Women's Basketball advance to semifinals

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

With the first-round bye in the NE10 Conference Tournament, the Owls defeated the Pace University Setters on Sunday, March 2 68-61 in the quarterfinals.

"At the end of the day, everyone's 0-0, and we have to be prepared for that we've talked about bringing our A plus game, because everyone else is bringing their A plus game too," Head Coach Kate Lynch said. "I'm really proud of our effort. Everyone went in there and made a huge impact for us."

Before looking towards the Bentley University Falcons in the semifinals, the Owls had the Setters in the way. They fell behind and clawed their way back, to a 31-29 deficit at the break.

There were 42 fouls called in the game, and non-calls were plaguing. Some of the more blatant ones were even more frustrating given a non-call on guard Delaney Haines, a senior, who shot a three-pointer as the shot clock expired was right in front of an official.

"I can be upset all I want, but we shouldn't be in low shot clock situations, that was on us. So can't blame anybody else but ourselves," Lynch said. "That's really a hard call for an official to make. When we're 30 feet from the basket, we shouldn't be in that position. So that's on us."



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

Guard Delaney Haines, a senior, pushes past a Setter to get to the rim.

As a Setter collided with Haines as she attempted to shoot a three, animated on the floor, Lynch does not blame the officials who like Haines, carry the burden for putting the officials in a position to make a call like that.

"It's frustrating, I'm obviously trying to draw a foul, I'm doing whatever; throwing my body to the ground, throwing my body into another player, just to get the shot off," Haines said. "That's just how it's going to be. You're not going to get every call. So, I think it's just how you react to it that matters."

Haines was happy about the preparation and outcome given that this was their third meeting in two months. She finished with 20 points, where she played all 40 minutes, even going on to say that she was ready to play another 40 if needed.

In a rut and not lighting up box score, though scoring 20 and a reliable fallback option, the Owls were all a rock in a hard place. With guard Lyzi Litwinko, a graduate, carrying three fouls in the first half, Lynch turned to guard Ally Sentance, a junior, who's turn it was to provide the spark in the second half.

"We love coming off the bench and being that spark, coach says it all the time. Some games it's her, some games it's me, some games it's both of us, which is even better," Sentance said. "In those instances, when it's one or the other, it's never a battle of who gets to do it. It's just a really supportive environment from her and then also just from the whole team."

Sentance ended with three assists and five rebounds in 28 minutes off the bench. Though scoring only eight points, she hit two three pointers at crucial points in the game that was capped by a steal in transition.

"My job isn't to score 20 points, and I know that my job is to go in there, play defense make it hard for them and then when I'm playing defense get those steals," Sentance said. "People are so worried about Delaney, which is great because she scores so many points. I just have to be ready in those spots when she hits me, and I have to reward her for that."

In the second quarter Hope Fox attempted a jumper, only to be fouled. She was down briefly favoring her ankle. She was replaced at the line by forward Rheyna Steinauer, a junior. Fox returned favoring her leg throughout the game as Lynch sent her back on the court shorty after being checked by assistant athletic trainer Deanna Laubach.

"If Hope Fox says she's good, she's good," Lynch said.

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Men's Basketball avoids first round upset

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

On Friday Feb. 28, as the sixth seed in the NE10 Conference tournament, the Men's Basketball narrowly avoided a first-round upset at the hands of Franklin Pierce University, defeating the Ravens 85-76.

In the third meeting of the season, both teams showed how results earlier in the season should not lay expectations for the future. Where six days earlier, the Owls won by 42 points topping the first game point differential by 31.

"We didn't make shots. I think we pressed at both ends of the court and little nervous energy. We weren't relaxed out there, and we just couldn't get any consecutive stops, until late in the game," Head Coach Scott Burrell said. "We just didn't have any chemistry today. We weren't on the same page. We didn't have the same passion, but we'll get it back."

The Owls were at full strength after several of the players were sick and missed practice in the days leading up to the game.

Off to a slow start offensively, the Owls gave the Ravens the opportunity to think they could win the game. Frustration boiled over with six minutes left in the first half as forward Antonio Chandler, a senior, was called for a technical foul after he shoved an opposing player while on defense that emulated into a scuffle that was separated rather quickly by the officials and players on the court.

"After my free throw on the other end, I felt like it was kind of a late hit. The guy boxed me out knew the rebound wasn't even going near me. It's kind of like an illegal felt like it was a little dirty move," Chandler said. "I let that one go but then I saw, one was doing illegal stuff to my teammate and now and go for that. I was just standing up for my teammate at the end of the day."

Adding to the frustration filling in the Owls locker room with a 35-31 lead at the break; guard Albert Vargas, a junior, who leads the team in points scored this season only had two in the first half.

After rekindling what has allowed them to reach such potential in the latter half of the season, the Owls found their rhythm including Vargas who scored 28 in the second half.

"I had a pretty rough half, but I've been in those moments before the whole year, and it's a lot of ups and down," Vargas said. "I knew my shots were gonna go in, and I never lost my focus, and I was out there just trying to win, do everything that I can to win again, and that's what kept us in the game, and you saw the results."

Over the second half, Burrell rotated several players in the lineup. However, for a significant portion, forward Cherif Diarra, a junior, was missing in action. He was not injured, but Burrell purposely held him out given the importance of the game.

"Well, he had four fouls. I'm not gonna let him fall out with 12 minutes left, because we'll be in trouble, but you got to save time," Burrell said. "He's a huge part of our team. He's a huge part of why we're successful. So, you have got to keep him on the bench and eat up some minutes and get him in so he can finish the game."

Over the last several weeks, the Owls have been on fire. With this win they have won seven of their last eight games dating back to Feb. 1 with a healthier team.



PHOTO | WADE BARILLARO

Guard Albert Vargas, a junior, dibbles past a defender.

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Women athletes invited to alumni panel



PHOTO | AVERY MARTIN

ESPNW panel discussion in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.

By Avery Martin
Contributor

On Feb. 24, female athletes from the university sports teams gathered in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom for a Campus Conversations forum by ESPNW.

ESPN commentator Cristina Alexander hosted the event, which focused on empowering female athletes and encouraging participation in women's sports. Four university alumni who now work in various areas of women's sports spoke and took questions from athletes.

"Nothing is just going to get handed to you," panel member, Cheryl DiCarlo said, a basketball alumna who now works for ESPN. "You have to really do the work and show up knowing that you care about this and have a passion for this."

Head Field Hockey Coach and Senior Woman Administrator Kelley Frassinelli helped organize the evening. She said that seeing successful women who formerly competed for the university was necessary for student-athletes.

"I don't think there's enough representation for them to be able to see sometimes where they can go and what they can make of themselves from where they currently sit right now," Frassinelli said in an interview with the athletic department.

Panel member Carol Stiff, also a basketball alumna, spent 31 years working at ESPN and spoke to attendees about the need for more women working in sports.

She said events like Campus Conversations are meant to inspire female athletes.

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