

Eye on Sports

Beast of the East

Baseball team claims CCAC division title

By JULIA HAGAN
Lion's Eye staff writer
JAH1003@psu.edu

The Penn State Delaware County baseball team concluded its spectacular run Monday, Oct. 25, falling in the conference finals.

The Lions had finished the regular season at 8-0 in the Commonwealth Campus Athletic Conference and 12-4 overall.

Then, on Oct. 21, the Lions defeated rival Penn State Abington, 5-4, with Karl Jastrzebski pitching nine innings in the come-from-behind win that secured the CCAC East Division title.

The win advanced the team to the CCAC championship series at University Park against Western Division champs Penn State Fayette.

At University Park, the team lost games Sunday (6-2) and Monday (4-3) in the best-of-three series.

This year's team included five Sun Valley High School graduates. Coach Jeff Vickers graduated from Sun Valley in 1986. The player alums included Brandon Bush, Dave Wray and captains Will Kast and Jastrzebski.

"My assistant coach Joe DiAntonio and I have been coaching together for four seasons," Vickers said. "Our first year was rather challenging, going 1-17. We have made the playoffs every year since then, with an appearance in the championship game last season."

"We had a good work ethic from the time we started to the time we finished," said DiAntonio. "It was a nice mix of talent. We had great pitching and a solid catcher in Michael Yost."

This season's impressive pitching staff was anchored by Jastrzebski, Wray (who suffered a broken leg in the postseason), and freshmen Jon Brady and Jim Watkinson.

"Brandon Bush paced the offense along with Brady and the power hitting of sophomore Mike Yost," Vickers said. "Our formidable defense was led by the double-play combination of Steve Fletcher and Chris Napoli."

"In the past couple of months we became a family," said freshman Napoli. "It was special to win a championship with these teammates and coaches. I'll remember it forever."



Photo By Monique Rosanio

Karl Jastrzebski pitches in Penn State Delco's playoff game against Penn State Abington.

Hockey team secures tournament honors

The Penn State Delco Ice Hockey club hosted and won the Penn State Ice Hockey tournament held Oct. 17-19 at Face-Off Circle in Warminster.

The Lions defeated Virginia Commonwealth and Indiana University of Pennsylvania before

tying Loyola College to secure the tournament win.

The undefeated streak continued Oct. 22-24 with wins over Widener University (5-2), Shippensburg University (5-2) and in a grueling, penalty-laden game in Reading, team rival Penn State Berks (4-2).

The Penn State Delco soccer team and volleyball team both advanced to postseason play but were eliminated in the first-round games.

Members of the tennis team participated in the University Park tournament held Oct. 16-17.