

# Regional tourney to test lady stickers

By **BARB PARMER**  
Collegian Sports Writer

Not too long ago, Women Sports magazine rated the Penn State field hockey team among the nation's cream of the crop. This weekend at Millersville, the women have a chance to prove they deserve this top billing.

Sixteen of the best hockey squads in the mideastern area are paired off for the three-day regional tournament tomorrow through Saturday. For many hockey enthusiasts, the single elimination regional event may well outclass the national title tournament scheduled a week later at Madison College, Harrisonburg, Va.

Long deemed the center of United States field hockey, the mideastern region colleges continue to control the top of the hockey pyramid.

This year, for the first time, colleges can compete their way through regionals and nationals as a team, as well as on an individual basis as before. And, many are predicting that the national championship will go to one of the Eastern powerhouses playing in Millersville this weekend.

With all this talk going around, Penn State's number four seeding entering the weekend event is certainly nothing to scoff at.

Here's how things will stack up for the women when they take to the field on Thursday: Lock Haven, Penn State's arch-rival, nailed down the number one spot in the tournament ratings, and will probably be the team to beat. If Penn State makes it to the third round of the tourney, the stickwomen will get a chance to avenge a late season 2-0 loss to the Eaglettes.

West Chester and Glassboro, the second and third seeds, are in the other bracket. Either one of these two squads will most

likely get to the finals, barring any upsets in the lower bracket.

In the first round of competition, the fourth-seeded Lady Lions meet unseeded William Paterson. The New Jersey squad compiled a 4-6-1 record during the regular season.

The really tough part of the tournament begins if the women get by William Paterson in the opening round. Ursinus, the fifth seeded team, should win over unseeded Montclair, thus pitting them against Penn State once more this year.

In the regular season finale, Ursinus played an outstanding game while the Penn State stickwomen could not get their offense into action. If the two squads should meet again, Penn State is not planning to be on the losing end of a 5-2 count.

After winning all but one contest in the first part of the season, the women finished the last four games against their most potent opposition with an 0-3-1 record.

"Definitely after those three games, our morale is probably at its lowest," senior co-captain Deb Gorman said. "Things really fell apart at Ursinus."

Entering regionals with a clean slate once again, the Lady Lions hope to get back in the winner's circle. A few surprises may spark the Penn State offense back to life.

After starting the year by ripping the nets for 14 tallies in the first six games, the attack has been held to just three goals in the final four contests.

"The offense is working on a few things that will help our scoring," sophomore forward Chris Larson said. "Not scoring is really frustrating. I know our not scoring is affecting the way the defense is playing."

Freshman Charlene Morett, high scorer with 10 goals, junior Sue Ward and senior co-captain Susie McCoy have



teamed with Larson on the forward line.

"We have a new plan of attack for the tournament that I think will prove to be very effective," McCoy said. "We're rated number four, and we have to prove we're number four."

If the offense finds the mark, the women know that they have a strong defense that is able to protect a lead.

Until the Ursinus contest, the defense allowed the opposition only an average of one goal per game.

Senior Goalie Debbie Hess is credited with three shutouts on the year, and has been instrumental in keeping the women close to their opponents in the late going of the season.

Fullbacks Sharon Duffey, Sue Ritter and Karen Bretherick have consistently broken up plays in the striking circle.

"I think the main problem is marking in the circle," Duffey said of the defensive play. "We weren't marking our man in the circle (against Ursinus). We hesitated, and when you hesitate in hockey, you lose."

## ?Soccer bids?

Penn State's +2 soccer victory over Temple Friday night did more than keep the Lions in the NCAA tournament picture. It also helped to rearrange the tri-state ratings and, as a result, make the selection of four Division I teams from the region even more uncertain.

Combined with a Penn loss and a Bucknell tie over the weekend, State's win has caused the NCAA selection committee to postpone its long-awaited bids until Saturday. The bids were to be announced last night, but the past weekend's unexpected developments have given this week's games new importance.

For example, Temple was considered a shoo-in for a bid before its Jeffrey Field loss to the Lions. The committee will now wait to see how the Owls fare

against NYU at home this Saturday. Friday's game dropped Temple from second to a third-place tie in the ratings, while PSU climbed a notch to sixth.

The situation involving Delaware, tied with Temple, and fifth-ranked Bucknell is even more involved. These two teams begin play in the East Coast Conference Western Division playoffs this week, with Delaware playing Rider on a neutral field tonight. Bucknell will then face the winner of that game on Saturday. Bucknell's seemingly solid post-season position was weakened by a 0-0 weekend tie with Lehigh.

The Lions' game with Pitt at Jeffrey Field on Friday night has taken on an added significance, as that outcome will now be considered by the selection committee.

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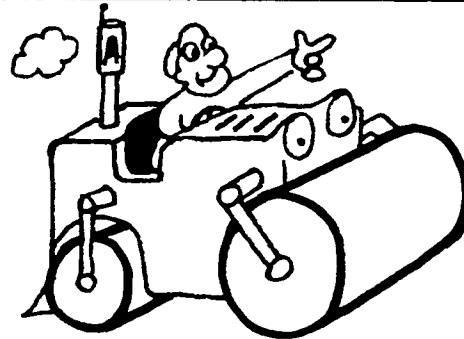
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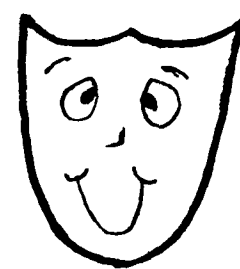
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