THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

SPORTS

FRIDAY, JAN. 22, 2010 | 9



Rvan Ulsh/Collegian

Coach Cael Sanderson (right) instructs Jake Kemerer (top) in practice Oct. 1.

Illinois to test Lions

By Ryan Loy COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Cael Sanderson has experienced a lot in State, I don't know. collegiate wrestling, but tonight will be a first for him.

The Penn State wrestling team begins a WRESTLING new chapter in Sanderson's first year as

coach as it competes in its first Big Ten dual meet of the season.

The No. 13 Nittany Lions (8-3-1) host No. 19 Illinois (5-3) at 7 tonight in Rec Hall the Lions' first home dual meet in two months.

It will be the Lions' first test in a conference that has eight teams in the NWCA/USA Today Division I Team Coaches Poll. Senior 184-pounder David Erwin knows each match will be difficult with the large amount of talent in the conference.

'The Big Ten is just a tough all-around conference." Erwin said. "So Big Ten duals are always tight matches. It's a brawl."

Sanderson believes the home fans will see overall progress from the last time they saw the Lions compete. He hopes to see a team that's better prepared and takes a little more attitude onto the mat.

The Lions' coach won't be the only one looking for his first conference win in tonight's dual. Illinois' Jim Heffernan is in his first season as head coach after being an assistant for the Fighting Illini the previous 17 years.

Heffernan has been a witness to the Illini's dominance of Penn State in the past. Illinois has won the last nine dual meets watching and being involved and being between the two schools, but Heffernan excited in watching two Big Ten teams isn't sure there's any secret to his team's compete." success

"Most years, we're really a pretty solid

dual-meet team," Heffernan said. "We've always had really good balance. How that translates into our success with Penn

Illinois is coming off a 33-9 loss to Sanderson's former team, No. 2 Iowa State. The Illini have been struggling with injuries this season, but Heffernan isn't using them as an excuse. He said injuries are part of the sport, and they're in the same boat as everyone else.

The dual features an abundance of talent with 11 total ranked wrestlers, six being Lions.

Heffernan believes a key matchup will be the bout at 184 featuring No. 2 John Dergo of Illinois and Erwin.

The Lion senior, ranked No. 12 at 184, knows he must stick to his game plan to remain successful.

"It's going to be a tough match," Erwin said. "I just gotta go out there and wrestle my match. Wrestle to win."

Though he'll be at home. Erwin won't rely on the crowd to help him.

He said dual meets don't always go as planned, and the energy in the building can shift depending on which team has momentum.

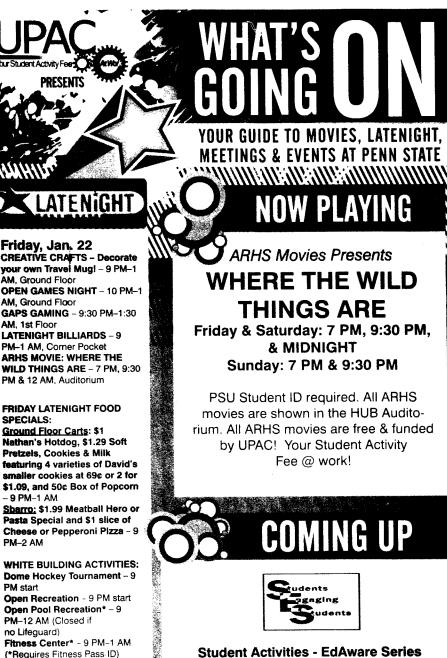
No matter what happens during the dual, Heffernan expects the Penn State crowd to be active and provide a great environment for wrestling. He welcomes a big crowd and doesn't expect it to intimidate his team.

"[The Penn State crowd] is very knowledgeable and they appreciate wrestling," Heffernan said.

We want a lot of people in the gym

To e-mail reporter: rml5138@psu.edu





PM start

Saturday, Jan. 23 SWING DANCE - 10 PM-1 AM, Alumni Hall (Sponsored by Swing Dancing Club) **CREATIVE CRAFTS – Decorate** your own Travel Mug! - 9 PM-1 AM. Ground Floor CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE 2 VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT- Prizes for winners!- 10 PM. Ground Floor (Sponored by Minor League Gaming)

OPEN GAMES NIGHT - 10 PM-1 AM, Ground Floor LATENIGHT BILLIARDS 9 PM-1 AM. Corner Pocket ARHS MOVIE: WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE- 7 PM, 9:30 PM & 12 AM. Auditorium

SATURDAY LATENIGHT FOOD SPECIALS: Ground Floor Carts: \$1.99 Fruit Smoothies, \$1.29 Soft Pretzels, Cookies & Milk featuring 4 varieties of David's smaller cookies at 69c or 2 for \$1.09. and 50c Box of Popcorn – 9 PM-1 AM Nathan's: 59c Mini-Hamburger, 99¢ Nachos, \$1 Nathan's Hotdog, and 5 Kenny Rogers Roasters Wings for 1.99 - 9 PM-2 /

Student Activities - EdAware Series Post Graduate Service Opportunities

Jan. 26 11 AM - 2 PM, First Floor HUB Not sure what you're doing after graduation? If you are looking for a job, looking for some

experience, or looking for a way to serve, check out the tables on the first floor of the HUB during lunch on Jan. 26. Representatives from a variety of service organizations

like Americorps, Peace Corps, City Year. Teach for America, Habitat for Humanity,

Hillel, and others will be available to share more information and answer questions about serving with their organizations upon graduating. Most positions compensate you

and provide you benefits in various different ways, as well as giving you the chance to gain experience and serve others. For more information please e-mail: servicelearning@sa.psu.edu

THON BLOOD DRIVES Partial Schedule now through Jan. 29

Setter Edgardo Goas (7) helps block a George Mason attacker last season. Now a sophomore, Goas is becoming a leader on the men's volleyball team.

Goas showing poise in sophomore season

ON THE

BLOG

By Emily Kaplan COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

In a routine drill at practice Wednesday night, Edgardo Goas jumped up just inches from the net and solo blocked Jason Ambrose's kill attempt.

As Goas' teammates came in to congratulate him, the redshirt sophomore grinned, raised his arm, pointed to the spot

where he made the block and shrugged as if to say, "It was just that easy."

Many things are coming easy these days for the San Juan, Puerto Rico, native. In his second season as the Nittany Lions' starting setter, Goas is showing composure and energy on the court, pacing No. 6 Penn State to a 3-1 start.

"I don't think he's ever suffered from a lack of confidence," coach Mark Pavlik said as his team prepares to face Springfield College in its second conference game of the year. "Gardo's a pretty sure guy, and I think that's a pretty good trait to have.'

It's especially good for the Lions, who graduated two-time first-team All-American Max Holt and the dependable Ryan Sweitzer from their 27-4 campaign, in which they did not lose a single set to an EIVA opponent.

Now, Penn State has two freshmen in the starting lineup — Tom Comfort and Ian Hendries - and Goas has adopted more of an outgoing leadership role.

"I think that he recognizes that, with Max and Sweitzer graduating, the people on the court who the younger guys are looking up to now includes him," senior captain Will Price said.

To adjust to the needs of the new-look Lions, Goas has made a concerted effort in the practice gym. Every day as the players casually stroll into Rec Hall's South Gym

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The Collegian volleyball reporters provide a scouting report for this weekend's match against Springfield on Above the Net: psucollegian.com

20 minutes before their 3 p.m. practice some tossing around a football, others discussing their classes — Goas is already hard at work.

The redshirt sophomore and fellow setter Tor Covello do a daily pre-practice repetition drill with new assistant coach Jav Hosack. Pavlik said Hosack is working on getting Goas' hands higher and the ball out of his hands quicker.

He's worked on some technical stuff with Jay, but I don't know if he's technically better," Price said. "But his decision making is definitely improving. He's becoming a more mature player, a more confident player.'

Part of that can be attributed to Goas' ongoing transition to the American lifestyle. When he first came to the team, Goas - a native Spanish speaker who left San Juan only three years ago when he came to Penn State — would often talk to fellow countryman Dennis Del Valle in their native language. Goas' teammates agree that his English has improved, and the difference can be heard on the court where Goas has become much more vocal. "He's a lot more talkative now," Price

said, "which we need in a setter." Goas said he too recognizes his improve-

ments. And the confident leader is proud of his progress.

We have so many differences from last year, so I definitely feel like I have to step up my game more," he said. "And so far I feel like I'm doing that.'

To e-mail reporter: exk5049@psu.edu

WHITE BUILDING ACTIVITIES: Noveity Night: The Edge Obstacle Course, Slam & Jam, and Make your own Bobblehead - 9 PM- 1 AM T-shirt giveaways - 9 PM while supplies last Dome Hockey Tournament - 9 PM start Open Recreation - 9 PM start

Open Pool Recreation* – 9 M-12 AM (Closed if no Lifeguard) Fitness Center* - 9 PM-1 AM (*Requires Fitness Pass/ID)

Sunday, January 17 ARHS MOVIE: WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE- 7 PM & 9:30 PM, Auditorium

PSU-UPark Student ID required at most events. All events are in the HUB-Robeson Center unless noted otherwise. www.latenight.psu.edu Check out Union St. and get a great deal on late night food on Friday and Saturday nights!

Fresh START 2010 **Day of Service**

Team Leader Applications available Today through Jan. 25

209 HUB-Robeson Center Want to get involved in leadership and service at Penn State? Then pick up a 2010 Fresh START Team Leader Application in 209 HUB. Join Penn State's largest day of service for First Year students. Get rooted in service! For more information, please stop by 209 HUB or e-mail Mike at mbc5043@psu.edu



For complete schedule or to make an appointment or to donate visit psuredcross.org

During our THON period, the American Red Cross will make a \$4 donation to the Four Diamonds Fund in honor of each presenting donor. This donation can be credited to any THON-registered student organization's

THON total. Student organizations are encouraged to sponsor a THON blood drive. All donations not designated at the end of the drive are credited to the sponsoring organizations.

Jan. 26	9 AM - 1 PM	Research Bldg B, Hastings Rd.
Jan. 26	1 PM - 7 PM	Redifer Commons, South Halls
Jan. 27	1 PM - 7 PM	Waring Commons, West Halls
Jan. 28	10 AM - 4 PM	7 Sparks Building
Jan. 28	1 PM - 7 PM	Brill Hall, Eastview Terrace
Jan. 29	12 PM - 6 PM	Pollock Rec Rm, Pollock Halls

University Park Allocation Committee (UPAC
2010-2011 APPLICATIONS
AVAILABLE

Are you interested in getting involved on campus? Want to have a say in how your student activity fee is spent? UPAC is a university-appointed committee responsible for allocating over \$3,000,000.00 of your student activity fee. Applications for the 2010-2011 Academic Year are now available. UPAC representatives will be hosting an information table on Tuesday. Jan. 19 and Wednesday, Jan. 20 on the first floor of the HUB-Robeson Center from 10 AM - 3 PM. You may also pick up an application in 229 HUB-Robeson Center or download one from our website: www.upac.psu.edu



Does your organization have a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly meeting? Or do you have a special event coming up? Would you like to get the word out to the students? Stop by the UPAC office located in 229 HUB-Robeson and pick up a form, fill it out and return it to the UPAC office as early as possible but no later than the week before the event. We will be happy to publish your information in our weekly meeting section. The Meeting List is published each Monday in the What's Going ON page. Events are published Mondays and Fridays! This service is free and provided by UPAC! Your Student Activity Fee at Work!