

Grapplers at Mat Town Tourney

By MEGAN CULHANE
Collegian Sports Writer

The wrestling team will face its first real test of the season Saturday when it competes at the Mat Town U.S.A. Tournament at Lock Haven University.

"This will be our first true test of the team as a whole," Head Coach Rich Lorenzo said. "We have a couple of wrestlers out, but the other guys are working real hard and hopefully we will be able to pick up the slack."

Andy Voit (mononucleosis) and Jeff Ellis (knee) will sit out the meet.

For the past five years, Mat Town has been a traditional Penn State stomping ground — the Lions outlasted Oklahoma State in '85 and burned Iowa State in '86 — and the team hopes to extend that streak this weekend.

Both Jim Martin (second at Nationals at 118 pounds) and Dan Mayo (third at Nationals at 177) are the defending tournament champions.

After clinching the 118-pound championship for the last two years, Martin will move up a weight and wrestle at 126 while Mayo will defend his title at 177.

Ranked third in the *Amateur Wrestling News* preseason poll, Penn State boasts five wrestlers in the Top Ten. Ken Chertow and Mayo are showcased as the two top wrestlers in the country at 126 and 177, respectively. Martin and Sean Finkbeiner are fifth at 134 and 150 and Andy Voit is fourth at 190.

The '86 Mat Town Tournament was a tribute to some of the nation's best talent. Virtually every weight class was top-heavy with big names. This year will be a bit different for the Lions, however.

Because much of the squad is relatively young, the team is unproven in about five weight classes. But Lorenzo feels that with the talent he's seen in the practice room, the team should fare well. And with no Hawkeyes or Iowa State Cyclones, last year's

NCAA champs, in the competition, this year's 12-team tourney should be more evenly matched.

"We don't have an Iowa State in there this year, but Edinboro has a nice balance and Army has a tough team," Lorenzo said. "We're expecting a lot of good competition. This year should be more evenly balanced because there won't be the same calibre national champions."

"It's a great opportunity for 20 of our young men to get experience, not just the starters."

Although each team will be allowed two wrestlers in each weight class, only one will be the designated point-scoring for the team. Lorenzo's tentative lineup is as follows:

- 118 — Bob Truby, Fr. Mel Chabelski, Fr.
- 126 — Jim Martin, Jr. Chad Dubin, Soph.
- 134 — Ken Chertow, Jr. Matt Gonzalez, Soph.
- 142 — Jeff Dernaln, Fr. Tim Wittman, Fr.
- 150 — Sean Finkbeiner, Jr. Jim Huber, Soph.
- 158 — Mark Shafranich, Soph. Jason Suter, Fr.
- 167 — Duane Peoples, Jr. Dave White, Jr.
- 177 — Wally Voit, Jr. Dave White or Mike Seckler, Sr.
- 190 — Dan Mayo, Sr. Keith Nause, Soph.
- Hwt. — Marc Padwe, Fr. Jim Abbott, Soph.

At 167, Lorenzo said Peoples, who suffered a ligament sprain at the Ohio Open last weekend, is questionable. He said if Peoples can't wrestle, Seckler will probably replace him.

Junior Dave White said although the Lions may be young in some spots, they certainly aren't soft.

"We have a lot of new guys, but I think we'll still do well because the guys in there are experienced, quality wrestlers," he said. "Everyone is psyched to see how the team as a whole will do."

Lady spikers face tough test at LSU

By STEVE SAMPSELL
Collegian Sports Writer

The women's volleyball team members are not going to grandmother's house for Thanksgiving, instead they are traveling to Baton Rouge, La., to compete in the Louisiana State Open.

The Lady Lions (26-7) qualified for the NCAA Tournament this past weekend by capturing the Atlantic 10 Tournament title. First round NCAA play begins the first weekend in December, but this weekend's competition may pose a very tough test for the team.

Among the other teams in the tournament this weekend are Texas A&M, Texas-Arlington and LSU.

Head Coach Russ Rose thinks his team had a very productive weekend, on and off the court, at the A-10 Championships and he hopes his team will continue its winning ways in Louisiana on Friday and Saturday.

"I was real pleased with the performance of the seniors this past weekend. Especially Izzetta Phillips, she played real well all weekend. Everyone played real well," Rose said.

Rose thinks there are two things that could happen this weekend at LSU.

"There's a chance we could have a little letdown because we won the conference championship and the NCAA's are the following weekend," he said. "Also there's a lot of distractions down there. We're going to New Orleans. I mean this is the Sugar Bowl."

The Lady Lions want to do well, but Rose says it's also an opportunity to let the seniors have a little fun.

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— Russ Rose, head coach

The team can't afford to get too carried away though, because it will face some of the best competition it's seen all season.

The Lady Aggies of Texas A&M are 15-20 overall and finished fourth in the tough Southwestern Conference. The Lady Aggies are led by Cheri Steensma, who averages 4.05 kills per game. The other team leader for the squad is Yvonne Van Brandt. Van Brandt averages 4.08 digs per game and usually dishes up just over 11 assists per game.

Meanwhile, Texas-Arlington is ranked 14th in the most recent NCAA poll and its 30-5 record looks impressive. Southland Conference tourney MVP Ana de Oliviera (391 kills, 385 digs for the season) and junior Jackie Bennett (151 blocks) will lead this team into the weekend.

Host LSU (23-10) should also be tough. Head Coach Scott Luster's team is led by senior All-American Lisa Smith (418 kills, 175 blocks) and sophomore Monica Freitas (431 kills, 329 digs).

Victories for the Lady Lions could be very important because the seedings for the region and the first round of NCAA play are not yet set.

"If we win a couple matches this weekend and

Purdue loses two, we could very possibly switch places in the regional standings," Rose said. "If that happens we could get a first-round game at home and I don't care who we're playing, if we play them at home our chances of winning are much greater."

The Lady Lions will be led this weekend by senior All-American and A-10 Tourney MVP Lisa Leap.

"She is the best player in the league," Rose said. Phillips, junior Heidi Pilecki and freshmen JoAnn Elwell and Noelle Zientara will also be an important part of the Lady Lion attack this weekend as will Bessie Ramirez and Michelle Jaworski.

After this weekend, the team will compete in the NCAA Tournament.

"It's what you work for all season long," Rose said.

Assistant Coach Cindy Harris thinks the team will be ready for this weekend and the NCAA's.

"The girls are really playing well. If we win this weekend we could really do ourselves a favor and maybe gain a first-round game at home," Harris said. "We just have to work one step at a time now. We really want to win that first-round game."

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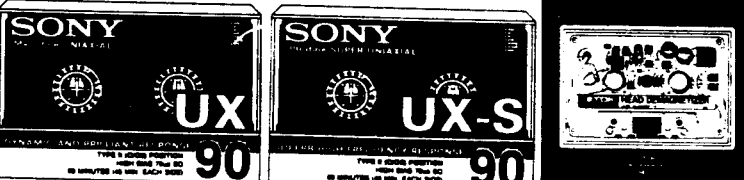
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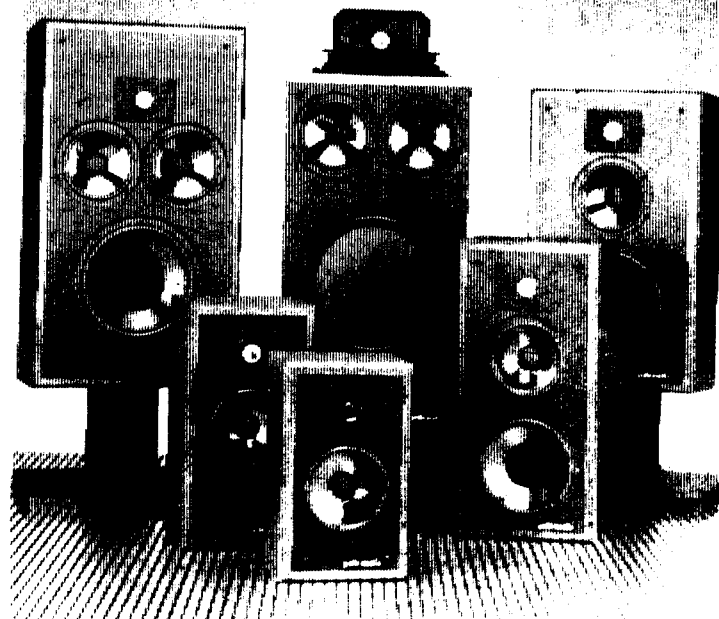


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