

Lady booters ready for jump to varsity

By JIM BARNES
Collegian Sports Writer

More than anything else, the women's soccer club is ready. Not only is it ready for any opponent it may face in a demanding 17-game schedule; it is ready for the move to varsity status.

Coach Laurie Pinchbeck believes that if upgraded to varsity status the team "could be strong regionally in one to two years and nationally in four to five years."

The only question that remains is: Can Penn State's already straining athletic program support another varsity team?

Pinchbeck said that in January she submitted a proposal to the athletic department outlining facts supporting the team's request for advancement to varsity status. Included in this proposal was a clause specifying that her team would not need equal financial treatment with the men's varsity team right away.

Assistant Athletic Director Herb Schmidt agreed that such an idea might solve the problem, but added, "While it satisfies the present players, future generations may see it as an equal opportunity issue and request equal treatment."

Pinchbeck, a team administrator for the U.S. women's soccer team, said that if the team is not advanced to varsity status by January she will leave the program for one of several positions that has already been offered to her.

She believes the departure of the current coaching staff "could set the program back three or four years."

Schmidt said of Pinchbeck's possible departure, "She is in a fine position as far as marketability. While I hate to see her go, I understand the opportunities out there for her."

A move by Pinchbeck would then put the full burden of coaching on assistant Coach Brent Capehart. Capehart said he would be able to maintain the quality of the team for some time, but was not sure how long.

Team co-captain Crissy Rossini believes that remaining at the club level is hurting the program in at least two ways. Rossini said if she had played soccer for all four years in high school, she wouldn't have attended Penn State.

She added that she knows several players who went to other universities so they could play varsity soccer.

In addition to losing players Rossini said that, as a club, the team is missing out on possible opponents because games against clubs are counted as scrimmages for varsity teams. With the number of scrimmages limited by scheduling rules, universities with varsity programs are reluctant to schedule games against Penn State's club.

Schmidt stressed that "since 1980 (the athletic department) has done regular reviews of finance and sup-



Penn State women's soccer team member Angie Downing (No. 9) dribbles the ball past a Drew Univ. opponent during a game earlier this season.

port" of varsity athletics. These reviews, which he compared to curriculum reviews, are designed to determine if Penn State's athletic program is serving the needs and interests of the community.

Schmidt added that continued growth of high school women's soccer and increasing interest at the collegiate level would definitely be taken into consideration in future reviews.

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The team ousted Messiah College, 2-1, yesterday at Jeffrey

Field. Becky Fox led the team with a goal and an assist, including the squad's opening tally at the 8:18 mark of the first half. Renee Biltger tallied the assist.

Chrissy Rossini scored the second goal (at the 12:14 point in the first half) on an assist from Fox. Messiah returned with a score at the 38:51 first-half mark, and that was the end of the scoring.

The squad is now 8-4-1 and travels to Delaware this Saturday. The team returns home for a 1 p.m. Sunday matchup with Lehigh.

Brister to begin throwing today

By The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Bubby Brister, who has missed two games with a fractured finger, will resume light throwing today, but his status for Sunday's game against Denver remains uncertain.

Brister has said he expects to be ready, but Steelers Coach Chuck Noll doubts whether Brister can play.

"Bubby's finger is still a problem," Noll said. If Brister remains sidelined, Noll said Todd Blackledge probably will make his third consecutive start, although Blackledge and Steve Bono will continue to divide snaps in practice.

"I think he (Blackledge) can get done what he has to get done splitting it 50-50," Noll said. "We want both of them to be ready."

Brister was one of the AFC's top-rated passers until chipping a bone in the middle finger of his right hand in the Steelers' 23-9 loss to Cleveland on Oct. 2. With Blackledge at quarterback, the Steelers' offense has struggled in losses to Phoenix, 31-14, and Houston, 34-14. The Steelers' six-game losing streak is their longest in 20 seasons.

Brister has completed 66 of 135 passes for 1,065 yards, five touchdowns and seven interceptions in five games. Blackledge is 29 of 62 for 365 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions.

Meanwhile, guard John Rienstra and tight end Jeff Markland, who are on the injured reserve list, are expected to resume practicing today. Rienstra has been sidelined since Sept. 20 with a broken right leg. Markland suffered a knee injury and broken hand Aug. 21.

Opponent's injury costs Hearn's shot at 5th title

NEW YORK (AP) — Thomas Hearn will not get a shot at a fifth title because of a rib injury to Fulgencio Obelmejias, promoter Bob Arum said yesterday.

Hearn was to fight Obelmejias of Venezuela, in a scheduled 12-round bout for the World Boxing Association super middleweight title on Nov. 5.

Hearn would have been trying to become the first fighter to win at least a piece of five titles, an honor that can go to Sugar Ray Leonard should he beat Donny Lalonde on Nov. 7 at Caesars' Palace.

At stake will be the World Boxing Council light heavyweight championship held by Lalonde and also the vacant WBC super middleweight title.

"There's no question there is an injury," Arum said from his New York office. "Whether it's as serious as the doctor says, I don't know."

Arum was searching for another opponent for Hearn and said, "The show will go on."

"We have confidence that Bob Arum will be able to present an equally exciting and entertaining card," Bruce Banke, a Hilton official, said yesterday.

Also scheduled on the Nov. 4 card are Michael Nunn's International Boxing Federation middleweight title defense against Juan Domingo Roldan and Matthew Hilton's IBF junior middleweight title defense.

"The fight card has not been canceled and the Michael Nunn-Juan Domingo Roldan middleweight title fight and Matthew Hilton-Robert Hines junior middleweight fights will go on. An announcement by Bob Arum will be forthcoming on a revised or replacement bout," for Hearn, Banke said.

The Hilton also will present a boxing show Oct. 20, featuring Julio Cesar Chavez, the World Boxing Association lightweight champion, against Jose Luis Ramirez, the World Boxing Council champion.

Obelmejias has said that a rib injury sustained in a bout with South Korea's Chong Pal Park prevented him from fighting Hearn. Arum insisted on seeing the X-rays, Luis Spada, the champion's personal promoter, said early yesterday.

"Martinez showed him the X-rays with a fracture in Obelmejias' rib cage, and Arum decided the fight could not go on," Spada said.

Ex-Tiger Denny McLain in trouble again

By FRED GOODALL
AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. — Former Detroit Tigers pitcher Denny McLain pleaded guilty to federal racketeering and cocaine charges yesterday, 14 months after an appeals court overturned his conviction stemming from a 1984 indictment alleging baseball's last 30-game winner engaged in loan-sharking, gambling and drug dealing.

In a plea agreement accepted by U.S. District Court Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich, the government recommended the two-time Cy Young Award winner receive a prison term not to exceed 12 years.

McLain, 44, was convicted in March 1985 and served 29 months of a 23-year sentence before his

release from the Federal Correctional Institution in Talladega, Ala.

Kovachevich, whose handling of the case is criticized in McLain's recently published book "Strikeout," set sentencing for Dec. 15.

"This needs to be over with," McLain, accompanied by his wife, Sharyn, and one of the couple's four children, said after a 20-minute hearing. "It's been living hell the way we've been living. We can now look forward to some kind of future."

"I would never put this family through what I put them through before," he added. "Whatever happened happened, whatever it is. It's time for us to move on."

Prosecutors contended during a 14-week trial that McLain charged loan shark victims interest as high as 150 percent; ran a sports bookmaking

operation and threatened violence to collect debts.

The former baseball star testified in his own defense that he had been involved in bookmaking from time to time, but maintained he was innocent of the charges in the indictment.

In overturning McLain's conviction for racketeering, extortion and drug dealing, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta ruled he was denied a fair trial.

McLain, who had been scheduled for retrial on Oct. 24, alleges in his book that Kovachevich tried to publicly humiliate him.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ernst Mueller said if McLain is sentenced to the maximum 12 years stipulated in the plea agreement, he normally would be required to serve at least one third of the term — or four years.

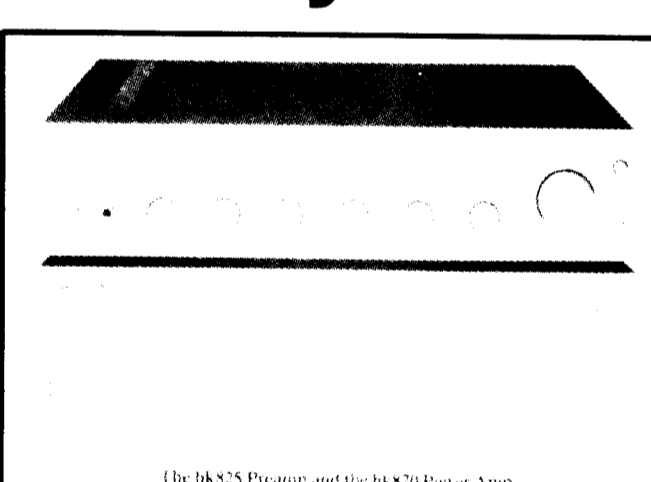
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HD300 Convenience Features.

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