

Optimism high for Lady Lions

by Joe Motillo
Collegian Staff

Although the Lady Lions' volleyball team is only 3 -7, Coach Jan Wilson is still optimistic. She said, "our serving is more consistent than last season."

Wilson has been playing her five returning players from last season. None of which are seniors.

Co-captains Carrie Grezjka and Amy Stranahan start at middle hitter and weakside hitter, respectively, and provide the most experience as both started last season.

Jonelle Curtis and Julie Stocker are the strongside hitters and according to Wilson, "Stocker's been hitting real well."

The fifth returnee is Jen Spencer, who is the team's defensive specialist. All other players are new.

Sophomore Shannon Lucci, freshmen Molly Samuels and Jen Taylor all have been starting this season for the Lions.

The three other freshmen are Kim Snyder, Jennifer Leone, and Deanna Ciminnisi. Snyder and Leone are having a difficulty time getting playing time because they're playing behind Stocker and Stranahan.

"Hitting and Blocking are our strengths," said Wilson.

The team opened play this season at the Cortland Tournament on September 3 and

4. The Lions took on Potsdam in their first match. The young Lions hung tough but fell 16-14 and 17-15.

Binghamton was the Lions' next opponent. Behrend hung tough, but fell 16-14, 8-15, and 13-15.

Alfred University was the unfortunate victim as Behrend came out fired up. Behrend won 12-15, 15-11, and 15-6.

Behrend then ran into an ungracious host as Cortland thrashed the Lions 15-9 and 15-5.

The Lions' next opponent was Buffalo State. The Lions made the trip up to Buffalo, but were sent packing as they fell 15-11, 15-1, and 15-7.

The Lions next tournament was this past weekend in Oberlin. The Lions lost to St. Mary's 15-4 and 15-9, but regrouped quickly.

They defeated Ohio Dominion 15-13 and 15-11 and Bethany 15-11 and 15-7. The Lions failed to defeat Bethany at all last season.

The Lions fought Oberlin next. The Lions dropped the first 15-9, but came back in the second to win 15-10. Oberlin was too much as they prevailed 15-11 in the third game.

St. Mary's played the Lions next and the result was similar; two games, two losses. The score 15-5, 15-12.

"We need to work on basic skills so we don't have as many ball handling areas," said Wilson.

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