

# It's do or die weekend for 29-3 lady spikers

By STACEY JACOBSON  
Collegian Staff Writer

Although the women's volleyball team has compiled an Eastern-best 29-3 record, on excess pressure. They've been No. 1 the entire season.

"We just want to go to the tournament and play consistent competitive volleyball and show the other Atlantic-10 teams that we are No. 1," senior team captain Lisa Childster said.

Childster says the team doesn't like to put extra pressure on themselves by thinking of their No. 1 status.

"If we go in there with the idea that we are better than they are and we do have to play good volleyball to beat these teams. I think that's what we have to be most concerned with right now," Childster said.

Rose says his players don't view their ranking as anything new. "We've been the top team in the eastern part of the U.S. for the past seven consecutive years," Rose said. "I don't think they look at this tournament, being seeded No. 1 as different than any other time you take the floor against people that want to beat them."

"The biggest challenge for this weekend, according to assistant Coach Lori Barberich, is to beat Rhode Island. The Rams pose the largest threat to the Lady Lions.

"Beating Rhode Island has been everybody's mind all week," Barberich said. "They still beat us earlier in the year even though we beat them at Rec Hall. We played almost a flawless match at Rec Hall."

# Lady cagers begin 'new era' tonight

By ROB BIERTEMPEL  
Collegian Sports Writer

The end of the 1984-85 basketball season meant the end of the Kahadejah Herbert era for the Lady Lions. Tonight, however, a new era begins.

The Lady Lions enter the 1985-86 season without Herbert, last season's star center who graduated, and without Assistant Coach Bob Foley, who accepted the position of head coach at Providence in July.

For the Lady Lions, the time to start a new quest for the National Collegiate Athletic Association championship is 8:30 tonight against Providence in the second game of the annual Lady Lion Classic.

Western Michigan takes on Minnesota on the first contest at 6:30 p.m.

The game represents a test of the team's abilities as well as the first presentation of the "new" Lady Lions — a team that will rely more on balance and speed than the contributions of a single player.

Head Coach Rene Portland will start Suzie McConnell and Vanessa Paynter at guard, Joanie O'Brien and Vicki Link at forward, and newcomer Pia Edvinsson at center.

Portland said she plans to keep the starting five in the game for as long as possible to allow them to jell as a unit, but stresses that the Lady Lions have depth at every position.

"If we need to go to a quicker offense, I can pull Pia and Joanie out and substitute with Lisa Faloon and Bethany Collins," she said.

LIION NOTES: The Lady Lions defeated Providence last year 110-63. The Lady Lions were 12-0 at Rec Hall last season; a win tonight would extend their home-game win streak to 17. The championship game is slated for 6 p.m., Saturday and the consolation match is set for 8 p.m. Portland's sixth season as head coach.

lightning-quick transition game led by McConnell.

"When you go 27-5 with a certain offense, you don't just trash it," Portland said.

McConnell enjoys her position as quarterback of the running game.

"I like the responsibility of scoring and getting the ball to people," she said. "If I don't run, the team won't run."

Something Portland hopes to establish tonight and maintain for the rest of the season is consistent play.

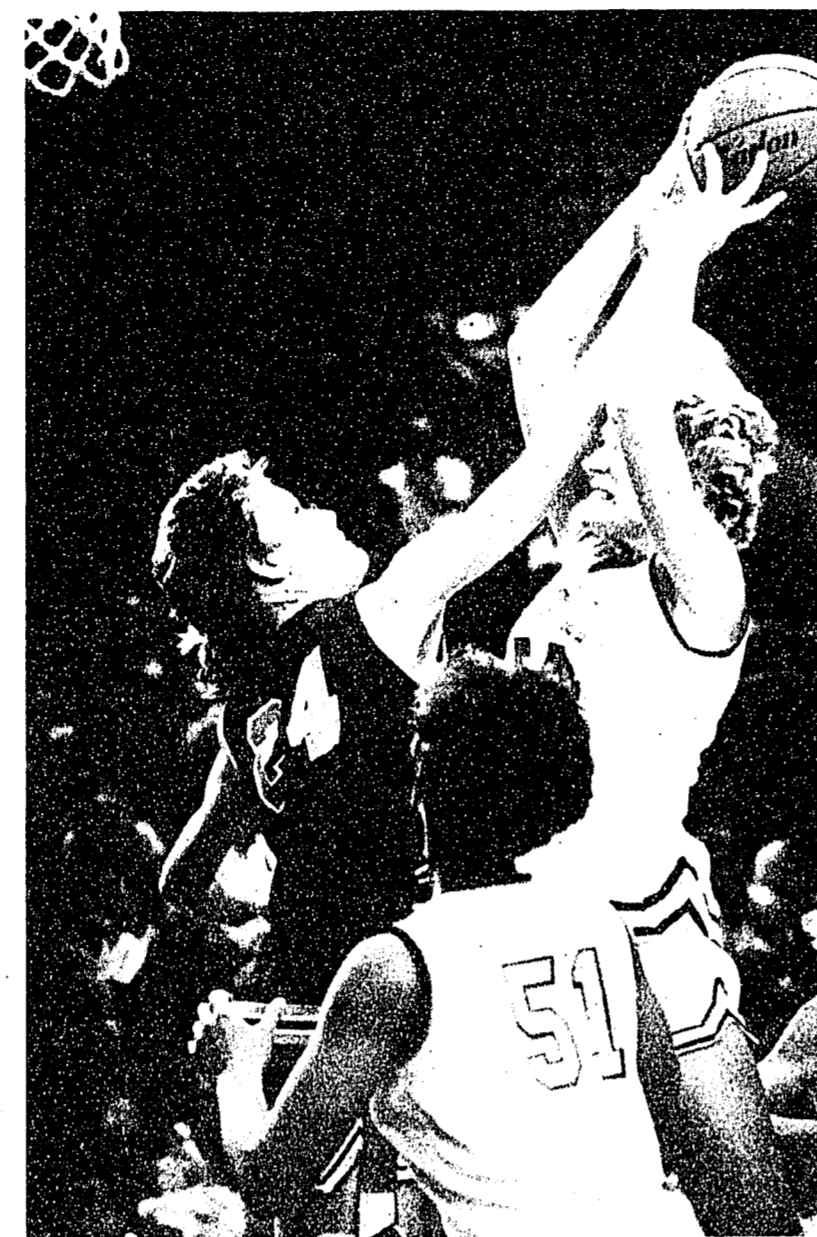
"That's something that we won't do last year," she said. "We seemed to slack off for the first five minutes of a half and let the other team get back in it."

She said the team has the depth and experience necessary to win, but still needs to acquire a "killer instinct" — the desire to do whatever it takes to win the game.

"I have not been able to see that yet (in practice)," she said.

While Portland hopes the team gains the drive to win at all costs tonight, the Lady Lions will also have to deal with feelings of nostalgia as Providence Head Coach Bob Foley makes his first visit to Rec Hall as an opposing coach.

Portland said she is looking forward to seeing her former assistant again, "but when the gun goes off, it's business as usual."



Collegian Photo / Scott Wilkinson

Veteran forward Vicki Link (shooting) goes up for a shot in last Friday's Blue-White game at Rec Hall. Link is one of five Lady Lion starters who will take the floor against Providence at 8:30 tonight in the first round of the Lady Lion Classic.

# Fencers to face big challenge at Open

By MIKE HOOVER  
Collegian Sports Writer

The men's fencing team will face its biggest challenge of the season as the squad hosts the Garret Penn State Open this weekend.

The Lions are expected to be one of the favorites in this talent-rich competition as 45 colleges are scheduled to be represented.

Visiting universities such as traditional fencing powerhouses Notre Dame, North Carolina and Illinois will pose problems for a Lion team.

The Irish, in particular, who finished second at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championships last season, appear to be the team to beat.

Although the fencers turned in a strong season-opening performance in the Temple Open, the opposition in this two day competition will be even stronger.

"This is one of the strongest collegiate tournaments," Head Coach Emmanuel Kaidanov said. "Our main objective is to gain experience. We have 12 freshmen. Our task is to get them in as many bouts as possible. They are used to junior and high school competition. At the Open they will experience stronger and different styles."

"We have improved since the open," Epee Specialist Joe Orvos said, "but we need more people to place higher in all weapons. In epee we should have three or four semifinals."

"The whole team needs to do much better," Sabre specialist Peter Cox said. "We have to win as a team so the competition knows Penn State got their act together rather than just a few individuals."

One of those individuals is Team Captain Brian Keane. At the Temple Open, Keane completely won the sabre division, and he, along with teammate Greg Kaidanov, give the Lions strength in this division, Kaidanov said.

"I believe we have a strong team," Kaidanov said. "Brian is definitely one of the favorites but I will be satisfied if I see two or three individuals with the top finishers."

"We want to see what the other competition has," Epee Specialist George Poslusny said. "We want to see how we compare against them."

In the epee category, the Lions are expected to turn in a strong showing as well. Title hopes appear slim, however, as last year's champion, Steve Trever of Columbia, returns to defend his title.

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# Grapplers begin quest for NCAA crown tomorrow

By TODD SHERMAN and CHRISTINE BORN  
Collegian Sports Writers

Three returning All-Americans, a pre-season No. 3 national ranking and confidence and enthusiasm could combine to bring the 1986 wrestling team its first national championship since 1953.

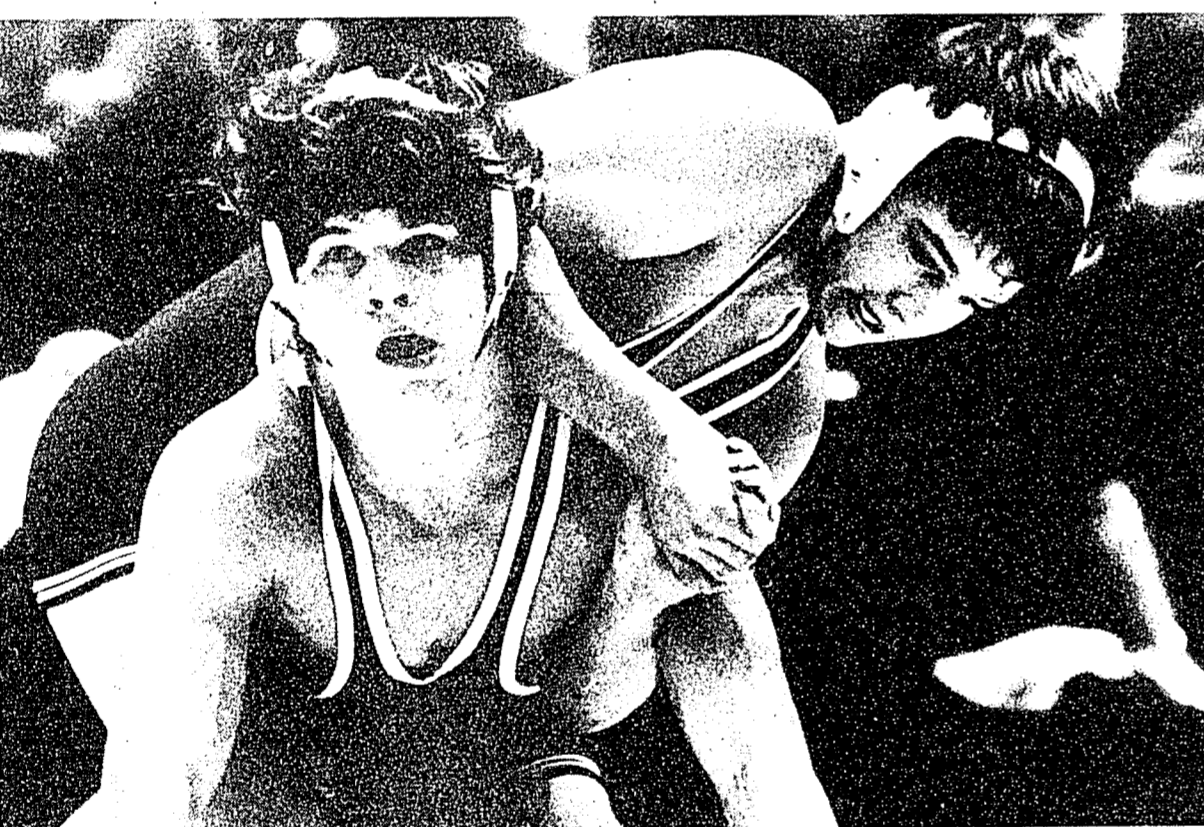
Last year, the Lions finished seventh at the National Collegiate Athletic Association championships, and are compiling a 10-6 dual meet record. They also won the Eastern Wrestling League Championship for the fourth straight year.

The road to the national championships will not be an easy one. Penn State's schedule calls for seven dual meets with Top 10 teams, as ranked in the Amateur Wrestling News pre-season poll.

The Nittany Lions kick off the season by splitting their team into two squads for two tournaments this weekend. Penn State will compete in the East Stroudsburg Open tomorrow and the Bloomsburg Invitational on Sunday.

Head Coach Rich Lorenzo said if his team has one weakness, it is that his young team is unproven.

"We have a lot of young kids in the lineup," Lorenzo said. "We have good nucleus of three or four guys that have proven themselves. We have a couple of youngsters and some transfers that are capable of being excellent, but have yet to prove that 'All-American' status. We want to be the number one team in the United States this year but we don't have on paper the proven credentials to be the number one team. So that comes into attitude, hard work, dedication, and



Collegian Photo / Howard Small

Jim Martin (top) is in control of Mike McNally at wrestle-offs last Sunday at Rec Hall. Both Martin, who won the starting spot at 118-pounds, and McNally will see action this weekend as the wrestling team opens its season at the Bloomsburg Invitational and the East Stroudsburg Open.

proving themselves. And a lot of breaks, like being able to stay healthy."

Tri-Captain Greg Elinsky said this year's team is strong in every weight class. "Everyone stays healthy, we should have a super team," Elinsky said. "There will be matches to watch in every weight class."

This is how those weight classes shape up at this time.

At the 118-pound weight class, freshman Jim Martin, is the top man for now. Sophomore Mike McNally is ranked behind Martin.

At 126, junior Keith Maurer is the starter but will probably drop to 118. Freshman Matt Gerhard, a medical

redshirt last year, is a four-time Pennsylvania state champion. Sophomore Ken Chertow posted a 29-14 record last year at 118 but is recovering from elbow surgery and may redshirt this season.

Louisiana State University transfer Joe Hodge won the right to the 134-pound weight class by defeating Tim Flynn in the wrestle-offs Nov. 6.

Flynn, a junior and 30-7-1 at 126 pounds in 1985, is dropping to 126 and challenging Maurer for the starting spot.

At 142 pounds sophomore Rob Meloy is the No. 1 man right now, but junior Glenn Koser and last year's starter Gary Kaschak (15-12) will pressure Meloy for that top spot.

Kaschak is student teaching now and is not quite ready for the season, Lorenzo said.

The 150-pound slot belongs to Koser until Tri-captain and two-time All-American Chris Bevilacqua is back at full strength from a back injury. Bevilacqua was 26-5 last year and placed fourth in the country at nationals. When Bevilacqua returns, Koser will drop to 142.

Elinsky placed second at nationals in 1984 and had a 28-5 overall record. The two-time All-American has the spot at 150 and is ranked No. 1 in the country in the Amateur Wrestling News pre-season poll. Elinsky will wrestle at 167 in a few tournaments at the beginning of the season but will drop to 150 for dual meets.

At 167 pounds Tri-captain Eric Brugel is back after redshirting last year to concentrate on a change of major. Behind Brugel is junior Mike Seckler, who would be ranked first except for a shoulder injury. Sophomore Mark Sidorick, and Duane Peoples, a transfer from Oklahoma State, are two others that may see mat time at this weight. Peoples, however, has an injured knee that may require surgery.

Dan Mayo returns as the No. 1 man at 177 pounds after redshirting last year because of a severe ankle injury, which cut short a promising freshman season. Mayo was 17-6-1

before the injury in 1984.

At 190 pounds sophomore Andy Voit may return after an 18-18 rookie season. Voit may sit out the season to gain experience and physical maturity, and will make a decision after the East Stroudsburg Open this weekend.

If Voit redshirts then senior Jan Johnson will probably take the starting spot.

In the heavyweight classification, freshman Jeff Ellis, freshman Greg Haladay, and sophomore John Place are in contention for the top spot.

Place is trying to return from a knee injury suffered while playing varsity football.

Lorenzo said that this lineup is not carved in granite.

"That lineup will change from time to time," Lorenzo said. "There is no way you can ever go through a season with 10 guys. We will probably end up wrestling as many as 15-20 men on varsity."

Lorenzo said his team has an advantage because of its attitude.

"They are young, but they are hungry," he said. "They want to be national champions. We have more individuals on the same wavelength than we have ever had before. We have more guys, even second and third team guys that are committing themselves to the team, and believing that we can be the best team in the country this year, and the following year."

"So much of this game is mental. You need execution, and confidence, and attitude and a little bit of arrogance."

"We have a bunch of aggressive, hard-nosed kids who are dedicated and who have put a lot of work into this."

Krimmel has been happy with his team's attitude this week.

"They've been working real hard (in practice)," he said. "It's a big weekend and there will be a lot of family and friends at the meet."

Whitner, who will team with seniors Christine Reidel and Janeen Leeshock, along with freshman Kristen Elias in the meet's opening event, the 200-yard medley relay, agreed.

"Last year we beat them really pretty easily, but this year it's going to be a different story," he said.

Freshman Craig Dies, who was a member of the winning 800-yr freestyle relay team at last weekend's Cincinnati Bearcat Invitational, said that Syracuse's shaved swimmers will definitely have an edge. But Dies also said that Penn State's depth will give them an advantage over the small visiting team.

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### Sunday Worship

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Join Us As We Worship Together!  
11:00 am Eisenhower Chapel  
The Color of Thanksgiving Scripture: Colossians 3:16-17  
Speaker: The Rev. Donald Davis  
Fellowship Time: 10:30 am ALL ARE WELCOME