

PENN STATE (1-0)
Nickname: Nittany Lions
Head Coach: Bruce Parkhill (41-78)
Last Year: 15-12
Conference: Atlantic 10
Last Game: Beat Juniata, 83-32
Starters Returning: 5



Oklahoma (1-0)
Nickname: Sooners
Head Coach: Billy Tubbs (166-68)
Last Year: 24-10
Conference: Big Eight
Last Game: Beat Texas A&M, 104-80
Starters Returning: 2

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 The Daily Collegian
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Cagers host Sooners

By STEVE SAMPSELL
 Collegian Sports Writer

"It's a very important game."
 That quote from Penn State junior forward Tom Hovasse concerning the Lions' game against 18th-ranked Oklahoma tonight at Rec Hall may be a slight understatement.

The 9 p.m. contest is the biggest game for the Penn State men's basketball program in quite some time. Oklahoma has emerged as national power under seventh-year Head Coach Billy Tubbs, averaging just over 27 wins in each of the past four seasons. With that total, the Sooners trail only Georgetown, UNLV, North Carolina and Memphis State in the same time period.

The game is being televised nationally on the USA Network, so it also marks a chance for the Lions to put themselves on the map as a legitimate Division I team.

"It certainly is a game that could help us with exposure," Head Coach Bruce Parkhill said. "I'm very hopeful that we play well."

The Lions, however, are not going out just to play well.

"Some people think we're just going out just to be competitive with them and I think the whole key is knowing that we can win," sophomore forward Ed Fogell said.

"We're going to play to win."

"We all know this is one of the biggest games we'll play here and we'll be pumped up for it," Hovasse said. "We just have to play our game. We can't let them take us out of our game."

Both teams opened their seasons with victories — the Lions romped over Juniata, 83-32, and the Sooners ran past Texas A&M, 104-80.

Oklahoma's offensive production will be the key to the game for Penn State. The Lions will have to find a way to stop — or at least slow down — the Sooners run-and-gun offense.

Tubbs compares his team's offense to that of Barry Switzer's football Sooners.

"We like to run and nobody likes to pass," Tubbs said.

The Sooners lost All-Big Eight guard Tim McCalister to graduation but return two starters from last year's 24-10 team that reached the NCAA's Sweet 16. Tubbs' team had ten new faces present when pre-season practices began in Norman, Okla., this fall, but that didn't keep them from making several early-season Top 20 polls.

Why?

Because the Sooners are loaded with talent.

Five of their new faces are junior college transfers including guard Mookie Blaylock, who is expected to make immediate contributions as a starter.

But Tubbs isn't ready to give his team too much praise.

"It's pretty hard to tell how good a team we'll be," he said.

The rest of Oklahoma's starting line-up features senior point guard Ricky Grace (6-1, 172 pounds), senior forwards Harvey Grant (6-8, 200) and Dave Sieger (6-5, 207) and junior center Stacey King (6-10, 229). Off the bench, any number of players can give Tubbs quality playing time.

Even with the talent his team has and the squad's No. 18 ranking, Tubbs still is unsure about the ranking. However, he says that the Sooners do like being ranked.

Tonight's matchup

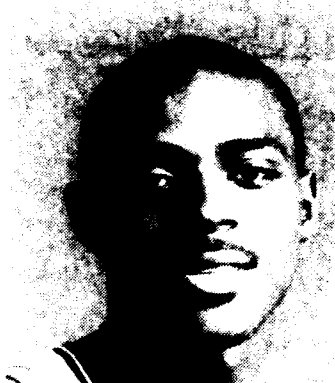
The Game: Penn State (1-0) vs. No. 18 Oklahoma (1-0)
The Time: Tipoff 9:10 p.m. at Rec Hall
Television: USA Network begins coverage at 9 p.m.
Last Meeting: The teams have met only once. Oklahoma won that game 85-63 during the 1985-86 season. The game was played in Norman, Okla., at the Lloyd Noble Center.
Keys: Penn State must slow Oklahoma's running game and play solid defense against the Sooners to be successful tonight. The Lions' frontcourt will be the key to the game — they must score points inside. The Lion backcourt needs to break the Sooner press.
 Oklahoma needs to play an up-tempo game and push the ball up the floor. They cannot allow the Lions to dictate the game's pace and get stuck in a half-court battle. If Penn State plays a zone defense, senior forward Dave Sieger needs to sink the outside jump shot for the Sooners to pull the Lions out of the zone.
Starters: Lions — Tony Ward (G), Brian Allen (G), Tom Hovasse (F), Mike Peapos (F) and Ed Fogell (C).
 Sooners — Ricky Grace (G), Mookie Blaylock (G), Dave Sieger (F), Harvey Grant (F), Stacey King (C).



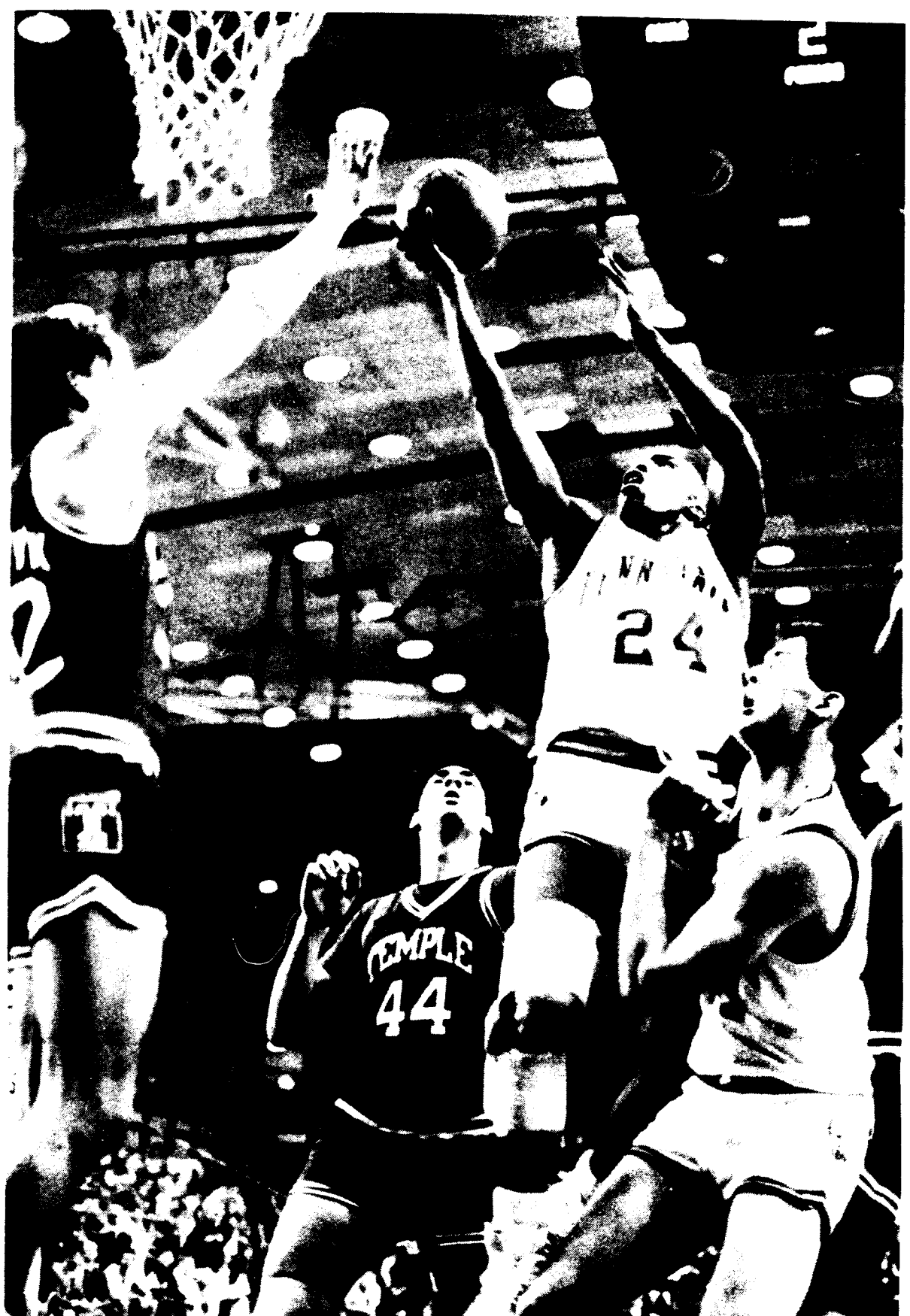
Ricky Grace



Billy Tubbs



Harvey Grant



Wes Jones drives to the hoop in the Cagers' 73-70 loss to Temple last February. Jones and the rest of the Lions hope for better things in tonight's game against Oklahoma in Rec Hall.

UNC uproots Orange for No. 1 spot; Sooners move up a notch to No. 18

By AN O'CONNELL
 AP Football Writer

North Carolina, which defeated Florida in the Orange Bowl, moved to the top spot in the Associated Press college football poll. The Sooners moved up a notch to No. 18.

Kentucky, which had been ranked No. 2, slipped to No. 3. Oklahoma moved up from No. 19 to No. 18. Florida State moved up from No. 17 to No. 16. Michigan State moved up from No. 15 to No. 14. Texas Tech moved up from No. 13 to No. 12. Auburn moved up from No. 11 to No. 10. LSU moved up from No. 9 to No. 8. South Carolina moved up from No. 7 to No. 6. Georgia Tech moved up from No. 5 to No. 4. DePaul moved up from No. 3 to No. 2. Miami moved up from No. 1 to No. 18.

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Florida, 4-0, jumped from 14th as the Gators won the Big Apple NIT. Missouri did not play a game as it remained eighth with 20 points, 18 fewer than Florida received. Arizona, which beat then No. 2 Michigan 78-44 in the semifinals of the Great Alaska Shootout, jumped from 17th to ninth and received 62 points.

Wyoming, which beat Denver 118-42 in its only game, remained 14th with 63 points.

The Second Ten in Florida. Temple, Duke, Louisville, Indiana, Kansas, Georgetown, Oklahoma, Nevada-Las Vegas and Memphis State.

The previous Second Ten was Iowa, Temple, Louisville, Florida,

Duke, Georgetown, Arizona, Georgia Tech, Oklahoma and DePaul.

Georgia Tech and DePaul were the only teams to fall from the Top Twenty. Georgia Tech lost to Florida 20-69 in the Big Apple NIT, while DePaul beat DePaul, which is playing without guard Rod Strickland, who is academically ineligible, 34-76 in overtime.

Nevada-Las Vegas and Memphis State were the newcomers to the ranks of the ranked. UNLV has not played, and Memphis State beat Washington 86-57.

Purdue fell from second to 11th after losing to Iowa State in the NIT and Kansas fell from seventh to 15th as the Jayhawks saw their record fall to 1-2.

Sooners still No. 1; Lions move to 20th

By HERSCHEL NISSENSON
 AP Football Writer

The Oklahoma Sooners and Miami Hurricanes are within one game of a national championship showdown.

Oklahoma has done its part, completing an 11-0 regular season with the No. 1 ranking in the Associated Press college football poll. The Sooners have been No. 1 in all but one poll this season. They slipped to second two weeks ago but reclaimed the top spot by defeating Nebraska on Nov. 21.

Miami remained No. 2 for the second week in a row yesterday after a solid 24-0 victory over Notre Dame, but the Hurricanes, 10-0, who meet Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl on New Year's night, have a regular-season game left against eighth-ranked South Carolina on Saturday night.

The Top Twenty teams in the Associated Press college football poll with first-place votes in parentheses based on 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Rank	Team	Points	First-Place Votes
1	Oklahoma (48)	1,055	1,099
2	Miami (16)	1,050	1,049
3	Florida State (16)	965	965
4	Syracuse (1)	914	914
5	Nebraska (1)	904	904
6	Auburn (1)	823	7
7	LSU (1)	765	6
8	South Carolina (2)	765	6
9	Michigan State (2)	635	3
10	UCLA (1)	635	11
11	Oklahoma State (1)	475	12
12	Notre Dame (1)	417	10
13	Clemson (1)	417	13
14	Georgia (1)	374	14
15	Texas A&M (2)	371	15
16	Tennessee (2)	371	16
17	Southern Cal (1)	267	17
18	Iowa (1)	250	19
19	Pitt (1)	126	20
20	Penn State (1)	82	—

Lady Cagers 2nd at Rainbow Classic

By JIM DEEGAN
 Collegian Sports Writer

For 30 minutes, the Lady Lion basketball team battled the No. 2-ranked Lady Longhorns of Texas to a stalemate in the championship game of the United Airlines Rainbow Wahine Classic in Hawaii. But a second half cold spell sank Penn State's chances of pulling off an upset, and Texas walked away with a 91-70 victory early Monday morning.

Penn State matched the Lady Longhorns in the first half behind the 17-point effort of senior center Bethany Collins, and went into the locker room facing a 46-40 deficit. With 13 minutes left in the game the Lady Lions had pulled ahead of Texas 57-56, but the Penn State surge would be stymied by the long-range bombing of Lady Longhorn Paulette Moegle. Moegle connected on four field goals just inside three-point range during a seven

minute Lady Lion sabbatical when the defense was ineffective and the offense nonexistent.

Down 60-57 with 11:41 remaining in the game, Collins — who canned a team-high 25 points — scored with a hook shot to bring Penn State within a point of Texas. The Penn State attack, however, would fall faster than a coconut from a palm tree.

The Lady Lions could manage just four free throws until Suzie McConnell drove the lane with 4:52 left to play to score Penn State's first field goal in six minutes and 49 seconds. By that time, Texas had pulled ahead for good with a 76-65 lead behind Moegle's sharpshooting and junior Clarissa Davis' domination of the boards.

"It was a heckuva game for 30 minutes," said Penn State Head Coach Rene Portland. "What hurt us was Davis coming in on the high post and Moegle's outside shooting."



Bethany Collins

Please see LADY CAGERS, Page 12.