

Wrestlers battling for starting spots

By Mike Still
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

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

Having lost three of its most decorated members of last season's team to graduation and 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 class.

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

"But we're looking at putting our best team on the mat." The Lions' intra-squad Dual Meet on Nov. 4, in which members of the team will wrestle each other, will be instrumental in deciding who will own each position come Nov. 12.

But until then, each member of

Sanderson's squad is battling it out every day in practice to gain the extra edge on his teammates during the preseason.

"Every single weight, we have 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 season.

At the 141-pound spot, twin brothers and true freshmen Andrew and Dylan Alton may challenge redshirt senior Adam Lynch, a 13-13 finisher in 2010.

If either of the Altons earn a starting spot in the Lions' roster, there's a chance the other brother will redshirt the 2011 season.

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

can make 141 next year if I have to, so it doesn't matter what the plan is for me."

Possibly the biggest hole to fill in Penn State's starting lineup, is the void left by graduated two-time All-American Cyler 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 pre-season 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 motivate itself to be the best they can be.

"Their goal shouldn't be just to make the team," Sanderson said.



Sarah Finnegan/Collegian

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

"Their goal should be to be a national champion. I'd hope that somebody'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

Deja McClendon's former high school, Dupont Manual (Ky.), wrapped up its girls volleyball sea-

son a little more than a week ago.

McClendon's current squad, the Penn State women's volleyball team, has five weeks to go in its conference slate — and that doesn't include a potential run in the

NCAA tournament in December.

It's halfway through the Big Ten season, and McClendon and the other eight freshmen on the Nittany Lions are entering uncharted territory. They've never played competitive volleyball for an extended period of time like this.

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 high school," coach Russ Rose said. "They don't realize that they've got a whole other five weekends of conference play, and hopefully the ability to compete at a high level for the tournament."

McClendon said she's already starting to feel the wear and tear of a Division I volleyball season.

She said her legs are tired. She doesn't really want to walk up that

extra set of stairs if she doesn't have to.

"And 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 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, just like we were fine, because we prepared so much this summer," Carpenter said.

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

Senior co-captain Alyssa D'Errico remembers feeling like 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 relax."

"But I think, with our team having 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



Brian Heritage/Collegian

Senior Arielle Wilson (left) and freshman Ariel Scott (1) block a shot.

Don't Forget YOUR Nittany Notes!

EXAM PACKS available 1 week prior to exam. Call for list.

IT'S NITTANY NOTES
238-0623 NittanyNotes.com

Happy Halloween From India Pavilion

EXOTIC INDIAN CUISINE

Trick or Treat!

LUNCH BUFFET DAILY \$7.95

Carry-out food - Groups & Private Parties Welcome
Reservations available - All major credit cards accepted

222 F. Calder Way Phone 237-3400 www.indiapavilion.net
Lunch 11:30am - 2:30pm Dinner 5:00pm - 10:00pm Closed Mondays

Morning Prayer & Worship Service

All are welcome!
10 am Sunday mornings
Eisenhower Chapel at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center

Prayer ~ Singing
Scripture ~ Reflection

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

Valid at 2020 N. ATHERTON ST. & 2605 E. COLLEGE AVE.

STUDENT SPECIAL

FREE CHEESE CURDS w/any purchase
Valid Monday - Friday only. Good only at participating locations. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Must present coupon before ordering. Offer not good with any other discounts or coupons. Expires 10/31/10. www.awrestaurants.com All American Food

Buy ANY Combo Get one (1) FREE
Valid Monday - Friday only. Good only at participating locations. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Must present coupon before ordering. Offer not good with any other discounts or coupons. Expires 10/31/10. www.awrestaurants.com All American Food

\$2.22 For TWO (2) HAMBURGERS
Valid Monday - Friday only. Good only at participating locations. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Must present coupon before ordering. Offer not good with any other discounts or coupons. Expires 10/31/10. www.awrestaurants.com All American Food

FREE CONEY DOG w/purchase of one (1) coney dog
Valid Monday - Friday only. Good only at participating locations. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Must present coupon before ordering. Offer not good with any other discounts or coupons. Expires 10/31/10. www.awrestaurants.com All American Food

Valid at 2020 N. ATHERTON ST. & 2605 E. COLLEGE AVE.

5-Year Home Equity Loan as low as **4% APR***

Use the equity in your home for all of life's expenses...

- winter heating bills
- debt consolidation
- braces for the kids
- vacation

Penn State Federal Credit Union
1027 North Atherton Street
State College, PA 16803
P (814) 865-7728
F (800) 828-4636
F (814) 863-6183
www.PennStateFederal.com

*APR - Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are dependent on your credit score and the loan term. Above rate requires 20% down payment. Loan-to-value may not exceed 80%. Above rate is valid on new loans only. See Rate & Fee Schedule for rate.

NCUA