

Lady booters ousted by James Madison

By CHRISTINE L. MILLER
Collegian Sports Writer

The James Madison women's soccer team was already up 1-0 when Dukes forward Tasha Ellis dribbled up the right sideline. Then she delivered a cross-field goal the Lady Lions would never be able to match for the rest of the day.

In Penn State and JMU's first-ever appearances in the NCAA tournament, the Dukes prevailed, 2-1, Saturday afternoon at rain-drenched Jeffrey Field, ending the Lady Lions' season.

After Ellis notched the score at the 59-minute, 58-second mark, she performed a brief dance of celebration to the right of the goal post.

"When I got the ball, I was kind of excited because I just knew I was going to score," she said in a postgame news conference in the Beaver Stadium media room. "Kind of like a victory dance."

"I told her next game she only gets three shakes," her coach, Dave Lombardo, said. "Anything after that she gets a yellow card."

Ellis' shot put some space between the two squads after her teammate, Jessica Williams, scored the game's first goal at 18:36, knocking the ball past Penn State keeper, Dara Christante.

"Sometimes things just don't go your way," Rachel Hoffman said. "We have to be proud — one of our goals at the beginning of the season was to make the NCAA tournament. We're only a second-year team, and you can't ask for that much more."

Hoffman, assisted by co-captain Joanne Connelly, netted Penn State's lone tally with 46 seconds left in the first-round game. JMU keeper Stacy Bilodeau left the net to meet Hoffman high in the box. Hoffman dribbled around Bilodeau and shot on the open net.

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— Rachel Hoffman
Lady booter

Hoffman, a sophomore forward from Wyomissing, had only one other shot on the day. Several times when Hoffman had the ball, a group of Duke defenders converged and stripped the ball from her.

Penn State Coach Pat Farmer said he thought the game was pretty physical. "I don't think that's a game that benefits us really well," he said. "I'm not sure it's the direction I'd like to see the game be going."

Lombardo said he doesn't like to see a game filled with shirt-pulling and other physical elements.

"My preference is to play a lot more possession-style soccer," he said. "But sometimes you gotta do what you gotta do. And the nature of women's soccer, particularly in the last five years, has brought that dimension of the game to a higher level."

In the second half, the Lady Lions lowered their level of intensity, sophomore Lauren Miller said.

"I thought we came out strong," Miller said. "But in games like the playoff games, you know, if you give a team an inch, they'll take a foot."

The win will allow the Dukes to take a trip this week to Maryland, where they'll face the Terrapins in the second round of NCAAs.



Collegian Photo/Shawn Knapp
Penn State's Rachel Hoffman (19) goes up for a header at Jeffrey Field on Saturday. The Lady Lions fell 2-1 to James Madison.

Sidelines

A brief look at the world of sports

Scores

PSU

Friday
Ice Hockey
PSU 6, Illinois 2
Women's Volleyball
PSU 3, Northwestern 0
Saturday
Ice Hockey
PSU 9, Illinois 2
Men's Swimming
PSU def. Indiana
PSU def. Purdue
Men's Volleyball
PSU 3, USC 1
Women's Soccer
JMU 2, PSU 1
Women's Volleyball
PSU 3, Purdue 0
Sunday
Field Hockey
JMU 3, PSU 0
Men's Basketball
Marathon Oil 98, PSU 93
Men's Soccer
Indiana 3, PSU 1 in Big Ten semifinals

In brief

Booters named to conference team

Stuart Reid's selection as Big Ten soccer Player-of-the-Year highlighted five Nittany Lions being named to the all-conference first-team.

Joining Reid on the first unit are juniors Travis Berger, Michael Coll, Sebastien Gouverneur and Drew Kaufmann. The Nittany Lions finished the regular season ranked sixth nationally by the Intercollegiate Soccer Association of America at 15-3.

Reid, Gouverneur and Kaufmann were picked as Big Ten Players-of-the-Week during the season.

Aikman injured in game against 49ers

IRVING, Texas — Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman left yesterday's game against the San Francisco 49ers midway through the first quarter with a bruised left knee.

Aikman, who was to be immediately X-rayed, was off to a bad start as were the rest of the Cowboys, who trailed the 49ers 17-0 in the first quarter.

On the play in which he was hurt, Aikman's receivers were covered and he was flushed left out of the pocket by Dana Stubblefield. Aikman was caught from behind and landed on his left knee when he was thrown down.

Doctors also had been looking at Aikman after an earlier series.

Task force selected for baseball park

PITTSBURGH — Former Pittsburgh Pirates second baseman Bill Mazeroski, a politician who plays in a fantasy league and two baseball fans help comprise a 27-person task force that will help the mayor select a site for a possible new baseball park.

Chosen by Mayor Tom Murphy and called the Forbes Field II task force, the committee is one of two that will determine funding and a site for a stadium promised during the Pirates' sale negotiations.

Gov. Tom Ridge, who also supports the ballpark, will appoint a committee that will determine funding.

A stadium lease will require funding for the new ballpark to be in place by Nov. 1, 1998.

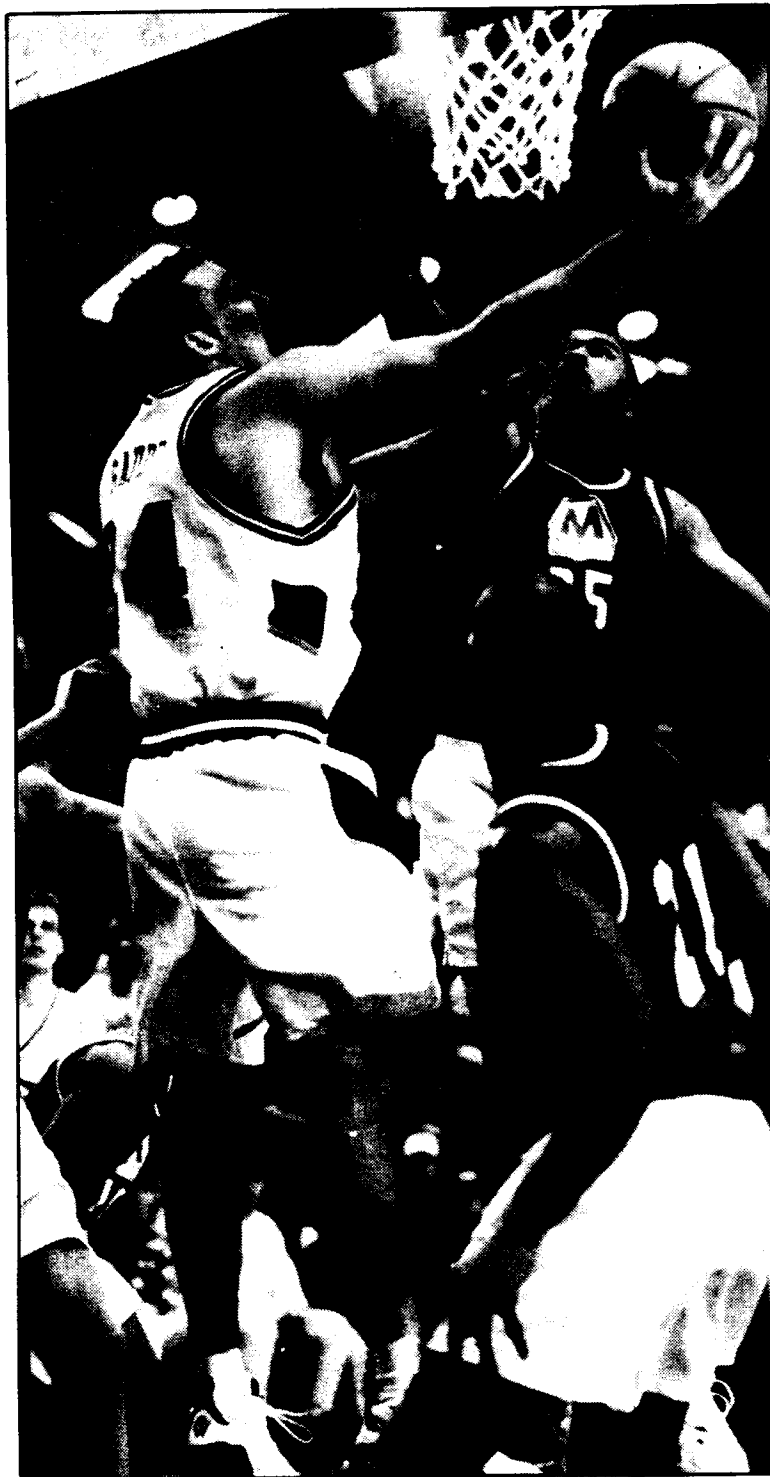
Quote of the day

"We've still got a chance at 82-0. We're playing well enough to be 5-0, I've got to give us that credit, but I don't think we're where we want to be."

Michael Jordan

Chicago Bulls player commenting on the team's 5-0 start. The Bulls are the only undefeated NBA team.

Compiled from Collegian staff and wire reports.



Collegian Photo/David S. Spence
Penn State's Matt Gaudio (24) goes up for a shot over Marathon Oil's Kevin Sprewer (25) during their exhibition game yesterday at Rec Hall.

Lions lose in OT

By MICHAEL SIGNORA
Collegian Sports Writer

It was a first half to build on and a second to forget.

After squandering a double-digit halftime advantage and 14-point bulge with 10 minutes remaining, Penn State made several crucial mistakes in the waning moments, falling to Marathon Oil 98-93 in overtime yesterday at Rec Hall.

"I really blame myself for the loss tonight," point guard Dan Earl explained. "I was just very bad down the stretch. If I didn't play like that we should have won the game — definitely. There's no excuse for how I played."

The junior was most disappointed with two turnovers in the final minutes that led to Oiler buckets.

Earl had eight assists and two steals but said his failure to set up teammates with the game on the line was a main reason for the defeat.

Just as important, though, was the Lions' poor performance from the foul line. An 8-for-18, 44 percent effort, including a 3-for-8 showing in overtime, failed to apply the knockout punch. This deficiency proved crucial as Marathon repeatedly got up off the canvas.

"The foul shooting is another area that needs work," Coach Jerry Dunn said. "When we're going through our free throw shooting practice, a game like this creates an atmosphere where guys are concentrating a little bit more on free throws."

Forward Glenn Sekunda was an effective scoring threat, hitting on eight-of-13 from the field for 19 points.

With Penn State nursing a two point lead and under 90 seconds to play, the senior made a spectacular drive to the hoop, getting clobbered on the way to the basket.

His two foul shots were unsuccess-

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— Glenn Sergent
Marathon Oil coach

cessful though, and instead of augmenting the lead to three or four points, Penn State nursed a tenuous 82-80 cushion.

The advantage disappeared almost immediately, as Marathon forward Donnell Bivens tied the score on an acrobatic lay up with 1:07 to go.

The contest see-sawed the rest of the way, before the Oilers seized control for good with less than a minute remaining. Guard Fred Colfield racked up 34 points, the final two sealing the outcome.

"We're not the enemy," Marathon Coach Glenn Sergent said. "We want to help get these guys ready for the season. That's our job. Our job is not to win or lose — it's to be competitive."

The Oilers have been more than that on their current exhibition tour, defeating national power Villanova, Georgia Tech, Rutgers and Boston College.

But in the first half, it looked as though Penn State would win handily.

A hot-shooting, 5-of-9 start from three point range paced the Lions to the early lead. Guard Pete Lisicky was instrumental, hitting on 3 of 5 to help the squad burst to a 12-point lead at the break.

"We didn't come out with the same intensity in the second half," Sekunda said.

"We got out to a lead, and they kept climbing back. We didn't play defense like we should have. It's early, though, and this is a learning experience."

Lions lose at Big Tens

By DAVID COMER
Collegian Sports Writer

The men's soccer team is a virtual lock to make the NCAA tournament field of 32 teams, but a Big Ten conference tournament championship would have been a nice send off for No. 8 Penn State.

Instead, the Lions, winners of seven straight and 14 of 15 before their game yesterday, lost 3-1 to Indiana in the Big Ten conference semifinals at Michigan State. Penn State (15-4 overall, 4-1 Big Ten) did not gain the automatic bid that accompanies the league championship, but a berth in the NCAAs, beginning this weekend, is all but guaranteed.

"I will be devastated if we don't make it," Lion Coach Barry Gorman said.

"I would hope we are thought of highly enough to be given a home game."

Gorman and the rest of the squad will learn at 6 p.m. tonight the whereabouts and opponent of their first-round game.

Penn State was slated to play Indiana on Saturday, but the game was postponed because, as Gorman said, "You wouldn't have wanted to send a polar bear out in that weather."

So, the contest was played yesterday on Old College Field, a slushy mess pelted with rain on Friday and snow the next day. The championship game between Indiana and Wisconsin was canceled, as the Hoosiers and Badgers were named co-champions, with the latter gaining the automatic NCAA berth because of its better league record.

Penn State, recipients of a first-round bye because of a second-place finish in the regular season, did not play Friday.

Meanwhile, Indiana beat Northwestern, 2-1, in the first round to set up a rematch of the Sept. 29 game Penn State won, 2-1, at Indiana.

The Hoosiers took advantage of an unexpected day off and were well rested for the contest yesterday.

"Having the day off definitely worked to our advantage," Indiana Coach Jerry Yeagley said. "We would have been much more fatigued."

The Hoosiers jumped out to a 1-0 lead at the 12:03 mark of the first half when Caleb Porter took a loose ball in front of the net and connected from six yards. Penn State's Brannon Seaman took a pass from Travis Berger and blasted a 25 yarder into the back of the net to tie the score at 1-1 three minutes, eight seconds into the second half.

"The footing was hard — you couldn't take chances," Seaman said. "Balls were stopping short. We'd kick it 30 yards, and it'd only go 15. We have players with speed, and it took away from them."

Jeff Bannister gave Indiana the lead for good at the 61:58 mark, and J.T. Cerroni added the final tally with less than four minutes to play. The Hoosiers' three goals came on five shots.

"I'm very disappointed and feel bad for the kids," Gorman said. "We were the better team even in the atrocious conditions. We made three bad errors in judgment that cost us. The errors were on things I thought we tightened up."

Stickwomen fall in NCAA tourney to JMU.. again

By STEVE FEITL
Collegian Sports Writer

It happened to the Penn State field hockey team again.

For the second year in a row, the Lady Lions' road to the Final Four ended in Harrisonburg, Va. They lost at James Madison 3-0 yesterday, once again ending their season in the NCAA quarterfinals.

Last season, it was a 1-0 double-overtime loss to the Lady Dukes that sent the Lady Lions home. Carole Thate scored the game-winner in that game, and she was a thorn in the Lady Lions' side again yesterday with one goal and an assist.

"Carole took control of the game, but that's no surprise," Penn State Coach Char Morett said. "She played on the forward line this time. Last time she was in the midfield and we had Sonje Volla on her."

The Lady Lions were able to keep Thate in check in their Sept. 29 meeting that they won 4-3 in overtime. Through Volla's shadowing, the Dutch sensation was held to one goal and was not a factor in the contest.

The Lady Dukes were fresh and prepared to take on Penn State yesterday. The end of the season was a rebuilding period for James Madison, who not only had a first-round bye in the NCAA Tournament, but also a two-week break after the end of the regular season.

"We wanted the second opportunity to play

"We didn't get into the flow of things until the second half. It's unfortunate we didn't start with intensity."

— Char Morett
Lady Lion soccer coach

Penn State," James Madison Coach Christy Morgan said. "We're a more fundamentally sound team now. We took two weeks to re-focus on the fundamentals and build ourselves back up."

The Lady Dukes controlled the tempo yesterday from the first minute of play. Thate flew into the Penn State zone on a breakaway, before passing off to her wide-open teammate, Kelly Bloomer. She easily found an open corner of the cage and put the ball past Lion goaltender Shelly Meister. James Madison's goal gave them the 1-0 advantage just 39 seconds into the contest.

Bloomer struck again in the second half on a rebound with 27:19 and Thate put the Lady Lions away with a corner shot at the 67:46 mark.

Penn State's offense, which had tallied nine goals in its previous two games, was virtually shut down yesterday. The Lady Dukes limited the team to just three shots and only one corner.

"James Madison played a very good game, a

strong defensive game," Morett said. "Their defense has improved since I last saw them. We didn't get into the flow of things until the second half. It's unfortunate we didn't start with intensity."

The Lady Lions were also struck a blow on the Lady Dukes' second goal, when Meister was injured during the play and unable to stop Bloomer's rebound.

She left the game with what appeared to be a sprained elbow and did not return. Meister said her arm was stepped on during the melee in front of the cage, and that she heard something snap.

This meant redshirt freshman Jamie Smith received her first shot at collegiate goaltending. She had seen action this year for the Lady Lions, but only as a field player. She made six saves during 27 minutes of play, and allowed the third Lady Duke goal.

"Was I nervous? No," Smith said. "The only thing I was nervous about was whether I was going to get my (pads) on in time."