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Lions manage to burn Bonnies

By TONY SMITH
Collegian Sports Writer

At one point, the men's basketball team appeared on its way to a relatively easy victory over Atlantic 10 opponent St. Bonaventure Saturday afternoon. With 4:36 remaining in the game, the Lions were ahead of the Bonnies by 11 points (63-52).

But the complexion of the game changed quickly. Thirty-nine seconds later, Penn State was only ahead by five points (63-58), and it had only taken two shots by the Bonnies to narrow the gap.

While the Lions (9-4 overall, 3-0 in conference play) were able to pull out a 71-67 victory, the significance of the Atlantic 10's three-point shot became evident to the 3,000 fans in Rec Hall, not to mention the coaches and players involved.

And the same three-point shot could be a factor when the Lions face another Atlantic 10 opponent, Duquesne, at 8 tonight in the Pittsburgh Civic Arena.

Penn State Head Coach Dick Harter expressed displeasure with the 19-foot, 9-inch distance for the conference's three-point shot.

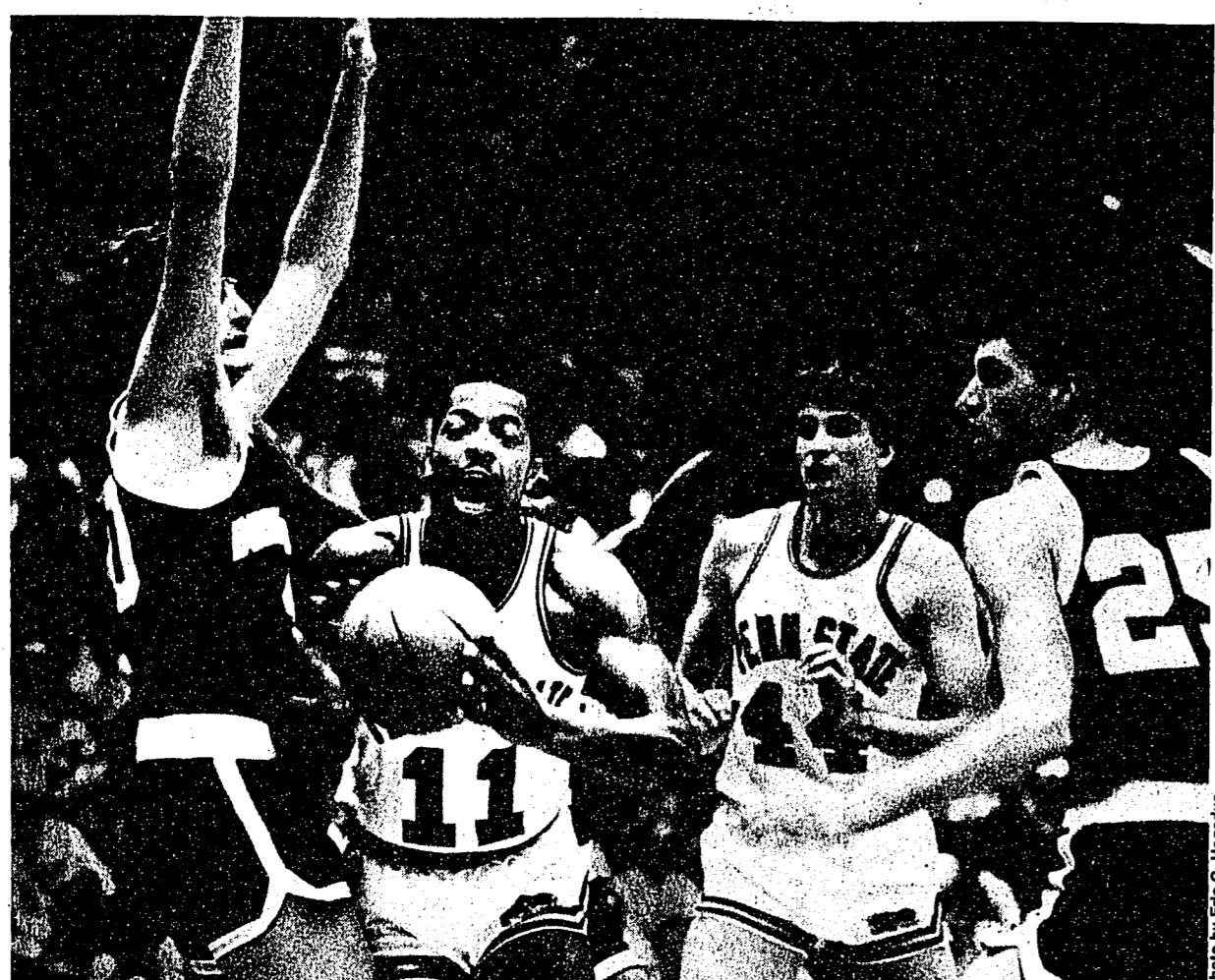
"I think the three-point shot is ridiculous," Harter said. "I think we're in a little too close with it. We can't couple them pretty close? And then the others were way downtown; you deserve those. I think (if it were) out another foot-and-a-half, it would be really good."

It was the first time this season that St. Bonaventure (7-4 overall, 0-1 in conference play) has played with three-point shots. Four of these baskets were made in the last five minutes of the game.

The reasoning behind taking all of these 20 and 25-footers in the second half was obvious — the Bonnies were in danger of losing big, and trailed by as many as 15 points at some stages.

Nevertheless, St. Bonaventure Head Coach Jim O'Brien was not entirely satisfied with the way his team utilized the three-point shot, especially toward the end of the game, when Penn State had only a four-point lead, 67-63.

"We became impatient," O'Brien said. "You've heard the expression, 'If you live by the sword, you die by it.' And I thought that there was about a 1:20, 1:30 to go; we're back in the game, it's a four-point game and you don't need to be taking three-



Penn State's Dwight Gibson (11), with backup from teammate Rich Fetter (44), charges past St. Bonaventure defenders in Saturday's game at Rec Hall. The Lions surpassed the Bonnies, 71-67.

pointers. I thought we took a couple of bad attempts."

Maybe so. But in fact, it was a three-point shot by 6-2 guard Mark Jones which had narrowed a five-point lead (65-60) to two (65-63) with 1:51 remaining.

"(The three-point shots) helped us," O'Brien said. "But if you're going to count on that to win games — I'm not sure that's what the answer is."

St. Bonaventure was led by 6-4 guard/forward Mike Sheehy, who came off the bench to score 21 points, nine of which were on three-point shots. Sheehy scored on three of his five three-point attempts.

Jones, a 1992 Associated Press honorable mention All-American, had 15 points, and was one of two on three-pointers.

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While Duquesne has not beaten any big-name teams this year, it cannot be accused of playing a soft schedule. Its five losses include setbacks to Nevada-Las Vegas, Maryland and Kentucky in December.

But the Dukes bounced back a week ago with an impressive 68-59 victory over Robert Morris, an National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament team last year.

Joey Myers, a 6-8 senior scored 19 points and pulled down 12 rebounds to lead Duquesne.

"I think they (the Dukes) are really coming along," Harter said. "I think Jim Satalin is a superb coach, and they've had a week to get ready for us. It'll be absolutely as tough as this one."

CAGER CORNER: Lang has now scored in double figures in 12 consecutive games. Brian Dean has not played in the Lions' last two games, largely for academic reasons. Harter said he will not see action against Duquesne. In last year's meeting, the Lions beat the Dukes, 74-69.

It was not to be. The Bonnies had to foul Lang after he caught the inbound pass, and Lang hit a free throw to put the game out of reach.

Penn State can up its conference record to 4-0 with a win over Duquesne tonight. The Dukes are 3-5 overall, but could pose a bigger problem than their record indicates.

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Grapplers grounded by strong Cyclones

By ANDRIJA SILICH
Collegian Sports Writer

In a match that was as frustrating for the 5,008 Rec Hall fans as it was for the Penn State wrestling team when senior Bill Marino jumped State Cyclones defeated the Lions 31-12 Friday night at Rec Hall.

Each Rich Lorenzo said a wrestling match is not just one sporting event, but instead consists of 10 individual battles. And when you wrestle against a team like Iowa State, each one of those battles is like a national championship game.

Although the team score was one-sided, much of the individual matches were so close they could have possibly gone either way.

Iowa State, suffering from injuries in its 118-pound weight class, was forced to forfeit the first match and Penn State was out to an early 6-0 lead.

With Scott Lynch out of the lineup due to a torn cartilage in his rib cage, and his backup, Scott Webster, still suffering from headaches resulting from the blow to the head he received in the Missouri match on Monday night, Lorenzo let Carl DeStefanis wrestle at 126.

DeStefanis, Penn State's regular 118-pounder, was available to wrestle because of the Cyclones' forfeit in 118. Going into the match DeStefanis had a flawless 29-0 record. But his opponent Kevin Darkus, a junior from Erie, was the second-ranked 118-pounder in the country last year, and since moving up to the 126-pound weight class, owned a record of 16-1-0.

In the early part of the match Darkus had control over DeStefanis and held a 5-2 lead early in the second period. But DeStefanis started wrestling his type of quick, aggressive, "gut" type of offense and took a 7-6 lead with one minute left in the match.

In the last 20 seconds, however, Darkus had DeStefanis on his back, with two seconds remaining on the clock, and the score tied at 7-7. Darkus was awarded two points for a takedown and two back points and won the match 11-7.

It was to be just the beginning of a very frustrating night for Penn State, and Lorenzo knew how DeStefanis must have felt.

"For Carl, that match was like getting beat in overtime or double overtime of the national

championship match," Lorenzo said. "He was an underdog going into it, but still did an excellent job and almost beat him."

One of the bright spots for Penn State was in the 134-pound match when senior Bill Marino jumped out to an early lead and eventually pinned Iowa State's Stewart Carter at 4:50 into the match. Carter owned an impressive 12-3 record before the match, but Marino wrestled one of his best matches ever and seemed to have little trouble enroute to the victory.

Marino said he felt good in the match and that it was probably one of his best of the season.

"He was good," Marino said, "and really strong. But that was one of my better matches."

Marino said the key to the Cyclones' victory was that they slowed Penn State's wrestlers down and forced them to wrestle their kind of match.

"They were really good and aggressive," Marino said. "They were slowing us down, and keeping us at bay. We were kind of slow on our feet in most of our matches."

At 142 pounds Bob Bury lost another heartbreaker, 6-3, Cyclone Randy Conrad. Bury was on the defensive most of the time, which probably cost him the match.

Lorenzo said Bury was tough, but still not fully recovered from his injury.

(Bury) is still not where he was in early December," Lorenzo said.

At 150 pounds Penn State's Eric Childs faced Nate Carr, a senior from Erie, and a two-time All-American with a 16-0-0 record this year. Carr slowed down the tempo of the match and Childs was unable to score any offensive points. As a result Carr won the match 12-7.

With Penn State leading on to a 12-9 lead, regular 150-pounder Chris Bevalacqua stepped into the 158 match and faced off against Iowa State's Murray Crews. Crews held a 7-6 lead going into the third period and with an offensive spurt at the end of the match pulled out a 17-8 victory.

"I was pleased with Ben," Lorenzo said. "(Crews) was just a little bigger and a little stronger. But Ben didn't lose because he was laying back, he went right out there trying to win."

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Matmen frustrated with loss

Continued from Page 10.
Bevalacqua said the 8-pound weight difference was noticeable.

"He was strong," Bevalacqua said, "and he kept good position. I just couldn't get under his arms."

Perhaps the most frustrating match for Penn State came at 167 said Lorenzo, when Eric Brugel lost to Jim Lord 9-5.

"He wrestled Lord's match," Lorenzo said. "He got frustrated and never got into his own type of match."

Lorenzo said Brugel has been on a rollercoaster all year long and can imagine just how frustrating the loss was for him.

"If he wasn't really giving 100 percent maybe I wouldn't feel as bad for him," Lorenzo said, "but he is one devoted young man and he has done all the things necessary to be successful."

Holdings a 16-12 team lead, Iowa State's superiority in the higher weight classes showed up.

At 177 pounds, Lion Bob Harr fought a tough battle against Perry Hummel, a three time All-American and owner of a 10-0-1 record this year. But Harr came up on the short end of an 11-6 score.

At 190 pounds Mike Mann (17-0-0) pinned Penn State's Steve Smith at 4:43, and Iowa State was suddenly ahead 25-12. The match that was close at one time then looked like a rout.

Wayne Cole finished the scoring for the Cyclones and ended the frustration for Penn State by pinning Birch Hall at the 2:47 mark of the first period.

After the match, Lorenzo said that he felt the key to the Cyclones' victory was the fact that they slowed Penn State's wrestlers down and made them wrestle the Iowa State type of match.

"They controlled us out there," Lorenzo said. "To win you have to wrestle your own kind of match and we didn't do that too much."

Lorenzo said the two teams have different styles. Penn State likes to go out aggressively and show a lot of movement, whereas the Cyclones try to grab hold of your wrists or hands right from the start and practice a controlled type wrestling.

Lorenzo said although the Lions fell into the Iowa State game plan, he thought his wrestlers fought well.

But the frustration and disappointment that the wrestlers themselves felt was obviously shared by Lorenzo.

"I'd be lying to you if I said we're not frustrated," Lorenzo said. "We knew this would be a great opportunity, but we didn't want to just go out and wrestle them. We wanted to go out and upset them."

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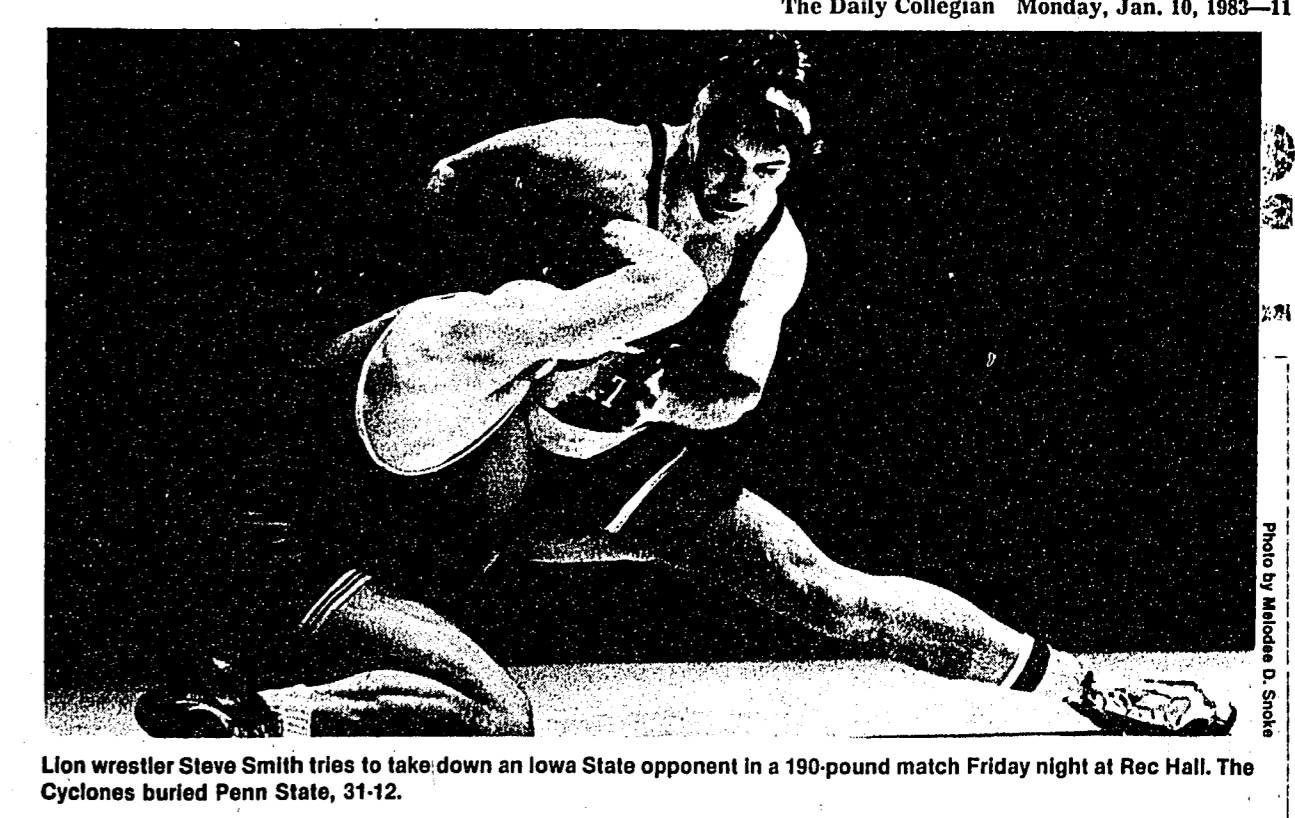
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Lion wrestler Steve Smith tries to take down an Iowa State opponent in a 190-pound match Friday night at Rec Hall. The Cyclones buried Penn State, 31-12.

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CENTRE DAILY TIMES

Lady hoopsters shine in Connecticut victory

By GREG LODER
Collegian Sports Writer

After the women's basketball team destroyed the University of Connecticut 98-58 Saturday night at Rec Hall, Penn State Head Coach Rene Portland got her first good night's sleep in a long time.

No, it wasn't that the Lady Lions broke any massive losing streak against Connecticut to allow Portland to sleep easy Saturday evening. Penn State had been winning.

The only problem was that after each win, Portland's had more and more nightmares.

In the Lady Lions' last five games, which included one loss, each victory was unimpressive. Penn State often looked lackluster — even in winning.

And after last year's best-ever season, accompanied by the fact that Portland was able to return almost her whole starting lineup this year with great expectations, there was reason for the Lady Lions' Coach to lose and turn every night.

But the win on Saturday night against the Lady Huskies was the best sleeping pill anyone could have given Portland. The Lady Lions may have put together their best 40 minutes of the season, and found it very hard to do anything wrong against a Connecticut team which had one of the biggest front lines Penn State may see all season.

"I am relieved," Portland said after the game. "It was mind boggling. We couldn't play the game we were playing before."

"You could understand why I had trouble sleeping at night and had a tough time coming into the office."

After making numerous unsuccessful adjustments in the last five games, Portland may have finally pinpointed what was going wrong.

"I think the problem was everyone's attitude," she said. "The players were not believing in themselves and we couldn't be positive all the time."

"We had to reevaluate the coaching staff and we may have expected too much too soon."

Portland even made changes in her practices to solve her insomnia and the team's problems.

"I think the players were getting drilled out in practice," Portland said. "So we began to scrimmage almost 80 percent of the practices, which really benefited the younger kids."

But even though the younger kids were playing before.

After some early season attitude problems and some lackadaisical play, the four seniors on the women's basketball team are finally accepting their roles as the leaders of the Lady Lions.

These roles were evident Saturday night at Rec Hall as the seniors led Penn State to an easy 98-58 romp over Connecticut.

First there was center Cheryl Ellison, who for the past couple games has carried the Lady Lions in scoring. Saturday night, she was at her usual best as she led a balanced Penn State attack with 17 points and she grabbed eight rebounds in only 26 minutes.

"We've had some problems early on this year," Ellison said, "but I think we're gradually coming along. Tonight we should have gone in there and crushed them and we did."

One thing that had to please HeadCoach Rene Portland was the shooting of her senior forward Louise Leimkuhler. Leimkuhler was coming off a horrendous shooting night against Fairfield last Wednesday night, where she went two for 11 from the field. She also missed a couple of open layups.

But Saturday night Leimkuhler showed her last year's shooting touch as she hit seven for 10 from the field and ended up with 16 points.

Leimkuhler also helped out tremendously on defense as she helped Ellison, Kahadeejah Herbert, and Lorraine McGirt control the Lady Huskies' huge front line.

"We knew they were tall and so we just worked on positioning ourselves for the rebounds," Leimkuhler said. "Things are starting to come along and we are starting to play better as a team."

Although senior point guard Annie Troyan only scored four points Saturday night, she is the catalyst for the fastbreaking Lady Lions as Troyan was credited with eight assists.

Earlier this season, the Lady Lions were having problems executing on offense and making the big play on defense. But Saturday night, the Lady Lions showed they still have the defense of last year. Led by Troyan's four steals, the Lady Lions were credited with 16 steals and they forced an amazing 38 turnovers.

Finally there was senior guard and All-American candidate Carol Walderman. Earlier this season she was burning opposing defenses for more than 30 points a game.

Walderman, Penn State's leading scorer averaging 14.8 points a game but is coming off a scoring slump, after the game said that although it may not have been the team's best performance of the year, one aspect of their play was the strongest all season.

It was the best game mentally all season," Walderman said. "We were all together and adjusted to their defense. One of the problems the Lady Huskies.

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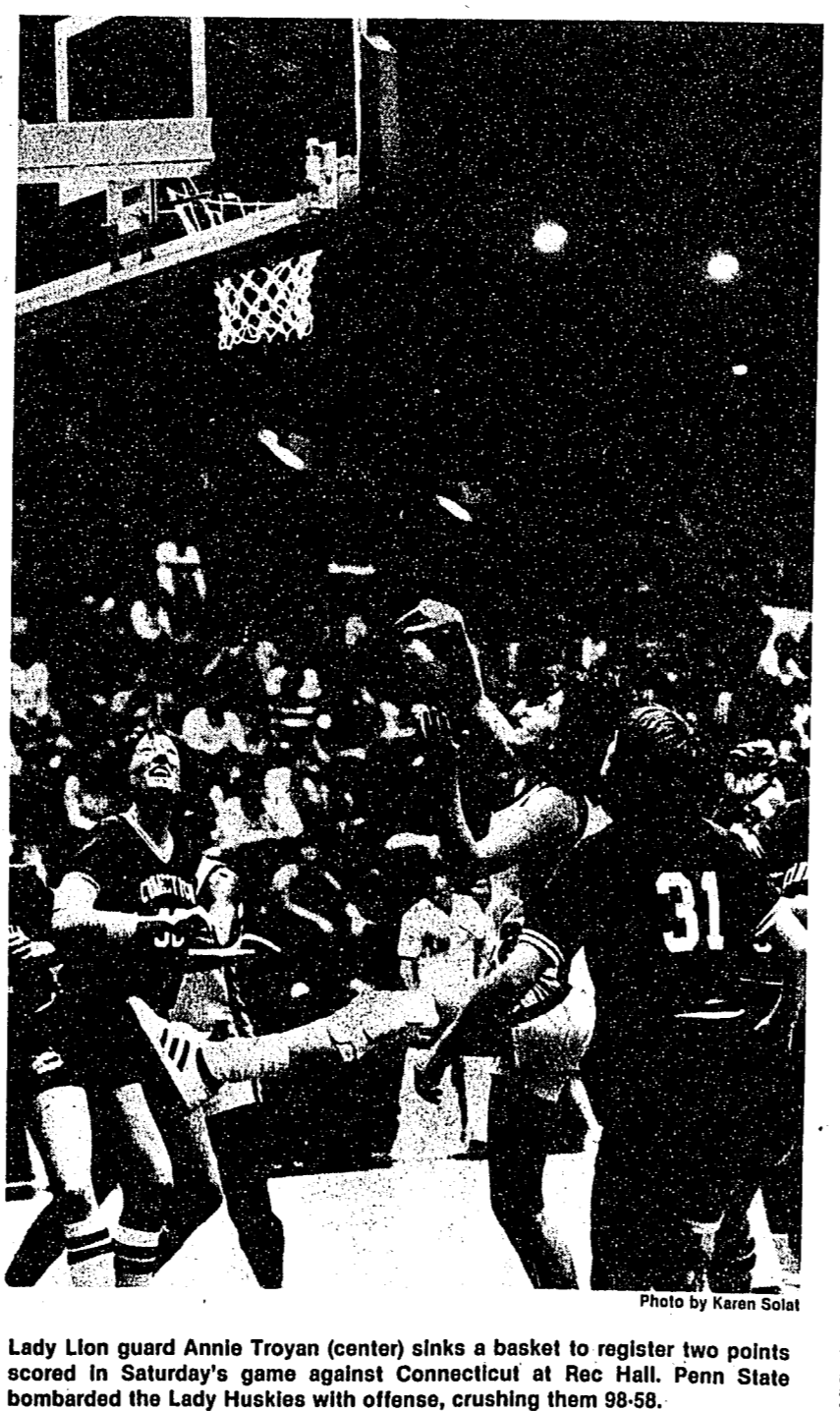
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Lady Lion guard Annie Troyan (center) sinks a basket to register two points scored in Saturday's game against Connecticut at the Rec Hall. Penn State bombarded the Lady Huskies with offense, crushing them 98-58.