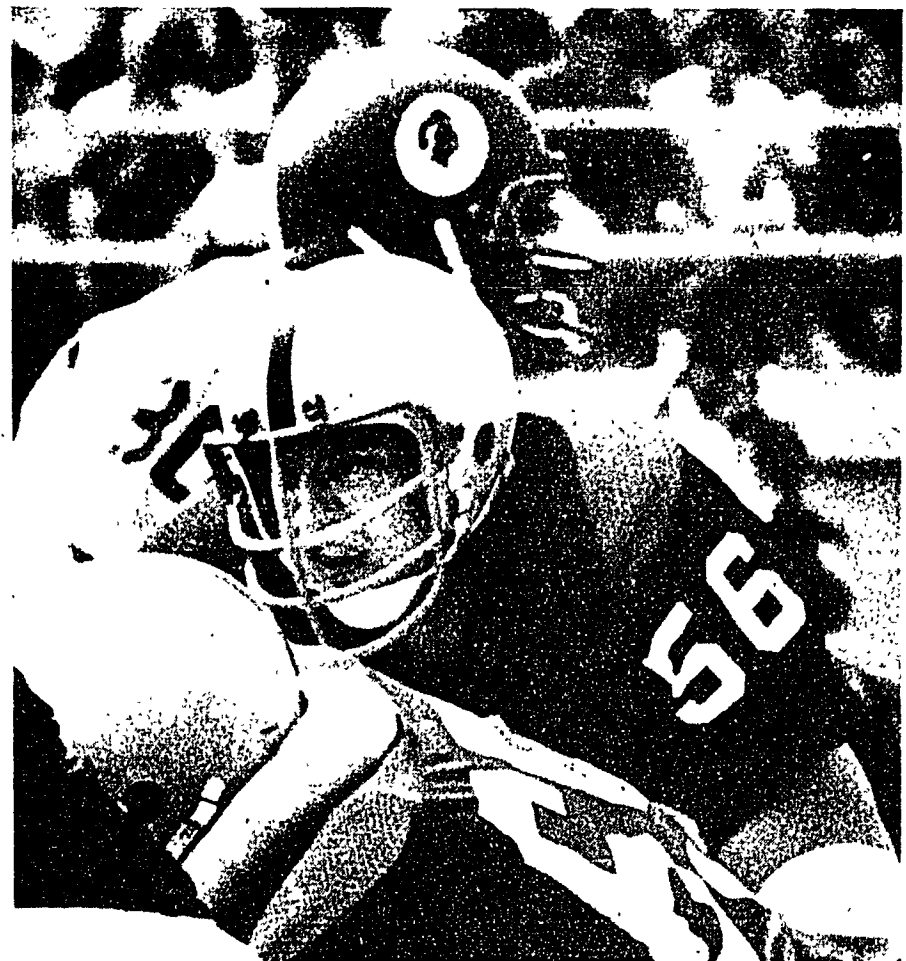


Mehl emerges from the shadows



Junior Lance Mehl switched from middle guard to linebacker this season and leads the Lions in tackles with 24 unassists and 26 assists.

By RON WENIG
Daily Collegian Sports Writer
Ask any Penn State football fan who leads the Lion defense in tackles and the answers will usually include names such as Bruce Clark, Matt Millen or Rick Donaldson.

None of those are correct. Instead, the answer is a player who receives little exposure in comparison to the afore-mentioned. He does his job quietly, with little fanfare or sparkling praise. His name is Lance Mehl.

The junior linebacker has accounted for a total of 50 tackles this year with 24 solos and 26 assists. He has also intercepted three passes. But, what is incredible, is the fact that at this time last year he was backing up Randy Sidler at the middle guard position and had not played linebacker since high school.

"A week or two before camp started this summer I got a letter in the mail saying I had been switched to linebacker," Mehl said. "It took awhile to get used to, but it's coming around now."

"I think he's doing a great job," fellow linebacker Paul Suhey said. "He's not a very flashy player, but he always seems to be in the right place at the right time."

The 6-4, 218 pounder from Bellaire, Ohio remains modest when speaking of his own abilities.

"I don't have lightning bolt speed so I just try to be quick off the ball and read my keys as quickly as possible, he said. "He's very consistent and not a very

emotional person," Suhey said. "He's low-key, which is the main thing that enables him to do such a good job."

"He just keeps making great plays and we jag him about it," Suhey continued. "But, he just doesn't get excited."

Playing linebacker at a school rich with a tradition of great linebackers is bound to give a player a certain degree of self pride, but Mehl sincerely downplays the individual aspect of play when compared with the team aspect.

"I feel more team pride right now," he said. "The defense is doing really well and I think more about that than I do about myself."

His outlook is quite evident when he describes the reasons for the defense's success. Mehl almost seems to disregard himself in his analysis.

"To start off with, we've got two pretty big horses up front," he said. "The secondary is also playing well and has really come around."

Perhaps Mehl's attitude is the proper one for a team slowly marching toward an undefeated season and a national championship. His coolness and consistency will be greatly needed in the upcoming weeks of ever increasing pressure.

"The first couple of games were really close," Mehl said. "I think everyone was pretty uptight and you could sense it in practice, but now things are fairly relaxed."

If all the players can stay as relaxed as Mehl the rest of the season just might turn out to be a piece of cake.

Behind the Bench

Letters to the sports editor

NL is second rate

I am anxiously awaiting for Jerry Micco's next article about the World Series and "Bucky Who?" It's Bucky Dent, the M.V.P. and hero of the 1978 World Series. I would also like to hear his excuses about the Dodgers folding so easily. I think that it's certainly time for everyone to realize that the National League is second rate. Please give credit where credit is due. The New York Yankees are the World Champions and are surely the best team in baseball.

Also, I am tired of your biased reporting. As far as I can see, the Pirates and Phillies are third rate teams and neither of them have any business even thinking about being in a World Series, let alone winning one. I just hope their fans are big enough to concede that the Yankees are the best along with the rest of the American League.

For the record, I am not from New York, I am from Pennsylvania where there are many N.Y. followers.

Mike Loretto
6th-business administration

Jerry who?

Just two words in response to Jerry Micco's pre-World Series analysis of October 11th — Bucky Who?

Andrew Cohen
7th-business logistics

In your face

In reference to Jerry Micco's article "Dodgers to Win it All . . ." and his stipulations of Dodger superiority and that the defending world champs did not deserve to win, I have one thing to say "In Your FACE."

Joe Lang
1st-liberal arts

Naval Academy sinks sailors

This past weekend Penn State hosted Freshmen Sailing eliminations for the Middle Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association. Stone Valley was the sight for the two day competition, which included Penn State, the University of Delaware, St. Mary's College and Navy.

The scores were so close that the actual outcome of the regatta was not decided until the final race.

The top two finishers in the eliminations, Navy and Penn State, will now go on to participate in the Freshmen Middle Atlantic Championships, which will be held at Maritime College in New York, November 4 and 5. The sailors representing the Penn State Sailing Team were skippers Jim Park and Jeff Doughty and crews Chris Buss and Laura Katz.

All of the competitors braved the cool weather and, after 12 races, the Naval Academy came out on top. Penn State took second place, followed by St. Mary's and the University of Delaware.

Intramural Scores

DORMITORY — Lancaster def. York, 6-0. Cumberland def. Northumberland, 23-0. Clearfield def. Toga, for. Fayette def. Mifflin, for. Warren def. Mercer, 28-0. Paradise def. Erie 3-1; Leete 4 def. Nitt 39-40, 21-0; Washington def. Huntingdon, for.; Butler def. Monroe, 14-0; Allentown def. Adams, 13-12. Nitt, 26-29 def. Bedford, for.

Del Chi, 7-0. Del Kap Phi def. Zeta Psi, 6-5. Kap Del Iho def. Phi Kap Psi, 3-0. Del Sig Phi def. Al Gam Iho, 6-0. Beta Th Phi def. Kap Sig, 24-0. Phi Mu Del def. Al Zeta, 3-0.

INDEPENDENT — Golden Arms def. Fubb Co. for. Aces def. Woods, 13-6. SAFO def. Puddintown, 13-0. Mothers Piz'n def. Nitt 34, 13-0. Hard Hats def. Bird Shooters, for. Boo Boo Bears def. SSAE, 10-2.

Try to avenge loss against Slippery Rock

Stickgals hope to stop history from repeating

By LESLIE BOBB
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

You have to watch out for it constantly in the world of sports because it preys on unexpected teams. It's merciless in its attack, devouring every team member's dream of a big year in the course of a single game.

In sports lingo, it's called an upset. Appropriately named because it terribly upsets the favored team, including its players, its coach and its fans.

The women's field hockey team suffered such a loss at the hands of Slippery Rock last season but, if all things go well, it should be able to turn the tables against that same team at 3:00 today on Lady Lion Field.

"They beat us 2-1 last year but they never should have," Coach Jill Rattray said. "We had the better team, more

skill and more talent person-to-person, but they just got the best of us."

Actually, the Lady Lions didn't play all that badly but they just didn't get any breaks, according to Rattray.

"We at least deserved to tie but we really didn't play well enough to win," she said. "One thing that hindered our game was their field. It's a very slow field and we just couldn't get used to it."

Slippery Rock will try to pull off another shocker this season with a team composed of youth and experience.

On the experienced side is forward Ann Motyka, a senior who leads the team with six goals this year, and senior forwards Jane Machuga and Jeannie Holbert.

Even though most of the players on offense have varsity experience, the Rock's defense is held together by

primarily freshmen and sophomores.

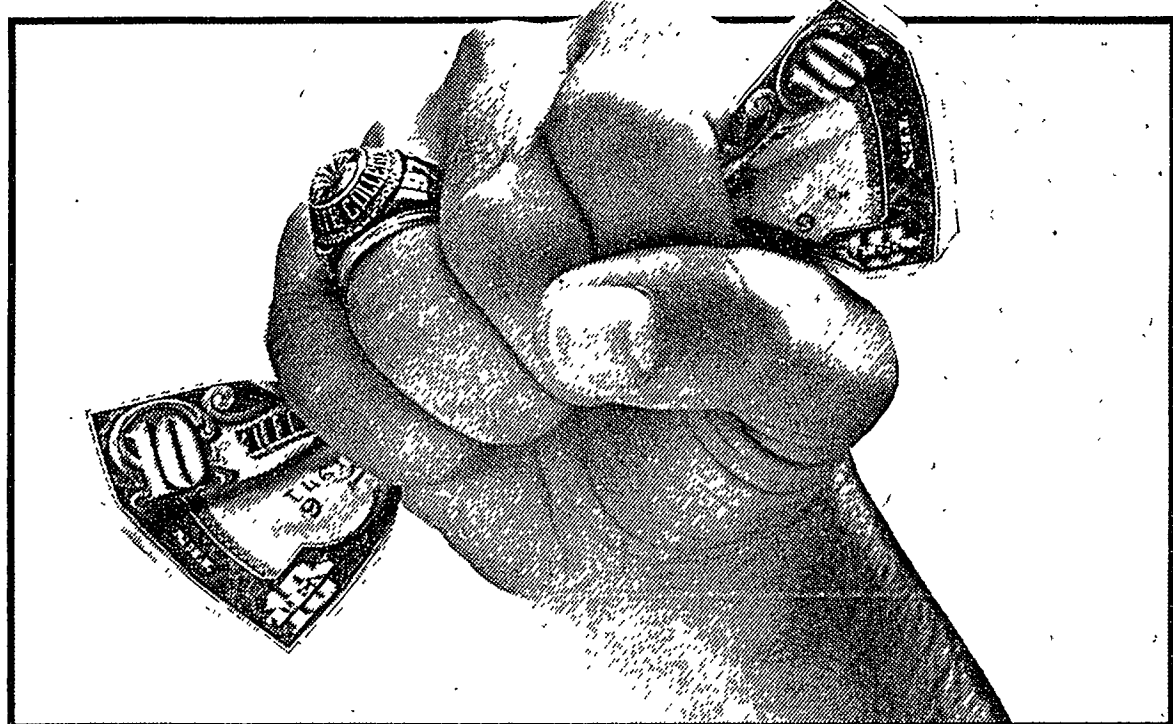
Slippery Rock has gotten off to a great start so far this year with a 4-0 record but its schedule hasn't been too challenging. Most of its games have been against notoriously weak teams. The Rock has beaten Northern Michigan, 3-0, Indiana of Pa., 4-0, Brockport, 1-0 and Pitt, 4-3.

The Lady Lions, on the other hand, have racked up a 7-0-2 record against such formidable foes as last year's No. 5 team Lock Haven, 3-0, Rutgers, 3-0, and No. 6 Central Michigan, 6-0.

The only non-victories in their season have been a hard-fought 1-1 tie with No. 3 Delaware and Saturday's meet with Ohio State that ended in a 2-2 deadlock.

CORNERS: Senior All-American Charlene Morett's six goals in last weekend's Ohio State Invitational has

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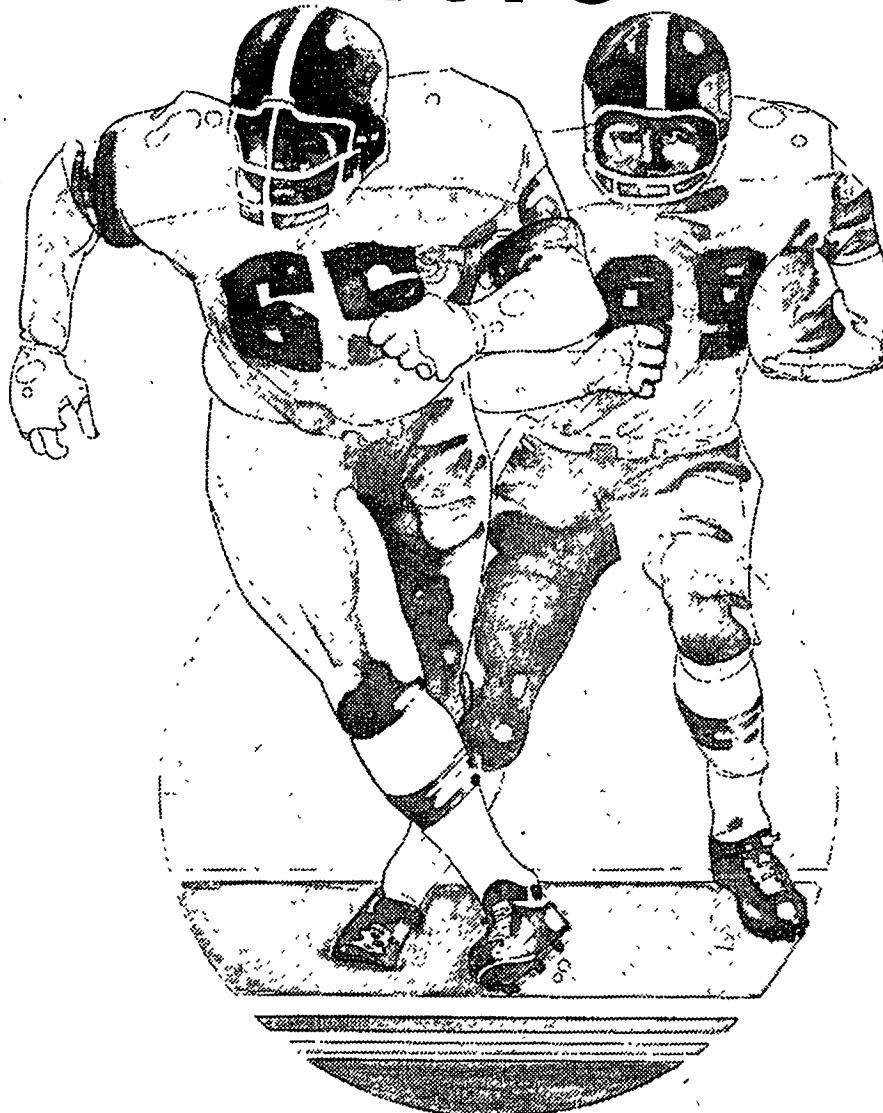
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Pick up your copy of The Daily Collegian's Homecoming issue on Fri., Oct. 20, 1978. You'll Be Glad You Did