

Parkhill gears for cagers

By MICHAEL FELICI
Collegian Sports Writer

When Bruce Parkhill was a youngster shooting baskets at Rec Hall, he used to get kicked out. Now, more than 20 years later, he will have no problem staying in the building. As a matter of fact he has an office and a reserved court-side seat for all home basketball games at Rec Hall.

The change of heart is easily explained once you realize that Bruce Parkhill was named the new head coach of the Penn State basketball team Sunday, and he's very happy about it.

"It's very difficult for me to put into words how I feel at this time," Parkhill said yesterday at a press conference at the Nittany Lion Inn. "It's a very special feeling. Obviously I feel Penn State University is a very good situation for Bruce Parkhill and I'm confident that the reverse will be true."

The 35-year-old Parkhill, who joins the Nittany Lions after six seasons at William & Mary, told the press it was a difficult decision to leave his players and staff in Virginia and that only an offer from Penn State would take him away from the school where he amassed an 89-75 career record.

"I always had a feeling that I would come back to State College," Parkhill said on his 12-year absence from his hometown. "I always considered State College my home. I think it's one of the greatest places I've ever been."

Parkhill said that the academic and athletic prowess Penn State is known for played a big part in his decision, but the fact that the school is located in his hometown was definitely a plus. He said he was anxious to sell Penn State "from the heart."

A group of people he won't have to sell Penn State to are the returning players from the tail end of the Dick Harter era. Parkhill admits that he hasn't seen any of the players in action, but by looking at the roster he has a general idea what type of ball the team will have to play to be successful.

Unlike his predecessor, the new coach said his philosophy is based on the individuals in the program. With a nucleus of small and quick players, Parkhill said he will use his players' skills in forming a plan of attack for the 1983-84 season.

"Looking at the roster," he said, "my gut reaction would be that we'll try to press a lot, try to work the transition game and counter the fact that they're not

deep up front. We'll also play multiple defenses. But the bottom line for me is that I want my players to enjoy playing basketball (for Penn State)."

In tying up some of the loose ends for next season, Parkhill said he has talked to freshman recruit Ritchie Tarr from Shamokin, and Notre Dame transfer Ron Harter was still at the reins. He also plans to talk to prep star Marshall Greer from Pasaic, N.J., who Parkhill described as a "6-5, 6-6 swing-man who could help us with our front line situation."

"I spoke to the guys (Tarr and Rowan) last night," Parkhill said. "It seemed to go pretty well. I'm a little cautious and we'll see what happens in the fall."

As for assistant coaches, Parkhill's brother Barry, an assistant at William & Mary, was rumored to be coming north to join the Lions, but Parkhill confirmed yesterday that Barry is hoping to land the Indian head coaching job, which Parkhill said "was a good decision for Barry and the William & Mary program."

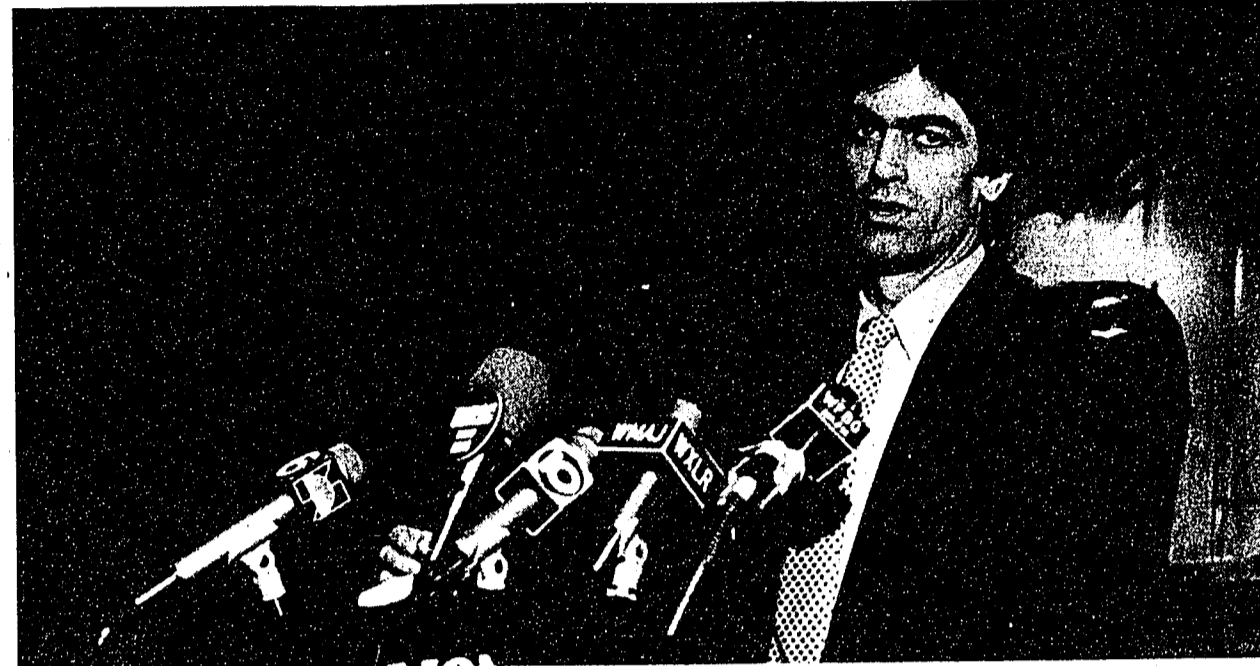
If brother Barry does not get the job, which is unlikely, it is not out of the question for him to also return to State College along with a few William & Mary Indians.

Parkhill said he will assess his current team members by watching the players in pickup games this spring and by analyzing game films of last season during the summer.

In the fall, when the roster positions are filled, Parkhill must face another problem — filling the seats at Rec Hall. He said he feels the facility is one of the better home courts in the country and that he is looking forward to the task which has frustrated Penn State athletic administrators long before Parkhill left State College 12 years ago.

"I think winning will definitely get people into Rec Hall," Parkhill said. "It's a major concern of mine to get people into Rec Hall. If the fans feel good about the program they'll come and that will help us win. All we want is seven or eight thousand of the 89,000."

PARKHILL PLUS: The new coach said Brian Dean, who led the team due to academic reasons last year, would be given a look at only after his academic eligibility was up to par. He also noted that he will have to become familiar with his Atlantic 10 opponents, saying he has only seen Temple and West Virginia in the past year. Finally, he said rather than contact Harter for assistance in evaluating his players, he would rather start from scratch.



New Men's Basketball Coach Bruce Parkhill talks to the media at his introductory press conference yesterday at the Nittany Lion Inn.

Players pleased with new coach

By MICHAEL FELICI
Collegian Sports Writer

When a new coach enters a program and says his bottom line philosophy of coaching is to make sure his players enjoy playing the game, the members of the team are bound to be elated.

When that same coach adds that he will mold his game plan to fit the skills of his players, the athlete is bound to be elated.

New Men's Basketball Coach Bruce Parkhill did both. Although the three returning Nittany Lions who attended Parkhill's introductory press conference were not jumping for joy, they did sound like they were pleased with the selection.

David Griffin, who will be a senior next year and a likely candidate for team captain, was impressed with what the new man in town had to say.

"I like him," Griffin said bluntly. "He seems to be a good guy. It's better to have a young coach, more importantly since we have a young team. It's good to have someone to teach you and relate to what you're thinking."

Teammate and fellow soon-to-be senior Wally Choice echoed Griffin's opinion.

"I enjoy hearing what he said," he said. "Anybody who would adjust his game plan to fit the skills and do anything he wants us to."

Griffin said there was too much time spent on "mind games" in the past and not enough on the actual game playing skills themselves.

"A lot of attention was paid on other things than going out on the floor and doing what you have to do," Griffin said. "A lot of the things, that to me personally as a player, were not necessary. We need to concentrate more on playing the game and doing the things we need to win."

"I think a lot of head games were played that shouldn't have happened," he said. "We realize this is a new chance. We weren't happy playing basketball at Penn State. I think now with the new coach and a new attitude we can start having fun again."

Ballesteros walks away with Masters

By BOB GREEN
AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The final round of the 77th Masters, agreed the players in contention, was over almost before it began.

"The key," said winner Seve Ballesteros of Spain, "was the first four holes. I played four-under on the first four holes."

And that, along with Tom Watson's sudden putting lapse, proved decisive yesterday as Ballesteros stalked virtually unchallenged to his second Masters victory — a four-stroke triumph in the day-late windup.

"It's like being knocked down two times in the first round — and having a three-knockdown rule," said Watson, the principal victim of Ballesteros' birdie-eagle-par-birdie start.

And Watson's chances disappeared on a string of three putts beginning on the eighth hole.

"I was very lucky," said Ballesteros. "I got my birdies early. They put me in front."

"On this course, you have to wait for the birdies. In the last round, if you have to make three-four birdies, they won't come. When you play aggressive here, this golf course will kill you."

After his start, he played the golf course one-over par. By that time, it really didn't matter.

Ballesteros, a 26-year-old globe-trotting Spaniard, acquired his third title in golf's Big Four events with a closing round of 69, and a 289 total, eight shots under par on an Augusta National Golf Club course still wet from rains that disrupted the tournament schedule.

Ballesteros, who won the 1979 British Open and the 1980 Masters, took command immediately. An eagle on the 10th hole, he reached the green on the long second with a wood club, and needed only a 10-footer for eagles. The third went to par, but he birdied the fourth after a 2-iron to two feet.

That put him in front. And he stayed in front. Watson, playing in the same twosome this warm and windy day, once got close. That was on the eighth. A long putt, perhaps 35 or 40 feet, gave Watson an eagle. It cut Ballesteros' lead in half, down to two.

But it was the last look-in anyone had.

Watson, noted as one of the finest putters in the world, bogeyed three in a row, two of them on 3-putt greens.



Masters' champion Seve Ballesteros blasts a shot off a 10th hole sand trap yesterday in the final round. Ballesteros won the Masters for the second time.

fringe of the green.

"Ballesteros got off to such a good start, he kind of put a damper on everyone's spirits," said Tom Kite, who birdied the last two holes. Kite, who has yet to win the Masters, now has finished fifth or better seven of the past eight years.

"Birdie, eagle, par, birdie," Kite said, recalling Ballesteros' start. "It's like he was driving a Ferrari and everyone else was in a Chevrolet."

"He just blasted us. I'm surprised anyone could do that."

Ben Crenshaw, who also has often come close to winning, agreed. "I started so far behind, and Seve was so well," he said.

Crenshaw and Kite, former teammates at Texas, eventually tied for second at 284. Neither, however, ever really got in the title chase.

"It's nice to finish second, but that's not what we came here for. That's not the object," said Kite,

who has won the Vardon Trophy each of the last two seasons but can't shake his reputation as a constant challenger, and infrequent winner.

His birdie-birdie finish gave him a closing round of 69.

"I've been there before," said Crenshaw, who made eagle 3 on the 13th on his way to a 68, the best round of the day. Indeed, he has. He lost the 1979 PGA title in a playoff. He's been second in two British Opens. And he was second to Ray Floyd here in 1976.

Watson, Player of the Year five of the last six seasons, had protested all week that he really wasn't playing well — "just managing my way around the course," he said.

And he managed well enough this time, too. But his putting, often the most potent weapon in his arsenal, simply misfired.

He finished with a 73 and was at 285, five strokes back of the man he was trying to catch.

Floyd, the current PGA titleholder, who started the final round in a tie for the lead with Craig Stadler, lost six shots to Ballesteros over the first six holes and simply couldn't overcome the deficit. He had a closing 75 and tied with Watson at 285.

Hale Irwin, winner of a U.S. Open and Lanny Wadkins, a winner last week in history to make a career sweep of the Grand Slam events, struggled to a closing 77 and a 292 total.

Spikers try to get minds set on Pitt

By CHRIS WIGHTMAN
Collegian Sports Writer

Concentration will be the key word for the men's volleyball team as it takes on the Pitt Panthers tonight at the University of Pittsburgh.

The key word is concentration, because the Lions are on the verge of their biggest tournament of the season, the Miller High Life Classic, held this weekend at UCLA.

The prestigious tournament, which gathers the four best teams in the nation, will have the No. 4 Lions hanging heads with volleyball giants like Pepperdine, UCLA and University of California-Santa Barbara.

So with a tournament like that, then four days away, how do you get psyched to play such an average team like Pitt?

Concentrate, concentrate hard. And Penn State has a few motives that will probably keep the team mentally into tonight's match.

First of all, the Lions are coming off their first loss in a month, losing to Ohio State this weekend. Although Penn State came out hot in the match, winning the first two games, No. 10 Ohio State managed to rattle off three straight games to take the match.

Secondly, Pitt is playing its best back of the year. The Panthers, who start three freshmen, are coming off a big win over Rutgers. And those three freshmen have been gaining more experience with every match, which is something they lacked the last time the two teams collided.

"I'm not quite sure what to expect," Penn State Head Coach Tom Tait said. "We're trying to get geared up for this weekend, but at the same time we're trying to not overlook Pitt. Their team's playing some good ball right now and they've gained experience they didn't have at the middle of the season."

The last time the Lions played Pitt was a couple of weeks ago at the Ball State Classic in Muncie, Ind. And although Penn State won the tournament fairly easily, its toughest match came against the Panthers.

"Pitt gave us our toughest match," Penn State Co-Captain Bruce VanHorn said. "They've got a pretty good team, but just as long as we play as a team, we'll beat them."

The Lions have proven they can beat the Panthers with no problem. Penn State destroyed Pitt last month in a home match, winning in three straight.

"We didn't play sharp against them at Ball State," Tait said, "at least not as sharp as we played them at home. We'll definitely have to play better if we expect to beat them."

Not playing sharp was Penn State's main problem at Ohio State. The team rode a roller coaster of inconsistency, playing some points like champions and others much less than champions.

Penn State's serving and receiving led to the team's erratic play. But Tait was positive in his belief that the Ohio State performance wasn't going to be a long term trend.

"We're working on our serving and receiving in practice, and we're also getting some work on our movement. I don't think the loss to Ohio State was a major setback for us. It was just one of those things that happens. As long as we do the things we want to do on our side of the net, we'll be all right."

Another factor that will most likely spark the Lion engines is the fact that they will have to go against all that top-notch talent at the end of the week. And the Pitt match will be a great chance for the team to get its confidence level back to where it was before the Ohio State match.

"Pitt's our last match before the Coast, so we have to play well," VanHorn said. "We want to make sure we go out there on a positive note, so we're going to have to do everything right."

But a couple of factors will also be served against the Lions as they go into tonight's match.

"We'll have some problems with what the starting lineup will be," Tait said. "I want to give some guys some rest so they'll be ready for this weekend. J.J. (Jeff Johnson) has a tight back and Steve Hunkins caught a ball on his thumb during the Ohio State match, so those guys will probably sit out."

Penn State might also be starting to feel the effects of the road. Not including the exhibition match against the Japanese national team last week, the Lions have been on the road for seven out of their last 10 matches.

Win or lose tonight really has no effect on Penn State in terms of league standings and the NCAA tournament. Penn State is already the top seed for the Eastern championship and are already in the national championship tournament.

Tompkins unhappy with showing

By CHRIS LINDSLEY
Collegian Sports Writer

For Penn State freestyler Megan Tompkins, this year has been one of pleasant surprises. But all her competing in pressure situations the last month finally caught up to her at the Senior Nationals in Indianapolis last weekend.

Tompkins gave all she had left to finish what could be the best year any Lady Lion swimmer has ever had.

No one expected this junior from Audubon, Pa. to win both the 100- and 200-yard freestyles at Easterns, and few gave her a chance to qualify for NCAA's Senior Nationals were almost out of the question at the beginning of the year.

But Tompkins came on strong all season long and proved that she was one of the best freestylers in the East. She played an instrumental part of the Lady Lions' first-ever Eastern Championship win this year.

Tompkins was in top form at Easterns, where she produced several of her fastest times, and her effort there helped her to qualify for both the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championships and also for last weekend's Senior Nationals, which marked the first time any Lady Lion swimmer competed in this prestigious

competition.

Tompkins, who competed in the 50-, 100- and 200-yard freestyle events, along with the 400-yard medley and freestyle relays, did not reach the times she turned in at Easterns, and she said the long season took its toll in this meet.

"I did not do as well as I wanted to do, and I think that has to do with my being tired," Tompkins said. "This was my third tapered meet in a row, and it was hard for me to get up to compete again. But despite not doing as well as I did at Easterns, I gained some valuable experience here as well as at NCAA's, and I think that will help me (during my senior season)."

Assistant Swimming Coach Bruce Bronson, who went to Indianapolis Ind. with Tompkins, agreed that she was capable of doing better, but the experience she gained at Easterns was invaluable.

"She did not do as well as she did at Easterns, but then it's hard to hold (your) speed for a month in which she worked out by herself," Bronson said. "This experience should be a big help to her in the future, as she will know what to expect going in, and it should also give her confidence she can go against the best and do well."

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