

Lady spikers to face ND, W. Michigan

By CHRIS MARTIN
Collegian Sports Writer

Last weekend, the women's volleyball team traveled by plane to Baton Rouge to embark on a lengthy road trip. This week the buses rolled to the Midwest as the Lady Lions square off against Notre Dame and Western Michigan.

Although No. 8 Penn State (13-0) arrived in style in Louisiana, this trip is more akin to the perils of road life. The team arrived in South Bend yesterday following a 10-hour trip through America's heartland.

The fatigue is a factor that Coach Russ Rose has guarded against. The Lady Lions will practice before this evening's match against the Fighting Irish.

"It will be tough but it shouldn't affect us — we just have to play our game," outside hitter Kim Kumer said.

"It's going to be a long time sitting down, but our practice should get rid of any stiffness and soariness — they'll be ready to play," assistant coach Karin Wallenstein said.

Wallenstein, a former Indiana University assistant, knows the opponents well and expects both squads to be especially tough at home. Notre Dame (5-5) is unblemished at its site, having won three matches.

"They have good hitters. They have a setter that's young but she works the ball around real well. They're always real fired up to play at home," Wallenstein said.

Penn State is no stranger to the luck of the Irish at home. After beating Notre Dame in their last regular season match of 1988, the Lady Lions bowed out of the NCAA tournament with a four-set loss to the Fighting Irish in South Bend.

After the battle against Notre Dame, the squad heads to the Wolverine State to face Western Michigan tomorrow evening in Kalamazoo. The Broncos (1-8) have fallen on hard times this year, including a four-set loss to Notre Dame and a straight-set defeat to LSU.

The proud program is not accustomed to such a start. Coach Rob Buck and his team compiled an 18-13 record last year. The series is knotted at three following a Lady Lion straight-set victory in 1989. The Mustangs would like to get back on track this weekend in its home opener against Penn State.

"They are a team that, when they have a vendetta, plays real tough, real aggressive," Wallenstein said. "It's their first home match and they always get a lot of fans — it's going to help their team to have all that support."

Junior outside hitter Julie Young anchors a potent corps of aggressive hitters. The team captain had 66 kills in 6 matches and a team-leading 44 digs. The Broncos have three six-footers who can deliver in kill situations.

The Lady Lions do not plan to change their approach against this weekend's opponents.

"We just want to improve our own performance. If we play well things will fall in place," middle blocker Leanne Kling said.

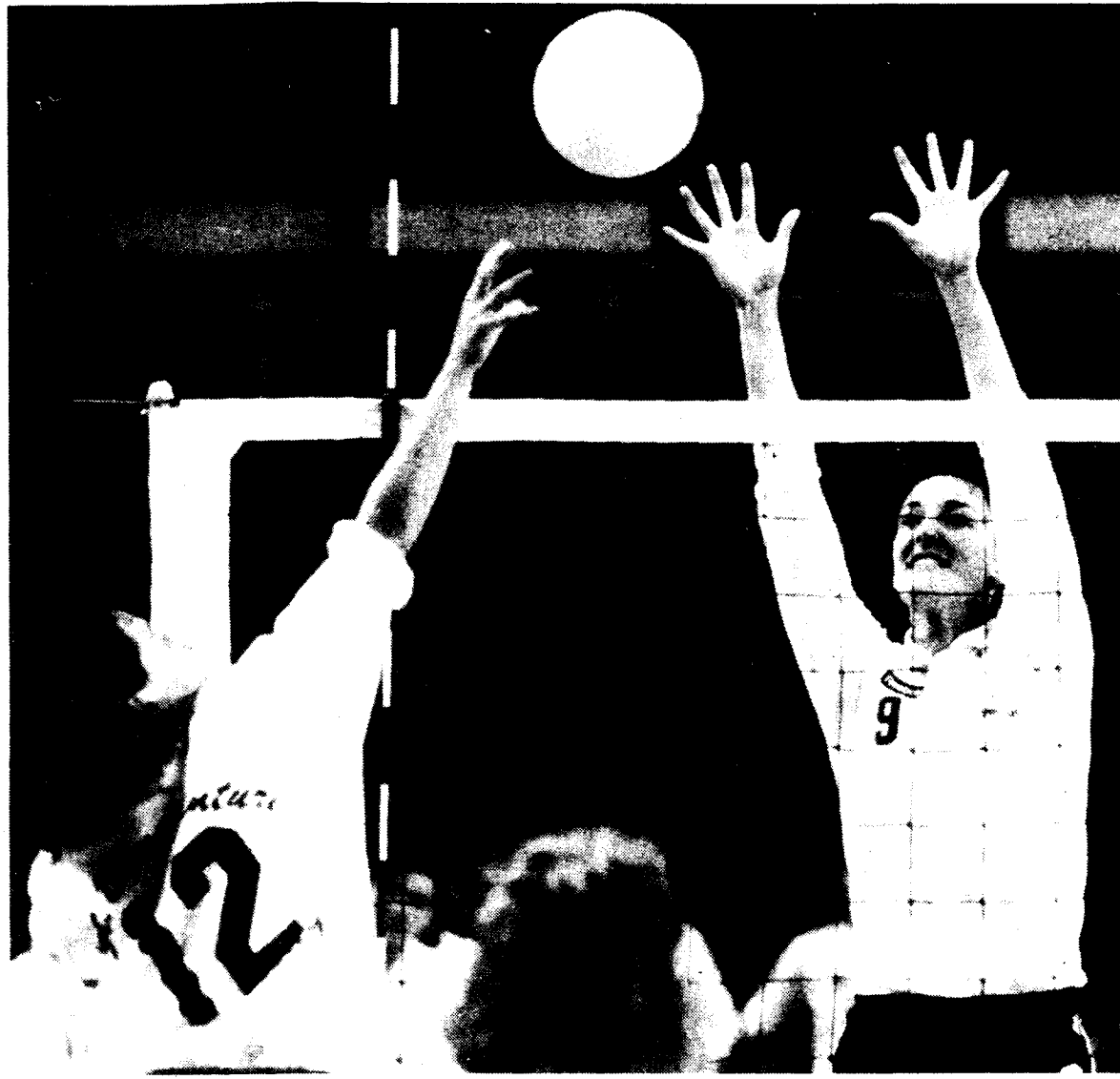
The lengthy road trip may take its toll on the squad. Several players are nursing injuries that may loom large problems as Penn State plays 13 of its next 14 matches away from Rec Hall.

"It's difficult to play every weekend on the road. We're not used to playing in big gyms like Notre Dame and Western Michigan. It's hard to play in front of a big crowd," setter Michelle Jaworski said.

Kling, who ranks 12th nationally in hitting efficiency (.471), repulsed a leg muscle Monday, but will play. Tammy Cairl has played through a sprained knee all season. Middle blocker JoAnn Elwell has been hampered by a sore ankle.

Elwell's play doesn't seem to be bothered by the setback. The MVP of the Tiger Classic last weekend, Elwell has also been selected as the Atlantic 10 co-player of the week. The senior ranks fourth nationally in hitting percentage (.608). She leads the A-10 in that category as well as blocks per game (1.48).

Penn State also sits No. 4 nationally



Jenny Schuller (9) blocks the ball during a win over St. Bonaventure earlier this month. Schuller and the No. 8 women's volleyball team continues its road swing this weekend with matches against Notre Dame and Western Michigan.

Collegian Photo/Jeff Farrar

in team hitting percentage (.406) and 16th in blocks per game (3.2).

Outside hitter Sue Boner, and back-row specialists Erika Spencer and Laura Stober will be important off the bench this weekend. The reserves have been called into critical situations this season with positive results. As the road trip continues and the injuries

mount, their duties will increase.

"It's difficult but that's part of the role — you have to keep your concentration and be ready to go in and do what you need to do," Stober said.

The victory over LSU provided a big boost for the traveling Lady Lions. Penn State rallied from a one-game deficit to beat the Lady Tigers in four.

"We needed (the game) to come back down to reality and realize that if we don't play well we can get beat," Jaworski said.

"It was nice to see that we could chip away at that lead, control our emotions on the court, and get the momentum on our side," Wallenstein said.

Netmen to play 3 frosh at tourney

By DAVID PENCEK
Collegian Sports Writer

After a three-week layoff, the men's tennis team will be in action for the next three weeks, beginning today at the West Point Invitational. The tournament will have four singles and four doubles flights.

The Lions saw much success at last year's tournament, winning five singles titles and three doubles championships. Among those winning singles titles were Scott Pickering, Dave Schoenly, and Sean Snee. Doubles winners were Schoenly and Dave Welch, Corey Goldstein and Jason Rayman and Mark Price and Mark Cavalier.

"We hope we can duplicate last year's performance," Schoenly said.

In observance of Yom Kippur, Coach Jan Bortner's team will have to do without the services of experienced players Brad Fielding, Price and Goldstein. Three freshman, Greg Gaunt, Don Grosser, and Chad Skorupka, will be making the trip to fill the void.

The lineup will have many players playing in a higher position than they are used to. Schoenly is seeded first with his doubles partner Scott Pickering seeded second. Gaunt occupies the third position, followed by Snee, Payne, Skorupka, Grosser and Mullen.

The top two doubles teams, Schoenly and Pickering and Gaunt and Skorupka have already played together this season. But the third and fourth teams of Payne and Grosser and Snee and Mullen will be paired for the first time.

With so much time between the Bloomsburg Invitational and this weekend's tournament, the team has been working harder.

"We've been working on our volleying and return of serve," Bortner said. "We've also been working on our footwork for our doubles teams."

The field of teams for the tournament is not as strong as the field the team had to face in Bloomsburg, but there will still be some stiff competition.

The best team going in appears to be

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Booters to battle pair of conference foes

By CHRIS OTTO
Collegian Sports Writer

What Coach Barry Gorman wants to see in the men's soccer team is some consistency.

Coming off last weekend's big upset of Rutgers and comeback victory against Rhode Island, the Lions have a pair of relatively easy Atlantic 10 matches this weekend.

Penn State (5-3, 3-0 in the A-10) will face St. Joseph's at 7:15 tonight at Jeffrey Field and then travel to Temple for a Sunday afternoon match with the Owls.

"This weekend is crucial for us," sophomore midfielder Steve Sergi said. "We'd like to put together several victories in a row. We haven't done that yet this year."

Penn State will be favored in both matches, and that's exactly what has Gorman worried.

"They're the kinds of games that concern you," Gorman said. "St. Joseph's hasn't been going well, but it's a big game for them, and Temple has put together some good wins recently."

"We're going to be favored, but we can't take them for granted."

St. Joseph's is 3-5, but played strong matches against a pair of teams nationally-ranked opponents. The Hawks lost to Rutgers 1-0 and dropped a 2-1 decision to Philadelphia Textile.

In goal, St. Joseph's has redshirt freshman Eric Bowman, who has experienced various degrees of success this fall.

Bowman made 19 saves in the Hawks' loss to Rutgers and made 13 more saves in earning his first collegiate shutout against Rider, but he also gave up four goals on Tuesday in a St. Joseph's loss to LaSalle.

Against Temple, the Lions will be looking to pay the Owls back for the 2-1 loss they handed Penn State at Jeffrey Field last fall.

On offense, Temple (5-2) is led by junior Itzhak Assor and freshman Chris Cotton. Pat Kivlin, the Owls' goalkeeper, had two shutouts this fall and has allowed just six goals in seven games.

For the remainder of the season, Gorman would be more than happy to see the Lions display the same kind of intensity and determination they did in beating Rutgers 3-0.

"We've got to maintain that type of play," he said. "If we can get charged up for every game like we got charged up for Rutgers, then we should do well."

Last weekend, the Penn State benefited from a diversified scoring attack that saw some of the offensive pressure lifted from senior forward Danny Kelly, who has four goals and five assists in Penn State's first eight games.

Sergi, Steve Thomas and Eric Friberg all scored their first goals of the season. Danny Gil and Thomas Agesen each tallied his second goal of the fall.

"I've felt all along that these kids are capable of scoring," Gorman said. "They can't wait for somebody else to do it. Everybody has to win the individual battles."

Sergi, who scored 60 goals during his high school career, also emphasized the importance of having many different goal scorers.

"I think a lot of times I found myself looking at Danny Kelly wondering when he was going to put us on top," Sergi said. "We have a lot of talent on this team — a lot of proven goal scorers."

"Danny Kelly is going to be our leading scorer, but we've got to help him out."

Gorman also said he was pleased with the play of two key freshmen, Gavin Reid and Chris Kelly.

"I think they have given us 150 percent," Gorman said. "These are two kids that are not afraid to make a mistake. That's a key thing in being a ball player."

"They will accept their mistakes and get on with the job. They don't let their mistakes bother them or affect their play."

On defense, a new alignment featuring Einar Dahle flanked by Friberg and Trevor Scanlon has proven to be strong thus far.

"I think moving Einar to sweeper has really been a plus for us," Gorman said. "His experience was a big factor in the win against Rutgers."

Goalkeeper Keith Engelhardt is also improving. In giving up just one goal last weekend, he lowered his goals against average to 1.30.

NOTES: Senior forward Tom Beckett continues to be sidelined by a knee injury which he suffered during the match at Seton Hall on Sept. 16. Beckett will probably remain sidelined for about two more weeks, Gorman said.



Steve Sergi (7) knocks the ball away from a Rutgers player. The Lions, 5-3 overall and 3-0 in the Atlantic 10, will play A-10 foes St. Joseph's and Temple this weekend.

No. 9 stickwomen wrap up road swing against JMU, Virginia

By KEN CAPECE
Collegian Sports Writer

The field hockey team concludes its five-game East Coast road trip with a pair of games this weekend in Virginia. The No. 9 Lady Lions (6-1) start the weekend at 1 tomorrow afternoon when they meet James Madison on the turf at JMU Stadium. On Sunday Penn State will face a tougher challenge when it battles No. 5 Virginia.

The Lady Lions come into this weekend's action on a roll. They have won their last four games, earning shutouts in two of the contests. For the season the Lady Lions have held four opponents scoreless, and have yet to allow more than two goals in any game.

Despite these stunning statistics there still might be room for improvement.

"If we want to be the best we can, we can never be satisfied with where we are," co-captain Kristen Winters said.

Against JMU tomorrow, the Lady Lions will be concentrating on refining their skills before Sunday's matchup with the Cavaliers. Penn State has won seven straight games from JMU and nine of the 10 career matchups. The Lady Lions' only loss in the series was a 2-1 overtime loss in 1982. This season doesn't look like it will change the trend in history, as JMU enters with a dismal record of 2-6-1.

Penn State's history against Virginia is similar: the Lady Lions have won eight of the nine games. This year however, they will face a powerful Cavalier



Susann Bisignano battles an Old Dominion player for control of the ball in a game earlier this year. The Lady Lions will play a pair of games on the road this weekend.

squad, which stands ahead of them in the national rankings.

"We are really excited," Winters said. "It is going to be a big weekend for us. We are looking forward to the chance to knock off Virginia."

Defensively, Virginia shows many similarities to Penn State. Goalie Heather Christian has allowed just five goals this season while making 76 saves.

She also has five shutouts.

On the attacking end Virginia has a highly talented unit. Forwards Amy Breen (4 goals, 3 assists) and Heather Goerenger (6, 1) lead this year's Cavaliers' offense.

"We will have to focus on every aspect of our game against Penn State if we are to do well," Virginia coach Jane Miller said.

Stifling defense sparks Lady Lions

By KEN CAPECE
Collegian Sports Writer

Coach Charlene Morett Newman, taking a page from Joe Paterno's winning playbook, has constructed a field hockey team that thrives on defense.

Although the offense has flexed its muscle several times this season, it has been the defense which has risen to the top on every occasion. After seven games, the ninth-ranked Lady Lions have allowed just four goals, while shutting out four of their opponents.

Much of Penn State's defensive prowess can be attributed to defenders Julie Johnston, Jill Cincera and Tracy Shilkret, as well as midfielder Stacy Gilburg and goalie Michele Brennan. This swarming defensive unit has prided itself on its speed, hustle and poise.

"We have speed defensively which most teams don't," Shilkret said. "Many defenses just blast the ball out or knock it out of bounds. We look at our defense as being part of our offense."

This interrelation of the two units was evident in one particular play earlier this season against No. 2 Old Dominion. Midway through the second half, after the Lady Lions had taken a 1-0 lead, the Lady Monarchs attempted a corner shot. Brennan knocked the shot from in front of the goal, away to the left.

Shilkret retrieved the ball in the corner and fired a quick pass downfield to forward Kristen Winters standing at midfield. With another quick pass by Winters, the Lady Lions had moved the ball deep into the ODU zone.

What is quickly becoming a Lady Lions' defensive trademark is the tenacity in which the defenders pounce on opponents entering the attacking zone.

"Our No. 1 priority is to be relentless to the ball," Brennan said. "We are told in practice not to allow the offense to come in on us."

Those who do manage to cross midfield are usually met by one or two defenders, who either knock the ball away from the attacker or intercept that player's attempted pass. As a result, Penn State has allowed just 41 shots on goal so far this season.

Last Saturday against Connecticut, a strong defensive game by Jill Cincera helped yield the Lady Huskies to just three shots on goal. They had been averaging 32 shots per game before Saturday's contest.

Morett Newman believes that it was Cincera's ability to knock the ball away from attackers as well as her poise which were key factors in the Connecticut game.

"Our best defensive games are the ones when we play with confidence, go for interceptions and take more chances in our play," Cincera said.

Some of these chances often result in brilliant defensive plays for the Lady Lions. One such example came late in the first half against ODU, as Penn State set up for a corner shot. Unfortunately for the Lady Lions, the centering pass skipped under the stick of Lynette Kidder and rolled towards midfield. Johnston, fearing an ODU breakaway, raced after the ball and knocked it away from an Lady Monarchs' player before she could head upfield.

"Defense is so much different from offense," Shilkret said. "An offense can take 40 shots and only score on three and still win the game. On defense if you make one mistake that can be the difference between a goal and no goal."

Such a mistake becomes even more critical when a team is facing a skilled opponent who survives on capitalizing on the opposition's mistakes. When such a case occurs, the goalie is the last line of defense.

Brennan is that last line of defense for the Lady Lions. She has 34 saves this season, including a season-high 17 against ODU.

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