

Eye On Sports

Chen Ranked Top Women's Tennis Player in the PSUAC

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The Penn State Tennis Championships were held Oct. 19-21 at University Park and the DelCo Tennis team continued its very successful regular season, and finished fourth in the overall tennis rankings.

The highlight of Championship Weekend came courtesy of sophomore Jade Chen. In singles play,

Jade finished with the best overall record at 9-1, earning a first round bye in tournament play. After winning her second round match in two sets, 6-4 6-2, Jade took on Abington senior Jackie Wise. Although down 5-1 in her first set, Jade rallied to win the set 7-5, and took the second set 6-3, winning the Women's Tennis Championship. Jade finished the season as the number

1 ranked Women's Tennis player in the PSUAC.

"Our season was amazing and I'm so sad it's over too soon," says Chen, a sophomore with a double major in Finance and IST about this year's tennis season.

This year's season went very well, with the team giving their best and finishing with a 6-6 record under the direction of Mrs. Becca Bergwall.

Other players on the team really felt the team become cohesive throughout the entire season.

Arsene Decarde, a freshman psychology major, felt that the team really built a sense of family as the season went on.

"The best part of our season was the away matches. We had so much fun in the bus rides away and we all bonded so much. We can all hang out and get along pretty well. I can't believe the season is over," he says with a smile.

The success of this year's PSU Delco's tennis team can't be mentioned without giving kudos to Coach Bergwall.

"She is an amazing woman," Jade says. "She was so good to all of us and she

always had a positive attitude and motivated us to do the best we could. There is no doubt that she was a vital element to the success and amazing experience we shared this season."

Bergwall's team philosophy was to have fun and for the team to do their best to win games. Bergwall hopes that the success of this season will prompt both freshmen and current students who have talent in the sport of tennis to help her beef up the team and aim for the top spot next season.



Penn State Delaware County 2007 Tennis Team

DelCo Soccer Team Makes Bid For PSUAC Championship

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The PSU DelCo soccer team lost a hard fought playoff match to PSU Hazleton on Sunday in the first playoff appearance by the team in five years. DelCo started the game at a disadvantage missing leading goal scorer Victor Adu-Boahene (injured) and third year starting defender Ejaj Ud-din. During warm-ups, the leading assist man on the team, Matt Schneck, turned his ankle and although he tried twice to play, he was unable to compete. In the first few minutes of the game a miscommunication between our starting midfielders led to a collision that sidelined starter Corey Gabrielli for the rest of the contest. It was an inauspicious start to the biggest game of the year. Yet somehow, against the odds, the team stepped up and played the first 45 minutes of the game to a draw.

The second half started poorly with Hazleton getting a quick goal. DelCo kept up the fight. Unfortunately the team bounced a ball off the crossbar and missed several promising scoring opportunities.

The battle see-sawed back and forth. Hazleton made a great run down the wing and took a fabulous shot that found the corner of the net. DelCo continued to pressure the Hazleton defense bounc-

ing yet another ball off the crossbar; our home team out shot Hazleton in the last 15 minutes of the game. The game and our season ended with a 2-0 defeat.

Coach Jim Gastner was very pleased with his team's efforts this year. "I have to tell you that I have never been prouder of a group of young men and women," says Gastner of his group of athletes.

PSU Brandywine finished their season 11-5 in league play. The team was the third seed in the playoffs.

Even the most die-hard fan who visited their summer camp this year and witnessed their pre-season games would have more than likely written the PSU-Delco soccer team off the play-off list this year. But the team has a solid belief in their ability as a unit, and with diligent practice, they bounced back this season to win six straight games before succumbing to the underdogs, PSU-Greater Allegheny, 1-0 in a second overtime. The Lions lost a close game with PSU York and entered the playoffs as the 3rd overall seed with an 11-4 record.

Coach Gastner has been a tremendous factor in the success story of the soccer team so far. He worked hard to grind the skills of some of the freshmen players that joined his team, and for the already skilled members of the team, he made sure he provided the necessary tools to sharpen their skills. Gastner worked hard

to toughen the team's defense and to better the team's attacking offense.

The coach, once a right-winger for Lafayette University, an NCAA division soccer school, and a retired army officer, combined his experience from his playing days to his time in the army to instill in his boys - a feeling of pride, respect, success and sports discipline. He had also an environment free from criticism but rather encouragement and support. The soccer lads love to play together and play as a team.

This year, the Penn State University Athletic Committee (PSUAC), which oversees all inter-collegiate athletics within the Penn state school system, increased the soccer play-off spots from four to six. This gives the first top two teams from either the Eastern or the Western division Conference to have a 'bye' from the preliminary rounds of the play-offs. The subsequent four teams would have to play an elimination match. The winners from the elimination match would advance to play the semis against the top two teams that drew a bye from earlier on. The final standing winners would vie for the Championship trophy on Jeffries Field at Main Campus on Sunday, November 11. The latter losers would battle for the third and fourth places respectively.

This article also contains information supplied by Coach Jim Gastner of the PSU Delco Athletics Department.

DelCo Baseball Team Comes Out Shining Bright

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After starting the season with a disappointing 1-5 record, the Penn State Delaware County Baseball team rebounded to win five of their last six to claim a 6-6 finish. While the team's early struggles were due to inexperience as well as bad breaks, Head Coach Jeff Vickers credits the team's rebound to their character and tenacity.

The quality of play was never in doubt, but bad breaks had gotten the best of the team. The team could have packed it in, but on a crucial October 6th doubleheader against Abington, the team responded by sweeping their rival decisively. Coach Vickers cites the team's convincing sweep of rival Abington as the spark that turned it around. The team went on to finish with a .500 record.

On a team with 11 freshman and only five seniors, Coach Jeff Vickers was impressed with the way the freshman especially handled the team's early struggles. Leadership was also a factor. Coach Vickers attributes the team's success to the leadership of Seniors Chris Napoli, Jon Brady, Chris Meccariello, Jim Watkinson, and Tom Ostein. Coach Vickers spoke of the tremendous contributions from the team's 11 freshmen. In addition to their great talent on

the field, the freshmen also possess a great deal of maturity and patience. Coach Vickers feels that this group is probably the most talented class he's ever seen at Penn State Delaware County.

Although Coach is pleased with the progression of young players, he can't help but feel disappointed for his seniors. The group of Nap, Brady, Mecca, Watkinson, and Ostein have played the last three years and been on PSUAC Southern Division championship teams each of those years. A .500 season was not exactly what they had in mind for their senior season; however, Coach Vickers feels that this season has made the seniors hungrier than ever. There is nothing Coach Vickers would love more than to hand them the PSUAC championship trophy for the spring season.

Coach Vickers expects the team's momentum to carry into the spring season. The leadership and character of the seniors combined with the team spirit and enthusiasm of the freshman has Coaches Vickers and Bez very optimistic. They feel the sky is the limit for this team and cannot wait for the spring of '08.