

Sidelines

A brief look at the world of sports

Scores

NHL

Montreal 4, Dallas 1
Chicago 8, Florida 4

NBA

Detroit 100, L.A. Clippers 90
Sacramento 92, Vancouver 88

Schedules

NHL

Vancouver at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.

NBA

Phoenix at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Orlando at Denver, 8 p.m.
Portland at LA Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Women's Top 25

The final Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. La. Tech(35)	28-1	994	1...
2. UConn(2)	30-3	945	2...
3. Stanford(1)	25-2	912	3...
4. Tennessee	26-4	882	4...
5. Georgia(1)	23-4	854	5...
6. Old Dom.	27-2	780	6...
7. Iowa	25-3	742	8...
8. Penn St.	25-6	716	9...
9. Tex. Tech	24-4	651	7...
10. Alabama	22-7	617	10...
11. Virginia	23-6	540	11...
12. Vanderbilt	20-7	538	12...
13. Duke	25-6	500	13...
14. Clemson	22-7	470	15...
15. Purdue	20-10	451	14...
16. Florida	21-8	416	16...
17. Colorado	25-8	319	19...
18. Wisconsin	20-7	290	17...
19. Auburn	20-8	284	18...
20. Kansas	20-9	207	20...
21. Notre Dame	22-7	172	22...
22. Oregon St.	19-8	161	21...
23. N.C. St.	19-9	140	23...
24. Mississippi	18-10	123	24...
25. Texas A&M	20-11	51	—

Others receiving votes: Colorado St. 50, Texas 37, Stephen F. Austin 32, George Washington 29, Montana 27, DePaul 22, SW Missouri St. 15, Northwestern 6, Toledo 5, LSU 4, Arkansas 3, Austin Peay 3, Memphis 3, Ohio St. 3, Oklahoma St. 2, Grambling St. 1, Hawaii 1, Middle Tenn. 1, Tulane 1.

In Brief

Linksters take fifth in S.C. tournament

The Penn State men's golf team earned a fifth-place finish at the Ben Hogan-Fripp Island Men's Intercollegiate at Ocean Creek golf course in South Carolina last weekend.

The Lions' top finisher was Dirk Ayers, whose final total of 229 was 15 shots off the pace of champion Brian Kassel of Southern Cal-Aiken, which also took the team title.

Mahoney out as Red Storm coach

NEW YORK — Brian Mahoney was fired as coach of St. John's on Monday, less than a week after the Red Storm finished its worst season in 33 years.

St. John's was 11-16 and completed the season with an 80-72 loss to Providence in the first round of the Big East tournament last Wednesday night.

Quote of the day

"I'm from the old school. Today's players worry about statistics, but the only statistic that matters is winning, and I wish I could convince the modern-day ballplayer of that."

Don Nelson

recently fired Knicks coach on his ability to relate to today's player

Compiled from Collegian staff and wire reports.

Lions set for hog wild opener

Even with years of NCAA tournament experience, Arkansas fields a youthful unit against the older Lions.

By MICHAEL SIGNORA
Collegian Sports Writer

Finding a No. 12 seed with a richer post-season tradition than the Arkansas Razorbacks would be an almost impossible endeavor.

Under the direction of coach Nolan Richardson, the Hogs, Penn State's opponent in the opening round of the NCAA tournament Thursday in Providence, R.I., enter the field of 64 with one of the most successful hoops programs in college basketball.

"Arkansas has a confidence about them as a team that stems from Nolan," Tennessee

coach Kevin O'Neill said. "They believe they're going to kick your butt."

But unlike years past, this Razorback squad (18-12) is not expected to romp through the brackets, steamrolling toward the Final Four.

In 1994, Arkansas captured the national championship by defeating Duke in a thrilling final. Last season, only UCLA stood in the way of a pig repeat as the Razorbacks fell to the Bruins in the title game.

But with the overwhelming majority of players from those outstanding teams since departed, Richardson guides a group of young guns into tournament action.

"I'm happy to have the opportunity to go back to the NCAA tournament," he said. "This is like winning the national championship for me."

After losing three consecutive games late in the season, Arkansas was very much on the bubble. But a win against LSU followed



thing but the opponent we have to face and the task at hand," he said. "This isn't going to be any different and right now the only thing I can see is red."

Penn State and Arkansas have played two common opponents this year — Tennessee and Michigan State.

The Razorbacks fell to the Spartans 75-72 on Nov. 28 and succumbed to the Volunteers 66-59 on Feb. 21. The Lions won in Tennessee, 69-57, on Dec. 2 and split the season series with Michigan State.

But any game played during the early season tends to be forgotten with March Madness in the air.

And though Arkansas lacks the veteran leadership that many consider integral to advancement in the Big Dance, O'Neill is not counting the Razorbacks out.

"They're going to play hard," he said, "and they're a team that will believe they can win the game."

Villanova Heels laxers' spring ills

By DON WAGNER
Collegian Sports Writer

For three quarters last Wednesday the men's lacrosse team hung with national powerhouse North Carolina. Every time the Tar Heels scored the Lions were able to answer and keep the game close. Unfortunately for the Lions a lacrosse game has four quarters.

In that fourth and final period the Tar Heels (4-0) pulled away for an 18-9 victory, but the Tar Heels didn't just walk over the Lions (3-1).

"This was not a typical 18-9 game," Lion head coach Glenn Thiel said. "It was a much closer game than the score shows."

North Carolina jumped on the board first just over two minutes into the game when Mark Phillips put the Tar Heels up 1-0. But the Lions quickly answered when Tim Eldridge found the net to knot the score at 1-1.

About two minutes later, with a man advantage, the Lions gained their first lead of the day on a Chris Killoren goal. Even though a penalty helped Penn State gain its only lead of the day, in the end it was penalties that hurt the Lions.

Thiel saw his team penalized 13 times for 11 minutes. "Penalties really hurt us because it led to us not having the ball enough," he said. He used the second quarter to illustrate his point, when the Lions had five penalties and only two shots. North Carolina used these extra man advantages to the fullest by scoring five times when they had the man advantage.

Lion team captain Rob Warren echoed Thiel's sentiments and said maybe the Lions were a little too fired up. "We came out aggressive, maybe too aggressive," he said. "We didn't control our penalties and you can't win a game when

you're down a man all the time."

Still the Lions kept the game close. But when the Tar Heels tied the score at 2-2 six minutes into the first quarter and then scored four straight goals to go up 6-2 things looked grim. But the Lions again battled back on goals by Andy Leedom and Chris Killoren to get within two goals, 6-4, as the first quarter.

Compared to a second quarter that saw North Carolina score twice to gain an 8-4 advantage, the third quarter was a shoot-out. The two teams traded goals as Lion attackmen John Chescavage and Greg Jackson each scored twice and Jason Rickel added one goal. By the time the dust had settled and the quarter was over the Tar Heels had increased their lead to 15-9.

Then in the fourth quarter North Carolina pulled away with four unanswered goals to beat the Lions. Even though the Lions lost, Warren was upbeat about the team's performance against what is one of the best lacrosse teams in the nation. "We had a lot of questions going into the game," he said. "We answered them and proved we are a very good lacrosse team."

But they were not done yet. One game remained in the spring break part of the Lions' schedule. Facing Villanova, Thiel was concerned because his team hadn't practiced on the two days prior to the game.

But the Lions came out firing and showed practice or no practice, they were ready by blasting the Wildcats 16-3. Rickel scored three goals while Warren and Killoren added two goals each.

When it was all said and done Thiel was glad his team was able to finish its spring break on a positive note. "I am glad we can play that well at the end of eight days," he said.



Collegian Photo/Aaron Bandell

Penn State's Dave King, left, tries to avoid being thrashed by Ithaca's Gary Mazza during the Lion Invitational this fall. The Lions split a pair of games over break to raise their record to 3-1.

Spikers build momentum

By CHAD WASHINGTON
Collegian Sports Writer

All season long, the Penn State men's volleyball team was looking for that one big match, that one big win, that one big momentum builder to get its young team at a dominating pace.

Last weekend, they got it. But maintaining it will be a tough task.

The Lions (11-4, 3-0 EIVA) may have found the one ingredient they needed when they pulled out a huge first-place victory at the Hall of Fame Classic in Springfield, Mass. But only head coach Mark Pavlik and assistant coach Greg Burd knew what it was.

"We were in a situation where two to three weeks before that weekend, where both Greg and I felt that we were getting better," Pavlik said. "But I don't think that the team saw it. And that was the single biggest benefit. The team saw us get better."

The Lions also grabbed that bit of momentum as they prepare for the stretch run in the Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association race, where they hold the top spot in the Tait Division. The push to the top of the EIVA could be led by the new young talent inserted into the lineup this season, like sophomore middle blocker Sergio Pampena and freshman setter Justin Otto.

In the championship match last Saturday, the No. 11 Lions played against No. 9 Ball State, a team that has given Penn State a lot of trouble in two matchups this year. Before this meeting, the Lions did

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Collegian Photo/Kim Garrahan

Penn State's Sergio Pampena spikes the ball against Ohio State earlier this season. Pampena cracked the nation's top 20 in hitting percentage.

Trackmen bounce back at invitational

By TEHERAN BARLOW
Collegian Sports Writer

Don't call it a comeback...

That's what the men's track team may have been thinking after its performance at the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America meet. After its disappointing tenth-place finish at the Big Ten Indoor Championships, the Lions closed out their indoor season by taking fifth out of 103 teams at the IC4As at Harvard, March 3 and 4.

Leading after the first day of competition, Penn State finished in a satisfying position.

"It's just a notch under nationals as far as quality of competition, so fifth is a really good place in it," coach Harry Groves said.

One of the more impressive performances for Penn State came from sophomore James Cook who tallied 3,899 points, good for second in the pentathlon.

"That's his best effort by far," said Groves. "Competitively speaking, he nailed it all the way through."

Penn State also got a good performance from its two-mile relay team which won the event with a time of 7:33.32. The winning time is the fastest so far in the world this year. Groves said

they outdistanced the competition by about 30 yards.

"We're happy as heck with that," he said. "The relay was certainly the high point of the meet for us."

Joe Loner, who ran the anchor leg on the winning two-mile relay team, had something else to celebrate. He also finished fifth in the 800 meters with a time of 1:50.44.

"I wasn't happy with my place, but I was happy with my time," he said. "It was my fastest time this year."

One Nittany Lion who wasn't happy with his performance at the IC4As was long jumper Stephen Pina who finished fifth behind teammate John Gorham.

"I'm not making any excuses. Overall, I just jumped bad," Pina said. "I just chalk it up as experience."

Last weekend, Pina was the only member of the men's track team to compete at the NCAA Championships at Indianapolis March 8-9. And although his 24'-1" mark at nationals was good enough for twelfth place, it is still over a foot less than his personal best this season. Pina now looks toward Penn State's outdoor season as an opportunity to regain his old form.

"It was a real disappointment for me," he said. "I'm just going to work ten times harder."