

Fazio, Panthers lament missed opportunities

By CHRIS LINDSEY
Collegian Sports Writer

After crushing Penn State 31-11 last year to conclude its season at 3-7-1, the Panthers returned with high expectations looking ahead to 1985.

And after beating Purdue 31-30 to open this season, the Panthers appeared to be on their way.

But then came a tough 10-7 loss at the hands of Ohio State in Columbus, a 20-22 setback to Eastern College in a game they led 22-21 late in the fourth quarter, and a 10-10 tie at West Virginia. Games Pitt Head Coach Fazio Fazio said his team needed to win to get rolling.

"We thought we got off on the right foot against Purdue," Fazio said. "But we had an opportunity to beat Ohio State and we didn't, and we had an opportunity to beat Boston College and we didn't, and we tied West Virginia, and I think that says it in a nutshell. We needed to have gotten another win or two out of these first three or four games."

Problems for the Panthers were just beginning, however, as injuries along with an inefficient kicking game and a lack of depth at tailback all played a role in keeping them down.

The Panthers lost tailbacks A.B.

Brown and Eugene Napoleon, who quit the team in the middle of the season, and that, along with the injuries, forced Fazio to go with many inexperienced players.

"We just had one tailback (Charles Gladman) the last two games," Fazio said, "and especially when we lost to Navy and Syracuse, we just weren't a very healthy football team. We played a lot of young people, and that can explain it. The teams that stay healthy and get some momentum are going to win games for you, and unfortunately for us we didn't have that opportunity."

"For the players, the team's 5-4-1 record going into Saturday night's matchup with the Lions has been hard to accept."

Before last year, the Panthers had not lost more than three games in a season since their 4-4 mark in 1973, and defensive tackle Bob Buczkowski said the way Pitt has lost has been especially hard to take.

"It's come down to a matter of a few points here and there between the first seven games and we could have been undefeated," Buczkowski said. "It's really frustrating to look back on it. I think it was a matter of some bad breaks happening to us."

"We won the first game of the year, then we went to Ohio State and we lost by three points, and I really felt that

we should have won that game. And the next thing you know we just can't capitalize. We get inside the 20, we can't score, we fumble the ball, we miss field goals, and that hurt us a lot for a long year."

Pitt quarterback John Congemi, who completed 113 of 223 passes for 1,902 yards and six touchdowns, said he's done his best, but the problems are beyond his control.

"We lost a lot of games by a couple of points," Congemi said. "We didn't make a kick when we needed to, or make the big catch when we needed to, and I think that was the only thing that held us back."

"It's been frustrating. We didn't start the breaks when we needed to, and I've been doing everything I can, but sometimes that's not enough."

One area giving Congemi, and the rest of the Panthers, little support has been the kicking game.

Placekickers Pat Viancourt and Mark Brasco have struggled throughout the season, combining to make good on only 5-of-16 field goal attempts, or less than 33 percent.

The other hand, has hit 20-of-25 for 80 percent, and Fazio said his kicking game has been a continuing problem all season.

"I've also been disappointed in our kicking game," Fazio said.



Foge Fazio

Leyland Bucs' new skipper

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jim Leyland, a Chicago White Sox coach who calls his style "aggressive and unpredictable," was named yesterday as the Pittsburgh Pirates' new manager, completing the club's new ownership and management team.

The 40-year-old Leyland spent 11 years as a minor league manager in the Detroit Tigers' organization and replaced Chuck Tanner, who was fired Oct. 7.

The Pirates' second consecutive last-place finish in the National League East.

"I'm a hard worker but I'm not a miracle worker," Leyland said yesterday. "I think I'll be able to give the fans what they want. We have a lot of good players, but they're young players. When a guy punches out four times some night, the key will be to not lose patience."

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Leyland

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"We have acquired one of the brightest young talents in baseball," said incoming Pirates President Malcolm "Mac" Prine. "He has a one-year contract, but we think he's going to be around for a long, long time."

Leyland, the White Sox' third base coach for four years, inherited a team whose 57-104 record last season was the worst in major league baseball.

"I'm not only going to have to earn the respect of the fans and the press, I'm going to have to earn the respect of my players," Leyland said. "I'm not going to push myself on anybody. I'm going to teach and throw batting practice and have some fun with

my players. I'm not a dictator."

Leyland began his managerial career at the age of 26 and managed three pennant-winning clubs, including Evansville's 1979 Class AAA American Association champions. Among the current major league players he managed in the minors are Kirk Gibson and Lou Whitaker.

"Jim was everything we were looking for," said Syd Thrift, named 12 days ago as the Pirates' new general manager. "He relates well to all age groups, especially the younger players. He is a capable teacher, has four recent years of experience on the major league level and has been successful at every level as a minor league manager."

Prine said the Pirates' new ownership, a 13-member private coalition, didn't consider the hiring of a big name manager as a prerequisite for success either on the field or at the box office.

"In football, you never see the good, experienced coaches — Chuck Noll, Tom Landry, Joe Gibbs — jumping from team to team. Most of them were successful assistant coaches who became successful head coaches," he said. "You can prepare yourself to be a good manager in a lot of ways, and Jim has."

"I don't always do things by the book," Leyland said. "I want to be aggressive, but aggressive with common sense."

Cager squads prepare to start new season Cagers hoping new parts fit well Lady cagers looking for an encore



Penn State's Paul Murphy, left, guards teammate Bruce Blake during Saturday's Blue-White Game at Rec Hall. Head Coach Bruce Parkhill hopes his young squad will steadily improve as it gains experience throughout the season.

By CHRIS LODER
Collegian Sports Writer

The auto mechanic inspects the damage to the old DeSoto. The mechanic, with the name Parkhill embossed on his only shirt, must order new parts for a car that appears to be on its final mile. Due to old age, the car has run out of steam.

A new shipment of parts has arrived, but they have never been tested. The mechanic bites his lip as he drags one into place. He hopes the car will run smoothly.

New parts. That is what Men's Basketball Coach Bruce Parkhill has to deal with this season. After finishing 8-19 and losing his leading scorer a year ago, the team must start over from scratch.

With seven freshmen, three sophomores, no seniors and three walk-ons on the squad, Parkhill faces an uphill battle. Still, the third-year coach is relying on his young squad to mature quickly.

"Our young players are having a real positive effect on our program," Parkhill said recently.

Leading the kiddie corps is freshman Tom Hovasse, a 6-7½ forward from Widefield, Colo. Hovasse was the Colorado Player of the Year last season and was an honorable mention candidate on the USA Today All-America team.

Rounding out the pack are guards Brian Allen, 6-2½ native of Reston, Va., and Mike Collins, 6-3, from Leavenworth, Kan., forwards Bruce Blake, a 6-5 forward from Easton, Md., and Ed Fogell, a 6-1½ center from Hathersburg, Pa. Fogell, however, may be out of the season with a bad back he injured over the summer. Fogell was in a wheelchair behind the court in the last Saturday's Blue-White game.

Collins and Allen played well last Saturday when both led the Whites over the Blues in the annual Blue-White game. Collins scored 17

points while Allen dished out a game-high six assists.

"Of course we have a lot of improving to do, and one of the reasons is because we are so young. All the freshmen have to be encouraged on the court. They are playing college basketball," Collins said.

In addition, the Lions have added three walk-ons to the club. They are: 6-4 forward Wes Jones, 6-1 guard Paul Madison and 6-0 guard Christian Appleman.

Penn State returns seven letter-winners from last year's squad. They include tri-captains Carl Chrabaszec, who averaged 9.1 points and 5.2 rebounds last season; Tony Ward, the top assist man for the Lions with 106; and Kip DeWitt, who played sparingly in 1984-85.

Centers Jim Newcomer and Bill Pollock, forward Mike Peoples and guard Paul Murphy round out the Lions.

"The Lions will change course this season and run more than they have in recent seasons. Instead of a half-court offense, Parkhill hopes to install the transition game. Ward said, 'I'm looking to get the ball up the court and get it to the nearest guy for a layup, before the defense sets up.'"

Parkhill said the Lions will run at every opportunity, adding that Ward is the leader.

"We're going to run when we can. We're very good in transition," Parkhill said. "Tony is capable of pushing it up the floor."

One of the week spots for the Lions is rebounding. Last season, Penn State finished seventh in rebounding and second to last in defense in the Atlantic 10 Conference. Chrabaszec said the team hopes to improve on those numbers.

"In the Blue-White game, the

Lady cagers looking for an encore

By MATT HERB
Collegian Sports Writer

It took only 40 minutes on a far-away court in Norfolk, Va., last season for the women's basketball team's dream of making the Final Four to die. But it took only seconds for another one to rise from the ashes.

For 18 minutes of that semifinal contest with Ohio State they played the kind of lightning-quick, fast break basketball that had carried them through the regular season with a 27-4 record. And in another 22 minutes it was all gone. Ohio State 61, Penn State 76.

Moments after the game, before the sweat had dried from the faces of the players, freshman guard Suzie McConnell was asked when she would start preparing for the Lady Lions' 1985-86 season.

"Tomorrow," she said. "Slowly, over the course of eight months, the dream has been nursed back to maturity. I haven't been easy. Losses of key players have hindered the Lady Lions as they've attempted to regroup from that defeat."

When they make their 1985-86 debut against Providence Friday night it will be without their leading scorer from last season, center Kahndejah Herbert, who was lost to graduation. It will be without forward Lorraine McGirt who averaged 10.1 points and 5.2 rebounds per game and who will be concentrating on academics this year. "She's a fine No. 2 guard for her and she's really started to read Suzie very well so that when Suzie's in trouble, Vanessa has always filled in the right spot."

If there is a major source of concern on the team it is at center, where the tremors caused by Herbert's departure are still being felt. And the one who's been shaken most by them has been Pat Edvinsson, a 6-4 center from Umea, Sweden. Edvinsson comes to Penn State with seven years of international experience behind her, and the general consensus seems to be

that the more physical game she played in Europe will rub off on the team.

"We'll be much more physical," Portland says, "and I think that physical part may put her on the bench next to me quicker than she wants to be because the NCAA officials are going to call everything."

Even so, Portland believes that with 6-3 sophomore Bethany Collins coming off the bench, the Lady Lions have the depth to risk Edvinsson's bruising style of play. In the meantime, they will be concentrating on easing her into the intricacies of the NCAA where the ball is smaller, and the officiating more vigilant.

Rounding out the starting five are forwards Joanie O'Brien and Vicki Link.

With a pair of bulky braces protecting her knees, O'Brien is the team's poster child according to Portland. She spent the better part of the off-season recovering from arthroscopic surgery to repair cartilage on the inside of her right knee. The other was in a brace all last year.

"I'm not really having any problems with them," O'Brien said earlier in the pre-season. "The biggest thing I'm having a problem with is getting used to playing again."

Link, meanwhile, has impressed Portland with her rebounding, crucial to the Lady Lions' fast break offense. She also figures in Penn State's plans to run a three post offense occasionally along with Edvinsson and Collins. With size, speed, and power in the middle, the Lady Lions seem to have all the tools necessary to do whatever they want. And Portland is open to some experimentation, but the bottom line is that Penn State will live or die by what they do best, guard-oriented fast-paced offense.



Suzie McConnell, right, dribbles past teammate Pat Edvinsson during Friday night's Blue-White Game at Rec Hall. This year, the women's basketball team will be looking to duplicate last season's performance when it advanced to the NCAA playoffs.

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Yanks' Mattingly named MVP

By HAL BOCK
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — First baseman Don Mattingly of the New York Yankees, who led the major leagues with 145 runs batted in this year, yesterday was named the American League's Most Valuable Player by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Mattingly received 23 first-place votes and five seconds for a total of 367 points in balloting by a 28-writer panel, two voters from each of the 14 league cities.

Third baseman George Brett of the Kansas City Royals finished second with five firsts, 20 seconds and three thirds for 274 points. Mattingly and Brett were the only players named on all 28 ballots. Points are awarded on the basis of 14 for a first-place vote, nine for second, eight for third, etc.

Outfielder Rickey Henderson of the Yankees was third with 174 points, followed by Boston third baseman Wade Boggs, the batting champion, with 159 and first baseman Eddie Murray of Baltimore with 130.

Pitcher Donnie Moore of California (96), Toronto outfielder Jesse Barfield (88) and George Bell (84), Chicago outfielder Harold Baines (49) and Kansas City pitcher

Bret Saberhagen, the Cy Young Award winner, (45) completed the top 10.

Mattingly batted .324 with 35 home runs as the Yankees finished second in the AL East behind Toronto. He led the major leagues with 48 doubles — the first AL player to do that in successive seasons since Tris Speaker did it four straight years, 1920-23. His 370 total bases and 86 extra base hits also led the AL and his .385 fielding percentage was the best in the league at his position.

His 211 hits, second best in the AL, made Mattingly the first Yankees player to have consecutive 200-hit seasons since Joe DiMaggio in 1936-37 and the total was the highest for a Yankee since Red Rolfe had 213 in 1930.

"There's nothing more I could have done this year," Mattingly said. "The numbers kind of pile up on you. You look up three-quarters of the way through the season and you see what you've done. You don't want to let it end."

"I think there's a lot of room for improvement. It may not show numbers-wise. To me, I don't walk enough when I should."

Brett saluted Mattingly's victory. "Don is an outstanding player who had an MVP year," he said. "His stats certainly warrant winning the award. I remember how much it meant to me in 1980, and I am happy for him."

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