

## SPORTS

## PSU Sports A fabulous fall season for Penn State 'Burg

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Through cold days and warm days; wet days and dry days; this year at Penn State Harrisburg was one to remember, not only for the efforts of our teams, but also for the efforts of their supporting fans.

This fall sports season brings memories of late nights and hearing the screams of excited fans carried across the crisp night air. Students tiredly leaving the Olmsted building, or the library would be instantly woken from their near study-somber as their ears caught the sounds of action being played out on our sports fields. At first most reactions were of confusion as unspoken words from their eyes said, "What the...," and then followed shortly afterward with a grin of pride and confidence, knowing that our men and women were representing PSH with a fight the likes of which our competition had never seen.

Maybe it was just the start of a new semester for some teams that spurred them onto greater heights and excellence in performance. Maybe it was the addition of new players on the teams that gave fresh hope to some. But for our men's baseball team it seemed they felt it necessary to shake the stigma of a title long forgotten to everyone here at PSH. Forgotten by everyone, except for the baseball team themselves.

Henceforth, let it be known to all, both near and far, that the men's baseball team of PSH shall no longer be known as the "Bad News Bears". In recognition of their distinguished service this season, said blasphemous title shall be stricken from the record, wiped clean of the Tomes of Knowledge, and be forever unspoken by the lips of the PSH proud.

Who knows what started their miracle turnaround. The coach could have had some extra fire in his pep talks, or the practices could have been more intense. The thought on many a student's mind though is that it had something to do with whiffle ball home run derbies in front of the library.

Maybe it was a trade secret stolen from the Yankees, but somehow that poignantly yellow colored bat connecting to the whizzing white ball drove up batting averages beyond expectations. Remember, in this league clearing the bushes to the library sidewalk grants you a home run.

Of course this would imply that there is some greater title to bestow upon these proud warriors of the diamond, soldiers of the mound, and shock-troopers of the outfield, but in actuality all most people have to say is, "Good job guys." Have no fear though; a title is in the works.

Our sports teams did us proud even when it seemed like no one was watching. The women's volleyball team put up an impressive season of hard work that would make anyone's legs quiver when thinking about how many times you would have to be jumping in the air. If you don't know what the ladies' job entailed then let's see any one of you get off of your plush Olmsted building lounge chair and do three consecutive 25 point games back to back.

Ladies, do not feel under appreciated in any way. It's only a matter of time before the dorms are emptied out into the Capital Union Building for game night. With any luck you can talk some guys into painting PSH on their chests and starting a "We are... Penn State!" chant.

To all of our teams, we here at PSH salute you. You have done us proud; made good on the family tradition; showed them who's boss and all that other good stuff in between. We look forward to being there with you again as you proudly wear the blue and white. As your legend on, and off, the field grows, so shall we be there to cheer you on to glory.

Penn State Harrisburg's Fall sports season has recently come to a close, with many of the teams having enjoyed remarkable success. Their success has come despite the fact that intercollegiate athletics just returned to our campus last year.

### Men and Women's Soccer

After making it through the semi-final round of the Penn State University Athletic Conference playoffs by beating Penn State Hazleton by a score of 7-2, the men's soccer team suffered a heartbreaking 3-2 overtime loss to Penn College in the championship game on November 5. With around one minute left in regulation, the PSH men were winning the game by a score of 2-1. That is when Penn College scored their second goal of the game to send it into the first overtime period. Unfortunately, only about a minute had passed in the sudden-death overtime when the ball took a tricky bounce and ended up in the back of the PSH net.

However, this tough loss should not overshadow the superb season that the men's soccer team had en route to the championship game. The men played many tough games and came

RBI's), followed by Garret Piper (.389, 21-54, 16 RBI's), Matt Carroll (.364, 16-44, 12 RBI's), Kevin Kredier (.333, 11-33), Austin Kulp (.313, 15-48) and Kris Aumiller (.302, 13-43, 13 RBI's). We had better pitching this Fall, we had better bats this fall and we had better gloves. One of our goals was to win every inning, knowing that if we did that we could not lose."

When asked, about how well he perceived the team to be working together, Coach Maschmeyer said, "The Fall version of our baseball squad came together as a unit very quickly. We had some freshmen and transfers step in at key positions and start, but nobody let their pride get in the way. Every player showed up ready to play - and if they were not in the lineup - they were rooting for their teammate in front of them. They picked each other up when needed."

"I think we opened some eyes during the Fall semester. I believe there were some teams that thought we were going to continue to be the doormat of the league. Two of our biggest wins came against PS Delaware, the 2-time Eastern



No longer the "Bad News Bears", the PSH men's baseball team successfully completed their fall season with a 9-5 record.

having lost those 3 games by a total of 40 runs. We were 0-4 against PS Beaver last year, losing by a total of 32 runs. Nothing against the team we had last year - as those kids gave their all - but we were out matched, out played and out coached against those two teams. This year, we are 0-2 against them, losing by a total of 3 runs. That is a sign of our vast improvement," said Coach Maschmeyer when asked if there were any memorable games which would garner special mention,

As far as goals for the rest of their season are concerned, Coach Maschmeyer said, "As we head into the off season, I believe our goals and expectations for the spring are going to be very high. We will need to spend some time on learning how to focus

in key situations. We have all 16 kids from the fall roster returning for the spring, plus we have a few kids transferring in next semester that should have an immediate impact on our team. The kids have to do the little things between now and the start of the spring semester. We've come a long way since last fall and spring. We are no longer the PS version of the Bad News Bears, as we were once labeled. We currently have 16 kids that have excellent baseball abilities and understand the intricacies of the game. I am very proud of the way we handled ourselves on and off the field. We have 16 young men that are respectful of their sport and University. We are only getting better."

### Co-ed Tennis

The fledgling co-ed tennis team enjoyed a fun and successful season, ending up with a winning overall/PSUAC record of 7-3. Two players in particular achieved amazing success in their respective singles and when they played together in doubles. Junior Zach Dixon completed the season with an impressive undefeated 10-0 regular-season #1 men's singles record and 10-0 regular-season #1 men's doubles record



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with his partner, senior Jonathan Barber. Barber finished the regular season with a 9-1 record. At the season-ending PSUAC conference tournament, Dixon and Barber each won their respective #1 and #2 singles flights and the #1 men's doubles title.

Freshman #2 singles player Jess Karl accomplished a 7-3 record, with two of those wins coming from forfeits. Megan Resser, senior, and Kay Makishi, freshman finished the regular season with a 7-3 women's doubles record, including two wins because of forfeits. Resser and Karl each made it to the semi-final round of their respective singles flights in the conference tournament and together reached the semi-final round of the women's doubles flight before bowing out. Other players who contributed greatly to the team's success were freshmen Donny Smith and Will Powell and junior Jim Coyle.

In reflecting on the season, coach Becky Cecere said, "I would like to include that we surpassed general expectations and perhaps surprised even ourselves at how well we did. If we would be playing in that conference again next year, there would be some serious paybacks taking place (even though we only lost 3 matches!) I was most proud of how everyone cheered on and supported each other in our individual sport, even in some of the difficult individual losses we had.

Next year will bring new challenges of gathering both women's (Fall) and men's (Spring) teams. I'm already planning an intramural program for the spring that I hope will bring together both the varsity players and others on campus for a good time. Stay tuned for more information on that program."

### Women's Volleyball

The women's volleyball team played a very full season of matches and struggled somewhat because of their small roster size. They ended their season with an overall record of 7-12 and a PSUAC record of 7-9. One outstanding performer was junior Jayme Michael, who led the team in four statistical categories including 145 Kills (2.54/game), 64 Aces (1.12/game), 24 Total Blocks, and 233 Total Points (4.09 Pts/game). Jayme served as co-captain for the second year and was the team leader on and off the court. Another outstanding performer was senior Vera Kanova,

who led the team with 266 Assists (4.67 Assists/game) and with a .166 Hitting percentage. Kanova served as co-captain and filled the setter position for the team the last two seasons. A natural outside hitter, Kanova was versatile enough to run the offense as the setter and still lead the team in hitting percentage and recorded the second most kills and aces on the team with 75 and 40, respectively. One more player worth mentioning is freshman Xiaoxi Yang, who led the team with 164 Digs (2.93/game). Xiaoxi played great defensively as a first-year player.

Memorable matches for the women's volleyball team include their five

game win against Penn State Delaware County on October 8<sup>th</sup> and the playoff loss to Penn State Mont Alto on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Both were extremely close contests. The Del Co. match went back and forth as PSH won games 1 and 3 and Del Co won games 2 and 4. Game 5 was close early on with the score 8-7 in Del Co.'s favor, however PSH won 7 of the next 10 points and won the game 15-10. In the best-of-three playoff match against PS Mont Alto, PSH nearly pulled off a great comeback after losing Game 1, 30-15. In Game 2, PSH faced a 28-22 deficit but then won 9 of 10 points to win the game, forcing a deciding Game 3. In the final game, PSH trailed from the beginning and could not comeback to gain the lead. PSH lost Game 3 by a score of 15-12, bringing the season to an end.

### Golf

The new golf team had a good season, finishing solidly in the top three or four teams in every meet in which they competed. The season averages (6 rounds total) for each member of the team are as follows: freshman Mike Yetter - 85.6; senior Cory Calvert - 86.8; sophomore Nick Reed - 87; freshman Josh Goodling - 89; junior Mike Raines - 90; senior Max Grill - 91.3; and senior Mike Sherman - 91.5.

When asked to reflect on their season, head coach Brad Kane said, "I thought the season went very well. Being the first year for the team, I was more concerned with laying the groundwork for the program than actual wins and losses. However, we seemed to do well in that department too, finishing above .500. There were a couple bumps here and there along the way, but that's what you get with a learning experience. I thought the guys on the team got along very well; lots of good chemistry. Although golf is an individual sport, good team chemistry certainly can't hurt. The depth of the team was a real strong suit for us. All seven of my players are very close in terms of talent, and our 5th, 6th, and 7th players were almost always better than the corresponding rank on the teams we played. The only drawback was that sometimes our top players couldn't quite keep up with the number one or two ranked players of our opposition."

When asked if there were any particular performances which should garner special mention, Coach Kane said, "we did have a couple top performances, like Cory Calvert's 79 at Penn National and Josh Goodling's 82 at Irem Temple CC. Both courses are not easy, and each score placed in the top 10 of their respective match."

In closing, Coach Kane said, "The only real disappointment this season was not getting to finish the conference championship at State College. The second, and final, day was rained out. We ended up in fourth, out of eight, but were only one shot out of third, with second place easily obtainable. My players were ready to play the second day and were off to a good start before the tournament was called (after 3 or 4 holes). I really thought we could have finished second if given the chance; that would have been a tremendous achievement. For the future, we'll need to work on being more consistent."

### Cross County

As of press time I had not heard from the coach of the cross country team. Based upon the information reported on their website, the team consistently finished within the top three in each of their contests. Their most impressive finish came when they placed first out of eleven teams at a conference meet at Penn State Worthington-Scranton on September 20.

They finished their season on a strong note, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> out of six teams at the PSUAC and PCAA State Championship at Penn State Scranton