Stickwomen end regular season with OT win

By ROBERT WILLIAMS
Collegian Sports Writer

This season is Head Coach Gillian Rattray's 13th at the helm of the field hockey team. But numerous overtimes, lengthy road trips, and 13 dates with Top 20 opponents may be taking more out of Rattray this year than did her first through twelfth seasons combined.

The Lady Lions (16-3-2) were involved in their seventh overtime game (and third in a row) in 21 contests yesterday, as they closed out their regular season with a 3-2 victory over host West Chester.

"It was a very fast game," Rattray said of the 174th win of her Penn State tenure. "The ball moved up and down the field a lot. It was intense.

"West Chester played well," she added. "They came at us hard."

But the Rams' effort fell just short, as sophomore forward Tracey Neave salvaged the victory for the Lady Lions when she notched her 16th goal of the season with 8:54 gone in the first overtime period. Senior forward Stacia Palahnuk assisted the tally, which was Neave's fourth game-winning goal of the season.

Heading into the contest, Penn State and West Chester were ranked No. 7 and No. 8, respectively, and the closeness of yesterday's encounter proved that the NCAA coaches hit the nail on the head when they voted these two squads side-by-side in the poll.

Besides yesterday's game, the Lady Lions have had numerous other encounters with highly-rated teams this season. Penn State has battled six teams that are currently in the Top 10, and the squad has managed a 3-2-1 record in these contests.

Senior midfielder Mary McCarthy got the Lady Lions' sixth such contest off to a good start yesterday when she scored her sixth goal of the season at the 6:01 mark of the first half. Junior forward Diane Schleicher assisted the tally, which was the result of a direct corner hit.

"Mary McCarthy played a good game," Rattray said. "Besides having her two goals, Mary defended Tracey Griesbaum (West Chester's leading scorer) very well. She held her scoreless."

The Rams would knot the score before halftime, as Karen Sponseler evened the score 1-1 at the 24:12 mark of the half.

The back-and-forth play continued in the second stanza. McCarthy made the score 2-1 just under 10 minutes into the second half on an unassisted blast from outside the circle. West Chester, however, once again tied the score less than four minutes later.

But the Lady Lions increased their overtime record to 4-1-2 when Neave tallied the game-winner with 1:06 remaining in the first overtime.

The contest was a fitting culmination to the regular season, because as were many of this year's games, yesterday's battle was on the road, went to overtime, and was against a Top 10 opponent.

Besides taking a third of its games to overtime and playing over half of its contests against Top 20 opponents, Penn State has hit the road for 12 of its 21 games.

> 'It was a very fast game. The ball moved up and down the field a lot. It was intense. West Chester played well. They came at us hard.'
>
> — Gillian Rattray, head coach

The Lady Lions' schedule should prove advantageous, however, when Penn State begins its quest for its third NCAA Field Hockey National Championship under Rattray. The 12-team field will be chosen this Sunday, and the Lady Lions are a shoe-in to be selected. If they are, they will begin Rattray's eighth trip to post-season play on Nov. 15 at a site to be determined.

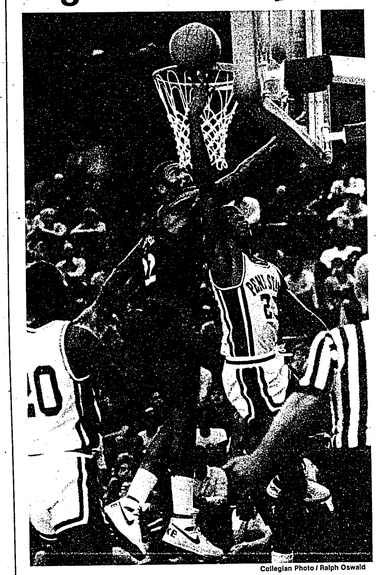
LADY LION NOTES: The three goals scored by the Lady Lions yesterday equaled the number of goals that West Chester had surrendered in its previous nine games, all of which were Rams victories . . . the victory upped Penn State's away mark to 8-3-1 . . . the Lady Lions end the regular season riding a 24-game home undefeated streak .

Collegian photo / Dan Oleski

Penn State's Mary McCarthy moves the ball downfield as two Princeton defenders give chase in a game earlier this season at Lady Lion Field. McCarthy, scored two goals yesterday to help seal a 3-2 Penn State victory over No. 8 West Chester. It was the final regular season game for the No. 7 Lady Lions.

Cagers crushed, but Parkhill optimistic

By MARK ASHENFELTER
Collegian Sports Writer



Collegian Photo / Ralph Oswald

Penn State freshman Rodney Henderson, right, lifts the ball past a Marathon Oil defender to the hoop in action last night at Rec Hall. The Lions lost the exhibition game 95-77. The Lions, playing after just three weeks of practice, were rusty at times, but Head Coach Bruce Parkhill said that was to be expected. The team returns to action for the Blue-White Game in two weeks.

Even though the 95-77 setback the men's basketball team suffered last night looked bad, Head Coach Bruce Parkhill wasn't discouraged.

Parkhill knew he was taking a risk when he scheduled Marathon Oil, a touring amateur squad, for the team's preseason opener in Rec Hall, but he decided it was worth it.

The Lions looked sharp at times in the first half, but grew ragged as the game wore on. With just under three weeks of practice under their belts, Parkhill knew he couldn't expect much.

"We're not even in game shape, let alone have any timing down," Parkhill said. "Like I said going in, we're not looking at this as a game, we're looking at it as a season to let guys break up preseason and see what we have to work on."

Parkhill saw a lot of things his team still needs work on, but he wasn't discouraged with the game. The Lions only had their first scrimmage on Saturday and their lack of conditioning caught up to them after trailing just 50-47 at the half.

Penn State shot 68 percent in the opening stanza, but hit on just eight of 25 attempts (32 percent) over the final 20 minutes. Part of the Lions' problem was a lack on continuity — but that was by design.

With 16 players on the roster, Parkhill vowed he would get them all playing time and he did. This led to constant shuffling that Parkhill said made things difficult for his players.

"I think there were some things that we did pretty well that I was pleased with," Parkhill said. "And obviously there were a lot of breakdowns. But like I said we weren't even in shape to play a game yet.

". . .But it was really good for us, I was really apprehensive when we scheduled a game at this time. . . . Now I'm really glad we did, I might try to do it in the future. I think even though we weren't ready for a game it was good for the kids."

Playing with just one man-to-man offense and one zone offense implemented, the Lions still hung tough after a shaky start. Former Lion Craig Collins hit on two three-point jumpers and scored 13 of the Oilers' first 19 points. Penn State trailed 38-28 with 6:43 remaining until Brian Allen took over.

The sophomore guard took control of the game, scoring the Lions' next 12 points and closing the gap to 42-40 with 3:23 left. Allen, who injured his knee last week, shot nine of 11 on the evening on his way to 18 points.

Allen was pleased with the team's effort and said better things are around the corner.

"Things will come with time, it's only the third week of practice, so nobody is meshing yet," Allen said. "But I was impressed with how we looked coming out at the beginning."

Penn State also received respectable performances from a trio of big men, Carl Chrabascz, Jim Newcomer and redshirt freshman Ed Fogell. Chrabascz ended with 12 points, Newcomer with nine and Fogell with eight. Penn State outrebounded Marathon, 34-32.

The Oilers were led by Collins' 24 points on nine of 15 shooting. Milt Wagner, the former Louisville Cardinal star and a second-round pick in the NBA draft, ended with 16 while Bud Greer and Kevin Sprewer added 15 apiece.

With two weeks of practice remaining before the Blue-White game (Nov. 22) Parkhill said he's pleased with his club's progress.

"I think (we've come around) pretty well," Parkhill said. "I think we're getting to a point where the guys realize what they have to do."

AP Laser Photo

Flyer Steve Zezel falls at the feet of Devil Steve Richmond

Flyers crush Devils; Penguins tie Canucks

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Tim Kerr scored two second-period power-play goals to lead the Philadelphia Flyers to a 7-1 victory over the New Jersey Devils in an NHL contest last night.

The win was the Flyers' third straight and their 10-2 record is the league's best. The Flyers are 8-0 at home.

The loss dropped the Devils to 6-6.

Philadelphia took a 2-1 lead in the second period when Kerr received a pass from Brian Propp in the slot and fired a 20-foot wrist shot that deflected off New Jersey goaltender Alain Chevrier's stick and behind him on a power play at 5:05.

Kerr scored again on a power play with one minute remaining in the period when he took a pass from Ilkka Sinisalo in the slot and slid a low shot from 25 feet out past Chevrier.

Derrick Smith gave the Flyers a 4-1 lead 1:33 into the third period when he took a pass from Scott Mellanby at the right of the net and redirected the puck past Chevrier.

Canucks 2, PENGUINS 2

PITTSBURGH — Mario Lemieux scored his 17th NHL goal midway through the third period to give the Pittsburgh Penguins a 2-2 tie with the Vancouver Canucks last night.

Lemieux took a pass from Dan Frawley, fought off a check from defenseman Dave Richter and pumped the shot into the upper right corner to take the league lead in goals. Dino Ciccarelli of the idle Minnesota North Stars is second with 16. Lemieux has at least one point in each of Pittsburgh's 13 games and has scored goals in seven consecutive games.

Pittsburgh tied rthe game on a power play at 6:15 of the second period. Moe Mantha took a pass from Terry Ruskowski, held the puck, then shot into the open net after pulling goalie Wendell Young out of the crease.

Jets 6, Nordiques 3

QUEBEC — Winnipeg defenseman Jim Kyte's first goal of the season at 6:11 of the third period spoiled a comeback by the Quebec Nordiques and lifted the Jets to a 6-3 victory in NHL action last night.

Kyte took a pass from teammate Andrew McBain just inside the Quebec blue line and blasted a 35-foot slapshot under Nordiques goalie Clint Malarchuk's glove to break a 3-3 tie.

It was Quebec's first loss of the season on home ice.

Dale Hawerchuk had two goals and Gilles Hamel added a pair 13 seconds apart late in the final period to clinch the game for the Jets. Paul MacLean and Doug Smail had Winnipeg's other goals.

Islanders 7, Capitals 1

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Pat LaFontaine and Mike Bossy scored two goals apiece, leading the New York Islanders to a 7-1 NHL victory over the struggling Washington Capitals last night.

LaFontaine's first goal of the night, on a power play, triggered a three-goal first period for the Islanders.

luzzolino not worried about transition

By MARK BRENNAN
Collegian Sports Writer

Mike Iuzzolino's collegiate basketball career got off to a less than spectacular start last night, but the 6-0, 160 pound freshman guard on the men's basketball team is not too worried.

At Altoona High School he was a Converse All-American, a first team all-Pennsylvania player and had a list of other honors and accomplishments as long as his name.

But when Iuzzolino entered the Lions' exhibition game against Marathon Oil last night with about five minutes left in the first half, he got a quick taste of what college basketball is all about.

He was beaten for an easy layup on the his first defensive assignment. A couple of minutes later, Iuzzolino had his first shot, a double clutch jumper eight feet from the basket, rejected.

Welcome to college, Mike.

With six seconds left in the half, though, Iuzzolino showed some of the stuff that made him an All American in high school. Dribbling the ball the length of the court while time was winding down, he calmly hit a jumper from the top of the key with one second left to draw the Lions to within two points of the Oilers at the half.

Iuzzolino said the bucket helped him after the two early miscues.

"It was my first college basket, what can I say," Iuzzolino said. "It helped me out a little bit. It was not really a set play, it just happened that nobody picked me up and it went in."

He finished with four points and four assists in limited action, but Head Coach Bruce Parkhill said being thrown into a game situation with only three weeks of collegiate practice is tough on all freshmen.

"Mike's gonna be fine, there is no question about it," Parkhill said. "We felt that, as with all of the freshmen, that it was a really tough situation for them tonight, to be out there with people in the stands an playing against really good players and not even being comfortable with our system yet."

But playing on big courts in front of a lot of fans is nothing new for Iuzzolino. At Altoona, his team played one of the toughest schedules in the state and traveled to play in towns from Erie to Philadelphia.

Iuzzolino said the hardest thing is the adjustment of not playing all of the time.

"I'm not nervous when I play anymore," Iuzzolino said. "I've been doing this for a long time."

sports briefs

McNamara AL Manager of the Year

BOSTON (AP) — John McNamara, who guided the Boston Red Sox from a fifth-place finish in 1985 to within one strike of the 1986 world championship, was rewarded yesterday with the American League Manager of the Year award.

The self-effacing leader of the surprising Red Sox beat Bobby Valentine of the Texas Rangers by a single first-place vote in the balloting conducted by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Lemieux NHL Player of the Month

NEW YORK (AP) — Mario Lemieux of the Pitsburgh Penguins, who scored a league-high 15 goals and added 14 assists in 11 games, yesterday was named the NHL Player of the Month for October.

Lemieux, whose performance highlighted the Penguins' best start, 8-3-0, since Pittsburgh joined the NHL in 1967-68, edged Edmonton Oilers center Wayne Gretzky, Dino Ciccarelli of the Minnesota North Stars and Philadelphia Flyers goaltender Ron Hextall.

Pena, Rhoden could be traded

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Pirates General Manager Syd Thrift said he wants to make a trade to improve his last-place team and hasn't ruled out packaging pitcher Rick Rhoden and catcher Tony Pena in the same deal.

"Let's say I hope to make a deal," said Thrift, who has made only two minor deals since replacing interim general manager Joe L. Brown last November.

Pena, a three-time All-Star Game catcher, will be on the final year of his current contract in 1987 and can become a free agent at the end of the season.

Rhoden, 15-12 in 1986, asked to be traded before the 1986 season but later said he would be willing to remain with the Pirates if they renegotiated his contract.

Rhoden's contract also expires after the 1987 season.

Lions not looking at bowl picture — yet

By CHRIS LODER
Collegian Sports Writer

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Amidst the throng of reporters who gathered outside the Penn State lockerroom Saturday night after the Lions' 19-0 win over West Virginia, there stood a dapper television reporter eager to find out the answer to a normally safe question.

His mission was fairly simple: to find out from Penn State Head Coach Joe Paterno and the No. 2 Lions what they feel about a possible bowl showdown with No. 1 Miami.

The reporter perhaps didn't know that asking a bowl question at this stage of the season — with three games left — is like asking Sen. Edward M. Kennedy about Chappaquidick. It's about as taboo as a voodoo doll.

In typical fashion, Paterno responded: "No, it isn't time to think about it. It's not time at all. The only thing we have to think about is Maryland."

Not to be outdone, the reporter continued to press the question to every player he interviewed, and like the domino effect, he heard the same response with each one he met.

From hero Marques Henderson: "If we lose one, that takes away everything we've worked for."

From cornerback Duffy Cobbs: "If we lose a game, that pretty much throws the season out of the window."

And from placekicker Massimo Manca: "It's always in the back of our minds, but we've still got three games to go and we'll find out in a couple of weeks."

Indeed, it is a question that is beginning to dominate every Penn State press conference: "Are you thinking about a bowl game?" "Where do you want to play?"

Yet it is a question the players and Paterno would not like to address until the evening of Nov. 22, a few hours after the Lions play their final regular season game against Pitt.

"We're thinking about Maryland, because that's who we have to play in order to get to a bowl," said quarterback John Shaffer. "If we lose to Maryland, and we lose to Notre Dame and we lose to Pitt, there won't be a bowl in the country interested in us.

"You have to go into these games running scared. And if you don't go into a game thinking that there's a possibility that you might lose a game if you don't play the best game you can, then you may very well lose a football game."

Still, it's an issue the Lions cannot totally ignore. Following Penn State's 23-3 win over Alabama last Saturday in Tuscaloosa, talk of a Miami-Penn State bowl games has plastered sports pages throughout the country.

Harrison lends skill, enthusiasm to booters

By STACEY JACOBSON
Collegian Sports Writer

The date is Oct. 31 and the place is Jeffrey Field. It is 28 minutes into the second half of the Penn State vs. Temple soccer game and the score is 1-1. The Lions had scored first but their point was quickly matched three minutes later by the Owls.

Theoretically, the game is 0-0 once more, as time is running out and the score is tied.

Enter Penn State's Niall (pronounced Nigh-al) Harrison.

Harrison, a native of Ireland, picks up the ball at midfield gaining possession from a defender. He jets down the middle of the field taking on and beating another defender.

His drive continues to barely five feet outside the goal mouth, where the goalie comes out to greet him. Harrison toes the ball around the keeper and into the net. The score goes to 2-1 in the Lions' favor, and it remains that way for the rest of the game, giving the Lions their 10th win.

"Niall's goal was of the highest quality," Assistant Coach Barry Gorman said. "He kept his head while other players might have been tempted to shoot from farther out instead of dribbling in."

Who is this small but effective Irishman?

Harrison, a 5-5 senior, hails from Sligo, which is in the Northwest part of Southern Ireland, close to the Northern border.

While in Ireland, he played for the Summerhill College team, along with his current teammate Paul Moylan. In 1981 he was a member of the Irish International under-18 team that won the European championship over Northern Ireland.

Following his high school career, Harrison was planning to go to America, but not to Penn State.

"I was suppose to go to the University of South Florida (USF), and their scholarship that they offered me fell through at the end of May in 1983," Harrison said. "I have an uncle in Philadelphia and he told me about the schools in this area so I wrote to them and Penn State was the only one I heard from."

"I talked to Coach (Walter) Bahr on the phone and he had someone scout me. I took my SATs in Ireland and before I knew it I was over here. I love it here, I've had a great time."

USF's loss is definitely Penn State's gain. Harrison has been a starter in the right forward position for three years and this year he has been a starting midfielder. He has amassed two goals and three assists during the current campaign and holds the 10th position on the Lions' all-time scoring list.

"As a player, Niall is quick and deceptive with the ball," Gorman said. "He's a competitor and he doesn't like to lose. He wants to play well and win with style and creative soccer. We like to get him the ball."

Harrison feels an important role as a senior on the team is to help some of the younger players. One of his major contributions to the Lions is enthusiasm, both in practice as well as in games.

"I'm a little more involved in the game and with the people this year. I'm a senior and I'm playing midfield as opposed to wing. We've got a lot of freshmen and you need to talk to them, help them out," he said. "I think really all the senior, experienced players are leaders. I look at myself as a bit of a leader. In midfield I'm more into the game. I try to keep the team encouraged, tell them to keep their heads up."

A unique aspect of Harrison's leadership role is the manner in which he doles out criticism.

"He's such a bubbly personality, that it over flows to the team, they look to him as a leader even though he doesn't say very much. At the same time he is a senior player, he's a good player and he knows the game" Moylan said. "He criticizes when it is necessary, but he won't put anybody down."

All his coaches and teamates are in agreemant that Harrison's personality is effervescent.

"He is chirpy and always bubbling with something to say," Gorman said.

Harrison will be at Penn State for one more year after this one although he will not play soccer. He is getting a degree in physical education and hopes to eventually coach the sport. He would like to stay and work in America but isn't sure it will be possible to get a green card.

Collegian Photo / Dan Oleski

Penn State's Niall Harrison, right, races upfield with the ball past a Seaton Hall defender in a game earlier this season at Jeffrey Field. Harrison, a senior from Sligo, Ireland, may not lead the Lions in scoring this season, but he still leads his teammates by example.

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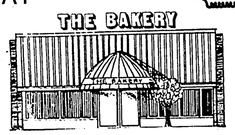

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