



photo by Richard Chlavetta

The men's soccer team in action in a recent twilight game.

## PSH teams fight for respect

**Derrick Stokes**  
*Capital Times Staff*

In the athletic world, "winning is not the most important thing; it's the only thing."

However, the sports teams at Penn State Harrisburg seem to come up short on the scoreboard more often than not. But proudly showcased in a glass trophy case in the Capitol Union Building are remnants of a time when "We're No. 1" could've been the theme song.

In 1985 and 1986 the tennis team won district championships. How's the tennis team looking this year? They're outta sight. What about that strong cross country team. They're outta sight too. (Translation: there is no tennis team or cross country team.)

Although there has been interest in tennis this year, athletic director Duane Krider said academic schedules conflicted with match schedules; making it difficult to field a complete team for an entire season. Lack of interest killed the cross country team, he said.

Krider attributed the success of these teams to the individual achievements of outstanding athletes in individual sports. In a team sport, like basketball, Krider said teams need more than one outstanding player to be successful.

"For us to be .500 in any sport is excellent," Krider said. "(We) compete against scholarship athletes." Penn State Harrisburg does not offer athletic scholarships.

"We don't have a policy that would allow us to give scholarships," he said. "If we had the money, we could give it," he added.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) allows participating schools to give out athletic scholarships. Penn State Harrisburg belongs to the NAIA District 19 and the Keystone Athletic Conference (KAC). Eight of the 14 teams in the district belong to the KAC.

Because PSH coaches don't have scholarships to lure top junior college athletes here, they must induce students to try out for teams.

"The high emphasis on academics and the shift to night class have an impact on athletics," Krider said. "The kids who do play varsity sports are special."

Coaches are now looking toward the Commonwealth campuses to supply Penn State Harrisburg with quality athletes.

"A consistently high influx of juniors from Commonwealth campuses would solidify a strong athletic program," Krider said.

Although this year's soccer team and the women's volleyball team will not have any prize recruits on their roster, they figure to challenge for district and conference championships this season, the athletic director said.

The soccer team won the Keystone Athletic Conference two years ago and the women's volleyball team qualified for the KAC playoffs the past two seasons. The women's volleyball team is lead by last year's KAC Coach of the Year David Hume.

"I think they're going to do quite well," Krider said. He thinks it will take a minimum of a .500 record to qualify for the playoffs.

Unlike the soccer and the women's volleyball, the basketball team will receive the services of an athlete from a commonwealth campus.

Ed Miller, a guard/forward from the Altoona campus, was voted the Most Valuable Player in the commonwealth campuses last year. He will anchor a lineup that will feature only one returning player from last season's squad. This year's team will have a new coach - Brad Markey, a new look and a new emphasis on academics.

Sweeping changes are indicative PSH's two year athletic programs. The coaches of each team work on a part-time basis. Krider said the coaches have full-time jobs.

Although the baseball team has always done well, continuity remains elusive for the rest of the athletic program.

"Two year programs are very tough. There are breaks and declines," he said.

## Hank's pen rambles

**Hank Rappold**  
*Capital Times Sports Editor*

Across the nation in sports....

Pro football is back and has welcomed new Dallas coach, Jimmy Johnson, to its ranks with four losses...Mo Cheeks has been traded away by the 76ers, another great trade for Philly?... Becker beats Lendl in the U.S. Open, not bad for a kid... Notre Dame is still atop of the college

football game... Baseball fans are now awaiting the outcome of the upcoming playoffs, which pit the Cubs vs. the Giants in the National League and the A's and the Blue Jays in the American...Hank picks the Cubs and the A's in the series with the Cubs finally winning it all... Back to Philly, the Eagles are soaring high and hoping to land in the Super Bowl this year. Can this be Buddy Ball, finally? We'll have to wait and see...

## Football team posts third straight win

**Jeff Quinn**  
*Capital Times Staff*

"Happy Days Are Here Again" is the tune that has echoed through Happy Valley the past three weekends.

After a stunning 14-6 season opening loss to the Cavaliers of Virginia, the Penn State Nittany Lions have rebounded to win their last three games over Temple, Boston College and the Texas Longhorns.

Trying to regain their lost spot in the AP top 25, the Lions unleashed a vicious attack against the then 0-2 Owls from Temple.

On the first offensive play of the game Penn State quarterback Tom Bill connected with David Daniels on a 75-yard pass play that resulted in a quick 7-0 Nittany Lion lead.

On the first play of the second quarter, Blair Thomas dove into the end zone from the one yard line to cap off a 13 play, 77 yard drive. Later in the quarter, a blocked punt by Andre Collins set up the Bill-Daniels combination for their second touchdown connection of the game to give the Lions a 21-3 lead at the half.

While Bill and Daniels were hooking up in the air, Blair Thomas was quietly gaining 138 yards on 21 carries with two TDs; including a spinning and cutting 49 yard run that set up a Gerry Collins 20-yard score.

The Lions scored two more touchdowns in the second half and the defense held after allowing a 41-yard field goal in the second quarter to make the final score Penn State 42, Temple 3.

In their third game of the season the Lions faced the challenge of overcoming a stingy Boston College defense and the wind and rain of Hurricane Hugo with a new quarterback.

The new Lion quarterback was sophomore Tony Sacca, who was getting his first start because original starter Tom Bill had been suspended from the week.

Both the B.C. Eagles and the Penn State Nittany Lions had trouble moving offensively on the rain drenched turf at Beaver Stadium.

The Lion defense played extremely

well limiting the Eagles to 141 yards rushing. They gave up 168 yards in the air but held B.C. to a lone field.

Blair Thomas had another one hundred yard day as he rushed 118 yards on 27 carries.

The strong, unyielding play of the defense led to the last minute heroics of the sputtering Penn State offense. With 3:50 left in the game, the Lions took over possession at the B.C. 35 yard line after a shanked punt.

After gaining a quick first down on three carries by Blair Thomas, the offense found themselves facing a fourth down and seven at the the 21 yard line.

Sacca dropped back to pass but pulled the ball down and took off under pressure from the B.C. front line. Sacca eluded three tacklers and gained 13 yards as he was finally stopped and pushed out of bounds at the the eight yard line.

After three attempts to score on the ground via Blair Thomas the Lions lined up at the one yard line facing fourth and goal. A fake hand-off to Thomas and a bootleg around the right side led Penn State to its second victory in as many weeks and its seventeenth victory out of eighteen tries against the Eagles.

In the fourth game on their schedule Penn State escaped with a victory thanks to their special teams.

In the fourth quarter with 7:00 left in the game linebacker Andre Collins swept in from the right side and blocked a punt just as he had done in the Temple game. Leonard Humphries recovered the punt and ran it four yards for a touchdown which resulted in a 16-12 victory.

In the first quarter the Lions drew first blood on a four play 80 yard drive that ended with a Sacca-Daniels connection for 33 yards. The ensuing PAT was blocked breaking the longest string of successful extra points in Division I-A college football at 134.

The Longhorns fought back and went ahead of the Lions on a 30 yard diving catch in the end zone resulting in a two point safety.

After the blocked punt, Texas had three remaining tries to score but the Penn State defense would not be denied. Texas had run out of time as the Nittany Lions upped their record to 3-1.

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