

Eye on Sports

Inching Closer To Soccer Playoffs

By VICTOR ADU-BOAHENE
Special to the Lion's Eye

If someone asked the team two weeks ago, "What's up with this year's soccer season?" a player would have beamed a smile and boldly said, "It's all good. We're still undefeated."

But just about a week ago, the unthinkable happened and everything turned around. Their greatest fear of losing caught up with the team as they were crushed six goals to nil, at an away game by PSU Hazleton on their small and muddy mountaintop soccer field. This ended their six game winning streak. The team tended not to care that much since they were still on top of the league. They also justified that loss to the injury prone team (They went to Hazleton with only twelve players due to injuries to other vital players).

Along came PSU Harrisburg, which Delco held down to a three to one goal lead by the first half. Then, Harrisburg bounced back in the second half to steal a painful win from Delco by pinning them five goals to four in the last minutes of the game on Delco's home field.

These two consecutive losses shattered the team and altered the stable state on the league table, then dropping down from the first position to the fourth, trailing Penn College, Hazleton and Harrisburg respectively.

Though there is no doubt that the team will make it through the playoffs and possibly win the championship, the team's current fate of making it to the playoffs now hangs in the balance. Should the soccer team suffer any more losses, that fate could make a turn for the worst.

A six to two win over Schuylkill last weekend and a tie with Scranton last Thursday boosted the morales and hopes of inching closer to the playoffs. The

record as of now stands at 7-2-2.

The soccer team's aim at the beginning of this year's season was to win nine games out of the total fourteen to establish a spot in the playoffs. (Note that the top four make it to the playoffs) then, to go ahead and win the Conference Championship at University Park.

Right now, they are two games shy with two games left to play to make it. A sort of revenge win, away, over PSU Harrisburg this upcoming week and a win over PSU Abington at home the following week would guarantee our spot in the playoffs. Should the latter happen, we would have to stick to the usual probabilities and wild speculations sports pundits and critics usually make about teams on the brink of elimination or on the verge of being advanced to the next level under critical conditions.

They are still on track as a team, and now leave behind them all those painful losses and injuries suffered. We are now picking up our game. "Good days are here with us" as FDR would put it. The key is to focus towards a strong finish by "taking our games one-by-one," coach Jim Gastner always advises. The soccer team's dream this year of becoming the conference champions can become a reality. With better than good players to pull this off, they only have to worry about persistent endurance, avoidance of injury and above all, time.

So as the season comes to an end, they want all of the lovely Delco Penn-Staters to pray and wish them luck in their upcoming games. Come and support the team in their last match at home as they lock horns against PSU Abington on Oct. 28.

into Dallas' territory- he could go all the way! And he does, for a 102 yard interception return, Sheppard scores the winning touchdown of the game leaving the final score 38-24 sealing the victory for the Birds.

Fans, players, coaches and reporters waited for this game since the day Terrell Owens signed with the Dallas Cowboys. Apparently, Philly fans did not throw off T.O.'s game as he claims:

"I don't know, for whatever reason I just felt like it should have been worse (sic)."

When asked how he felt about the crowd on game day. His remark still did not stop the "OD!" and the "T.O. sucks!" chants in the stands. Owens says that the jeering did not get to him; however, he still ran directly into the locker room after the game. When questioned on the topic, he states,

Baseball Update: Coach Vickers

The PSU Delco Baseball team began defense of their back to back PSU East Division championships by posting a strong 7-3 record this fall. The team was led by an experienced group of veteran players, including seniors Frank Falim, Karl Jastrzebski and Jim Porreca, juniors Jon Brady, Tom Ostien, Chris Napoli, and Chris Meccariello.

Defense was again a strength for the Lions, featuring experienced pitchers Jastrzebski, Brady, Ostien, and newcomers Antonio Cima and Eric Soring.

The offense remained extremely potent, posting the most home runs in league. Sophomore Matt Smith, freshman Eric Soring, and Senior Jim Porreca each hit 2 long balls, while Frank Flaim and Sophomore Mike Zachorchemny tallied one.

A strong freshman class added depth to an already strong team. Eric Soring and Dan King both finished the Fall season hitting over .400. Tony Schreffler was solid behind the plate and provided an offensive boost to the line up. Lou Pepe, Neal McMonigle, Kevin Bluzzard and Chris Dittus, were capable backups who would have started in past seasons.

The season was highlighted by a spirited win over previously underfeared PSU Harrisburg. With Delco trailing by five runs in the 4th inning, the visiting team mounted an impressive comeback led by the hitting of Frank Flaim, Neal McMonigle and Dan King. Chris Meccariello's leaping catch in center field kept the game close, but the Lions still trailed by a run in the bottom of the 7th. Frank Flaim doubled and scored the winning run on a head first dive to give Delco the come from behind win. Jon Brady pitched five scoreless innings to earn the victory. Coach Vickers claimed it was his most memorable victory in his 6 plus seasons!

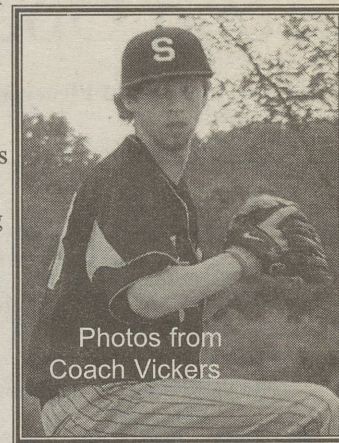
A weekend tournament October 14-15 at Penn College concluded the Fall 06 season. The Delco Lions again made a great showing, defeating rival Abington for the 4th time this season 3-2 and western conference power PSU Fayette 14-4. Home runs by Frank Flaim and Mike Zachorchemny highlighted the ten run victory.

The Championship game was held on Sunday, and featured a rematch of last Spring's State Championship game vs. Penn College. Delco was not on the top of their game early, committing several errors that staked Penn to an early lead. In the 5th inning, Delco was down 14-3, and in danger of having the game end due to the 10 run rule. But this team that never says die started a furious comeback that ended one run short, 18-17. Steve Burday was the hitting star, going 4-4.

Since 2002, the baseball team has been extremely successful, posting a 53-15 league record (.780 winning percentage). Coach Vickers is assisted by former Delco players Armen Bezdikian, Doe Dunn and Billy Haines.



Photos from
Coach Vickers



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Birds vs. Boys: A Preview of the Playoffs?

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Sweat dripping, clock ticking, minds racing; the Philadelphia Eagles line up at the goal line to defend their 31-24 lead over the Dallas Cowboys. Their hearts pound, the crowd cheers, players anticipating.

Dallas Quarterback Drew Bledsoe receives the ball and he decides to make his move. Eagles' fans hold their breath anxiously wondering if their glory would slip through their fingertips.

Suddenly, Bledsoe attempts to pass to tightend Jason Witten, but Philadelphia Eagles' cornerback Lito Sheppard intercepts the ball and begins to run the ball

"We just lost man! I mean we lost, like I said we lost. I'm a competitor I do not like to lose, and I felt that we had some opportunities there at the end of the ball game to tie the ball game, possibly put this game in overtime, so yeah I was frustrated (sic)."

Every member of the Dallas Cowboys shook the hands of the Philadelphia Eagles out of good sportsmanship for a well-played game, except Terrell Owens.

Despite conflict between Owens and Philadelphia, both the Cowboys and the Eagles played their hearts out. Each team successfully created an entertaining and suspenseful game as they battled neck-and-neck throughout the entire sixty minutes. In the end, the Eagles overrode the Cowboys' game.

Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb threw for 354 yards and 2 touch-

downs, while Bledsoe struggled; only throwing for 223 yards with a dismal 3 interceptions. Also, Terrell Owens only caught three passes for forty-five total yards.

While his expectations seemed much higher than the statistics reveal Owens actually performed. Finally Eagles running back Brian Westbrook ran for 33 yards and caught 5 passes for 53 yards, while healing from a knee injury.

The Birds never gave up because of their motivation from the crowd and the determination from within their hearts helped them earn the win. Using their skills and maneuvers, the Eagles finished superior to the Cowboys. Both teams put on a spectacular performance, and contributed to one of the best regular season football games this city has ever seen.