."

"It's hard to hit home runs at Beaver Field. I define power as a man who hits the ball in the gaps and down the lines."

Simcox is slated to hit fifth, with third baseman Todd Hostetler hitting third and newcomer Mike Puharic in the clean-up slot.

The Lions are hoping Puharic, a transfer from Allegheny Community College, can take up some of the slack left by the graduation of left fielder Dale Reynolds. Reynolds led the club with a .438 average, three homers and 22 RBIs.

Hostetler will be hitting third, despite hitting a paltry .221 last season.

"Those stats can be deceiving," Stoner said. "Todd was just a freshman, and not many freshmen can jump right out of high school and be successful. Todd is just starting to come into his own."

Stoner pointed out that despite having a young team, the Lions are not inexperienced. Hostetler and shortstop Joe Phillips both played more than 20 games in their freshman seasons last year.

Of course, all of this means very little if the Lions' pitching staff fails to perform. And right now, it is surrounded by nothing but question marks.

Slated to start against Navy are righthanders Dave Spamer and Tom Bart.



Sophomore Bob Zonts is part of a Lion pitching staff that this year is surrounded by question marks. Righthanders Dave Spamer and Tom Bart will start tomorrow when Penn State plays a double-header with Navy at Annapolis, Md.

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**UNIVERSITY CALENDAR SPECIAL EVENTS**  
Friday-Sunday, March 26-28

Friday, March 26  
Sports: Softball, Lady Lion Invitational. Also March 27.  
Vergil Celebration, 3:30 p.m., 112 Kern. Dean Thomas F. Magner, Liberal Arts; "Introduction", 4 p.m., Allen Mandelbaum, CUNY Graduate Center, on "Vergil at the Gates of Speech and Silence."  
Geography Dept. Coffee House, 3:40 p.m., 319 Walker. Thomas Hubka, prof. of architecture, Univ. of Oregon, on "Maine Farmers: The Connected Farm Architecture of Northern New England."  
Free U Course, Advanced Dungeons & Dragons, 6 p.m., 227 HUB.  
Cinematheque, Carnal Knowledge, 7 and 9 p.m., 121 Sparks. Also March 27.  
Commonplace Theatre, For Your Eyes Only, 7 and 9 p.m., 112 Kern. Also March 28.  
Campus Crusade for Christ meeting, leadership training class, 7 p.m., 115 EE West.  
Astronomy Club Open House, 7:30 p.m., 6th Floor Davey. If cloudy, Sat., March 27th, 7:30 p.m.  
GSA Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., 102 Kern.

Saturday, March 27  
Vergil Celebration, 10 a.m., 101 Kern. John Adams, classics, on "Vergil and Cornelius Gallus"; 10:45 a.m., Gerard J. Brault, French, on "Vergil and Twelfth-Century French Literature"; 11:30 a.m., Alfred A. Triolo, Italian, on "Dante's Vergil: Symbolic Levels"; 2 p.m., Robert W. Carruba, classics, on "Horace's Propempticon to Vergil (Odes I, 3)"; 2:45 p.m., Ralph Condee, English literature and humanities, on "Homer/Vergil = Vergil/Milton? Perhaps"; Elizabeth Block, Dept. of Classics, Univ. of Pa., on "Vergil and his Readers."  
GSA Script Seminar, 2 p.m., 108 Forum.  
Sports: men's lacrosse vs. Syracuse, 2 p.m., men's volleyball vs. Ohio State, 7 p.m.  
France-Cinema, Bergman, Life of the Marionettes, 7 and 9:15 p.m., 112 Kern. Alpha Sigma Pi meeting, 7 p.m., 316 Boucke.  
Yachad film, I Love You Rosa, 8 p.m., 111 Boucke.

Sunday, March 28  
IPC-Panthe, Greek Week Skit Chairmen meeting, 7 p.m., 320-22 HUB.  
Finance Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., 324 HUB.

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March 26-28

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Registration — Noon-1 p.m., 4-5 p.m., 7-9 p.m. at 301 Ag Admin

Ag Coffeehouse — 7-9 p.m. at 301 Ag. Admin.

Square dance—9-11 p.m. at HUB Ballroom

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