

Rose ready to see team in action

By Ryan Loy
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Much like fans of the Penn State women's volleyball team, coach Russ Rose is unsure how his players will perform in their first match of the season.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

He may get some answers when the Nittany Lions open their 2010 season at 8 tonight against North Carolina in the Carolina

Classic in Chapel Hill, N.C.

The weekend tournament — which the Lions finish Saturday by playing Villanova and Campbell — will provide Rose with the first look at his youthful team, which includes nine freshmen.

Though Penn State enters tonight's match ranked No. 1 in the AVCA preseason poll, Rose believes the first few matches could prove to be shaky for his squad.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how we play," Rose said at

Wednesday's media day. "I'm not sure I'm looking forward to the results of how we play, but I'd say I'm looking forward to how they play."

A reason for Rose's skepticism derives from the question of what the lineup will look like. Rose said he expects to substitute players in and out and believes 10-15 players



Rose

will see time on the floor.

With a deep roster, Rose has several players to choose from to try and replace setter Alisha Glass and outside hitter Megan Hodge — both lost to graduation — as well as sophomore outside hitter Darcy Dorton, who's out indefinitely with a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in her left knee.

Senior co-captain Blair Brown is one of the experienced Lion players who's expecting to see an increased role in the offense on the outside. She made it clear that

it's impossible to replace Hodge, but said she's looking forward to receiving more sets in the attack.

"I'm a senior, it's my time to step up," Brown said. "I'm looking forward to helping the younger girls come up and have an increased role as well."

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 12.



For updates on the women's volleyball team, follow the women's volleyball Twitter: twitter.com/Collegian_WVB

Spikes lineup erupts in win

By Jake Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The offense has finally broken out.

The State College Spikes scored their most runs since July 19 on their way to their second-straight victory, a 10-1 blowout against the Mahoning Valley Scrapers at Eastwood Field in Niles, Ohio.

College Spikes

SPIKES

State College

Mahoning Valley

The Spikes (32-33) had been struggling at the plate for several games. They had not scored more than four runs in a week, and had not had six hits in a game — the mark they reached Thursday night — since Aug. 22. Though they were helped out by five Mahoning Valley errors and a few timely walks Thursday, designated hitter Chase Lyles said this is just the performance the Spikes were longing for.

"We needed it bad," Lyles said. "Especially on the offensive side. We hadn't scored that many runs in awhile and it felt really good to put up a big number like that."

The Spikes sent 10 hitters to the plate and scored six runs in the eighth inning alone, which was highlighted by a grand slam to left field by Lyles. It was his team-leading sixth home run of the season, and right fielder Cole White said it "put the nail in the coffin."

"It was really exciting," Lyles said of the six-run eighth inning. "We hadn't done it in awhile. It seems like it's been forever since we had a big inning like that. Everyone did a really good job of taking what they gave us."

White added it was refreshing how easy it felt to score runs Thursday night after the Spikes had been struggling to get a mere one or two runs across in a game recently.

State College got on the board in the first inning for the second consecutive night. The leadoff hitter, shortstop Drew Magg, reached on an error, advanced two bags to third on a single and scored on a double play ground-out to give the Spikes a 1-0 lead.

Though the Scrapers (28-38) topped the contest in the bottom portion of the inning, it would be the only runs they would score in the game.

The Spikes, on the other hand, kept piling on runs. After scoring

See SPIKES, Page 12.

A FRESH START



Mel Evans/Associated Press

Tiger Woods shoots from a bunker on the 11th hole during the first round of The Barclays golf tournament yesterday at the Ridgewood Country Club in New Jersey. Woods finished the round with seven birdies, good for a 6-under 65 and a tie atop the leaderboard with fellow American Vaughn Taylor. The world's top-ranked golfer shot the best round of his season, only two days after finalizing his divorce with his wife.

Niness finds home on back line

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The story of Carly Niness and Penn State soccer started with a phone call.

That call would send Nittany Lions coach Erica Walsh on a three-hour drive to Berwyn, Pa., and led her to a player that has become one of the most successful stories of Walsh's tenure. While Niness played several different positions in her first two seasons, the junior seems to have found a home on the back line and continues to improve every day.

"Having grown up in a similar area of Montgomery County, I've got a lot of good contacts down there and I got a call from a former coach, Terry Underkoffler," Walsh said. "He calls me up and goes, 'I have a kid for you' and when Terry calls, you listen. He's been around the game forever."

The first time Walsh saw Niness play for Conestoga High School, Niness was put at outside wing and the coach was amazed at how easily Niness ran past opposing players up and down the field. Throughout that game, Walsh said Niness seemed to only touch the ball with her head, but "everything she touched, it was positive."

A short time later, Walsh had assistant coach Michael Coll travel to Hershey to watch Niness in the State championship



Bryan Wade Heritage/Collegian

Junior Carly Niness collides with Virginia's goalie in a 2009 NCAA tournament game.

game, where she recorded the only goals in a 2-0 win. After that game, Walsh sat down with Niness and her parents to discuss playing soccer for Penn State because she had an offer to run track at the University of Virginia.

See NINESS, Page 12.

Lions hoping for large turnout at Jeffrey Field

By Alex Angert
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Word has spread — yes, even to Facebook. The women's soccer team wants revenge on Virginia after being knocked out of the NCAA Tournament by the Cavaliers last year, and they want everyone to see them get it.

All week long the players on the team have been trying to get the word out about Friday's game against the Cavaliers as Penn State is hoping to have at least 4,500 fans in the stands at Jeffrey Field.

"Everyone that we see we remind them we have our game on Friday," junior midfielder Ali Schaefer said. "I'm sure it's everyone's Facebook statuses right now. I think [mine] says 'Penn State vs. Virginia 7:30 p.m. this Friday and we're looking for 5,000 fans which means we need you in the bleachers. We Are...'"

The 4,500 fans the team is hoping for would shatter the previous Jeffrey Field record of 3,208 for a game with UCLA in 2006.

For junior Carly Niness, it wouldn't just be the biggest crowd she has played in front of at Penn State.

See CROWD, Page 12.

THE LINEUP

SPORTS ON TV

MLB

Philadelphia at San Diego
10:05 tonight, CSN
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee
8:10 tonight, FSN

TRIVIA

Q: When was the last time Tiger Woods led any round in a tournament?
Thursday's answer: The Houston Astros

QUICK HITS

More soccer coverage

The Penn State men's soccer team has one final tune-up before the regular season starts.

The Nittany Lions will travel to Louisville for a matchup with the Cardinals Saturday night.

The Lions have also been adjusting to new head coach Bob Warming. Warming took over for 22-year head coach Barry Gorman and led the Lions to a 3-1 exhibition win over Hartwick in his first match at the helm.

For more about the Lions final exhibition match and how the team is adapting to its new coach, go to the Daily Collegian's website, psucollegian.com

Phillies swept by Astros

Wandy Rodriguez pitched seven sharp innings, Carlos Lee homered and the Houston Astros beat the Phillies 5-1 Thursday to complete their first four-game sweep in Philadelphia in 11 years.

The two-time NL champion Phillies fell three games behind idle Atlanta in the NL East and trail San Francisco by a half-game in the wild-card standings.

Rodriguez (10-12) allowed one run and five hits, striking out six.

The left-hander is 7-2 with a 1.79 ERA since June 24.

The spoiler Astros got major contributions from three former Phillies — pitchers Brett Myers and J.A. Happ and All-Star outfielder Michael Bourn — to earn their first four-game sweep in Philadelphia since September 1999.

OUR THOUGHTS

Pujols a true power hitter

Thursday, St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols belted his 400th career home run.

There was no cloud of steroid speculation, just a true power hitter doing what he does best for the 400th time in his career.

The slugger's power display over the past 10 seasons has been a refreshing reminder that not every player in Major League Baseball has been accused of illegally using performance enhancing drugs.

Hopefully, Pujols will be the benefactor of longevity and pass those other home run "kings" who have tarnished the name of the long ball.