

# Spikers point to NCAAs

## Compete for Eastern crown this weekend

By TONY SMITH  
Collegian Sports Writer

After coming in fourth at a four-team tournament (the Dos Equis Classic at UCLA) last weekend, the men's volleyball team is looking for a chance to get even with the teams that finished ahead of it.

The fourth-ranked Lions may get that opportunity in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championships May 7-8 (next weekend), at Rec Hall. But in order to acquire this golden opportunity, Penn State will have to win the Eastern Collegiate Volleyball League Championships, which take place today and tomorrow in Pittsburgh.

And in order to do that, they will have to shake off the effects of the Dos Equis Classic — a meet which featured the top four teams in the country. In many respects, Dos Equis turned out to be a disappointing outing for the Lions. Penn State failed to win a game, losing to No. 1 UCLA last Friday, 15-12, 15-7, 15-11, and bowing to the University of California at Santa Barbara (No. 2) in the consolation match, 15-9, 15-10.

Yet Penn State Coach Tom Tait and his players seem to feel that the team has benefitted from Dos Equis, a tournament which some people feel was big enough to make the NCAA Championships anti-climatic.

Despite the outcome, the Lions apparently impressed many coaches and fans in California who had never seen them play. And Tait and his players are confident that they proved themselves capable of competing with the best teams in the nation.

"We played really well against UCLA," Lion co-captain Bruce VanHorn said. "At one point in the first game, we were tied with them at 12-12. But we made a couple of mistakes which hurt us. I thought we matched up real well with them. The difference in the match, I think, was (setter) Karch Kiraly (of UCLA). He's considered one of the best in the country."



Mark Kraynik (left) and Steve Hunkins combine for the men's volleyball team on this point. The Lions will need plenty of teamwork this weekend as they compete in the ECVL regionals in Pittsburgh.

Although Penn State had a relatively strong performance against UCLA (despite the slightly misleading score), the same could not be said of the consolation match against UC-Santa Barbara.

"I think we had a letdown," Lion outside hitter Jeff Johnson said. "I don't know if it was mental — a reaction to the loss to UCLA on Friday — or physical, but it was obviously a letdown."

Not only did the Lions lose both matches at Dos Equis, but the tournament may have taken a lot out of them. According to Tait, his team has not had a very good week of practice for the ECVLs.

"Some of the guys have come down with colds, and generally, a lot of the guys on the team aren't feeling very

good," Tait said. "We gotta make sure that we're ready to roll. Fortunately, adrenaline has a tendency to eliminate problems like fatigue and colds, and hopefully some of these problems will turn themselves out."

One factor which is in Penn State's favor this weekend is the caliber of competition at the Eastern regionals. Eight teams will be competing at the ECVLs, but only two of them are expected to have a respectable shot at going to the NCAAs — Penn State and Rutgers-Newark.

Rutgers-Newark (ranked eighth) is led by Spike Clermont, known for his ability to spike the ball over any block in the country. Other key players on the Rutgers squad include Karl Pierre, Maxime

Innocent, Jefferson Williams, Michael Hopton, and Alherd Kazura.

The problem with Rutgers-Newark this year has been consistency. When they're good, they are virtually unstoppable. But when they're bad, they can be awful. Nevertheless, Rutgers is a team capable of beating virtually any team in the country on a given day. For this reason, the Lions cannot afford to look past the ECVLs.

And Tait said it will not happen. "I don't think there is a ghost of a chance of us looking past Easterns," he said. "I think our team is mature enough to realize that Rutgers is not going to roll over and play dead. And they realize that if we lose to them, we're out of it."

# Schmidt taken off injury list to rejoin Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Slugging third baseman Mike Schmidt was reactivated to the Phillies roster yesterday, coming off the 15-day disabled list, the team announced.

The National League's Most Valuable Player for the past two seasons injured his lower left ribcage April 13, in his first at-bat in a game against the New York Mets. He went on the disabled list the following day.

Schmidt, who had been taking batting practice for the past two days, was not listed as a starter for last night's game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, according to Phillies spokesman Larry Shenk.

Earlier this week, Schmidt said that he hoped to be back in action by the weekend. The Phillies play in San Diego tonight, Saturday and Sunday.

Schmidt has been taking batting practice for the past two days, Shenk said, and he might be able to play immediately as a pinch-hitter.

To make room for Schmidt on the roster, the Phillies placed infielder Len Matuszek on the 15-day disabled list. Matuszek has a tendon injury in his right elbow, and will not be able to throw a baseball, Shenk said.

# 1982: 'season of streaks'

By JOHN NELSON  
AP Sports Writer

The 1982 major league baseball season is only four weeks old, and already it has distinguished itself as a season of streaks.

The Atlanta Braves won their first 13 games, then lost five in a row. New Manager Joe Torre's players credited him for much of their success when they were winning, so he should take some of the blame for the skid.

The real blame, however, must be found among Braves pitchers, who yielded 30 earned runs in the five losses. The big disappointment was right-hander Bob Walk, who gave up six of those runs in 9 2/3 innings.

The St. Louis Cardinals won 12 in a row, and the San Diego Padres won 11 in a row. The Cards feel they got the better of the shortstop swap this spring that sent Garry Templeton to San Diego for Ozzie Smith. Smith is hitting .306 for the Cards and has two homers, two-thirds of his career total. Templeton is hitting only .232, but he has scored 14 runs.

The Boston Red Sox, Chicago White Sox and Detroit Tigers all have put together eight-game winning streaks. Carl Yastrzemski, who will be 43 in August, has five homers and 15 RBI for the Sox, and sophomore left-hander John Tudor was 3-0 before losing his first

A couple of journeymen are paying off for the White Sox. Tom Pacliorek, acquired from Seattle, has five doubles and eight RBI, while Ron LeFlore, a free-agent acquisition in 1980, has nine RBI and six stolen bases.

The Tigers have overcome a flock of injuries to players such as infielder Rick Leach, catcher Lance Parrish and outfielder Kirk Gibson. While healing his troops, Manager Sparky Anderson has done a fine job of juggling. Shortstop Alan Trammell is the only Tiger who has played every game at the same position.

While Anderson has used Edwin Florsheim, who finished 20 games scheduled for Landover, Md., starting with Game 3 tomorrow.

Frank Johnson hit a 30-foot three-point goal with three seconds left and scored 24 of his 26 points in the second half for the Bullets, who finished 20 games behind the Celtics in the regular-season standings.

In the other Eastern Conference semifinal, Philadelphia hit a 2-to lead over Milwaukee with a 120-100 triumph over the Bucks.

Andrew Toney, who has taken over as a starter at guard because of an injury to Lionel Hollins, scored 31 points and Julius Erving added 24 for the 76ers, who travel to Milwaukee for Game 3 tomorrow.

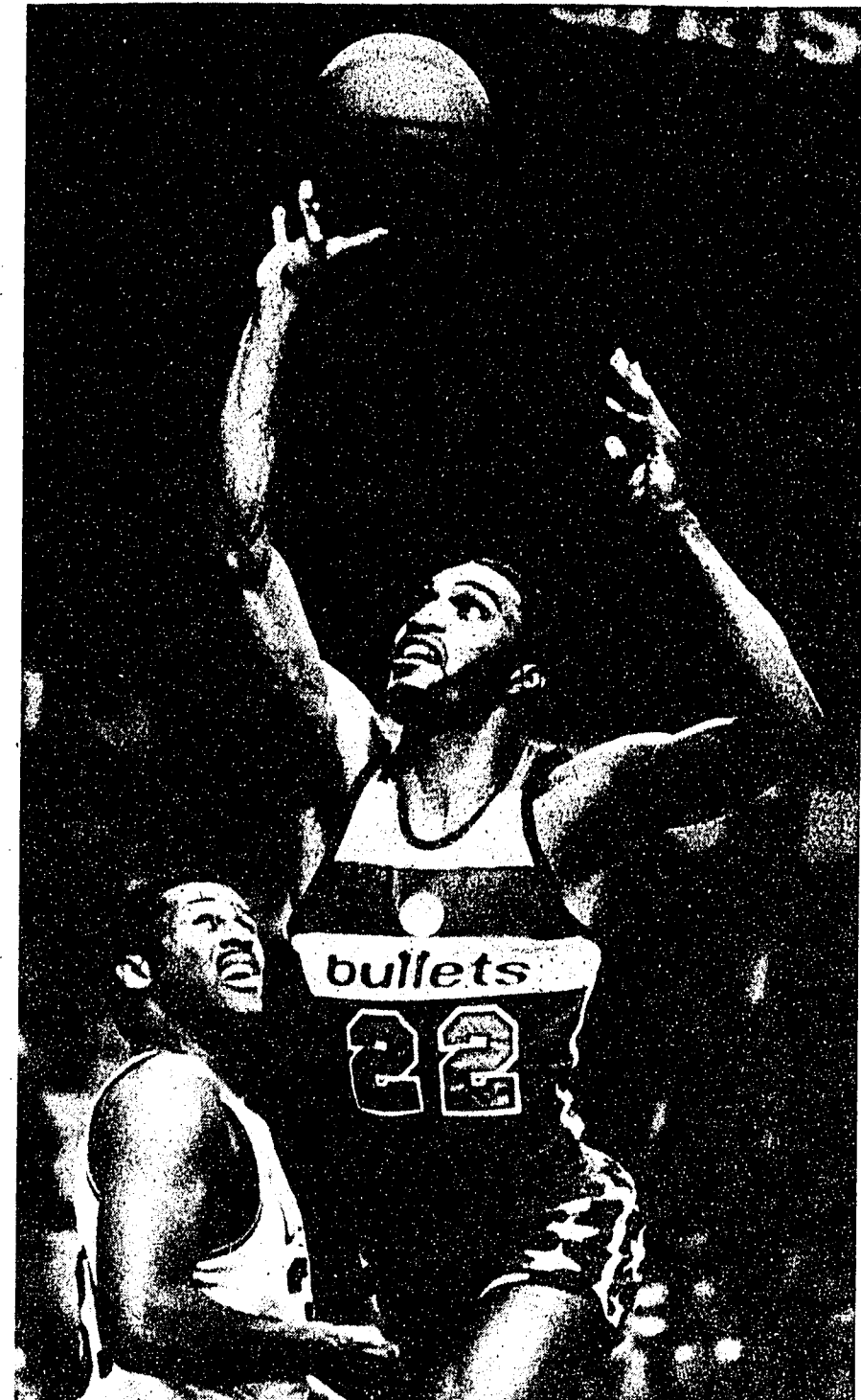
In the Western Conference, Los Angeles whipped Phoenix 117-89, the Lakers scored straight 19-point triumph, and Seattle bombed San Antonio 114-99.

Those two series shift to Phoenix and San Antonio tonight.

Ervin "Magic" Johnson lived up to his nickname with 19 points, 12 rebounds, 12 assists and five steals for the Lakers.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar led Los Angeles' balanced offense with 24 points. Norm Nixon added 21, and Jamaal Wilkes joined Johnson with 27. Dennis Johnson led the Suns with 27 points, 17 of them in the second quarter.

NBA scoring champion George Gervin led San Antonio with 24 points, but he picked up his fifth foul just 1:11 into the final quarter and had only two points in the fourth period.



Don Collins of the Washington Bullets drives to the basket in Washington's victory over the Celtics Wednesday night at the Boston Garden. Their best-of-seven series is now even with Game 3 tomorrow at the Capital Centre in Landover, Md.

# Has Boston peaked or peeked?

By WILLIAM R. BARNARD  
AP Sports Writer

If the Boston Celtics lose in the playoffs to the Washington Bullets or anyone else, some people will say they peaked too soon, that their 63-19 regular-season record was too good.

Coach Bill Fitch, however, will hear nothing of it. "There's no such thing as peaking," Fitch said recently. "If you spell it p-e-a-k-i-n-g, then that's different. If you peak around Friday's game to Sunday's, then that gets a team in trouble.

"Peaking is for racehorses, when you say the horse left his best on the track somewhere. Or peaking can be if a team leaves its best at practice. Yes, you can do that.

"But how can you peak too soon by playing games during the regular season? It would be like telling a sprinter to slow down in the middle of a 100-yard dash. What should I do, tell them not to play good?"

Whether or not the defending National Basketball Association champion Celtics peaked or peeked, they lost their home-court playoff advantage to the Washington Bullets Wednesday night. The 103-102 defeat against the Bullets evened their best-of-7 series at 1-1, with three of the remaining five games scheduled for Landover, Md., starting with Game 3 tomorrow.

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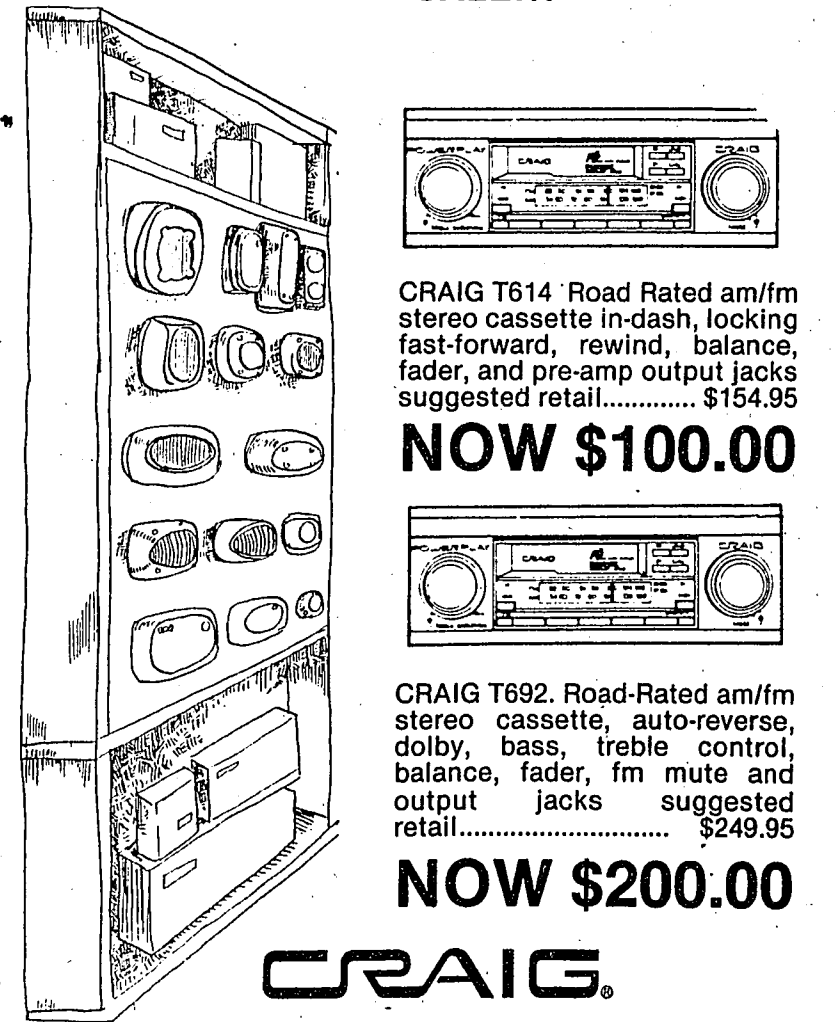
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