

Sporting View

Erie Panthers are ready to prowl

by John Musser
Collegian Sports Editor

The Erie Panthers are establishing themselves as the "New York connection" in the East Coast Hockey League.

The New York Rangers announced early last week that they have reached a working agreement with the Panthers. Erie had announced last month that they would have a working agreement with the New York Islanders this year. Both agreements will work independently of each other.

In the Rangers deal, Erie would receive both contracted pros and free agents who fail to make the Rangers club or New York's top affiliate in Flint, Michigan. Flint is a member of the IHL (International Hockey League).

According to Erie Panther's Director of Marketing/Operations Mike Van Natten, it will be "tough for free agents to make the team" with the presence of three to four contracted pros from each New York NHL club. Van Natten stressed that the Panthers want to keep a nucleus of players on the team so that the fans will be able to maintain a team identity.

Van Natten also said that it will be difficult for members of last year's squad to make the team this year. "I'm guessing that we'll have three to five players from last year's team make this year's team," said Van Natten. This was a team that produced three of the league's seven all-stars.

For Training camp this year, which opens on October 16, Van Natten is expecting to have 33 players try out. The Panthers will probably have about eight free agents vying for positions on the team.

The list of free agents includes forwards Grant Ottenbreit, voted most popular player by the fans last year, Darren Miciak, Chris Walsh, Doug Stronvack, Doug Marsden, and Harry Geary.

Other invitees are defensemen Steve Weinke and Antti Autery. Weinke, who is six-foot two inches and 215 pounds, is expected to make the team. "He was good last year, and he should be super this year."

One person Panther's fans can count on being back is head coach Ron Hansis, the ECHL coach of the year last winter. Hansis took his team from the gutter to the top of the ECHL mountain by the end of the regular season. With Hansis at the helm, Erie would be a competitive team with marginal talent. Now with all of the new talent coming in this year, the Panthers will challenge for the league

championship again.

"I think we'll be more than competitive this year," said Van Natten.

The Track club and ROTC sponsored a 5-km cross country race on September 20, the first such race held at Behrend in nearly two years. Junior Steve Vogt was the overall winner with a time of 20:57, just ahead of freshman Scott Brown. The top female finisher was freshman Susie Greco, who finished seventh overall.

Other top finishers, by class, were freshmen Bill Vonah and Bob Barron, sophomores Mike Leshner and Kyle Blakeslee, junior Danny Plocquidio, and seniors Bernie Jaros and Gary Law.

Some stupid things I was thinking about five minutes before deadline:

•Is it just a coincidence dept. You may remember a couple of weeks ago that it was mentioned in this column that the Pittsburgh Steelers were not one of the best teams in football. In fact, I said they really really suck. This was after the Steelers got mangled in their first two games by the Browns and Bengals, and being a long time Pittsburgh fan, I was more than a little upset when I wrote that. Since then, the Steelers have gone 2-0 and are back in the race for the AFC central crown.

•Finally. That is what every Browns fan is saying this week after Bernie and the boys turned the tables on the Broncos and won the game in the final seconds on a Matt Bahr field goal. The win ended a 10-game losing streak for Cleveland against Denver that spanned 15 years, including the last two in the AFC Championship game, which were also decided in the final minutes.

•Note of bowling interest dept. Behrend Freshman Greg Berlin bowled a 300 game Monday night at the Eastland bowling alley. Berlin, who is 18 years old and is in his first year of adult bowling, had a 736 series.

•I hate AstroTurf.

•I hate to say it. I hate to say I told you so. But last spring I correctly predicted the outcomes for first place in both American League divisions. You can look it up.

•While you're looking that up, you may also notice that I picked the Chicago Cubs fifth and the San Francisco Giants third, both winners in the NL East and West, respectively.

•Assistant Editor Todd J. Irwin has asked me who I think will win the League Championship Series this year. After several coin tosses, I've come to these conclusions. The Giants in six over the Cubs. Who will the Giants face? Oakland.

Women's tennis team ups their record to 4-5 team 2-1 for the week

by Robert Kitchen
Collegian Staff Writer

The Lady netters won two out of three matches last week to improve their record to 4-5.

The first win came against SUNY-Fredonia (6-3) on September 26. The lady netters won four out of six in singles and two of the three doubles matches.

Double winners, those players winning both in singles and doubles play, were Melissa Clark, Erika Lloyd, and Victoria Rice.

Monica Michel, on the Fredonia match, said, "We played well because we knew what to expect."

The Lady Lions easily defeated visiting Thiel last Thursday, 8-1. Thiel had to forfeit 3 points due to shortage in players, thus giving the lady lions an early 3-0 lead.

The lady netters were victorious in all of the four singles matches that were

played. Singles winners were Monica Michel (6-2, 6-1), Melissa Clark (6-3, 6-2), Erika Lloyd (6-2, 6-1), and Steffani Rasche (6-3, 6-4).

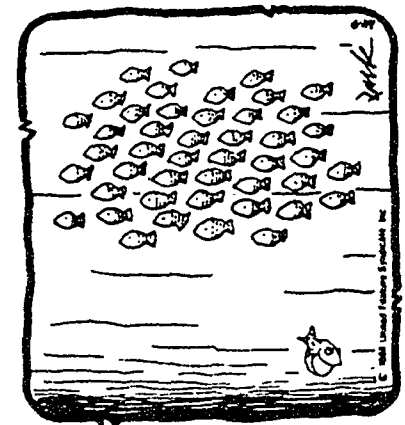
Behrend split in doubles play. Winning in doubles was the team of Victoria Rice and Colleen Holtzer (7-6, 7-5).

Monica Michel said, "Together as a team we are all playing a lot better." Erika Lloyd was happy with her play. Lloyd said, "I hit more consistently."

On Saturday, the lady netters next traveled to Allegheny College, suffering a 1-7 loss.

The netters were winless in singles, but pulled out one win in doubles play. Winning in doubles was the team of Clark and Lloyd (6-2, 6-3). The doubles team of Monica Michel and Steffani Rasche

Played well against Allegheny, stretching the Lady Gators to three sets (7-5, 3-6, 4-6) before dropping their match.



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*Wed, Oct 11----2:50 pm
*Thur, Oct 12----8:20 pm

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Wed, Oct 4-----2:50 pm
Fri, Oct 6-----8:07 pm
Sat, Oct 7-----12:50 pm
*Sun, Oct 8----4:20 pm
*Tue, Oct 10----8:07 pm
*Wed, Oct 11---8:07 pm

* if necessary

NFL Football

New York Jets vs Los Angeles Raiders
October 9th
8:45 pm

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