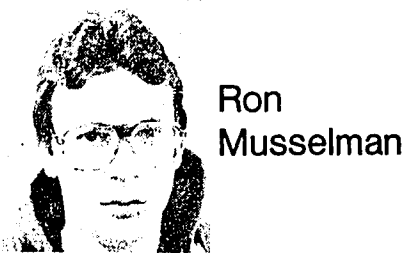


Icers' varsity future on thin ice

Despite winning the Mid-Atlantic Hockey Conference championship for the second year in a row, the ice hockey team's battle has just begun. Before their season against Navy, the Lions had only practiced three times a week at Mechanicsburg due to the inclement weather conditions which closed down the temporary outdoor rink.



Ron Musselman

After getting off to a 1-2 start, Penn State coach Mark Horgas was under the gun. Why was this championship team off to such a shaky start? "The ice conditions hampered us early in the season," Horgas said. "But most importantly, I was unsure of the line combinations which I had selected, and that added to the problems."

"More specifically, our new talent was unsure of their teammates and they didn't have that much time to show me what they could do." But after returning from break in early January, the Lions started to play their best hockey of the still-young season. Losing only one more game the rest of the regular season, Penn State finished 12-4 and advanced to the semifinals of the MAHC playoffs against West Chester.

A 7-1 win in the semifinals advanced the Lions into the championship round against Villanova where Penn State won the MAHC title for the second straight year.

You might sit back and say, wow, that's great! But when you consider all the adversities the team overcame, it makes this an even greater success story.

Consider the following facts. • Every game was played on the road and thus players never had the opportunity to play before a hometown crowd. Even though it does have a "home" rink, Mechanicsburg, the Lions have to travel 100 miles to play there.

• The team is faced with poor practice facilities. There is no Plexiglas surrounding the boards or nets, and pucks fly out of the rink easily. In fact, the team spent over \$500 on pucks this season. If it is warm, or if it rains or snows, like it did early in the season, the team doesn't have a place to practice.

• Because the outside rink is so small, it cannot be considered a real game condition practice facility, although the team is forced to play 50 minutes in an hour to practice there. The team has no outdoor dressing facilities. They had hopes of making hockey a varsity sport, then they probably would have made the rink bigger," Horgas said.

With the football team supporting all the varsity sports on campus, along with supporting the biggest intramural program in the country, Horgas said the loss of the old ice rink came as no surprise to him.

"You have to be realistic when it comes to that. Football deserves all the recognition they get because they keep every other sport in business up here," he said.

Horgas was well aware of these situations before he took over the team. He had coached at the University of Pennsylvania for four years. "I knew it was going to be a difficult task right from the very beginning, because I was a player up here for four years," he said. "With all the problems we had, I think this says something about the character and determination our players had."

But Horgas was the first one to admit that he thinks hockey could catch on big at Penn State. "The four major sports in the nation are football, baseball, basketball and ice hockey," Horgas said. "With two top teams close by and several varsity teams nearby, I think hockey would be a big success here."

Although the Lions may not be accredited varsity status, and although they have encountered many hardships trying to get there, their high level of play hasn't been affected. Ron Musselman is a ninth-year journalism major and sports writer for The Daily Collegian.

Golfwomen open season at Duke

By TODD LIGHTY Daily Collegian Sports Writer "The ball will plug and we won't get the hole. "I tried to express to the girls the positive aspects — the competition is good and we've never shot terribly bad."

Last year the tournament, only scheduled for two days, was shortened to one day due to rain. The Lady Lions were ninth in the 22-team tournament before it was called off.

Because of a good recruiting year, the women golfers will be competing against each other to assure a spot in making the trip to the tournaments this year. "It is a particularly difficult task to start and to qualify for the trips," Thompson said. "It's hard to choose who to go. We have a hard working team."

Thompson is expecting a strong season in which the team will compete in three other golf tournaments this year: the Ohio State, Marshall and Southern Invitationals.

"I expect it to be slow and muddy," Thompson said. "The ball will plug and we won't get the hole. "I tried to express to the girls the positive aspects — the competition is good and we've never shot terribly bad."

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Boone back after off-season knee surgery

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — Philadelphia Phillies' catcher Bob Boone played in his first game yesterday since tearing ligaments in his left knee during the New York Mets' Sept. 19 game. Boone caught the first three innings in an 11-1 exhibition game win over the Montreal Expos.

Boone, 32, who underwent surgery and spent the winter in a strenuous rehabilitation program, doubled in his first full game against Montreal pitcher Ross Grimsley.

The seven-year major league veteran showed no signs of the injury that threatened his career as a regular catcher. It was the second time Boone had undergone knee surgery. His right knee was operated on after the 1977 season.

Boone hit .286 with nine home runs and 35 RBIs in 118 games last season, and started for the National League All-Star team.

His health is an important ingredient in the Phillies' hopes of regaining the National League East division championship. Manager Dallas Green plans to carry only two catchers, and it appears Boone is expected to work briefly for another week or 10 days and be ready to go full in the last week of the season.

Asked why he started yesterday, Boone replied, "It was their (the Phillies') decision. I've been ready to go."

The catcher insisted that he had no qualms or worries and that he could be lifted from the game following the third inning. "It was nice to hit in a game situation."

The Phillies had been bringing along their first string catcher very cautiously. This was the sixth exhibition game of the 1980 spring training camp, and Boone is expected to work briefly for another week or 10 days and be ready to go full in the last week of the season.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING INFORMATION Ads can be placed in person at our office, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or mailed to Room 126 Carnegie Building (mail checks payable to: The Daily Collegian).

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Table with columns: Number, One, Two, Three, Four, Five. Rates for various ad lengths and positions.

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