

BOOTERS SURPASS

by Glenn Lammi

The best word to describe the general outlook of this year's Hazleton soccer team would be transition. One would have a difficult time portraying this team differently, especially since head coach Tom Fitzwater lost seven starters from an exceptional 4-6-1 1984 squad. However, through the early weeks of practice, the team showed more discipline and talent than initially expected. They responded well to Coach Fitzwater's positive attitude and his demand for team spirit and hustle.

Due to the low turnout of fifteen players, conditioning became the key to a successful season. Early in practice, Fitzwater replaced the usual long-distance running with on-the-field sprinting and jogging. When the season arrived, the players went back to running six miles a day, but most commented positively on the early sprinting.

As the season drew nearer, the coach and his players shared optimistic expectations. Both were certain that a winning season was at hand, and visions of making the playoffs appeared in their heads. The team as a whole showed hustle and aggressiveness, both of which were absent in the last year's squad. The offense, piloted by sophomores Chip Winner (team captain) and John Baradziej, and freshman Brian Baker, progressively improved with practice. The defense had been slower in improving, mainly due to lack of experience. This problem had recently been somewhat offset with good performances from sophomore halfbacks Mike Orlando and Bill Shapiro, sophomore sweeper George Denger, and the surprising play of freshman Jim Kalinovich. Vic Wymbs, in only his second season of organized soccer, became a confident goaltender and a leader of the young defense unit. Coach Fitzwater and his players felt confident of the team's abilities,

The PSU-Hazleton Lions had their first test of progress against an average PSU-Berks squad. The conditioning paid benefits quickly and effectively as the Lions outhustled Berks in the first half. Hazleton took a 3-1 lead with two goals from left wing Chip Winner (assists from Brian Baker and Bill Shapiro) and one from center halfback Brian Baker (assisted by Chip Winner). The momentum of the game changed at the fifteen minute mark of the second half when Hazleton missed a penalty shot. After this, Berks roared back and sent the game into overtime with two quick goals. The game ended in a disappointing 3-3 tie, with the Hazleton players feeling they had played well enough to win. They seemed to lack any killer instinct, thus falling down in the second half.

The Lions' frustrations continued in their second game against PSU-Scranton. The humid, 85-degree wea-

ther slowed both teams in the first half, but team captain Orlando admitted, "It was hot down on the field, but the team just wasn't hustling. We were playing lazy soccer." A short defensive breakdown led to the first half Scranton goal. The score remained 1-0 until Brian Baker scored on striker John Baradziej's assist with ten minutes remaining in the second half. Once again, neither team scored in overtime, and Hazleton's record went to an uninspiring 0-0-2. The defense showed improvement in this game, but the offense suddenly lacked the ability to deposit the ball in the net, scoring one goal out of a whopping forty-nine shots on goal.

Coach Fitzwater brought his traveling sports show of frustration home to Hazleton, hoping a game on native turf would shake

(See SOCCER p. 12)

Ladies Spikers Revived

by Katie Wyker

These past two years, Penn State's Hazleton campus could not find enough people to have a women's volleyball team. This year's team came back with a splash of victories making up for those dry years.

Coached by Mr. Young with assistant coach Tim Dang, captain Melanie Zimmerman led the team to seven wins out of ten matches. With three games to every match, the team found that they played best under pressure.

They played local community colleges Alvernia and Luzerne, as well as Penn State campuses Wilkes-

Barre, Schuylkill, Berks, Mont Alto and York. Although Hazleton campus was not in the league, they beat four of the five league teams.

The team consisted of ten players. The setters were Melanie Zimmerman, Kim Graham and Lisa Shepps; the spikers were Melanie Zimmerman, Leslie Leitzel, Denise Kaschak, Judy Zurinski, Carol Brown, Dana Ertel, and the only freshmen on the team, Jennifer Lee and Kelly Higgins.

We congratulate this year's women's volleyball team and hope that next year the turn out is as good and the team is as successful.



Sophomore halfback Mike Orlando dribbles past a Scranton defender

(photo by Paul Weaver)