

Team performs well in Virginia Tech tournament

By James Nicol
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It took only one loss before the Penn State women's tennis team was able to find success.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Nittany Lions won three of their singles consolation brackets at the Hokie Invitational.

The tournament took place at Virginia Tech over the weekend and featured 15 college teams and players from 26 different countries.

Juniors Maria Prishlyak and

Kristen Roth both advanced to the quarterfinals of their flights. Prishlyak competed in the flight C singles bracket.

She won her first match to get to the quarterfinals before losing to Kelly Tidwell from Richmond, 6-4, 6-4.

Prishlyak went on to beat Maria Vosceková of Marshall in the finals of her consolation bracket by a score of 6-4, 7-6(5) and earned fifth place in flight C.

Kristen Roth was the last seed in her flight F singles bracket, but that didn't stop her from fighting her way to fifth place before the end of the tournament. Roth won

her first match to advance to the quarterfinals, where Annisha Domenech of Liberty defeated her, 6-3, 6-2.

Once in the consolation bracket, Roth battled Casey Dashiell of UNC-Wilmington to a tiebreaker, 6-3, 4-6, 1-0(9) in order to advance. Roth edged Mariana Arana of Richmond, 6-0, 6-4 to take fifth place in the consolation.

The pairing of Kristen Roth and Fernanda Perotta highlighted doubles play. The pair competed in flight B of doubles in Blacksburg and advanced further than any other Nittany Lions in tournament play.]

Roth and Perotta defeated Katherine Bulling and Michelle Nguyen of James Madison (8-6) in the first round, then Guilia Andreazza and Andra Voinea of East Tennessee (8-2) in the second round. Sydney Grant and Joanna Matuszczyk of Richmond put an end to the run in the semifinals with an 8-2 victory. Roth was excited about her play with Perotta.

"She's a great athlete, a great teammate and she brings out the best in my game," Roth said.

Freshman Marie-Fredrique Bedard played in the flight B singles for Penn State and managed

to come back from a tough loss. Giovanna Portioli bested Bedard 7-6(4), 6-2, in her first match of the tournament to send her to the consolation bracket. After losing that first game Bedard wouldn't lose another in singles. She strung together wins against Karina Kedzo of East Tennessee (6-1, 6-3) and Kristin Koprčina of Marshall (6-2, 6-0) to take ninth in her bracket.

"For her to win the B singles consolation shows that as a freshman she's a mature player," Fenwick said.

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Lions' Jeff Tambroni era begins in fall exhibition game

By Mike Still
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For the first time in ten years, Jeff Tambroni found himself coaching from the sidelines in a color other than Cornell red.

MEN'S LACROSSE

On Sunday, the first-year Penn State men's lacrosse coach took to the field for the first time with his new squad in a scrimmage against the UMBC Retrievers.

For Tambroni, the scrimmage was a chance to finally see his team in action at game-speed.

"I'm glad they were off and running because it gives us a good gauge as to where we need to go the rest of the fall," the coach said.

No official count had the score tied up at 10-10.

"It was nice to see someone in a different color," sophomore goalie Dave Baker said. "And I think everyone was just excited to hit

someone not wearing blue and white."

Tambroni gave everybody on the team playing time against the Retrievers, and the freshman class made the most of that opportunity. In goal, freshman Austin Kaut was given the start and had several huge stops throughout the first three quarters.

"Austin really stepped up and developed a lot and matured in net," Baker said of Kaut.

"He was playing well in practice and I think he really brought his

game to another level."

Along with Tambroni's first experience with his players, Sunday's scrimmage was also his first taste of the Penn State lacrosse community.

Despite the lack of bleachers for seating outside the Multi-Sport Facility, the hill above the field was filled with Nittany Lion fans.

This strong support from the community was great to see, Tambroni said.

Knowing how many people care about the team will only fuel the

Lions to continue improving and play a game that their fans can be proud of. This sense of "family" among the fans is something Tambroni has been trying to instill with his team since day one.

Seeing the results of their new coach's mentality so far this off-season, the Lions are buying into Tambroni's style of coaching.

"We're all 100 percent supportive and we're excited to see where he'll take us," Baker said.

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Mistakes

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with teams in the second half and not have to kind of panic."

However, even if the game plan is installed, defensive coordinator Tom Bradley said it still comes down to the players making plays and being able to execute.

"We miss too many tackles. We just gotta wrap up and we run by a couple times," Bradley said. "We schemed it and we run right by the back."

Bradley also said, much like Royster's sentiments, his defense is getting better game by game.

But he added when the team loses, all of a sudden "everything stinks."

Though Royster said the offense, which is relying on young or inexperienced players at key positions, has a lot of room for improvement, in time he believes the Lions will be able to resolve their issues.

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Defense

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"We work on it all the time," Bradley said. "Every week, everyone on our team has a turnover period. We're emphasizing it. Usually you get what you emphasize."

But the Lions haven't gotten it, and some of that can be attributed to a lack of pressure on opposing quarterbacks. In five games — three of which came at home against non-BCS conference opponents — the Lions have just eight sacks.

Quarterback Ricky Stanzi, who was sacked just once by defenders, had all sorts of time to pick apart the Penn State secondary, and that was never more evident than on Iowa's first touchdown drive.

On a key third down in Penn State territory, Stanzi had no options at first, but he shuffled his feet and had no one within a few yards, allowing him to stand in the pocket and find Allen Reisner for a first down over the middle. A few moments

later he threw a touchdown pass to wide receiver Derrell Johnson-Koulianos after standing in the pocket with enough time to check three or four options.

To beat a poised quarterback like Stanzi, Bradley said the Lions would've needed much more pressure, but he said there were times when he sent a couple players on a blitz at the same time Iowa chose maximum protection.

"That's seven to block six," Bradley said.

"They've got one more than you have. It's just one of those things. Sometimes they guess right and you don't."

Lynn wouldn't use play calling as an excuse. And he said the strong second halves in Iowa and Alabama have only made the defense's ineptitude in key situations even more disappointing.

"You saw the way we played in the second half," he said. "It shows we can stop them. So it's frustrating that we didn't."

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Cassavell

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He's started games in two of the loudest environments in the country.

And he led a crucial 96-yard game-clinching touchdown drive against an intrastate rival that included multiple completions on third down.

"I really think he did a good job," senior co-captain Brett Brackett said. "He's a true freshman quarterback coming into an environment like this, there's not much else you can do."

Brackett won't — and probably shouldn't — criticize his quarterback to the media. That doesn't mean he's right when he says there's nothing Bolden could have done differently.

Bolden could probably be more in control of the play clock, and he could probably look a little smoother in the pocket when he's facing pressure.

That's not to say he's not doing a good job, just that he has flaws. They're flaws he and quarterbacks coach Jay Paterno have

probably already pinpointed on film and are working on correcting.

"He kept his composure through the adversity and through the crowd," said senior tackle Quinn Barham, who then offered perhaps the lone critique of Bolden through the season's first month. "We did have problems hearing him, but we worked with that ... there's only so much he can do, and then it's up to us to take responsibility."

Barham is on the mark with that assessment. Right now, the O-line and the run game take precedent over switching some small imperfections in Bolden's game.

But he's been to Tuscaloosa, he's been to Iowa, and he's the most talked about man in Happy Valley. For a quarterback who will likely go on to a brilliant career at Penn State, it's time to stop pretending those imperfections don't exist.

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Last Word

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the Lions could have ran another play in addition to the field goal attempt if officials had recognized the timeout call.

"If I take the timeout, what do we got?" Paterno said. "We're going to kick the field goal anyway ... If we called the timeout, we would've had one play just as we had."

Day to remember

Offense: WR Brett Brackett

There weren't many productive plays on the offensive side of the ball Saturday night. Brackett led the Lions in receiving with 63 yards on two catches.

His 49-yard reception was the longest play of the day and longest reception of his career. It set up Penn State's only scoring drive.

Defense: CB D'Anton Lynn Lynn had nine tackles to lead the Lions.

Six of those tackles came in the first half, when the Penn State defense continued its string of giving up early scoring drives.

Day to forget

Offense: LT Quinn Barham Barham said Saturday's loss to Iowa was a reality check for him. He had to go up against arguably the nation's best defensive end, Adrian Clayborn. The matchup didn't work too well. Clayborn led the Hawkeyes with 10 tackles, three of which were tackles for lost yardage.

Defense: LB Bani Gbadyu Gbadyu shared time with true freshman Khairi Fortt on Saturday night. The senior only had two tackles and was pulled

for extended amounts of time so Fortt could get reps.

Did you notice?

Glenn Corson substituted in place of starting middle linebacker Chris Colasanti and backup Mike Yancich.

Iowa's Black and Gold Spirit Night was also on full display. Hawkeyes' fans were asked to wear either black or gold depending on their section, which led to a striped stadium.

Extra point

Penn State dropped out of both

the Associated Press Top 25 and USA Today Poll after its loss to Iowa.

The Lions had been ranked in 38 straight AP polls before falling out this week.

Quotable

Paterno recalling what he said to team physician Wayne Sebastianelli concerning Gary Gilliam's ACL injury: "I said to doc, 'God, can we play one game without losing a football player for the season,'" Paterno said.

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