

the daily sports

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Candy Finn (left) helped pace Penn State to victories over James Madison and Massachusetts this weekend at the AIAW national championships held at Jeffrey Field.

Lady laxers Finn(ish) off James Madison, UMass

By JEFF SCHULER
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

It would be very easy for the women's lacrosse team to throw in the towel following its upset loss to Maryland Thursday in the quarterfinals of the AIAW national championships at Jeffrey Field.

After all, the dethroned champions could do no better than fifth place, and to get up for the final two meaningless games of the season might be a problem for a team that expected to be playing in Saturday's 4 p.m. championship game instead of the 11:30 a.m. game for fifth place.

"It would be very easy for them to get down on themselves and say 'why bother,'" said Penn State coach Gillian Rattray. "But they decided that if this (fifth place) was as high as they could finish, that's what they would shoot for."

And fifth place was what the Lady Lions got, romping past James Madison 16-3 on Friday and beating Massachusetts 14-8 on Saturday to conclude their season with an impressive 13-2 record.

After Thursday's loss to the Lady Terps, Lady Lion Candy Finn said she felt sorry for the team Penn State would play on Friday. That turned out to be the Dutchesses, a team the Lady Lions had beat 19-4 in the first game of the season and a team that had lost to Harvard 11-4 in the opening round.

And even though the Lady Lions spotted the Southern regional champions a 2-1 lead in the first 3-4, one almost had to feel sorry for the Dutchesses. Because after Laurie Gray tied the score at 3:57, the Lady Lions ran off 12 straight goals — half of them by Finn — until Sue Peacock finally scored James Madison's third goal with just 2:11 left in the game.

"Our passing was great," Finn said after the game. "That was the key. Our style of game is pass and go, pass and go. We didn't do that yesterday (Thursday); we did it today."

They did it again Saturday, jumping out to an 8-2 halftime lead against Massachusetts. UMass made a mild comeback

when it closed to within 11-6 with just less than 15 minutes left, but Finn scored two goals to open the gap. And even though UMass's Whitney Thayer answered with a pair of her own, the Lady Lions held on for the win.

"UMass gave us a superb game," Rattray said. "We knew they could come back. They had come back from 4-0 against Temple (only to lose 8-4 in overtime) and from 2-0 against Rhode Island (to win 9-7)."

"I think they proved something to themselves the past two days. I would be so easy to fall to pieces, but there was no way they, especially the seniors, were going out of here with two losses."

The Lady Lions can take some satisfaction from the fact that they lost to Maryland, the eventual champions. The Lady Lions had beat 19-4 in the first game of the season and a team that had lost to Harvard 11-4 in the opening round.

And the Lady Terps did it without two of their top three scorers.

Judy Dougherty, Maryland's all-time leading scorer, missed the entire tournament with a broken thumb, and Sally Scholfield, who scored 28 goals during the season, missed the tournament with a knee injury. Sally Lamont took up some of the slack for Maryland with two goals Saturday and 10 in the tournament.

STICKLEBARS: Lynn Thompson led the tournament with five assists and added five goals. The senior co-captain finished her career with 105 goals and a Penn State record 57 assists. Her 162 points are third on the Lady Lion career scoring list. Finn led the tournament with 13 goals and 17 points. She was the only Lady Lion selected to the all-championship team, a fact that was very disappointing to Rattray. Finn set three season records — goals and goals by a junior (79) and points (86). Thompson set personal highs in goals (31) and assists (22), the latter a school record.

Gray nets 8 goals, U.S. team tryout

By JEFF SCHULER
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

She wasn't named to the AIAW lacrosse all-championship team although she scored eight goals in the national tournament, but Penn State freshman Laurie Gray received an even higher honor when she was invited to try out for the U.S. national team based on her performance for the fifth-place Lady Lions.

"I'm really excited about this," Gray said. "I was thinking that maybe I could try out in a year or two. I wasn't thinking about it this early."

However, the selection committee for the national team was impressed with the performance of the freshman, who was fourth in the tournament in goals and finished her first collegiate season with 26 goals and 33 points.

"She really came on strongly to double the end of the season," Penn State coach Gillian Rattray said. "She fit in so well with the sort of unselfish team we have built this season."

Gray graduated from Lower Merion High School in suburban Philadelphia. She earned a place in the starting lineup for the opening game against James Madison, but said she didn't really feel a part of the team until the regular season showdown with Maryland.

"It was a gradual process," Gray said. "As we played more, I felt more and more that I was a part of the team. But the Maryland game was probably when I really felt good. It was our best game as a whole; it was a total team effort."

Rattray said she saw a change in Gray's play when freshman Betsy Williams worked her way into the starting lineup midway through the season.

"She really became comfortable

Work now begins for next year

By LAURIE JACOBS
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

The 1981 women's lacrosse season ended Saturday when the Lady Lions clinched fifth place in the AIAW national lacrosse championships.

But for Penn State coach Gillian Rattray, the work is not over — it has just begun.

Rattray is already looking ahead to the 1982 lacrosse season, and planning how she is going to fill the large gap that will be left by seven graduating seniors, of which five were starters this past season.

"This is the biggest number of seniors — especially starters — we've had in a long time," Rattray said. "That is a big gap out of a squad of 30. You don't just automatically replace experience."

Those who must be replaced include goalie Alisa Logan, point Sandy Ticknor, first home Lynn Thompson, third man Michele Fleider and center Theresa Arena.

Finding able replacements at these positions will be a difficult job. Each senior has had at least two years of varsity experience (Thompson and Ticknor are four-year starters), and they are all used to playing together.

Each of them has had the experience of national championship play, and has been a member of three national championship teams during her Penn State career.

Rattray said Arena's position at center will be one of the most difficult positions to fill.

"Theresa has played center for three years," Rattray said. "I feel she is the darkhorse of our team. She doesn't get much praise and notice, but she did an enormous amount of work for us."

"She is not flashy, but she was always in the right place at the right time and always there on the double team."

But Rattray added that the present team has quite a bit of depth, and with the incoming freshmen next year, the team should be able to adjust well to the loss of the seniors.

"We still have Candy (Finn) at second home," Rattray said. "Betsy (Williams) at third home, Laurie Hoke and Laurie Gray at the attack wings, Lisa Stauffer and Jane Koffenberger at defense wings, and Patti Sue Ewan at cover point. So we have a lot of strength there even without the incoming freshmen."

But the incoming freshmen are impressive too.

Sally Rathcliff from Garrison Forest, a private school in Baltimore, will be contending for the starting goalie position. And Missy Metcalf from Tatnall, in Wilmington, Del., will join the Lady Lions.

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Isles get Bossy with Stars

By BARRY WILNER
AP Sports Writer

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP) — Super-scorer Mike Bossy smashed the National Hockey League playoff scoring record and Butch Goring connected for three goals last night, boosting the New York Islanders to a 7-5 victory over the Minnesota North Stars and to within one victory of their second straight Stanley Cup championship.

The Islanders led the best-of-seven NHL finals 3-0 and can skate away with the Cup by winning here tomorrow night.

Bossy scored goals in the first and third periods and also had two assists to shatter teammate Bryan Trottier's playoff mark of 29 points, set last year. Bossy now has 17 goals and 33 postseason points.

Goring spurred a second-period Islanders rally from a two-goal deficit by scoring twice and added an insurance goal 6:34 into the final period.

Minnesota, playing inspired hockey before the rabid hometown fans, jumped to a 3-1 lead after one period. The North Stars finally got their power play working after scoring just twice in 13 attempts in a pair of 6-3 losses on Long Island. Steve Christoff fired a 30-footer past Islanders goalie Billy Smith at 3:25 with New York's Bob Nystrom off the ice.

Thirteen minutes later, Bobby Smith pushed the North Stars' lead to 3-1 when he tipped home Craig Hartaburg's long slap shot.

In between those tallies, Steve Payne had beaten Smith with a short backhand and Bossy had replied for the Islanders with a 35-foot drive that ricocheted in off the glove of North Stars goalie Gilles Meloche.

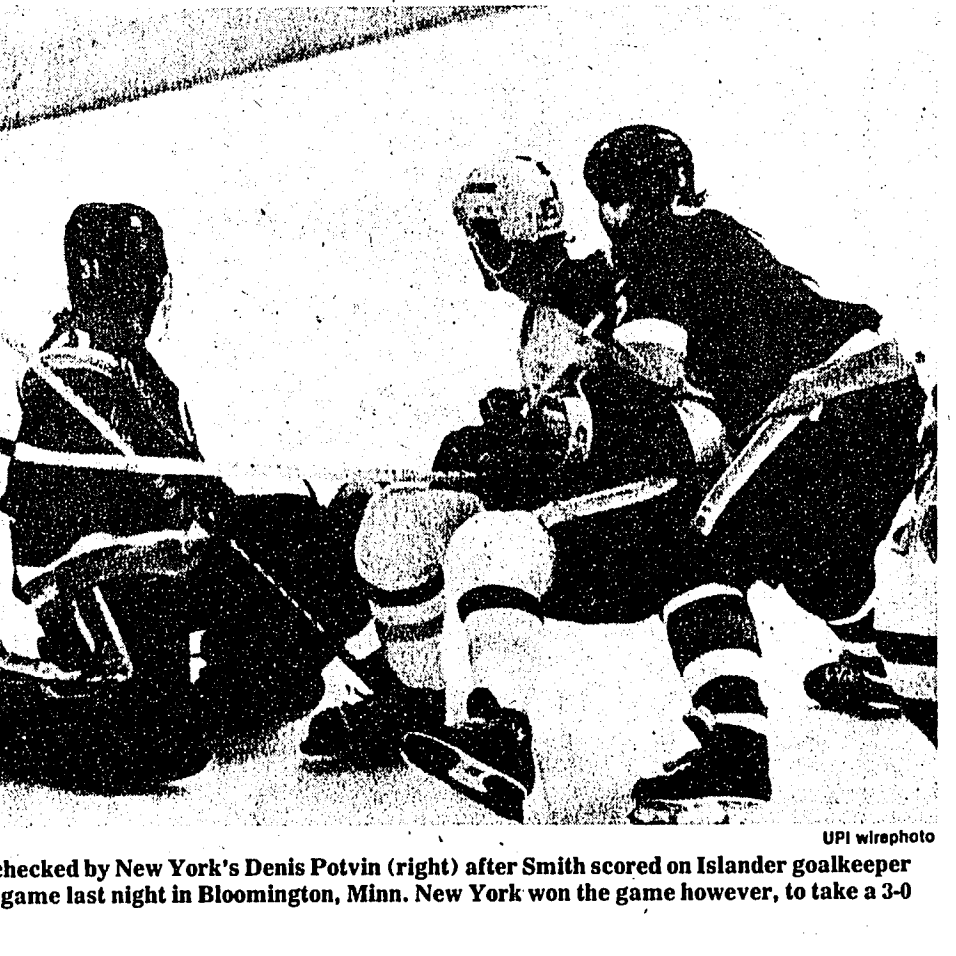
Bob Nystrom began the Islanders' second-period revival when he culminated a 3-on-2 break by tipping the puck between the legs of Meloche at 4:10. Just 2:06 later, with the Islanders on a power play, Goring beat a screened Meloche with a 45-foot shot to tie the score and silence the crowd of 15,784.

At 11:51, Goring, the pesky center who has been the Islanders' sparkplug throughout their awesome run to the doorstep of another championship, cleverly batted a rebound of a Clark Gillies shot out of the air and behind a flustered Meloche. Gillies had stolen the puck off the stick of Minnesota's Tim Young directly in front of Meloche.

Payne tied it at 4-4 1:11 into the third session when he steered Young's pass behind Smith. But 54 seconds later Bossy, who led the NHL with 68 regular-season goals, hit for his second goal of the night from the right wing faceoff circle after a feed by linemate Trottier. The assist gave Trottier at least one point in all 16 Islanders playoff games this spring, another NHL record.

Then Goring completed his hat trick with the game-winning goal at 6:34, knocking in a rebound. On that goal, Islanders defenseman Denis Potvin earned an assist, giving him 25 playoff points, a record for defenseman in one Stanley Cup season.

Minnesota's Dino Ciccarelli broke the playoff points record for rookies with an assist in the first period and a goal in the third. Ciccarelli, who holds the postseason goals mark for freshmen with 14, has 21 points, one more than Don Maloney of the New York Rangers had in 1979. Ciccarelli's goal came with 6:25 remaining in the game as the Islanders' defense allowed him to skate around the net and jam the puck behind Smith.



North Star Bobby Smith (center) is checked by New York's Denis Potvin (right) after Smith scored on Islanders goalkeeper Billy Smith in a Stanley Cup playoff game last night in Bloomington, Minn. New York won the game however, to take a 3-0 series lead.

Medlar: 35 years developing players and people

By RON MUSSELMAN
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

On April 2, 1983, Froth was attempting to get a University charter. Gov. William Scranton was seeking \$23 million dollars in aid for Pennsylvania. "To Kill a Mockingbird" was showing at the State Theatre and hooded sweatshirts with a Penn State insignia on them were selling for \$2.95 at Metzger's.

And on that day at Beaver Field, Chuck Medlar recorded his first win as baseball coach at Penn State. Nineteen seasons later, Medlar has announced his retirement, effective June 30, 1981.

Four days ago, Medlar fondly remembered his first team, one which reached the College World Series in Omaha, Neb., where the Lions finished fifth.

"It was a very special team," Medlar said as he tried to fight off a tear. "It was my first year and a lot of those players were there from the year before. It was a very good ball club. We got some very good pitching performances that year."

The man responsible for most of those fine pitching performances was a south-paw named Bob Fenton. Fenton fanned nine, and fired a four-hitter against Gettysburg to give Medlar his first career victory as head coach.

Fenton, now a high school teacher and varsity baseball coach at Sandwich High School in Massachusetts, would go on to pitch two no-hitters that season, one of them in the regional playoffs against Rider. In 1963, Fenton fanned 105 batters in 106 1/3 innings (a school record), racked up a sparkling 1.94 ERA and finished the season with a 10-2 record.

When told last week of Medlar's retirement, Fenton, a two-time regional All-Star selection in 1962 and '63, was stunned.

"I haven't seen Medlar or any of those other players since we climbed off the team bus after that Omaha game," the soft-spoken Fenton said. "I've always respected coach Medlar. We knew what he wanted and we had to do it."

Medlar said Fenton sure knew how to do it.

"He's one of the finest pitchers I've ever had the pleasure of coaching," Medlar said. "He had a great curve ball and most of all, what I remember about him, is that he had one of the best pickoff moves I've ever seen."

Like Fenton, other players from 1963 said they couldn't believe Medlar was still around, either.

"You mean to tell me he's still around?" former relief ace Dick Stelman asked. "I can't believe it. I thought he retired long ago."

Stelman, vice-president of Commonwealth Oil Company in San Antonio, Texas, chuckled a few more seconds, and then turned serious.

"Chuck knew his stuff. I'll say that," Stelman said. "I know he used to run us pitchers pretty hard. He used to always say, 'Get out there and run those legs.' You know what's funny? I still have the picture of that (1963) team hanging on my wall, and I haven't seen any of those guys since our last game."

That 1963 squad, which finished the regular season 11-4, had nine games postponed because of inclement conditions. Yet, Penn State received a bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association district playoffs instead of defending NCAA champion Ithaca and a very talented Pittsburgh squad.

The Lions weren't supposed to go that far. Before the season started, Medlar was concerned about his pitching staff, and his whole team as far as that goes, because of inexperience.

"It wasn't a season coach Medlar particularly wanted to look forward to," said Fred Light, a guidance counselor and varsity baseball coach at Honesdale (Pa.) High School. "But once we got rolling, we couldn't be stopped."

For now, however, it's not the past that Medlar looks back on. It's the future.

"I know his retirement would have to happen soon. I turn 40 next week and I feel old already, so I know what coach Medlar feels like. He's been around a long time."

Medlar, who will turn 63 in July, has coached baseball for 14 seasons. But even so, he has been well respected, both by his peers and players.

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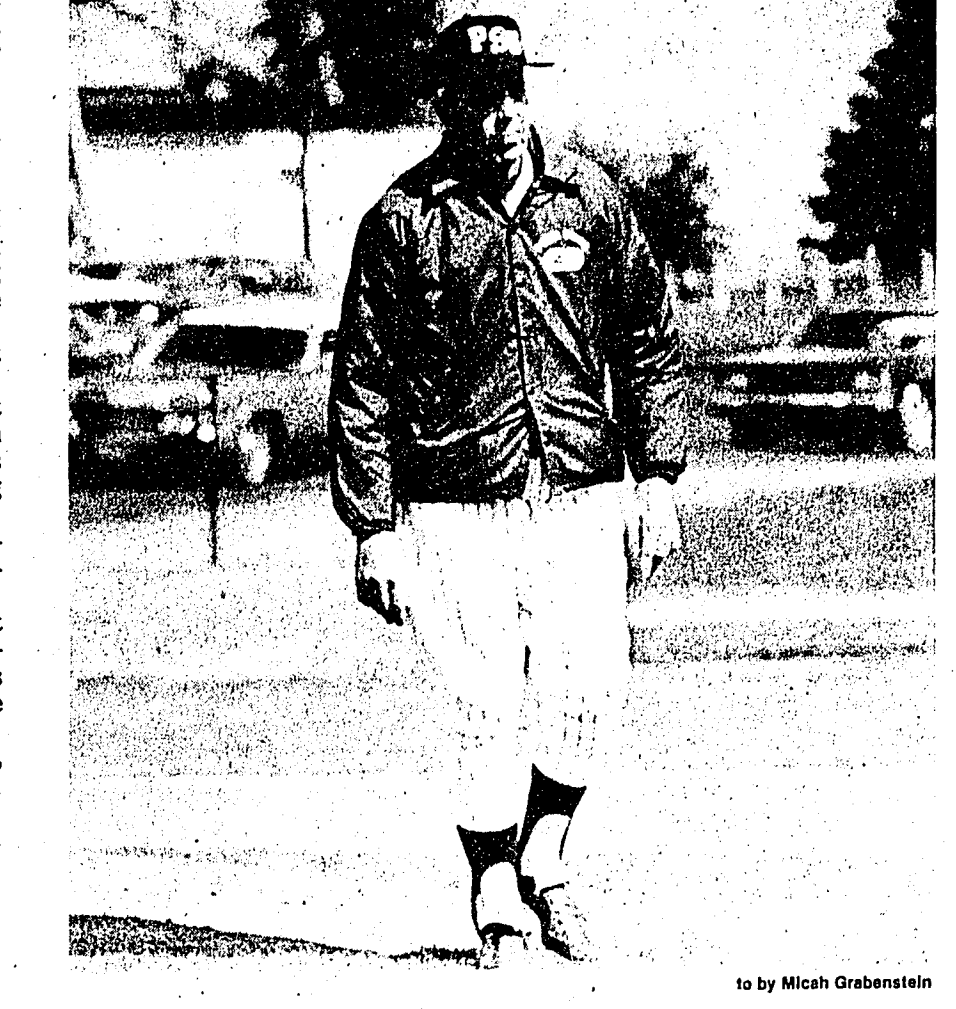
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"He missed the team bus to Omaha, because he went to see his girlfriend," Brodick said. "Chuck waited around awhile and then he decided to leave because he didn't want to be late. But about nine o'clock that night, I heard a knock on my door in Omaha, and there was Reidel. It was a very funny thing."

But for Medlar, retirement is serious business.

"A time comes for everything," Medlar said. "It was getting tougher on me physically. I'm just going to take things day by day. Sure, I'm going to miss baseball for awhile, but it's been a very fine career. Penn State's been a great place to work the last 35 years."

In addition to being head coach for 19 years, Medlar was an assistant coach under the late Joe Bedenk for 14 seasons. Because he has been a coach for so long, Medlar has great respect for the profession. That's evidenced by the fact that he was still trying to recruit players for as late as the new Penn State baseball coach as late as last Friday.

The reminiscing complete, "Stud," as Medlar is known to his players both past and present, then turned his attention to the 1980 baseball press guide, the last such guide that will have his picture in it.

Medlar nodded his head, and issued a final statement, one indicative of his true manner.

"It's really interesting to see a boy come in here as a freshman and develop not only in athletics, but in academics," Medlar said.

The 1963 Penn State team made it on and off the field. So did Medlar.

"Tell Chuck that, in so many small ways," said Brodick, the '63 second baseman, "he has helped me in my development both as a player and as a person."

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