# Netwomen take third despite minimal sleep

#### **By CHAD WASHINGTON** Collegian Sports Writer

Not even the early hours of from coming up clutch in a tough situation.

nis team finished third at the ing. The Lady Lions' lack of rest Intercollegiate Tennis Association Team Tournament last juniors Kim Nelson and Robyn weekend with crucial performances on the final day and under tiring circumstances --the team got just three hours of sleep. The Lady Lions beat George Washington 5-2 thanks apparent on the statistics sheet, to singles victories by their No. 1 player, junior Olga Novikova, and sophomore Kellie Murphy.

"It was an excellent tournament," Coach Sue Whiteside "Their performance said. showed the character of this team."

Penn State entered the tournament by facing two tough teams on Friday, beating Boston College 5-2 and losing to Brown by the same score later that day. In the Boston College battle, Murphy bounced back from a sluggish first set to win her singles match.

"I didn't really get it together in the first set," Murphy said.

Senior Tricia Lehman won a long singles match that lasted three hours, but she and senior Shannon Etzweiler went on to lose their doubles match.

"We played really well," Lehman said of the match. "We the East."

were really the better team." Due to the length of the matches against Brown on Fri-

day night, Penn State had a dawn could keep the Lady Lions brief time to rest and prepare for their battle against George Washington, which Penn State The Penn State women's ten- defeated 5-1 on Saturday morndid not affect their play, as Reagan won their singles matches in straight sets, and Reagan and junior Melissa Feeney won the doubles match. The lack of sleep was not

but the players still had to overcome it. "It was a little difficult, but we still played really well,' Lehman said.

Coach Whiteside now turns her attention to the ECAC Championships on Oct. 20- 22. The Lady Lions will go into the tournament without the services of Novikova, who is resting after her performance at All-American Champithe onships in Palisades, Calif. She lost her only match in that tournament.

With the performance of the team last weekend, Whiteside now feels confident about her team's performance going into the ECACs.

"This was an unbelievable performance," she said. "This team has proven that they can rise to the occasion. I think that we are one of the best teams in

## Lady ruggers ready for Midwest Championships

By FRANK FERRIOLA Collegian Sports Writer

It is finally time — time for the Penn State women's rugby club to defend the Midwest Championship title it has owned for the past three years.

This weekend, 21 Lady Ruggers and one coach will be heading to Minneapolis for the two-day tournament, with the winner gaining a berth to the Women's National Rugby Championships held in the spring. The 14-team tournament, most from small colleges in Minnesota, will probably be dominated by the three biggest schools participating - Illinois, Michigan and Penn State.

"The bigger schools tend to have a larger pool of talent to pick for the Midwests." from," Lady Ruggers Coach Peter

them better competitors.

Another advantage the larger schools have is semester schedules. The smaller schools play amongst themselves, while the larger schools play mostly non-collegiate women's clubs due to proximity. This gives them the advantage of playing stronger, more physical adversaries before entering a tournament with all smaller collegiate teams. Rebecca Belian, a senior eight-man for Michigan said her team added an extra club team to its schedule last weekend to get in one more good workout.

"We played six women's clubs over the semester and only three collegiate teams," she said. "The games are just better for preparing Erin Leslie, a senior fly-half for

Steinberg said. "That in turn makes Illinois, added that her team also split its games between collegiate and non-collegiate teams to better its chances in the tournament.

Leslie said Illinois fared well this season while Michigan compiled a 3-5-1 record over the semester. But Belian said Michigan was much better than its record showed. Penn State went 2-3 basically because of the grueling games played against the more experienced women's clubs. The records may have indicated losing seasons, but the knowledge received from those losses is invaluable to the clubs.

The one disadvantage for Illinois, Michigan and Penn State is the lack of knowledge of the competition. The teams are not worried as much about the smaller schools, but there is a little feeling of worry toward the bigger schools.

"We kinda don't know what to expect," said Belian. "Especially PSU and Illinois, they're both really great teams and we're really nervous about (the tournament)."

Lady Rugger captain Alison Lutz said the team was a little nervous because Michigan was really tough two years ago and Illinois had a great team last year.

Penn State also ran into trouble with injuries over the last couple weeks in practice. Robin Hollenbeck, the starting fullback, suffered a broken finger and Melina Kuchinov, a prop head, fractured the bones surrounding her eye both are questionable.

"We lose some experience, but we still have a very athletic team,' Steinberg said. "In the past, other teams have not lived up to our athleticism."

## Stickwomen retain No. 4 ranking despite loss to Ohio St.

**By STEVE FEITL** Collegian Sports Writer

Lady Lion Coach Char Morett was shocked to learn of the field hockey team's placement in the new NCAA rankings, which were announced on Tuesday.

The team was in fourth place last week, but a loss to then-No. 16 Ohio State on Sunday seemed to indicate an impending drop for the Lady Lions. However, to Morett's surprise, they are still in the No. 4 slot.

Apparently the NCAA has recognized that the Lady Lions' 10-6 record is impressive considering the quality of their opposition, Morett suggested.

"I think our tough schedule is the reason we are so high," she said. "We certainly have beaten teams in the top 10."

The Penn State schedule has been tough from the first game of the season when they took on

teams currently ranked in the top 20. In the meantime, the team itself has risen from a nonranking to a prominent spot in the top five.

Their ranking has never concerned the young Lady Lions as they concentrated on improvement. And while the rise through the ranks has been satisfying, they are aware of the road ahead

"We were down and out and probably written off," Morett said. "We are fortunate for where we are sitting right now, but we have a very dangerous schedule remaining. We can't at all think we're out of the woods because we're not.'

The Lady Lions have taken on all three of the teams ranked ahead of them, but suffered losses to each of them. While No. 1 Carolina and No. 3 Maryland are in the past, the team will get another shot at second-ranked Iowa tomorrow.

The remaining schedule also includes No. 8 top-ranked North Carolina. The Lady Lions Northwestern and No. 10 Michigan, as well as of the Big Ten.'

have proceeded to put up a 6-5 record against unranked Michigan State, which gave the Lady Lions a run for their money on Oct. 8. The game played in East Lansing was decided in double overtime when the Lady Lions pulled out the 1-0 win.

> Besides the competitiveness of their final games, they are also important as far as the conference title is concerned.

> With four Big Ten foes on the schedule, the Lady Lions' ranking in the Big Ten tournament is at stake.

> Bringing momentum into the tournament, which Penn State will host Nov. 3-5, is important for the Lady Lions.

> Yet with a 4-2 mark in the conference, the team is not overlooking the possibility of overtaking Iowa for the Big Ten regular-season crown.

> "We are not going to just hope to slide by in these games," sophomore Meghann Spratt said. "We want to finish near the top, if not at the top

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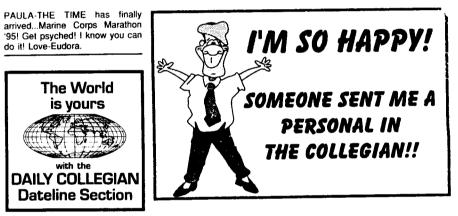
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