

Michigan to present tough road test for Lions

By Ryan Loy
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Something will have to give tonight in Ann Arbor.

The No. 9 Penn State volleyball team is currently tied with No. 15 Michigan for second place in the Big Ten, and the two teams will play a crucial contest at 7 tonight in Michigan's Cliff Keen Arena.

The Nittany Lions (19-4, 9-3 Big Ten) haven't lost to Michigan (20-4, 9-3) in eight years, but the Wolverines are a perfect 9-0 at home this season. The top-15 contest highlights the Lions' weekend, which concludes with a

6:30 p.m. match Saturday at Michigan State (11-12, 3-9).

Last season, Wolverine fans had a reason to be loud, as Michigan pushed the Lions to five sets before eventually becoming another victim in Penn State's undefeated championship season.

The Lions expect tonight's match to be a similar atmosphere.

Lion senior defensive specialist Cathy Quilico said the setup of Cliff Keen Arena positions Michigan fans close to the court — allowing Penn State players to hear everything the onlookers say.

While the 5-foot-1 Quilico said some of the things fans say can actually be funny, the Lions would prefer to leave them silent as they watch the match.

"Your goal partially, not only to win, is to quiet the crowd," Quilico said. "You want to do that. That means you're doing well."

Tonight's match will be a key component of each team's pursuit of conference-leader Illinois. The Lions swept Michigan (25-20, 25-22, 25-20) in the teams' first meeting this season on Oct. 2 in Rec Hall.

Penn State coach Russ Rose said the biggest challenge of playing Michigan on the road is the Wolverines' talent.

Rose said Wolverine senior set-

ter Lexi Zimmerman, who combines talent with hard work, is a player who's particularly impressive to watch.

"I'm sure she's hit the bleachers and run into the stands way more times than I've seen it," Rose said of watching Zimmerman on film. "But every time I see her running into the stands, I stop and show it again and wish I could make a copy and bring it down to my team and say, 'Don't be afraid to play outside of the lines.'"

Senior libero Alyssa D'Errico said Zimmerman possesses a high volleyball IQ and can hurt opposing teams from the front or back row.

The 5-foot-10 Zimmerman has

135 kills this season, while Lion setter Kristin Carpenter has only 38.

D'Errico knows the gym will be packed, and Zimmerman and Michigan will be ready to take another attempt at beating the Lions for the first time since 2002. The Lion senior believes all points will be hard-earned.

"Part of the thing with Michigan over the past couple of years is that you notice they play hard together as a team," D'Errico said. "It has a lot to do with their leadership. [Zimmerman] just goes hard all the time, and you can tell she wants to win every point of every game she's playing in."

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Men's soccer looking for strong finish to season

By Mike Still
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Despite Wisconsin's dismal 3-12-2 record this season, Bob Warming is not taking the Badgers lightly.

The Penn State men's soccer coach is making sure to keep one thing in mind while preparing his team for its match this Saturday in Madison — Wisconsin is still a tough Big Ten team.

"I think they've just had some problems with leaking a couple times," Warming said. "Making some mistakes in the back, and the goalkeeper's had a couple of uncharacteristic errors. The margin of victory is so small now that those kind of things cost you."

Of Wisconsin's 12 losses this season, all but one have been by a one-goal difference.

The Lions' contest against the Badgers is their last of the season before the Big Ten tournament kicks off in Happy Valley on Nov. 11.

At 2-2-1 in conference play, Penn State is tied for fourth in the Big Ten.

Knowing that every Big Ten

"We're still a work in progress and we've been a work in progress since day one."

Bob Warming
men's soccer coach

game on the schedule matters toward its seeding in the conference tournament, Penn State will approach its game against Wisconsin just as it does with any other team.

"We're gonna treat it just like any other game, like it's a final," senior co-captain Andres Casais said. "Right now, it's really important for us. Every game is important, but now, during the final stretch, it's very important."

Coming off of two straight road games, Oct. 27 at Penn and Nov. 2 at Lafayette, the Lions haven't competed at Jeffrey Field since Oct. 23, a 2-1 overtime win over Ohio State.

So much traveling and time away from home can play a factor in fatigue, Warming said. But in their 1-0 win over Lafayette, six substitutes saw considerable playing time for the Lions, giving many players a chance to rest.

Getting a break against the Leopards and doing the right things to recover have

Warming's squad feeling fresh heading to Wisconsin.

"You just take it one day at a time and just keep putting the work in," defender Mark Fetrow said. "[Against Lafayette] we had the opportunity to sub a lot of guys in and give some of the starters a break. So you just take it one day at a time and keep recovering."

With just one game remaining in the regular season, the Lions have little time before the conference tournament.

But the team is looking to make the most of this short amount of time though, and keep improving.

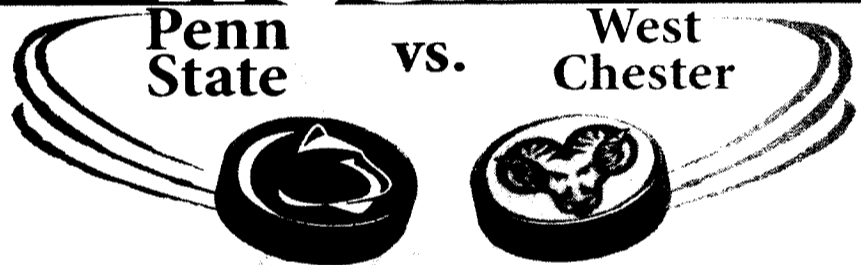
"Every game's a preparation," Warming said. "We're still a work in progress and have been a work in progress since day one. We're nowhere near perfect yet, but we've gotten better at some things. But every day we have to keep working and getting better."

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Andy Parr (12) goes for a header during the Lions' 2-1 overtime victory over Ohio State on Oct. 23 at Jeffrey Field.

Penn State HOCKEY



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