

Dynamic dribbler earns player of the week award

*Hilary Zeiders
Capital Times Staff*

Penn State Harrisburg basketball player Jeff Peel, a junior marketing major, was honored by being named District 19 Player of the Week for Feb. 6-12.

Peel was greeted with a banner congratulating him on his excellent dribbling skills.

"I put the banner up to surprise him," said Ginny Horst, a CUB employee.

Peel was surprised, not only by seeing the banner, but also for being named player of the week.

"I knew I played good that week, but I never expected anything like this," he said.

The 6-foot 2-inch junior guard from Mahanoy City, Pa., had an outstanding week. He scored 104 points, grabbed 35 rebounds, handed out nine assists and recorded seven steals, leading the Lions to a 2-1 record for the week. Jeff also shot 35 of 56 points from the court, including 15 out of 24 from the 3-point range, and 21 of 25 from the line.

Other players nominated for the honor were from Alvernia College, Beaver College, Holy Family College, Neumann College and Wilmington College.

Peel transferred to PSH from the Schuylkill campus.

"I enjoyed playing on the PSH team," Peel said. "Everyone had very good attitudes. We were sort of like a family."

Peel was grateful for the team's opportunity to play other competitive teams in the area.

Overall, Peel was pleased with his personal results as well as those of the team.

"At each practice and game I personally improved," Peel said. "Also, I tried to practice harder each time."

Peel admitted that scheduling his time was a challenge.

"I had to budget my time correctly to allow for practices, games and schoolwork," Peel said. "It was somewhat difficult and tiresome."

The hard work and long hours of practice paid off for this junior who has been playing basketball for 11 years. Peel has plans to play on the team next year. However, with the proposed sports elimination, Peel's hopes may be shattered.

"It's a shame," Peel said. "I really hope we have the chance to play together again."



Photo by Kate Sherman

Jeff Peeler, athlete of the week, shows off his dribbler.

Baseball club finds field of dreams in Florida

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While we were preparing for the storm of the century, the Penn State Harrisburg baseball club was gearing up for the '93 season.

Discussion about the spring break trip to Cocoa Beach, Fla., began in September when the group formed its own club. After months of planning and fund raising, the 14 PSH students headed to a baseball field which was *not* snow covered.

"On the way down everyone was excited," said Scott Adams, a senior player. "We played cards, told stories and talked about hopes for the season."

Seventy-degree temperatures greeted the team after its 18-hour trek to Florida.

"We took advantage of the nice weather as soon as we got there and started practicing," said Buddy Dodson, club president. "It was nice to play on the field."

"We learned basics and fundamentals to get prepared for the season," said Scott Adams, club treasurer.

The team practiced daily to improve its skills, which it used in games against Penn State Berks and Shenango Valley.

The team had many opportunities to enjoy the Florida sunshine. Throughout the week the guys went fishing, visited the Hard Rock Cafe and baked on the beach. Attending a Florida Marlins game was also on the itinerary.

One of the highlights of the trip took place after the game when the players were asked to sign baseballs.

"It made me feel good," said senior player John Ruscavage.

Getting to know each other was an important factor which developed throughout the week.

"It was the first time this year we got to play together," Dodson said.

Team newcomer Paul Caldwell commented that the team played well.

The trip ran smoothly from the beginning until the weather changed.

The storm hit Cocoa Beach Saturday at 3 a.m. with high winds and downpours.

At 9 a.m. Dodson and Adams woke up their teammates and told them they would be leaving at 11 a.m.

As the storm progressed, Duane Crider, recreation and athletic coordinator, instructed baseball coach Wayne Geist to make decisions as needed.

With the weather conditions at home getting worse by the hour, the team was forced to take shelter in Fayetteville, N.C.

A problem arose when Wayne Geist explained that there were no additional funds to pay for lodging. Geist also said that because the trip was not athletically sponsored the team should not expect to receive money from Student Activities.

A decision was made to charge the hotel accommodations to Geist's credit card.

"I told the team they could worry about paying me back later," Geist said.

Meanwhile, back in Middletown, Crider and his dog Shone were on a mission: to walk through the blizzard to the CUB.

"I walked through the storm to show my support for the team," Crider said. "I called the parents that night to let them know that their children were safe."

Until the team arrived home on Sunday, Crider commented that he knew everything would work out.

"I trusted the club officers to take care of things," he said. "They did a good job and I am very proud of them."

When the team got home, the players were treated to hot dogs, soda and recreational activities sponsored by the Recreation and Athletic Association.

Now the trip is over and the players have gained valuable experience that will lead them to a winning season. However, they are still disturbed about the fact that Penn State passed the \$140 hotel bill over to the recreation and athletic department.

"We feel like Penn State deserted us," Dodson said. "I don't understand why there is not an emergency fund for situations like this."

On behalf of the team, Dodson would like to thank Crider for his support and dedication.



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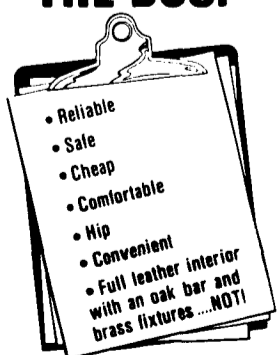
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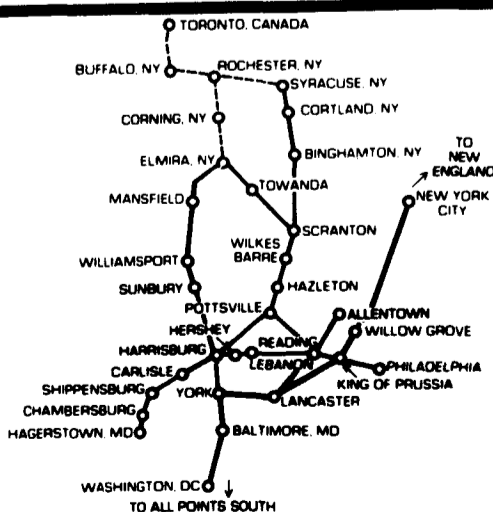
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