

Lions take little-used road act to Maryland

By RICH SCARCELLA
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

The intervals between road games for the men's soccer team may not be as lengthy as the intervals between Bruce Springsteen concert tours, but the gap is narrowing.

It's been almost three weeks since Penn State has made one of its rarest appearances, crawling out of West Chester with a 3-2 double-overtime win on Sept. 21.

Out-of-town fans get an opportunity to see the seventh-ranked Nittany Lions (8-1) perform at 2 p.m. today at Maryland.

Penn State, which has shown significant improvement over these three weeks, has won six consecutive games—five at Jeffrey Field, including victories over Cleveland State and St. Louis.

"Jeffrey Field has to be one of the best fields around to play on," Lion midfielder Dan Murphy said. "The crowd is different there. It's something you miss when you're not playing there."

Goalkeeper Angelo Nickas said that an away game can reduce the effectiveness of a team if the players don't discipline their thinking.

"We've had a great record at home," Nickas said. "Of course we feel more comfortable playing at Jeffrey Field.

Playing on the road forces you to concentrate more, putting that psychological disadvantage out of your mind."

The biggest difference between a home and away game for Penn State, coach Walter Bahr said, is the comparative quality and size of the playing field.

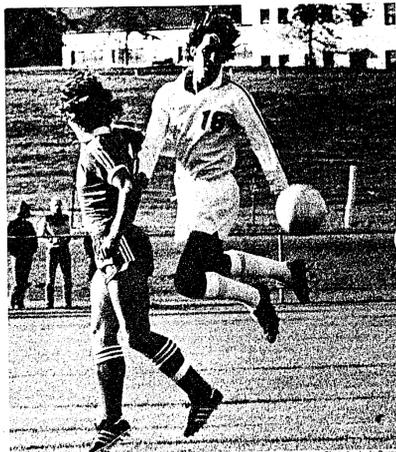
"We're so spoiled playing at Jeffrey Field," Bahr said. "It's a big field, a level field with good grass. If we could take our field with us, we'd be very happy."

"Some schools are not as fortunate as we are. Their fields are either too narrow or too bumpy. Maryland's field is regulation size, but the surface is a little bumpy."

It doesn't seem to bother the Terrapins what or where the playing surface is against the Lions. They could be on give Penn State fits.

Last year at Jeffrey Field, the Lions dominated the action yet Maryland came out on top, 4-0. In 1978, Penn State managed to escape College Park by the same score.

"Maryland has the same record as they did at this time last year," Bahr said. "They've lost one or two more than they've won. They've had trouble scoring goals, but they're always talented."



Scott Gardiner (18) and the rest of the Nittany Lions (8-1) will try for their seventh consecutive victory at 2 p.m. today at Maryland.

Lady booters collide with St. John Fisher, Put 7-2 record on the line

The women's soccer club will face one of its most difficult challenges of the season when it hosts St. John Fisher tomorrow on Pollock Field.

The Lady Lions, coming off a spectacular weekend with 15 goals in two wins, will enter tomorrow's game with a season record of 7-2.

St. John Fisher, a varsity team, was third in the East last year, and lost only one game. This year it has all of its players returning.

"They're a very physical team," Penn State coach Tim Conley said. "They have good ball skills, and are very aggressive."

St. John Fisher may have all its players returning, but the Lady Lions counter with a productive lineup of their own.

On offense, Penn State boasts midfielders Pat Guitan, Elvira Palsetta and Anne Yearly, wings Shawn Ladda and Cheryl Blumenthal, and striker Linda Bulanchuck. Ladda is high scorer for the team with eight goals and Guitan is second with seven goals.

Fullbacks Jackie Vinkler, Laurie Frederick, Laurie Jones and Laurie Leibelsperger, and goalkeeper Patti Wisniewski lead the defense.

—by Laurel Jacobs

Buckeyes, Astroturf test stickgals

By SHARON FINK
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Depending on the individual or team, an Astroturf field can be your best friend or your worst enemy. There doesn't seem to be an in-between.

The field hockey team doesn't get much of a chance to play on Astroturf. The last time it did was two years ago at the Ohio State Invitational, played at Ohio Stadium in Columbus, Ohio. The rest of their games, though, have been played on ratty, bumpy grass fields—including Penn State's own Lady Lion Field.

Also rare are the times the Lady Lions practice on the Astroturf football practice field. But they practiced on it last night and they'll do it again tonight to prepare for this year's Ohio State Invitational at Columbus. There Penn State will be back on the Astroturf again and find out if it's amicable or hostile when it plays Indiana University at 5 p.m. tomorrow and Ohio State at noon on Sunday at Ohio Stadium.

From the sounds of things, the Lady Lions are expecting a slightly receptive reaction from the Buckeyes' turf.

"I'm looking forward to it," Penn State sweeper Terri Lovelace said. "It's always a lot of fun. It'll give us a chance to really see what our skill level is, as individuals and in our team work."

"I definitely think it will be an advantage for us. Penn State, as a whole, has excellent stickwork, and playing on the turf will bring that out even more."

Penn State coach Cillian Ratray also said the Astroturf should be in the Lady Lions' favor.

"I think it will really help our game," she said. "It will show our fitness and stickwork. We're looking forward to the challenge and opportunity to play on it."

Ratray does have an ulterior motive, though.

"We're not counting our chickens before they're hatched," she laughed. "But nationals will be played on Astroturf this year, too."

In general, the Astroturf should add a little extra to the tournament. For the most part, the Lady Lions expect the games to be faster-paced and more skillful than usual and also for Ohio State to have a more definite home-team advantage because the Buckeyes are used to playing on the artificial surface.

But playing Ohio State at home may not be a good gauge of what kind of a team the Buckeyes really are. This year they're 3-1, winning all three games at home and losing all three played on grass fields on the road.

"Ohio State looks like an up-and-down team, a home-and-away team," Ratray said. "They play well on the Astroturf at home but not on a bumpy field. It's tough for them."

Ratray said Ohio State is still strong, despite losing six seniors from last year's team, including leading scorer (25 goals) and U.S. Olympian Sue Marcellus. But its second-leading scorer, Sue Freed, is back and has a



Sharon Timsted (22) and her Penn State teammates will be playing on Astroturf for the first time in two years at the Ohio State Invitational tomorrow and Sunday in Columbus, Ohio.

Lions host 7 teams in lacrosse tourney

By RON MUSSELMAN
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

The fourth annual Penn State Lacrosse Tournament on Sunday is the only place to go in the state for fall lacrosse action.

Penn State coach Glenn Thiel said the tournament should be very competitive and expects Rutgers and two-time tournament champion Towson State to provide the toughest opposition in the eight-team field.

"Towson and Rutgers will be ranked in the top 10 or 12 in the country and Bucknell is always even with us, so it's gonna be tough," Thiel said. "The other teams are probably a notch below us, but they're still pretty good teams."

Other teams entered in the tournament are Gettysburg, Montclair, Lehigh and Villanova. The Lions host Gettysburg in their first round opener at 11 a.m. Games will be played at the IM fields by the Flower Gardens.

"It should be an exciting tournament," he said. "It should work out that each team gets a couple of tough games and other games that might not be as tough. Essentially, it will give each team a chance to play a lot of kids."

This thinking conditioning will determine the eventual outcome in many of the games.

"Most teams are in the same situation where they're not really in shape to run with anybody during the fall," Thiel said. "So they just play a lot of guys for a short period of time. The thing, by the way, is that at the time the third game rolls around, everybody's gonna be tired."

Midfielder Brian Herzer said the key to the three-game tournament is early containment of the opposition.

"Hopefully, we will play enough midfield early in all the games so we won't be tired out by the end of the third game," Herzer said.

"The Lions must win their first game against Gettysburg in order to advance to the championship bracket at 1 p.m., where they will probably face highly-favored Towson State.

Thiel said he thinks a victory in the first round is most important.

"If we don't beat Gettysburg, then we're kind of defeating our whole purpose for the tournament," Thiel said. "But it's kind of a dual purpose, we want to play as many kids as possible and get them as much experience as we can."

The Lions posted a 6-5 record a year ago, but Thiel said he thinks this team is better, although scoring ace Bill Curran has graduated.

"I think we have enough kids coming up that will take up the slack," he said. "The one thing that we really don't have that Curran gave us is the quickness and ability to go to the goal and get a good shot when you wanted it. I think it's gonna take the freshmen and others a little time to develop that ability."

"Most of the kids have a great attitude and good enthusiasm to work hard in the fall, and we're doing some things very well. We're probably ahead of where we were in the past at this time of year."

Penn State's Dave Pritchard agreed with Thiel's assessment.

"In the three years I've played here to run with anybody during the fall," Thiel said. "So they just play a lot of guys for a short period of time. The thing, by the way, is that at the time the third game rolls around, everybody's gonna be tired."

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