Time running out for Icers

By FRANK FERRIOLA
Collegian Sports Writer

The attitude around the locker room over the past few days has been mutual for both the players and the coaches of the No. 2 Icers. The common feeling at the ice pavilion is simple — the preseason is over and it's time for the real season to start.

Coach Joe Battista and his army of soldiers take to the ice at 4 p.m. today at Ohio University to start their run for the American Collegiate Hockey Association's National Championship.

The tournament has been broken up into two pools with four teams in each. Penn State, which received the No. 2 seed, heads Pool "B", followed by Arizona with the No. 3 seed and Iowa State with the No. 6 seed. The fourth spot in the pool, which goes to the No. 7 seed, was to be filled late last night after preliminary games between Delaware and West Virginia, and Towson State and Arizona State.

Battista said he was content with the pool his team was placed in because the Icers have seen all of the teams, except for Arizona.

He also said he thinks the round-robin tournament will still be very difficult because in order to capture the title, the winning team must defeat four opponents in four days.

"I'm happy with the pool we were put in," Battista said.

"If West Virginia wins the preliminary and we play them first, we should have a definite advantage over them because we're familiar with them. We haven't seen Arizona, but we have common opponents that we can compare them to. Our coaching staff has also been working really hard to get scouting reports together on all of the other teams."

If the regular season carries over into the tournament, the Icers should have little trouble making it to the finals. Penn State has beaten all of the teams in its pool, besides Arizona which the Icers never faced this year, by a total margin of 36 goals to 14 goals.

The Icers are looking to get their shot on Saturday to face the defending national champions — No. 1 Ohio University, which defeated Penn State 4-0 in the finals last year.

"I think Penn State is the team to beat this year," Ohio coach Craig McCarthy said. "They seem to be a little stronger in goal, and they've improved the defensive part of their game."

The regular season is over. There is no more time for practice or honing of skills. The fate of the Icers now rests with the team and how they can perform on the ice.

"It comes down to team defense, goaltending, who makes the big plays, who gets the bounces and who stays healthy," said Battista.

Bobcats dominating in ACHA

By JIM IOVINO
Collegian Sports Writer

The American Collegiate Hockey Association would like nothing better than to see a rematch of last season's championship game between Ohio University and Penn State.

Around this time last year, the Bobcats, ranked second in the ACHA, upset the No. 1 seeded Icers by the score of 4-0 to take home the National Championship. This season, the roles are reversed, as second-ranked Penn State hopes to upset Ohio on its home ice.

The role reversals don't stop at the seedings, however.

When the two teams met in the final game a year ago, Penn State was suffering from numerous injuries to key players.

That hurt the Icers' chances of beating the Bobcats significantly. This time around, it is Ohio that has caught the injury bug. Several players have received leg and shoulder injuries that will keep them out for the rest of the season.

"I think we're overrated," Ohio coach Craig McCarthy said of his team's No. 1 ranking. "I think we have a solid team but there's room for improvement."

Before the Bobcats start thinking about a possible rematch against Penn State for the title on Saturday, they have to concentrate on getting out of their own bracket first.

Ohio heads up Pool "A", which also includes No. 4 seed Eastern Michigan (24-12-0) and No. 5 seed Michigan-Dearborn (20-15-2). Those two squads are responsible for Ohio's only two losses of the season.

"We're in a real tough bracket," McCarthy said. "It's going to be a difficult task."

Despite their tough opposition in the early rounds of the tournament, Icer coach Joe Battista still thinks Ohio is the team to beat. "Ohio University is definitely the favorite because they're the defending National Champions," he said.

One thing the Bobcats can look forward to is home ice advantage. With the tournament being played in their own Bird Arena, Ohio hopes a little home cooking will help them return to the finals.

"(Ohio) has only lost one game at home in two years," Battista said. "It's going to be tough to beat them in their home rink."

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HELP WANTED. PA co-ed children's overnight camp seeks staff. Swim, sports, and general. Call (610) 941-0128 for an application to schedule local interview to be held March 14-15 or write Mark Glaser, 16 Gum Tree Lane, Lafayette Hill, PA, 19444.

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PAID PARTICIPANTS NEEDED- Bi-racial students of Asian/White and Black/White backgrounds needed for study on racial identification. Must be 18 or over. Participants asked to take part in interviews and will be compensated. Please contact Sang Chi at 235-9205 or jsc137@psu.edu.

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RECREATION SERVICES WORKERS- for the spring and/or summer. Duties include working with the public, clerical activities, boat rental attendant, motorboat operation, boating equipment maintenance and repair, grounds and building maintenance and regulations enforcement. To apply, send resume and references by 3/8/96 to: Stone Valley Recreation Area, 110 Housing and Foods Building, University Park, PA 16802-1006.

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THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE University Department of University Safety Student Auxilliary is now accepting applications for immediate employment for Spring semester. Wages start at $5.35 per hour and up to $6.95 per hour. All majors welcome. Undergraduates and graduate students. Full-time students only. Must be able to work for 2 semesters. Applications available at Police Services in Eisenhower Parking Deck. For more information call 865-3932.

TRAVEL ABROAD AND work- make up to $25-45/hr. teaching basic conversational English in Japan, Taiwan, or S. Korea. No teaching background or Asian languages required. For information call: (206)971-3570 ext. J52513.

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Today's HOROSCOPES

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1996:
Options pop up left and right, and sometimes you wish you didn't have so many choices. Examine things with an eye toward your long-term desires because this year is the time to make them happen. You have unusual energy and drive, and your charisma is high as well. If you are single, you are the cat's meow. Romance is present. If attached, work on an important project together; it will bring you closer together. CANCER pushes your buttons.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 6-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2- So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Be more settled about choices involving a family member. You have many positive alternatives. Your career is demanding; think through a decision with great care. You also may want to consider setting up a second office. Tonight: It's your turn to make dinner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You hear news that may encourage a change of plans. Be ready to be flexible, because so much is likely to turn up on your plate. Discussions have a positive outcome, so you feel good. Maintain a high profile, and zoom in on what you want. Tonight: Be out and about.

GEMINI (May 21 June 20)
★★★★ Your sense of direction is important regarding finances. A partner makes an offer that you can hardly believe. Open up to what is possible, and don't question a bit of good luck. A boss favors your work and is excited by what you are doing. Tonight: Balance your budget.

CANCER (June 21 July 22)
★★★★★ Listen carefully to information that comes your way. Take a leap of faith, and go for something you strongly desire. Stay detached and on top of problems. Consider traveling or an educational opportunity. Doors are opening. Tonight: Go for what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Be honest about what is going on with you. Stop and examine things before you leap into action. Work provides an opportunity that is long overdue. A partner expresses his concerns in a positive and dynamic manner. Tonight: Vanish.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Listen to a friend who is a fountain of knowledge. Do not deny what is obvious when exploring an option. You are on a winning path and need to stay in touch with what is positive. You are direct and know what you want. Tonight: Go out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Handle responsibilities in your usual gracious style. There may be no stopping you right now. An offer from a close associate may be too good to decline. Review what you want, and make plans to make it so. Tonight: Enjoy another late night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Seek new information. When your life seems to lack organization or direction, realize you might be on overload. Know what you want. Discussions are important in reaching a community decision. A travel possibility arises. Tonight: Go where the music is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ One-to-one relating helps you make decisions. A financial possibility is exciting, but don't spend before you have the money. A partner supports you in an intriguing venture. High energy surrounds an investment. You cannot be too centered. Tonight: Make love, not war.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You have so many options that you might not be ready to make a choice. Give yourself permission not to make decisions and simply relish the moment. You will have a ball, no matter what you do. Be open to the unexpected. Tonight: Have fun out on the town.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your creativity opens you to new levels. Take unprecedented risks, and make choices that feel right to you. Your intuition is right on; honor it, and follow through. A friend gives you wonderful advice; do not hesitate to run with it. Tonight: Get errands done.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Let your creativity open doors for you. Success is yours right now if you go down the right path. A friend is there for you and makes a big difference as you make your choices. Use your creativity, and answers will come. Romance flourishes. Tonight: Be frisky.

BORN TODAY
Racing car great Mario Andretti (1940), actress Bernadette Peters (1944), dancer-director Tommy Tune (1939).