

Lady Ruggers fill roster

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Most sports teams have a formula — a set group of starters and a core of dependable reserves that come in when needed.

The Lady Ruggers are a little different.

“It’s amazing to have a team where we have 60 players that come out to practice, and everyone is a competitor for a starting spot,” junior back Deven Owsiany said. “There’s only a couple people that don’t have a chance to make it to the traveling side yet.”

When the women’s rugby team kicks off its spring schedule on Saturday against Virginia Tech, it will finally have its entire roster intact. In the fall, several key players were studying abroad but returned to State College with the fifth-year seniors for the playoffs.

The 10-day trip over break to Ireland allowed the players to get reacquainted with each other and shape the look of the team. Junior back Kasey Ferlic said there were a lot of position changes that saw backs move to forwards and vice-versa and it gave a lot of younger players a chance to come into their own.

“Not just one or two people are doing it. It’s the whole team stepping up,” Ferlic said. “I think this semester is going to be very interesting to see how it works out because we’re going to be a force to be reckoned with.”

Fifth-year scrumhalf Annie Zeigler said the depth the team has built up is promoting competition for playing time and only strengthening the team. Before setting out to Ireland, coach Pete Steinberg said the team set a vision and one of its goals was to have 60 A-side players by the end of the year.

Getting to play overseas, the

players got a feel for how the team will look over the course of the spring. Owsiany said the back line, while young, is built on speed and will be dangerous if the backs can get the ball moving well.

Fighting for a spot on the field and on the travel roster is something motivating every player in practice.

“It’s very extreme. We’re best friends on and off the field, but when it comes down to playing we all take it very seriously and know that we’re all out there to eventually get that spot,” Ferlic said.

“I think we all understand that we’re doing that, and there’s not hard feelings towards it. We just know that we know what we have to do.”

Last season, the returning players helped carry the Lady Ruggers to the national championship, but they also knew what kind of work it would take to achieve that goal. After the fall season-ending shutout loss to



Michael Felletter/Collegian
Penn State alumni Allison Worman (left) and women's rugby player Dana Blair fight for control of the ball during an Alumni game Aug. 22.

Navy, the players said they knew they had to work over break and a second-straight title wouldn't be handed to them.

“We lost 41-to-nothing so we talk about that,” Steinberg said. “We have a lot of work to do. Even

with the new players coming back, that’s not going to be enough. That’s not 41 points worth coming back so we have to make sure we’re prepared.”

To e-mail reporter: adr5079@psu.edu

Seniors

From Page 8.

Rohrbaugh and Rosie Smith — will be honored.

The seniors had to battle through adversity throughout their four years. As a sophomore, Southard suffered a broken back, jeopardizing her career. Last year, Smith suffered a Lisfranc fracture to her left foot. And this season, a preseason ankle injury relegated the All-American Brockway to just bars.

The seniors have conquered and risen above all those obstacles together, making them a tight-knit group. That will be the lasting memory remaining with Smith down the road when she looks back at her career.

“We’ve grown real close over the past four years,” Smith said. “I’ll always remember the fun times, the practices and pushing through the adversity and doing it together.”

Junior Danielle Hover doesn’t know how she’ll react when it hits her the seniors won’t be around next year.

“I look at them as role models,” Hover said, “and I’m not going to forget the impression that they made.”

Shepard may miss this group the most, as it owns a 50-24 career record with many of those meets against top-25 competition. This group has made an impact on the team since they were freshmen and had to help bring the program back to the NCAA championships.

Arguably, no gymnast will be missed more than Personett, the reigning Big Ten Gymnast of the Year. Personett also owns a Big Ten Freshman of the Year award and is a finalist for the American Athletic, Inc., award, which is given to the nation’s most outstanding gymnast.

“Brandi has, well, not rewritten the record book,” Shepard said, “but should’ve rewritten the record book, could’ve rewritten the record book.”

Shepard said it’s going to be a challenge for the future senior classes to fill this class’ shoes.

“As a group they’ve really been the heart and soul of the team for the past four years,” he said. “So it’s gonna be a tough act to follow.”

To e-mail reporter: jps5226@psu.edu

WNIT

From Page 8.

every scramble and every hustle play they won. They just out-worked us.”

Against a scrappy Hofstra team, it was rebounding making all the difference.

Though each basket made off an offensive rebound was just two more points added to Hofstra’s total, Washington said it might as well have been worth eight points in terms of the confidence and energy it provided the Pride with down the stretch.

Shante Evans’ presence propelled the Pride to victory, as the freshman was able to out-muscle Nikki Greene down low for 17 rebounds.

“She just got into the position before everybody else, and she used her body to get the rebounds,” Greene said as she tried to hold back the tears after the game. “The way their offense was ran and I guess just her playing basketball, she was able to benefit their offense.”

A gaping hole in the Penn State frontcourt was a major reason why.

Only three minutes into the game, forward Julia Trogele got tripped up with a Hofstra defender and hit the ground hard. As the junior layed on the floor clutching her shoulder, a hush of silence fell over the BJC crowd, only to be interrupted by Trogele screaming in pain from her injury.

“That’s a starter,” senior Tyra Grant said. “She’s experienced. She’s another scorer. She’s a person who is not afraid to drive to the hole and get a foul or drive and dish. ... That was a big part of our team that was missing.”

Washington added after the game Trogele’s injury was a deep bruise to her shoulder and one that will heal on its own, but in a game like Thursday’s, it was a big loss for the Lions.

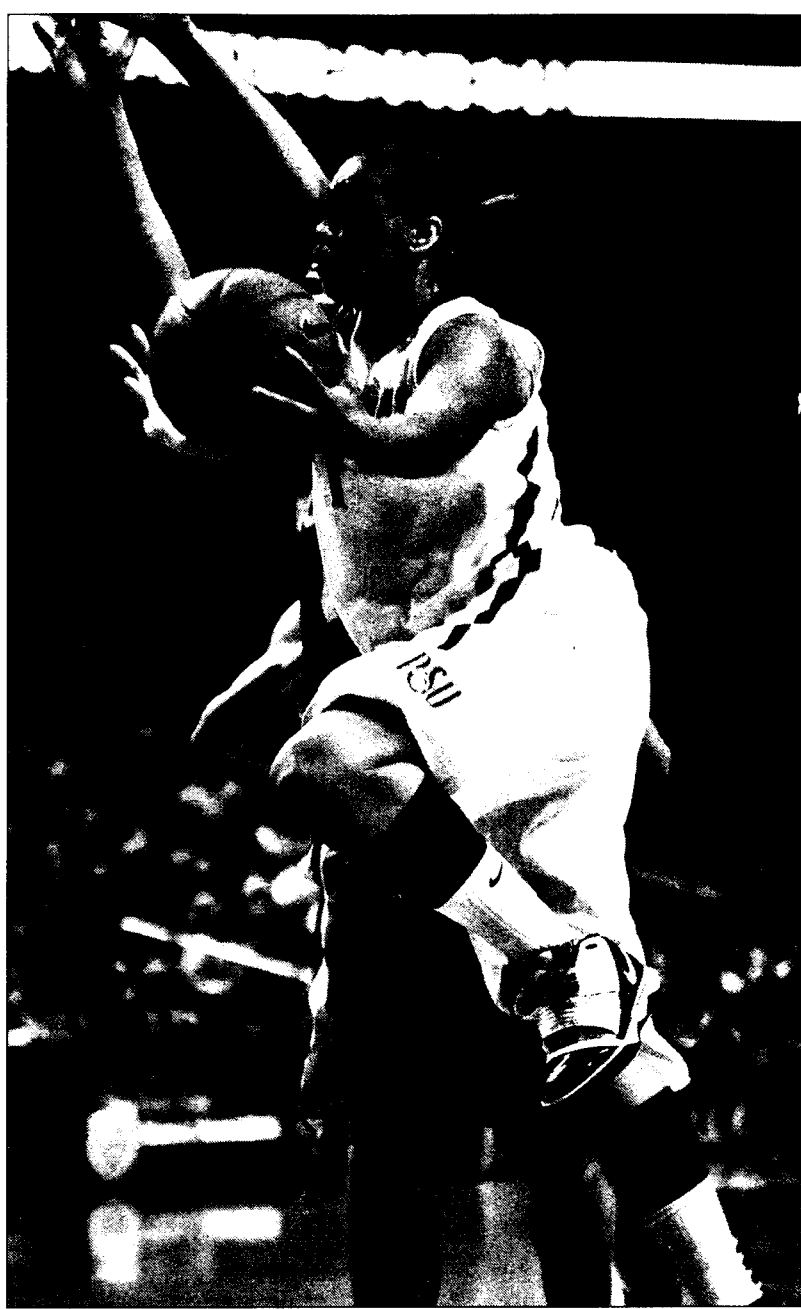
A player Washington said poses a big mismatch for opponents, Trogele not only left a void on the glass but allowed the Pride to put their bigger and better defenders on Grant.

The senior, in her last game ever wearing a Lady Lion uniform, finished her career with a solid 23-point scoring effort.

However, when her team needed her most, Hofstra was able to find a way to limit the prolific scorer and hold her to 2-for-11 shooting in the second half.

“You never want your seniors to walk off their home floor with a loss,” Washington said. “You always want their lasting memory playing in the BJC to be a positive one. It’s especially disappointing in that sense.”

To e-mail reporter: ada147@psu.edu



Marissa Gutherz/Collegian
Tyra Grant (1) saw her decorated Lady Lion career end Thursday night.

NCAAS

From Page 8.

scored an immediate takedown and drove his opponent off the mat. Pataky added an escape later in the bout and held on for a 3-2 victory.

Cyler Sanderson, this season’s Big Ten champion at 157 pounds, will join his three teammates in the today’s quarterfinals. He

used first- and third-period takedowns en route to a 4-2 victory.

A loss by pin at 3:51 in his second-round bout ended the title hopes of senior Dave Erwin, however. But the 184-pounder will have an opportunity to compete in the consolation rounds and place as high as third.

Heavyweight Cameron Wade lost his first bout of the day and competed late Thursday night for a chance to continue in consolations.

The Lion grapplers return to action this morning at 10:30 when Session III begins.

To e-mail reporter: rm15138@psu.edu



TWITTER

For the latest wrestling news and notes, follow the Collegian Twitter feed: twitter.com/psu_backpoints

Men’s Volleyball

vs. Ohio State

Sun. 3/21 @ 4pm in Rec Hall Main Gym

THE GRID		TIME	PLACE	TV	WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Men’s Volleyball	at St. Francis, vs No. 14 Ohio State	7 p.m. Fri., 4 p.m. Sun.	Loretto, Pa.; Rec Hall	BTN	The Lions look to build off success and continue domination against rivals.
Baseball	Coca-Cola Classic	Friday through Sunday	Rock Hill, S.C.		The Lions attempt to snap their seven-game losing streak when they compete in the Coca-Cola Classic.
Wrestling	NCAA championships	Friday and Saturday	Omaha, Neb.		The Penn State grapplers compete in their first NCAA tournament under coach Cael Sanderson.
Men’s Lacrosse	at No. 8 Duke	1 p.m. Saturday	Durham, N.C.		Sophomore Matt Mackrides looks to increase his team-leading point total.
Women’s Lacrosse	at No. 19 Vanderbilt	2 p.m. Sunday	Nashville, Tenn.		The Lions are looking to bounce back from a three-year losing streak against Vandy.
Men’s Gymnastics	vs. Oklahoma	7 p.m. Saturday	Rec Hall		The no. 8 Lions host No. 2 OU in the regular season finale and last home meet for the team’s four seniors.
Women’s Gymnastics	vs. Nebraska	7 p.m. Saturday	Rec Hall		The Lions’ five seniors look to close out their regular season careers with a good score.
Men’s Tennis	Blue Gray Tournament vs. Harvard and TBD	Friday and Saturday	Montgomery, Ala.		The Lions look to rebound after losing to Oklahoma State on Thursday.
Women’s Tennis	vs. Princeton	2 p.m. Saturday	Princeton, N.J.		The Lions will look to bounce back from a 7-0 defeat, which snapped a modest two-game winning streak.
Women’s Swimming	NCAA championships	Friday and Saturday	West Lafayette, Ind.		The Lions’ only qualifier, freshman Amy Modglin, looks to make a statement in the 200 backstroke.
Men’s Rugby	vs. St. Bonaventure	1 p.m. Saturday	West Campus Pitch		The Ruggers use a scrimmage against the Bonnies as a final tune-up before league playoffs begin March 27.
Women’s Rugby	vs. Virginia Tech	1 p.m. Saturday	West Campus Pitch		The Lady Ruggers begin their spring against Virginia Tech with a finally full roster.