Wrestlers battling for starting sp

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Cael Sanderson has many questions to answer before Nov. 12.

decorated mem-

bers of last season's team to graduation and

WRESTLING

with plenty of redshirt and true freshmen eager to get on the mat, the No. 6 Penn State wrestling team has numerous starting spots to fill.

Before heading to Bloomsburg for its first match of the year. Sanderson is preparing to make the tough decisions of who will be the Lions' top dog at each weight

"We'll run through the intrasquad matches and see where we're at with our team." Sanderson said at Media Day on Thursday.

"But we're looking at putting Lynch, a 13-13 finisher in 2010. our best team on the mat.

Meet on Nov. 4, in which members of the team will wrestle each other, will redshirt the 2011 season. will be instrumental in deciding who will own each position come Nov 12

the extra edge on his teammates is for me. during the preseason.

Having lost three of its most one or two guys that are really gonna take it to the next level." redshirt sophomore Quentin Wright said. "I wish everybody could just come in and watch practices every day because they would see that at every weight, it's a hard battle.

Working with a very young roster, the Lions are carrying 23 true or redshirt freshmen this season.

How many of those true freshmen will redshirt this year is yet to be determined. Sanderson said. But the coach isn't ruling out having a few of them suit up this sea-

At the 141-pound spot, twin brothers and true freshmen Andrew and Dylan Alton may challenge redshirt senior Adam

If either of the Altons earn a The Lions' intra-squad Dual starting spot in the Lions' roster. there's a chance the other brother

"I'm comfortable with that plan right now," said Andrew Alton, the pre-season No. 13 ranked 141-

Sanderson's squad is battling it can make 141 next year if I have to, out every day in practice to gain so it doesn't matter what the plan

Possibly the biggest hole to fill "Every single weight, we have in Penn State's starting lineup, is the void left by graduated two-All-American Sanderson at the 157-pound spot.

However, with four wrestlers listed on the Lions' roster at 157, coach Sanderson has a handful of options to choose from.

The early favorite is redshirt freshman David Taylor, the preseason No. 6 157-pounder in the country and the No. 1 recruit in the 2009 recruiting class.

"I feel really confident in him," Sanderson said of Taylor. "He's just one of those guys that I haven't been spending a whole lot of time with lately just because he's ready to go.

Despite the individual preseason rankings and what each wrestler has achieved in the past, Sanderson knows that any spot is available for the taking.

Determined to find the best man for each class, Sanderson is confident that his team will moti-

But until then, each member of pounder in the nation. "I think I make the team." Sanderson said. really pushing to be a national



Freshman Jake Kemerer (top) wrestles a teammate during media day.

vate itself to be the best they can "Their goal should be to be a champion, I'd hope that somenational champion. And if we don't "Their goal shouldn't be just to have a guy in the lineup that's

body's on their tail.

To e-mail reporter: mas5860@psu.edu

Second half schedule a new challenge for freshmen

By Emily Kaplan COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

school, Dupont Manual (Ky.), conference slate — and that does-

McClendon's current squad, the

Penn State women's volleyball Deja McClendon's former high team, has five weeks to go in its wrapped up its girls volleyball sea- n't include a potential run in the

son a little more than a week ago. NCAA tournament in December. It's halfway through the Big Ten have to. season, and McClendon and the other eight fresh-

> the men on Nittany Lions are entering unchart- VOLLEYBALL territory.

They ve never an extended period of time like

WOMEN'S

So from here on out, they don't really know what to expect.

"The second half is tough on the younger kids because this is the time of year where they're starting their State Championships in said. "They don't realize that they've got a whole other five weekends of conference play, and a high level for the tournament."

McClendon said she's already starting to feel the wear and tear

of a Division I volleyball season.

extra set of stairs if she doesn't

sAnd a full academic load is starting to take a toll.

"It's obvious, everyone's tired."

McClendon said. "I'm just going to keep trying

my hardest. Sophomore setter Kristin

played competitive volleyball for Carpenter said she knows what the freshmen are going through right now - because she had the same experience.

At this point in the season last year, Carpenter said she didn't know if she could go any longer. She was exhausted.

"But the freshmen will be fine, high school," coach Russ Rose just like we were fine, because we prepared so much this summer, Carpenter said.

We're in very, very good shape. hopefully the ability to compete at And Coach knows us. He's not going to do something that will push us over the edge. He knows what he's doing.'

co-captain Alyssa Senior She said her legs are tired. She D'Errico remembers feeling like Senior Arielle Wilson (left) and freshman Ariel Scott (1) block a shot. doesn't really want to walk up that that her freshman year, too.

"It's obvious, everyone's tired. I'm just going to keep trying my hardest."

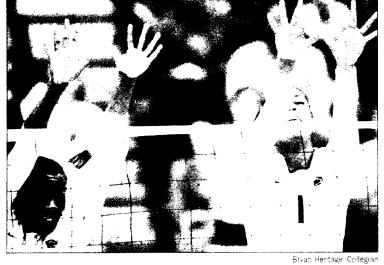
Deja McClendon ' freshman outside hitter

She said it was something Rose harped on, and definitely prepared the players for.

D'Errico said freshmen tend to lose a little bit of focus because they're used to being done at this point, getting a break, having a chance to "chill out and just

"But I think, with our team hav ing as much veteran experience as we do, the freshmen can kind of look to us and push through it." D'Errico said. "It's going to be tough, but we'll try to help them out as much as possible so they don't fade out.'

To e-mail reporter: exk5049@psu.edu



Don't Forget **YOUR Nittany**

Notes!



Morning Prayer

Worship Service All are welcome! 10 am Sunday mornings Eisenhower Chapel at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center Prayer ~ Singing

Finding Christian Community - Living out our Faith on Campus Sponsored by the Episcopal, Lutheran, and

Scripture \sim Reflection

Presbyterian Campus Ministries



