

Lady cagers

Continued from Page 8.

the name of the game right now is equal."

Penn State point guard Suzie McConnell may tip the balance in her team's favor after scoring 25 points in the Blue-White scrimmage. She is the team's leading returning scorer (13.9 points) and for two straight years, she has been the national assist leader, dishing out 11.8 a game last year.

McConnell was listed as a pre-season All-American this year by the *Womens Basketball Yearbook*, and received first team honors in *Street and Smith, Off the Glass* and the *Womens Basketball News*. In his magazine, Dick Vitale included

McConnell in his list of the 10 best women's basketball players in America.

Portland said the key to her team's success this season will be the play and experience of her speedy point guard.

"Suzie is a reacting kind of player and a great athlete," Portland said. "She is having fun playing with (freshman guard) Stephanie Thomas right now and her education of those (younger) kids has been very positive. 'Get a drink and get back on the floor,' is what she says to them. So she is using her leadership in a very nice way to help educate them."

McConnell was more of a de-

fensive player and passer last year but will now be expected to pick up the scoring chores instead of dishing off so much.

"I'm looking to shoot more," the 5-3 McConnell said. "I am not going to force it, but when I have the open shot I'm gonna look more to shoot than I am to pass this year."

Portland said the offense has been changed to feature McConnell but, the run-and-gun style will still be there.

"We like our running game," she said, "and they're running well. We put in two kinds of fastbreaks to give Suzie a little bit more freedom. A lot of pick-and-rolls have been set for her and she's perfected, some-

what, the three-point shot."

On defense, Portland said the Lady Lions will feature a 2-3 zone "with some wrinkles in it" and sometimes use the 1-3-1 zone that has been successful for past teams. She said the two zones don't have any traps in them yet, which the team will need down the stretch, and will not have in time for the Hawaii trip.

Scheduled to start for Penn State against Oklahoma are: McConnell and sophomore Shelly Caplinger at the guard positions, 6-0 sophomore Tiffany Chill at forward, 6-3 senior Bethany Collins and 6-3 sophomore Adrie DeVries. Both Collins and DeVries are listed as centers and

Portland will probably use a combination of both throughout the tournament.

Other players that may see action this weekend include: junior forward Lisa Lambert, 6-3 freshman Debbie Harrison and 6-0 freshman Stefani Thomas.

Judging from the level of competition this weekend, the Lady Lions will get good experience whether they win or lose but, Portland would rather not see a goose egg in the win column.

"We could come out of this with incredible losses or we could come out with great wins," she said. "We're banking on the latter one."

Cagers

Continued from Page 8.

Even though they were down by five at the half, the Lions convincingly beat Juniata last year, 81-52. Parkhill said he doesn't think his team will be overconfident because of the 29-point margin of victory in that game.

"Sometimes that is a factor. And I think a couple of times last year that hurt us. I think it probably won't be as much a factor this year because it's our opening game and everybody's fired up for their opening game," Parkhill said.

Appleman said the team can't afford to take any opponent lightly.

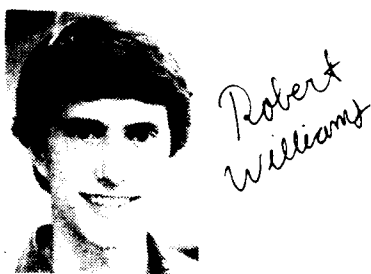
"We can't look past anybody," he said. "We're the type of team that we're either real good or real bad. There's not much in between. I think we have to be mentally ready

and I think from what happened last year (down by five at the half), we gave them a chance to think, 'Hey, we can play with these guys.'

"This year we want to show them that we just want to put them away early and just say, 'Hey look, we're going to take control and thanks for coming.'"

Thoughts on rankings and rank games

Some thoughts from this turkey before you head home to eat yours.



Robert Williams

It was surprising not seeing Penn State (8-3) in the most recent AP football poll. It seemed as though upsetting the now-10th-ranked Notre Dame Fighting Irish (8-2) Saturday would have been good enough for a reappearance in the poll, but many voting writers apparently didn't think so.

Florida Citrus Bowl officials can't be very happy about the latest poll. After the Lions downed the Irish, it appeared as though the bowl would match a Top 10 team against a Top 20 squad. But the Lions didn't move up, and Clemson dropped from No. 8 to No. 13 after

losing to South Carolina 20-7 Saturday night.

Speaking of the poll, it's interesting to see that Penn State's schedule, which many people knocked at the beginning of the season, included four teams now in the Top 20. Two of those, Syracuse and Notre Dame, are in the Top 10. Alabama is currently No. 18 and Pitt is No. 20.

Yes, the Lions did play patsies like Bowling Green and Cincinnati, but their schedule was as tough as just about anybody's. West Virginia, which Penn State came back to beat in the fourth quarter, is going to the Sun Bowl. In all there will be six Lion opponents playing in bowls.

It's nice to see Syracuse in the Sugar Bowl, with a chance, if everything goes right, to win the national title. It would be great to see the title stay in the East.

What has become of Thanksgiving Day NFL football games? Tomorrow football fans will have the chance to watch the 1-9 Kansas City Chiefs visit the 2-8 Detroit Lions.

That game will make the second game of the television doubleheader, Minnesota (6-4) at Dallas (5-5), look like the Super Bowl in comparison.

Four teams and only one of them is over .500. How appropriate it is that these teams are playing on Turkey Day. You'd probably be better watching the games before you eat — while you're stomach's empty.

It's hard not to be excited about the men's basketball team's game against Oklahoma next Tuesday. The Lions will be a big underdog, but just having the opportunity to see a nationally-ranked team of Oklahoma's caliber in Rec Hall is a treat. Yes, Temple is a national power and visits Happy Valley each year for an A-10 Conference game. But Oklahoma is a team Penn State basketball fans rarely get an opportunity to see. If you like hoops, even just a little bit, don't waste this chance.

After I watched my first Sixers game of the year, the reality that

the squad just is not that good finally hit me. Seeing the 76ers without Dr. J was like seeing the Celtics without Larry Bird. Which is exactly what happened when the two rivals matched-up last Friday. The Sixers smoked the Celtics, who were without Bird and Kevin McHale. But Bird will be back. The Doc won't. And either will the Sixers for a few seasons.

What are the Peach and Hall of Fame bowls doing playing Jan. 2? With such good games, including what could possibly be a national-championship game between Oklahoma and Miami, on New Year's Day, the two Jan. 2 bowls will be very anti-climactic.

The games could be interesting. The Peach will match up Indiana and Tennessee, while the Hall of Fame pits Michigan against the SEC runner-up. But the timing is bad.

Robert Williams is a junior majoring in Finance and Sports Editor of the Daily Collegian.

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TO: Penn State Faculty, Staff and Student Organizations
FROM: Dr. Kris Kringle, Ph.D.
DATE: North Pole Campus
November 23, 1987

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