



Canadian-born hockey coach Morris Kurtz (standing, closest) brought Penn State icers a long way but may leave to pursue other interests

Icers strided long, but more needed

The Penn State pucksters returned from Pittsburgh Sunday night after a weekend of visiting the bigtime in the first Invitational Collegiate Hockey tournament at the Civic Arena. It was a long trip and a far cry from what the Penn State Hockey Club started as in the fall.

"Larry Hendry, the faculty advisor of the club, told me hockey was on the way out and that they weren't going to have anything," Herb Schmidt said. Schmidt schedules ice time in the Ice Pavilion.

"I didn't bother to schedule any time for them," Schmidt said.

The hockey club with its youth and intramural programs did get off the ground and a successful team emerged. The skaters kept improving until they finished the Steep City tournament losing to Carnegie Mellon in the finals. The Lions had a 12-3-1 record after the last buzzer.

The best record in four years of hockey at Penn State was just part of what the hockey club did this year. They accomplished many goals they had set and probably did better than what they should have.

"At the beginning of the year we were really in an uncertain state," coach Morris Kurtz said. "I think we accomplished more than we set out to. We won recognition from the University, we got crowd support, our attendance records show that, and most importantly the attitude around the University community changed."

"We're not called a club anymore, they just call us Penn State hockey," Kurtz, the native Canadian and former skater said.

Sometimes those attendance figures were greatly exaggerated in numbers but the Ice Pavilion's bleachers were filled for most of the games and there were people standing around the spacious rink. During the winter months it is not too pleasant to stand in the sub-freezing temperatures of the building. They came anyway.

And the team did get recognition from the University also. Hockey is one of 23 club sports at Penn State to compete on the outside.

The Penn State hockey club sent three proposals to Robert Scannell, the Dean of the College of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. They wanted to improve their condition of existence.

The Lion pucksters have asked for improved ice time. They



only practiced on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 10:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

They requested that the University try to keep their graduate student coach Kurtz in Happy Valley by offering him a position so that he may stay as coach. Kurtz's importance to the program has been integral. His hockey knowledge and organization has helped create what he wanted to in the beginning—create a "viable organization."

The last proposal asked for heaters in the Ice Pavilion. Scannell said Schmidt is working on the ice time proposal. Schmidt said he is planning a meeting to work out scheduling problems.

Scannell also reported that the Ice Pavilion is being studied as to the "feasibility of building a new building which would be air conditioned in the summer and heated in the winter."

But Scannell did not sound optimistic about the return of Kurtz. This is the most important point if Penn State wants to establish a quality game of hockey.

"We got to fit a budget together," Scannell said. "The positions are pretty well frozen. When you start talking about adding people it's going to be tough."

Kurtz has had offers to coach hockey on the Swedish National team, and to continue his studies in Australia and Mainland China. He and Scannell both said they are "playing the waiting game."

The hockey organization grew quickly but it grew hand in hand with the play of the team. This year it was a hockey team.

"With the limited practice time we had we could not devote enough time to basics like stickhandling, passing, and

skating," Kurtz said. "We tried to play my style of pattern position hockey and I think we did a good job of it considering our limitations."

"We held our belligerence to a minimum," Kurtz added. Last year the bench emptied three times in fights on the ice, according to Kurtz. "Only one game ended in a fight this year. It was down in Philadelphia against the North Penn Eagles. Only one player was ejected for fighting and that was Mark Sturgeon on the same trip the night before."

"It was a good attempt to produce a decent hockey club at the varsity level," captain Bill Proudman said. "I'm not saying we are going to play Cornell or any one in the Ivy League. We are no where in their class and I don't think we want to be."

"We proved we can have a responsible product on the ice and not brawl," Proudman said. "We wanted to have discipline and be good to watch."

The Lions were that. They did not play the tough schedule they played last year when they played teams from Canada and were blown off the ice. They scheduled teams that would be competition and teams they could beat. They were lucky to play anybody with the late start.

"The teams we played this year were cake compared to last year," defenseman Reds Davidson said. But then Davidson sat the bench this year.

"This year they skated while they were playing," skating instructor Kurt Oppelt said. "They were much much better."

Many coaches of the opposition were impressed with the improvement from last year and the all around play. Pitt coach Len Barcalow said the Lions skate "well and play it fair and legal." They hit well," Barcalow concluded. "They have something there."

The Lions were blessed with some talent like Mike Giampapa, Proudman, John Rothgaber, Scott Ehrenberg, and defensive player of the tourney, Jeff Blanton. When the Lions won, the first thing the opposing players said, "It was their goalie that did it." Paul Hooper was a big part in the nets.

The Lions did not lose to anybody they should not have lost to. Delaware and Carnegie Mellon (the Lions' only conquerors) were smart skating and organized teams.

Varsity status is a long way off but there is definitely a place for a varsity hockey club. Penn State really does "have something there" when it comes to hockey.

Linkers sport new face

By GORDEN BLAIN
Collegian Sports Writer

Coach Joe Boyle has a new face in his top seven linksmen making the trip to Lehigh today.

The Lion golfers will be led by top scorers Sherm Hostetter, Tom Amendola, and Bob Dine but picked up a new swinger in Tuesday's challenge matches—Rod Franc.

Franc who lettered last year has taken over the spot Tim Wilson had won from his hot shooting on the pre-season tour in the south. Wilson lettered last year also.

"I'm usually a slow starter and I have trouble playing in cold weather," Franc said about his not qualifying for the first two matches. "I wasn't ready for the first qualifier. My game wasn't in shape and my putting was extremely poor. And you can emphasize extremely."

"Another thing, the weather has been awful damn cold too," the sophomore added.

In the wintery springs of Happy Valley the greens are in no shape for accurate putting. They only do justice to duffers.

"I've always had trouble putting on those greens early in the season," Franc said. "Putting is the most important aspect of my game—for anybody's for that matter."

Franc said he received the chance for a challenge match "only because two players didn't play that well in the last two matches." Wilson along with freshman Jeff Sunday whose first match score 73 ballooned to a 96 last week in the winds

and cold of Annapolis were the linksmen challenged.

Franc said he believes the decision that players do not play "well" partly depends on the coaches opinion but mostly the scores the players shoot. Wilson and Sunday had the highest scoring averages in the first two matches.

Jeff Sunday retained his position on Tuesday on the Blue course by finishing one stroke behind low man Rod Franc who cashed in with an 80. Franc said he was "surprised the scores were not lower than what they were."

Six golfers who made the team in the spring challenged for the two spots. Coach Boyle said at the season's onset he would have challenge matches throughout the year.

Franc does not believe the team will be weakened at all with his addition.

"The team will be just as strong as before because we have so much depth," Franc said. "There are probably 10 players that can fill the seven positions and still not effect the quality of the team because of their scoring."

Franc said he thinks Boyle "really expected him to make the team this year because I made it last year."

"Tim Wilson will reappear in the lineup later in the season because he is a strong, very experienced player," Franc said about his teammate.

Hawks 1st

NEW YORK (AP)—The Atlanta Hawks will pick first in the National Basketball Association's 1975 college player draft, but they're not ready to say whom they'll select.

"We have plenty of time," said Hawks president John Wilcox, who won the No. 1 choice for his team yesterday in a coin flip at the office of NBA Commissioner Walter Kennedy. The draft will not take place until after the conclusion of the playoffs in late May.

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