

Lady Lions take hot shooting to Oakland

By Jake Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Through two games, the Penn State Lady Lions have shown what makes them a dangerous team.

They can flat out score.

The Lady Lions (2-0) averaged 103.5 points a game in their two wins, 17.5 points per game more than any other Big Ten team. The 207 points through two contests are the most in a two-game span since 1991 and the third most in program history.

Penn State hopes to continue its high-scoring when it takes on Oakland (1-1) at 6:30 tonight at the Athletics Center O'Rena in Rochester, Mich.

"It will be interesting to see, as we play more games, adjustments people make to try to slow us down," Penn State coach Coquese Washington said at her weekly press conference on Wednesday. "I anticipate that'll even itself out. I think we have a lot of scorers. I've said this all along that I think we can get contributions from a lot of people."

Junior guard Zhaque Gray leads the Lady Lions, who received 13 votes in this week's AP poll. Gray is averaging 24.5 points per game, which puts her behind only Ohio State's Jantel Lavender

in the conference, a first-team All-American last year. In her first two seasons, Gray averaged only 4.0 points per game.

"For me, it's not a surprise," Washington said of Gray's success.

"I've always known Zaza could shoot the ball from the day she walked on campus. She's been a really good shooter."

Sophomore point guard Alex Bentley is second on Penn State, averaging 19.5 points per game, while freshman guard Maggie Lucas, a sharpshooter from beyond the arc, is averaging 17 points off the bench. Two others are averaging more than 10 points, as well, which makes for a dangerous balanced scoring attack.

"I'm not surprised because I

knew from the summer time that we were going to have some pretty balanced scoring cause they can shoot the lights out, Maggie and [Zhaque]. And everybody else can score too," Bentley said on Tuesday.

"So, I already knew from the beginning of the season that it was going to be a fun season. A fun scoring season."

Last December, a 69-64 win against Oakland at the Bryce Jordan Center marked the only time the two teams have played. The Golden Grizzlies, who are undersized with just one player standing more than 6-feet fall opposed to the Lady Lions' six, are led by sophomore forward Bethany Watterworth, who has put up 21.5 points per game so far. Though Penn State's offense

has been successful, Washington would like to see her team's defense improve in tonight's contest.

"We've got to have a solid effort defensively," Washington said. "We've got to win the rebounding battle because they're a scrappy team. And we've got to understand when we go in there, it's going to be a battle."

Ultimately, Bentley said, it's not all about putting up a high number on the scoreboard.

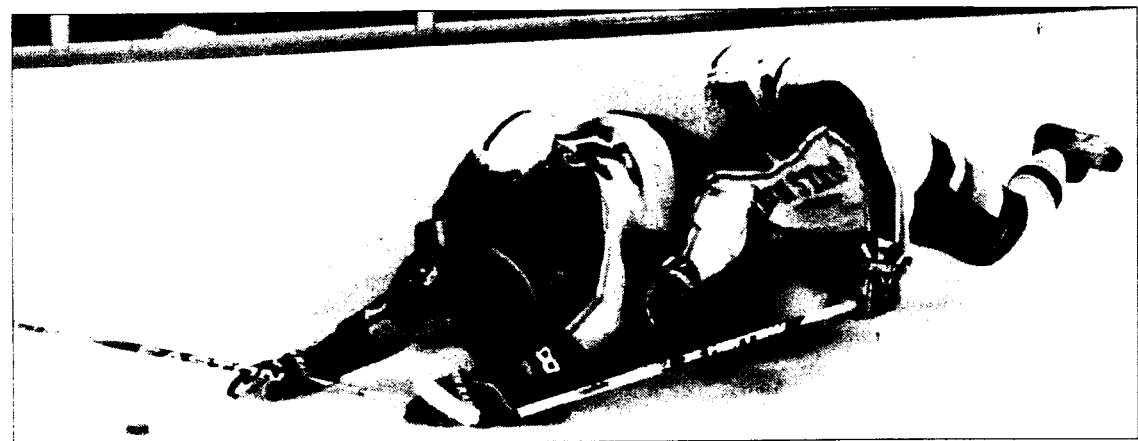
"It's not really about trying to get a lot of points for us," Bentley said.

"It's just about playing against ourselves and meeting the goals and playing at the standards that we want to play at."

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Washington



Rich O'Brien (right) and Cary Bell (center) check a player during a game against Central Oklahoma.

O'Brien relying on physicality

By Greg Garcia
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Rich O'Brien's season can be described in one play.

In the matchup against Liberty on Oct. 23, the sophomore defenseman made a play that is still making air waves in the Greenberg Ice Pavilion.

With the Icemen on the penalty kill, O'Brien came flying across the ice and laid an earth-shattering check, sending a Flames player through the glass. The hit led to an approximate eight-minute delay, but for his teammates, it was well worth it.

The Icemen eventually went on to capture a 7-3 victory, riding the momentum from O'Brien's hit. The play may have been the game-changer, with the electricity growing each second in the Pavilion.

According to O'Brien, the game

just started after the brief delay. "I feel you're not in the game until you get hit," O'Brien said, "or hit someone."

Assistant coach Josh Hand feels there's something special about his defenseman and the way he carries himself off the ice.

"He's very humble and hard working," the first-year assistant said. "He's a guy you like to see have success, because of how great of a teammate he is."

However, on the ice, O'Brien serves as the team's enforcer, making big hit after big hit.

Hand expressed how crucial it is to his team's identity. The Icemen experience success when they're grinding and playing a physical game. O'Brien fits right into the scheme, serving as the team's enforcer.

"He provides us with a presence," Hand said. "That presence is so important, because of everything we do on the ice."

One of O'Brien's keys to success

is his ability to stay consistent. The 5-foot-10 sophomore appeared in 38 games last season and has already played in all 11 games this season. Not only has O'Brien stayed on the ice, but also has been a constant in coach Scott Balboni's starting lineup.

The lock-down defender has also shown his versatility this season, mostly on the offensive side of the puck. O'Brien has helped play a role in his team's power play execution.

The second-year defender has already compiled two goals and six assists, which is good for seventh best on the team this season. Still, O'Brien knows what role serves his team best.

"I know my role is to play physical," O'Brien said. "I take that on me and I try and play physical throughout the entire game. Everyone gets up from a play like that."

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Effort pleases Lions

By Emily Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Sometimes Jeff Brooks will be sitting at home when he'll get a call from his coaches.

"And they're like, 'You've got to crash offensive boards,'" Brooks said, jokingly.

That's how much the Penn State men's basketball coaches have been stressing the importance of offensive rebounds.

And on Tuesday night, the message got through to Brooks and the Nittany Lions.

Penn State tallied 13 offensive rebounds in its 66-57 win against Saint Joseph's at the Bryce Jordan Center.

That statistic is especially important for the Lions as they struggled to find any offensive rhythm for much of the night. They finished the game shooting 36.4 percent from the floor including 4.8 percent from 3-point range.

"With those offensive boards, we get extra possessions, and with extra possessions we have another chance to score," Brooks said. "So it's pretty big for our team."

Penn State scored 11 points on second-chance efforts Tuesday night. The Lions also out-rebounded the Hawks by a total 45-38 margin.

A lot of that came from Brooks, who posted a career-high 18 points and tied a career-high with nine total rebounds.

Teammate Talor Battle said it's something the coaching staff has harped on, especially with Brooks — the 6-foot-8, 200-pound forward.

Battle said he remembered in the days leading up to the Lions' season-opener against Lehigh last week, coach Ed DeChellis walked into the team meeting and said the same exact thing each time.

"He was like, 'Jeff, you had zero rebounds in practice today, zero rebounds in practice, zero rebounds in practice,'" Battle recalled.

"And finally, on the third day, Jeff was like a mad man in practice and got every single rebound."

After Tuesday's game, DeChellis said a main area of concern for him was the lack of production behind the arc.

The coach noted that it was just the second game of the season, and he doesn't think Penn State is a "1-for-21 3-point shooting team."

Yet still, the 3-point shooting was dismal, and that's why the offensive rebounds were so important, he said.

"I thought we had open three's, it wasn't like they were contested," DeChellis said.

"But I've tried to emphasize to this team that we have to defend and rebound the ball. And if we do that, we're going to give ourselves a chance."

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Brooks

Calgary GM Sutter sends son to Carolina in trade

By The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Roughly one week after Brett Sutter was jailed following a bar fight, his father traded him away.

Calgary general manager Darryl Sutter sent his son Brett and defenseman Ian White to the Carolina Hurricanes on Wednesday in exchange for defenseman Anton Babchuk and forward Tom Kostopoulos.

The Hurricanes announced the

trade about three hours before their game against Ottawa.

"Ian is a complete defenseman who can play in our top four, and in all situations," Carolina general manager Jim Rutherford said.

"Brett is a young forward who is in the development stages of his professional career and gives us depth at the forward positions."

The trade came roughly a week after Sutter, 23, got into a fight outside an Arizona bar and was jailed briefly on suspicion of assault.

He's also the nephew of Calgary coach Brent Sutter and the older

cousin of Carolina alternate captain Brandon Sutter — Brent's son.

Brett Sutter had been sent to the Flames' AHL affiliate in Abbotsford earlier this week for a conditioning assignment, and the Hurricanes said he will report to their AHL affiliate in Charlotte.

Sutter had one assist in four games with the Flames this sea-

son, averaging roughly 10 minutes of ice time in his fourth professional season.

White, 26, had two goals and four assists in 16 games with Calgary this season, and had career highs of 13 goals, 25 assists and 83 games played while splitting the 2009-10 season between Toronto and the Flames, who picked him up in January in the Dion Phaneuf trade.

The deal also ends Babchuk's latest stint with the Hurricanes.

The defenseman with a hard slap shot scored four game-win-

ning goals during Carolina's run to the Eastern Conference final in 2009.

He played last season in Russia but agreed to a one-year deal with Carolina in July, and had three goals and five assists this season.

Kostopoulos had one goal and three assists in 17 games with the Hurricanes this season.

To help fill the holes in the roster, Carolina also recalled defenseman Brett Carson from Charlotte and said he would be eligible to skate later that night against the Senators.



Sutter

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