

Players prepared for new season to officially begin

By Alex Angert
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Time for talking is finally over as the official start of the season is approaching.

While last Sunday's exhibition against East Stroudsburg was a tease, this Friday's game against Lehigh is the real deal.

And after spending countless hours on the practice court dating back to last spring, the Nittany Lions will now have their chance to put last year's struggles behind them starting Friday.

"Hey, this is it. Go play and have fun. This is what we practice for," coach Ed DeChellis said he told his players. "The game should

be fun. The practice is a pain in the neck but in games, 'Go have fun and do what you do. This is your craft and it's time to go play the music.'"

DeChellis added at his press conference Wednesday that the team seems very enthusiastic to get the season started.

Taking Monday off after Sunday's preseason game, the players came back with good energy on the court Tuesday and had a very spirited practice.

"I think they are ready to go play somebody else again," DeChellis said. "It's their time. I told the seniors, 'This is your time.

It's where the rubber meets the road now.'"

Facing a tough team in Lehigh, which challenged No. 1 seed Kansas as a No. 16 seed in last year's NCAA tournament, center Drew Jones said the Mountain Hawks will be a good first test for the Lions this season.

After scrimmaging Temple last week and playing East Stroudsburg this past weekend, the team is ready to play a game that means something.

"I'm ultra excited," senior Talor Battle said. "We had the exhibition but I've always said I hate exhibitions because it flirts with you, but it doesn't really count. You learn some stuff in that game."

One thing they learned was that they'll have D.J. Jackson back healthy after he suffered a muscle

strain in the exhibition. DeChellis added the senior forward should be fine after the team didn't practice Monday.

In the 66-52 win over East Stroudsburg, the Lions learned the importance of slowing things down and taking their time.

During his press conference, DeChellis mentioned a period in that game when the team turned the ball over seven times during an 18-possession span along with rattling off questionable shots.

"As I try to explain to them, we want to try and push it fast and get it up the floor," the coach said. "That doesn't mean shoot it. If it's a good shot, let's hold on to the ball and run offense. Now, if it's a great shot, let's take the great shot. I'm trying to get the book from good to great."

With the starting lineup virtually set with Jackson's injury not too serious and Tim Frazier settling into the other guard spot — at least for the time being — DeChellis wants his team find a pace and go the speed they are comfortable at.

This Friday against Lehigh will be the team's first chance to improve on these problematic areas. While the time is now for the team, DeChellis is hoping to see his team play with a more controlled urgency in games.

"That's what we are trying to do in practice," the coach said. "We want to go fast, but don't hurry. Don't make goofy mistakes or turnovers. Go from fourth to third. Take your time."

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DeChellis

Washington set on Lady Lions' starters for opener

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

If the Penn State Lady Lions start their next game slowly, the reason won't be Alex Bentley's absence from the floor.

At her weekly press conference on Wednesday, Lady Lions coach Coquese Washington said her sophomore point guard is close to full health and is expected to start the season opener Friday at Dayton.

Bentley did not start Penn State's 91-58 exhibition win over

Gannon due to strep throat and a minor ankle injury.

"I think she'll be full go," Washington said.

Bentley played 23 minutes against Gannon, shooting 9-of-13 from the field and tying for the team high with 18 points. Senior co-captain Julia Trogele said her teammate looks close to speed.

"It's something that we don't want to get used because there's going to be times where she can't play due to foul trouble or whatever," Trogele said.

"But it's a comfort zone that I need to have her on the court with me."

With Bentley back and Trogele feeling better after a minor foot injury hampered her before the Gannon game, Washington has a more firm idea of what her starting lineup will be. Aside from Bentley, Washington said the other four starters proved themselves through at practice.

Junior guard Zhaque Gray, sophomore forward Marisa Wolfe and sophomore center Nikki Greene will join Trogele and Bentley as the starters.

"If you look at it, we've got three players in the starting lineup that over six-feet tall," Trogele said. "That's pretty impressive I would

say and [Gray] and [Bentley], out of everybody that's younger, they have the most experience playing so it's really nice to have them back."

After the win over Gannon, Washington had some faults with her team. The coach was unhappy with the Lady Lions' help-side defense and the rebounding from the backcourt.

Washington called the progress of the defense "micro-baby steps," and added it would be a season-long project. With that in mind, Washington said it's come a long way from where it was a month ago.

As far as the guards rebounding, Trogele said it becomes more important against teams that like to shoot threes, like Dayton does.

"A lot of times the ball goes over my, Nikki and Marisa's heads and there's nothing we can do but hustle to it," Trogele said.

"Coach had mentioned the guards never rebound and she was really on them about it then [Bentley] got two offense rebounds then goes 'Coach, see I can rebound.' It's just a mentality and making it habit, they're not used to it."

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By Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010.

This year, you open up to a very different style and way of approaching matters. Keep conversations moving at an even clip and don't get bogged down in the details. Observe a tendency not to express your depth and feelings. Understand that perhaps this type of withholding impacts your relationships. If you are single, you easily could meet the people of interest simultaneously. One could be more exciting than the other, who will be more stable and secure. Take your time deciding if you want to make any type of commitment and to whom! If you are attached, the two of you become more deeply united of goals and key pastimes. Re-create your first date or your first few encounters. Let romance build. AQUARIUS can be challenging.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic, 4-Positive, 3-Average, 2-Suspect, 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Opportunities emerge if you follow your intuition, especially when dealing with others. A sudden insight tosses you into thought. Take your time, as all this could be changing your plans and your perspective. Tonight: Burning the midnight oil. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It might take quite a bit of perspective to understand what is going on. You could be overwhelmed by everything that drops on your plate and the unpredictability of others. Learn to flex and wave goodbye to rigidity. Tonight: Take in new vistas. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** One of one's talents is bringing forth some startling insights that might encourage thinking through a community or professional matter. Be willing to listen more to a close friend or loved one. Tonight: A void, yet bright, where there is music. CANCER (June 21-July 22) You discover that you can be to juggle many different priorities. Expert opinions, as well as how to distance could be quite startling. Listen to others who might have a strong sense of direction. Tonight: Accept an invitation. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Others seem to be the source of energy and plans. Though you might not feel like you can put your feet up, you certainly don't need to push so hard. Your ability to synthesize ideas needs to come into play. Tonight: Consider starting your weekend early. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Your creativity practices, as does the ability to intrigue others. Use this combo to increase your audience and pull with a key matter. A child or new friend could play a significant role in your day. Let go of being meticulous. Tonight: Head home. Everyone needs some quiet time. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** If you can be back or work from home, all the better. You will have the energy to flex with some surprising events or news. You have a soft and caring manner that intrigues a loved one. This person cannot get enough of you! Tonight: Get into weekend mode. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Keep communication going, even if you have a moment of feeling shocked and without words. This situation will encourage greater integrity and

creativity. Make calls, encourage opinions. Be open, and respect different ideas. Tonight: Make it early. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** With a need to possess at the moment, you really don't need to live in the fortress. Opportunity strikes on 11/11/10! A friendship could take an unexpected turn. Tonight: Struggle out the blue. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Though you might need to negotiate an aspect of events, you radiate joy, happiness and ductility. Someone you care a lot about demonstrates that his or her feelings are mutual. Learn to relax a little more. Tonight: Your treat. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** Take your time dealing with a personal matter, especially as it is interfering with your daily routine. Your instincts could be unusually correct regarding a money matter. Still, curb wild risks! Tonight: You are coming into your own element. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** Note that at present you are best among groups of people. How you push your agenda and the choices you make might be guided by your courage twice than you realize. A meeting could evolve into a social happening. Tonight: Only as you like it.

BORN TODAY: World War II commander George Patton (1885), comedian, actor Jonathan Winters (1925), actress Demi Moore (1962).

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Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com

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