

Pens off to rough start in Consol Energy Center

SEAN NEELY
senior reporter

The Penguins fell to 0-3 at the new Consol Energy Center with a loss to the Toronto Maple Leafs on Wednesday night. Admittedly, the Pens played, perhaps, one of their worst first periods in recent memory. This poor start has been disappointing for such a strong team especially as they take the ice at their new rink.

The Penguins did not let a shaky first-period get the best of them. In fact, the second period saw the Pens up 2-1. Unfortunately, their second period lead was not enough to close out the game.

Missed opportunities seem to be the developing trend early on in the season. The Pens continue to out-shoot their opponents on a regular basis. This is, of course, a positive sign that shows time of possession and chances to score are developing. It's more of an execution on a problem hat needs to be worked on.

Just ask Evgeni Malkin, whose woes on

the penalty shot are a bit of an enigma up to this point in his career. Malkin was awarded a late second period penalty shot and was unable to capitalize. This would have been a turning point in the game.

"I shot low to the blocker and missed," said Malkin went on to say after the game, referring to his penalty shot.

Malkin's scoring partner, Sidney Crosby went on to score his first goal of the season; an exciting goal that saw Ben Lovejoy make a swift and deceiving pass to Crosby in front of the net where Crosby was able to backhand past Maple Leaf's Goal-tender Jonas

Gustavsson. Crosby has been a notorious slow starter in his career, and has only put up two points in four games this season.

Another goaltender outplayed Marc-

Andre Fleury, yet again. Gustavsson made key saves at the right moments. Gustavsson robbed Pascal Dupuis midway through the second period from a beautiful cross-ice pass from Evgeni Malkin. Dupuis was unable to elevate the puck as Gustavsson slid across the ice on his pads, taking away the lower portion of the net. Fleury gave up four goals on 14 shots. However, two out of the four goals were practically impossible to ask Fleury to come up with and save, as key defensive break-downs in the Pens defensive zone caused them trouble.

"Our puck management was just so bad in the first period," defenseman Paul Martin said following the game.

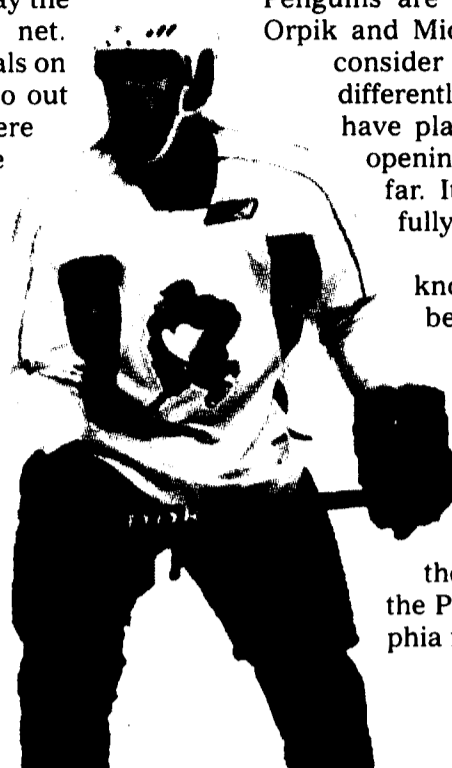
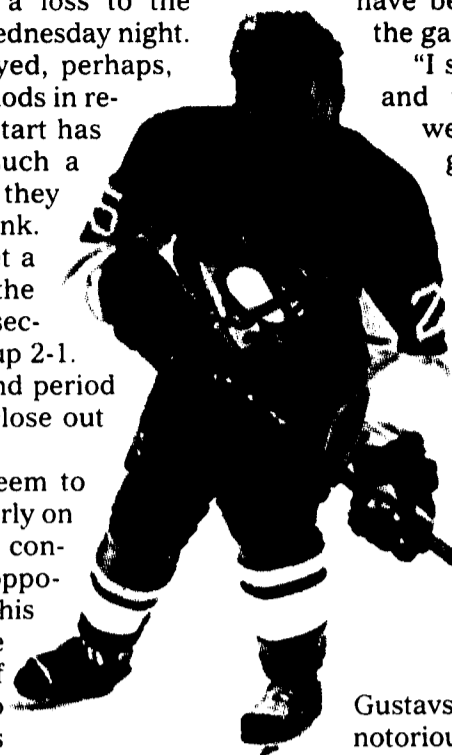
Even though fans may want to blame Fleury for this one, it was a lack of concentration and effort together as a team on

the defensive side that caused the Penguins the game.

However, Fleury needs to make big saves-something that his five million dollar contract should indicate. Secondly, Malkin and Crosby need to step-up. But, let us keep things in perspective here: the Penguins are ravaged with injuries. If Orpik and Michalek had been playing, consider the Toronto game to play differently. Let's be realistic, injuries have played a factor in the Pens opening up with a 1-3 record thus far. It will be a struggle until fully healthy.

"We're working hard, I know we are. I hope we get better. We need to...to help the team win," Malkin said.

The Pens will look for another win this Friday at home against the New York Islanders; Brent Johnson will get the nod in goal. On Saturday, the Pens will travel to Philadelphia for a 6pm road game.



Four games into the season, the Behrend Club ice hockey team is 2-2

PSB team faces off against rival team in awareness match

ALEC ITALIANO
sports editor

Pink is not usually a color associated with hockey players, but it is for Penn State Behrend's club ice hockey team. The team is raising money for breast cancer research through their third annual breast cancer awareness game Oct. 22.

The team will be sporting their pink jerseys for the game and will be facing off against rival Penn State Altoona. The puck drops at 6:45 p.m. at the Mercyhurst Ice Arena. Admission to the game is \$5 and half of all the proceeds from entrance fees, the 50/50 raffle and T-shirt sales will go towards breast cancer research.

The team is four games into their season and is currently 2-2. Center Nick Winarski, winger Jordan Shelleby, and defenseman Jared Bagnato all have three points each so far through the four games, and look to keep the puck in the net as the team is coming off a two game winning streak.

"We have a very talented team and are looking forward to a great year," said Bagnato, the Vice President of Hockey Club. "Back on defense we have a solid core of myself, Jon Lucsko, Ryan Adams, Ben Rock, Jake Grumski, and our new 6'4" freshman Paul Stien. We plan to go to regionals and hopefully attend nationals."

The team is just embarking on their 22 game schedule as they play well into winter and finish with post-season play in early spring. Shelleby, a 6'0"

200 lbs. junior from Pine-Richland High School is well on his way to another successful season and leads a group of powerful forwards for the PSB hockey club.

"We have a very talented group of forwards up front that will dangle all day long," said Shelleby.

The team is part of the College Hockey East league (CHE) in the Division III American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA). The team travels to colleges such as California University, Fredonia State, Penn State Altoona, Saint Vincent, and Robert Morris. They play every team in the section twice as well as some exhibition games with area teams as well.

Also the team will be traveling to Florida in Jan. 13-17 to play in one of their biggest tournaments this year. The hosting college is the University of Southern Florida and the PSB club team will be playing teams in the Florida Gulf Coast area.

This year, the club also has a second team that plays in the sister league for the CHE that is called the College Hockey Association (CHA). They play a completely different 16-game schedule with teams such as Pitt-Greensburg, Case Reserve University and Carnegie Mellon University.

Come on out to the game next Friday at Mercyhurst and help support the hockey team's fundraising efforts to combat Breast Cancer.

Otters win big over rival London

SAMANTHA MYERS
staff reporter

On Sept. 24, the Erie Otters traveled to Brampton, Ontario to face the Brampton Battalions in their first game of the regular season. The Otters marked their first game a victory with a 5-1 win over the Battalions and brought the team home from the Home Opener against the Sagi-

naw Spirit. This game was the first lose in a three-game losing streak.

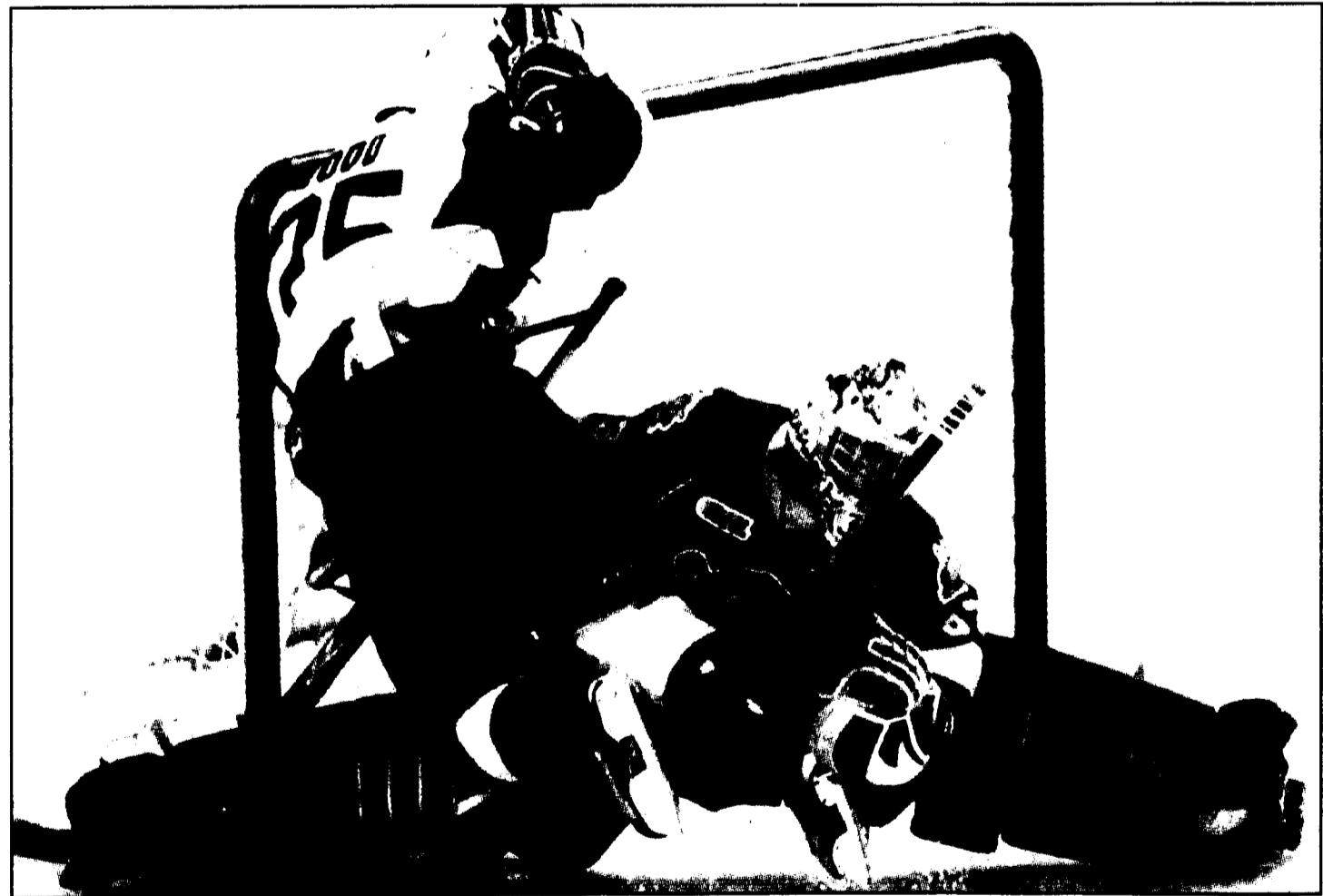
Next the Otters took their game back on the road to face the Niagara Ice Dogs, losing 5-4, and the Kitchener Rangers, losing 7-3. But these losses did not stop the Otters when they faced the London Knights in their second home game of the season.

The Otters faced their Midwest Division rivals, the London Knights, last Saturday in the Tullio Arena in front of 3,456 fans and secured their second win of the season with a 5-2 victory.

Otter fans celebrated the two short-handed goals scored by centerman Greg McKeegg. This was the first time since Feb. 29, 2008 that an Otter had scored

two shorthanded goals in a single game. McKeegg was named the first star of the game and goalie Ramis Sadikov was named the second star of the game for having stopped 35 of 37 shots and earned his second win of the season.

The next game on the Otters schedule is an away game against the Guelph Storm on Oct. 8th.



The Erie Otters started out with a slow start in the early season games, but a big win over rival London has given momentum to the team. Captain Greg McKeegg had success with the Toronto Maple Leaves and looks to lead the team to a successful season.

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