

Netwomen produce six flight champs

By CAROL RUSH
Collegian Sports Writer

The last Penn State Invitational produced six flight champions for the women's tennis team this weekend. The singles champions were Tammy Okins-Nguyen in A flight, Ann Slocomb in B flight, Carolyn Pickering in C flight and Denise Robison in D flight. The doubles champions were Jennifer Farrington and Kristin Kovalik in B flight and Emily Hull and Robison in C and D flights. Slocomb and Andi Chiumento were second in A flight.

This was the last Invitational because of next year's Big Ten schedule.

The team spent 15½ hours competing Saturday and nine hours competing yesterday against a total of five teams: George Mason, Mercyhurst, Mount St. Mary's, Pittsburgh and Seton Hall.

"Individually, some of the players from their teams

were good players," Kovalik said.

"For the most part they were good teams but they weren't up to our level," Cathy Kissell said.

"I felt we had a very good weekend," Kovalik said. "Everybody was really determined to win their match and get off the court as soon as possible."

Kovalik explained that every Penn State player placed at the top of their individual flights.

Whiteside used the competition as a chance to let players, who are not part of the regular lineup, compete.

"It's just a great opportunity for them to show that they are good," Whiteside said. "In the long run our team will be the better for it."

Whiteside explained that the experience the rest of the team gained will be beneficial in the future.

No. 1 and 2 players Kelly Erven and Kissell stepped down to let their teammates play. Kerri Kohr did not play due to a back injury.

The rest of the lineup was moved up and Hull, Robison and Pickering were added.

Whiteside explained that every Lady Lion met a challenge because each was moved up at least two slots.

"I think everyone played really well," Chiumento said. "Our team has so much depth. I think anyone could play anywhere."

"They're that good that they can compete at a really high level," Whiteside said. "It's a great feeling to have them be able to rise to the occasion. . . . I saw a lot of good things happen with a lot of individual players."

One match that stood out was the final B flight competition. Slocomb and Kovalik competed against each other for the championship.

"Both of them raised their level of play," Whiteside said. "That was a match that you would have seen on TV."

Maryland prevails over netmen, 6-3

By NICOLE ROMDE
Collegian Sports Writer

The men's tennis team has played 11 meets in the last two weeks, the last of which a 6-3 loss to Maryland on Saturday.

"This was just not a good performance on our part," Coach Jan Bortner said.

Bortner cited three factors that made a difference in the matches: inexperience, mental toughness and the weather.

The Lions played outside after playing several matches inside; some of the players didn't adjust. Maryland was able to make the adjustment and come out ahead.

"Outside tennis is a slower more patient game. You have to work the ball harder," Bortner said. "A lot of our younger guys tried to go for a little bit too much, too early."

The only singles win for the Lions was in the No. 6 singles match. Sophomore Sean Snee beat Mark Ortiz.

Maryland swept the rest of the singles downing the Lions' top five players. Sophomore Mark Price lost 4-6, 7-6, 6-7 to Maryland's No. 1, Marco Turra. Maryland's Greg O'Connor beat senior co-captain Dave Schoenly 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

Maryland's parade continued with Jamie Ashworth defeating senior co-captain Scott Pickering, 6-4, 6-3. Jeremy Loomis surpassed No. 4 Corey Goldstein 6-2, 6-1. Freshman Greg Gaunt lost to Juan Coto, 6-3, 6-3.

"Some of our inexperience showed," Bortner said. "Some of our players didn't adjust."

Penn State won two of the three doubles matches. Price and Schoenly took on the No. 1 team of Turra and Coto. Trailing 0-3, Turra and Coto defaulted due to an injury.

Sophomore Marc Payne and Pickering combined for the Lions' other doubles win. They got the better of Maryland's No. 3 team of Ashworks and Adam Pratt, recording a 6-3, 6-4 victory.

The Lions' other doubles team, Gaunt and Chad Skorupka, lost to O'Connor and Loomis 6-4, 6-1.

Penn State will be at home on Wednesday to host Swarthmore at 3:30 at the Indoor Tennis Club. Swarthmore is the defending Division III champion, and boasts a strong returning nucleus.

"We're going to have our hands full," Bortner said. "They have the edge on depth and talent."

No. 5 spikers win Golden Dome Classic

By MICHAEL WEINREB
Collegian Sports Writer

The men's volleyball team further established itself as the team to beat in the East with a victory at the Golden Dome Classic at Rutgers-Newark on Saturday.

The No. 5 Lions (19-4) defeated the host Raiders 15-10, 15-12, 15-13, to win the tournament for the first time since 1987. Penn State beat No. 13 Ball State 16-14, 15-12, 9-15, 17-15 in the semifinals.

Senior outside hitter Jorge Perez and senior setter Scott Miller were named to the all-tournament team.

"It's a nice feeling," assistant coach Mark Pavlik said. "We never really played well in the Golden Dome (in the past)."

The Lions defeated Ball State for the third time this season, and each time it has taken four games.

"They showed streaks of playing real well," Pavlik said of the Cardinals. "We would go up by scores of 8-4 and then be tied at 8-8."

Pavlik added that the Lions ran a predictable offense, which was one of the reasons why they struggled.

No. 16 Rutgers-Newark defeated No. 19 Princeton in the other semifinal

to earn the right to take on the Lions for the title.

"We had seen them play versus Princeton and we knew that they were a good team," Pavlik said.

In the match with the Raiders, the Lions spread out their offense more evenly than in the Ball State match, he added. The key to that was Miller, who distributed the sets uniformly.

"If a hitter is not getting a set with any type of regularity . . . he is going to be cold," Pavlik said. "Scott did a real nice job of keeping all of the hitters ready."

Miller had 10 digs in the Ball State

match and Perez had 14 kills. Senior outside hitter Charlie Bertran had 17 kills, 10 digs and 3 blocks for Penn State.

Pavlik added that the Lions' defense, which deteriorated on their recent West Coast trip, was a key in the Rutgers-Newark match. On match point, 6'5" outside hitter Jeff Wentworth's hit went unblocked, but Perez managed to dig the ball, sophomore middle blocker David Muir set it, and Perez put it away to win the match.

The Lions will continue to sharpen their skills this week in preparation for Saturday's match against George Mason in Rec Hall.

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