

Eye on Sports

Wins are no cure all

Hockey club's 13 victories can't disguise pain of slew of injuries

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The Penn State Delco ice hockey club's impressive 13-3-2 record does not illustrate a struggling team, but the 2004-05 season, which continues into February, has not been without its share of obstacles, including a string of serious injuries.

The club's list of game-delaying injuries began Oct. 24 during a tumultuous road game against rival Penn State Berks. Freshman forward Brian McKoy, a reliable and adept player, suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament, triggering a painful and premature end to a promising first season of college play.

Oct. 30, during a trip to Pittsburgh, freshman forward Matt McKinley experienced a concussion and has been recovering.

The following weekend, yet another freshman forward, Mike Kelly, endured a concussion at the Naval Academy.

Despite the upsetting injuries to an entire offensive line, Delco proved victorious in each of the games.

But on Nov. 13, the team lost another forward when senior Ryan

Cell received a three-game ejection for fighting and a facemask violation against Edinboro University.

And the most recent impediment occurred Nov. 21 when senior captain Tom Fischer suffered a damaging hit against the boards leading to another possibly torn ACL for the Delco roster.

Team members recognize that among the reasons for their midseason decline are areas in which they need to improve their play.

"We have to play consistently," said Cell. "Now, we don't play three periods of hockey. We play down to the level of the other teams."

With big games against schools including Penn State Berks and a tournament trip to Florida on the horizon, the players have remained confident in the ability of their team and love of their sport.

"The team is distraught over all of our recent injuries and setbacks," said Fischer, "but hopefully we can bounce back in upcoming games."

"We have to come back healthy and practice hard," said goalie Jeff Wild, "like we did earlier in the season. Hopefully, we can have a strong showing in Florida to boost our morale."

"I can't quit hockey," said Cell. "I



Photo by Bill Hammond

Tom Fischer unloads a shot while Penn State Delco teammate Brian Hurley looks on during recent against against Navy.

can't let go."

The team's next home game will be held over Penn State's winter

break on Jan. 7 against Kutztown University. Home ice is Ice Line Skating Arena in West Chester.

Men post two victories; Lady Lions earn a split



Photo by Katie News
Megan Peterkin of Penn State gets off a shot during a recent victory over Harrisburg Area Community College.

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After a three-game losing streak to start its season, the Penn State men's basketball team rebounded last week with a pair of wins.

The Lions defeated Penn State Wilkes-Barre on the road, 82-76, overcoming a 20-point deficit along the way, then earned their first win at home, 70-67, over Penn State Schuylkill.

The Penn State Delco women's team, meanwhile, lost to Manor College, 66-48, then rebounded with a 67-60 decision over Harrisburg Area Community College. The Lady Lions played at Penn State Abington

Saturday in a game that ended after deadline.

Highlights of the men's win over Wilkes-Barre included 24 points from captain Mike Thornton and impressive play from freshmen Carlos Gonzales (17 points) and Barry Robinson (15 points).

"We were a little lazy getting off the bus," said senior Hisham Rhami, "but the team really came together."

Against Schuylkill, Steve Corey contributed 13 points.

"We cut our turnovers in half," said Corey. "We ran our offense and played like a team."

"It's always good to win when it's a team effort," said Rhami.

The next men's home game is Thursday, Dec. 9, against Penn State York.

The Lady Lions played hard against Manor but fell short.

"We have a lot to work on," said starter Dana Johnson, who had 11 points. "We are working hard so we can be where we want to be. We just have a lot to do."

The Lions then conquered Harrisburg, with forward Katie McBrearty contributing 13 points and forward Megan Peterkin adding 13. Angela Clupp, a forward, added nine points.

The Lady Lions used 3-point shooting and rebounding to come out on top.

The win against HACC gave the Lady Lions a record of 4-3 pending Saturday's game.

The Lady Lions return home Dec. 9 to play Penn State York at 6 p.m.