

Women shock the 'Rock



Dan Nowicki/Collegian Photographer

Jump up to say hi: Lara Herrmann gains control of the ball while Kristie Amon and Katie Thomas look on.

by **Brian Gregory**
Collegian Staff

The Penn State Lady Lions finished a strong week of soccer as they beat a tough Washington and Jefferson team on Saturday 5-0, and then came back from a 2-0 deficit to stun Division II Slippery Rock 2-2 on Sunday.

"It's what we've been doing all year," commented Coach Dan Perritano. "We've had success many weeks this year, and we did it again."

Saturday the Lady Lions (9-3-

2) got off to a fast start as freshman sensation Trisha Baird notched two goals within the first 28 minutes to give the Lady Lions a 2-0 halftime advantage.

Then just one minute and forty-six seconds into the second half Julie Stocker scored her third goal of the season on a direct kick. Baird came back twenty minutes later with her twentieth goal of the season. The goal, which was the Lady Lions fourth, was Baird's tenth in her last three games.

Also scoring for the Lady

Lions was freshman defenseman Kristen Gonter who notched her first collegiate goal to finish out the scoring.

"We played great and we possessed the ball excellently," said a jubilant Perritano. "It's possibly the best we've possessed the ball all season."

The game against the Lady Presidents marked the third straight game in which Behrend keeper Katie Thomas did not need to make a save. The Lady Lions notched 38 shots in the game.

On a rare Sunday afternoon game the Lady Lions came out ready to play against a tough Division II Slippery Rock soccer program. Thomas finally got some action stopping shots as both teams went back and forth early on in the game. SRU got on the board first beating Thomas for a 1-0 lead at halftime.

SRU took a 2-0 lead in the second half on a penalty kick, and

things began to look bleak for Behrend.

But, though the Lady Lions bent, they did not break. Despite missing a few early opportunities, Lara Herrmann got revenge by beating the SRU's keeper on a penalty kick to make the score 2-1 with just under thirty minutes to go.

Then, ten minutes later, Stocker drove to the net and bounced a hard shot off of the goalkeeper. In the confusion, Melissa Snyder banged the shot home to tie the game a 2-2.

"I was really excited on the bench when Melissa scored," exclaimed Perritano.

The score remained tied through overtime. But with six minutes to go in the final overtime, the Lady Lions got a scare. With Thomas lying sprawled out on the ground and the net open a SRU player took a shot at the open net.

However, out of nowhere Gonter booted the shot out of the way and saved the game for the Lady Lions.

"I was scared to death," commented Gonter. "But I managed to clear the ball."

"The tie was a good result for both teams since both had chances to win," replied Perritano.

For the game, the Lady Lions had 28 shots to Slippery Rock's 18. Thomas had nine saves and numerous clears.

The Lady Lions also paid tribute before the game to its two seniors Kristie Amon and Julie Stocker who played in their final home match.

The two seniors played a vital role in the inception of women's soccer at Behrend last year and the varsity program this year.

The final match will take place today at Hiram, with kickoff set at 3:00 p.m.

We played great and we possessed the ball excellently. It's possibly the best we've possessed the ball all season.

--Coach Dan Perritano

Defense rules

by **Matt Plizga**
Collegian Staff

"She does an excellent job of clearing the ball out of the defensive third of the field," stated Lisa Deemer about this week's Athlete of the Week, Michelle Finch, sweeper for the women's soccer team.

"Michelle anchors our strong back four," explained Head Coach Dan Perritano.

Fellow defensive player Julie Stocker said, "I feel very confident that Michelle is behind me and the last line of defense. She controls the field well and makes sure everyone stays on their marks."

Freshman Lisa Fox commented, "The defense feels confident knowing Michelle is behind us. She is a strong defensive player and a great leader."

Goal keeper Katie Thomas describes Finch as "a great defensive player who controls the defense well."

Coach Perritano adds that "Finch is excellent in the air and wins a lot of balls away from opposing players."

Assistant Coach Rick Nese adds, "Michelle is a very composed player. She creates a solid foundation for the back four."

Team manager Chance Elliott Bisbee stated, "Finch runs the defense well, and she hustles to the ball and slows the opposing team's offense."

"Michelle also plays an important part in starting our offense," stated Coach Perritano.

Freshman Robyn Wholey feels that "Michelle possesses great skill and knowledge of the game."

Teammate Kristie Amon commented, "Finch has been a great asset to our team. She has a lot of experience which has helped the women's soccer program both this year and last."

Coming into this season, Finch said the team had some high expectations. She feels "We have exceeded the expectations of a beginning team and had a very successful year." She also added "We have improved individually and as a team throughout the year."

Finch also stated that "The defense has been consistent all year. We have really played well together."

Her philosophy going into each game is simple, as she said "Limit the number of shots on goal," which makes her motto even more true: "DEFENSE RULES."



Dan Murray/Collegian Photographer
ATW: Michelle Finch

wpse
am 1450

Every Thursday at 6:05 p.m.
Nittany Lion Hotline

This Saturday
Penn State v. Indiana at Noon

Monday Night Football
Talk to Julie, Nick & Brian on
"WPSE's Touchdown Talk" at 8:06 p.m.
Chicago v. Minnesota at 8:45 p.m.

World Series (if needed)
Game #5 Thursday 8:07 p.m.
Game #6 Saturday 7:07 p.m.
Game #7 Sunday 7:07 p.m.

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