

WNIT

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And one of the main reasons why Washington came to this understanding is because of Hofstra's freshman Shante Evans. "She's kind of like Star Allen that played at Ohio State last year," Washington said of the 6-foot forward. "Maybe an under-sized post player, but she makes up for what she lacks in size with aggressiveness and with physical on the block."

The Lions hope some of the time they had off after the Big Ten tournament will allow them to feel rested enough to be as physical as the Pride. While Bentley said the rest was nice for her physically, mentally she is hungry to play in her first postseason collegiate tournament.

"It helps you to get hype and get ready for tournament time," Bentley said of the time off. "But being away from basketball you know, you miss it. So I'm ready to go."

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Pitchers

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don't improve, especially when it comes to walking guys."

Wine said control usually comes as pitchers throw more innings.

Also, the emergence of three freshmen — Neal Herring, Steven Hill and John Watter — during last week's Texas road trip will help take some of the pressure off some pitchers.

"Before the first game we didn't feel like our pitching staff was

"The point of the spring trip was just to find out what we had."

Robble Wine
baseball manager

going to be deep at all," Herring said, "but coming out of the first few games we feel more comfortable with our depth. We'll be a lot better than we originally expected to be."

While Wine wasn't surprised by the early season performances of any of the three freshmen, he said he didn't expect all three

to pitch with such poise in tough situations.

"The point of the spring trip was just to find out what we had," Wine said, "and going into this weekend, I know we have a pretty good starting rotation and some depth out in the bullpen."

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Modglin

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double All-American honors at last year's NCAA Championships in the 100 and 200 backstroke.

Modglin will also be in the pool with Florida's Gemma Spofforth, who competed in the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics for Great Britain. The senior was the 2009

SEC Female Swimmer of the Year and an 18-time All-American selection.

Despite having the daunting challenge of dethroning the sport's best, Modglin isn't intimidated. In fact, she's more excited, the freshman said.

Modglin's roommate and fellow freshman, Paige Whitmire, has faith her teammate will be able to handle the pressure.

"She gets nervous because she really cares about her swimming."

Paige Whitmire
freshman swimmer

Whitmire has seen Modglin step up all year and lead the team even as a freshman, she said.

"She gets nervous because she really cares about her swimming,"

Whitmire said. "But she realizes that if she lets her nerves get to her, she's not gonna swim her best."

Modglin will have to keep her

nervous energy under control. But if she keeps doing what she's been doing all season, the freshman phenom should be just fine.

"It's really awesome," Modglin said. "NCAAs is one of the fastest meets in the world. It's gonna be fun just to watch records being broken."

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Pataky

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Pataky was disappointed in his 2-2 record at the tournament, but at this point in the season, the red-shirt junior said not much technique can change. What he hopes will change is the outcome of this weekend's NCAA championship.

The Lion has shown glimpses of responding to losses before.

The last time the 125-pounder lost before the Big Ten championship, he responded with a five-match winning streak to finish out the regular season.

And after Virginia Tech's Jarrod Garnett pinned him in the Nittany Lion Open final, Brad Pataky secluded himself behind the Rec Hall bleachers. With his

head down and tears welling, the redshirt junior's eyes told passersby how things would be different the second time around. About a month later, Pataky beat Garnett by decision.

"When he doesn't do well, he comes back a lot stronger," Randy Pataky said. "He's going to be really ready to go."

Penn State coach Cael Sanderson also noted Brad Pataky's aggressive attitude. On last Wednesday's radio show, he cautioned the 125-pounder in taking too many risks but wanted the



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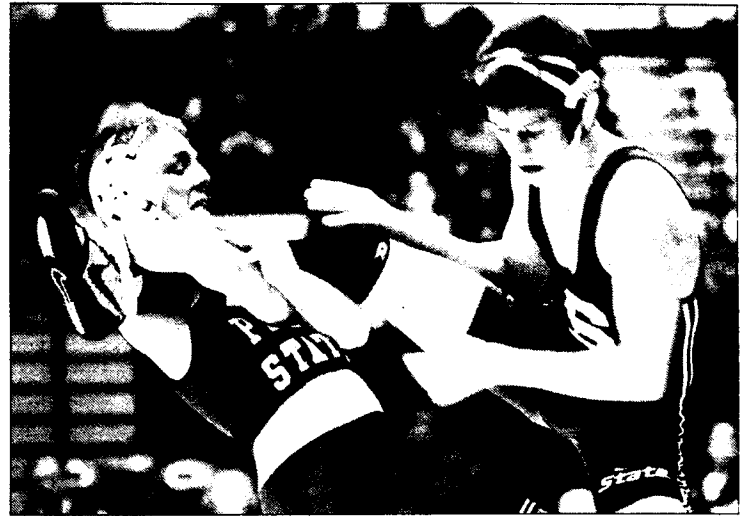
redshirt junior's notable mentality on display this weekend.

The tough little kid, as Randy Pataky called his son, will try to take down top-notch competition this weekend — though this time around, he'll look for his bruises to be the stigma attached with an NCAA title.

Brad Pataky believes an NCAA championship is a fate he can decide for himself — just like choosing wrestling over football years ago.

"The fight that you give can make the most difference of anything," Brad Pataky said.

"Wrestling a full seven minutes and wrestling to win, not worrying about losing or anything, pays off."



Penn State's Brad Pataky (left) grabs the leg of Michigan State's Brenan Lyon. Pataky chose wrestling over football and baseball.

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