Collegian Photo/Wendy Zeiler

end State forward Joe Bassett shoots and scores against Buffalo Saturday. The Icers beat Buffalo, 6-1.

## Lady Icers knock off Orangewomen

By CHRISTIAN TAYLOR G an Staff Writer

table wins games

the Lady Icers' defense comto La solid forechecking game intense penalty killing to down the Syracuse Orangeart sen's offense with a 12-2 win subgray night at the Ice Pavilat at Greenberg Sports Com-

Scrucuse to eight shots on goal. has the beginning of the game it was evident Syracuse had many defensive shortcomings. but it wasn't until Penn State put a few shots on net that it discovered the Orangewomen's real weakness — goaltending.

noticed that right away, we Leaner "(Syracuse's goaltender) had a lot of visible weaknesses, so we took advantage."

Leone especially took advanmeight-point game, scoring four

coals and notching four assists. Syracuse scored its only two the Orangewomen looked their often was sliding out of position

"We played inconsistently tiftense is exciting, but well," said Syracuse coach Brad Beran. "In the first period, Penn State controlled the first half and we controlled the second half. Then we just played bad hockey and that was about it."

The game stayed physical throughout with a lot of bumping and poke checking. Toward the end of the second period, the som State (2-0) contained Icers found themselves two players down with Courtney Nugent and Nicole Agostino both in the box for tripping.

But the Icers' penalty killing unit looked strong and cleared the zone every time, not allowing notched six points in the game a shot on goal throughout the two-player advantage.

'We worked on (penalty ो ं ं ते." said Icer forward Anne killing) a lot in practice, we were prepared for it," said Icer forward Jaime Thorne, who had a hat trick in the game.

The Icers even managed to get the flow of the same tage as she led the offense with a good scoring opportunity during the penalty kill. Icer defense- Thorne "We pushed hard, and man Talia Smith played an impressive two-way game with goals in the first period, when two goals and two assists. She bust through people tonight.

to join the offensive rush and still got back in time to cover the point.

"I've never really played offensively until I played on this team," Smith said. "Sometimes I think I almost play too offensive-

The Icers skated better than the Orangewomen and beat them to almost every loose puck. They also dominated the face-offs, winning 23 of 35.

"Our main goals was not to skate down to their level, we wanted to keep up our skating and to put a lot of shots on net.' said Icer center Ellen Zajko, who including a natural hat trick

The Icers converted on their only power play of the night when Thorne set up in front of the net and deflected Smith's shot in from the blue line

Overall. Penn State controlled

"We wanted to win," said we gave it our all. We were more powerful and we just wanted to

2nd meal free when

ordering anything on the menu of equal value

## Four lines keep Icer foes in check

Collegian Staff Writer

Buffalo coach Rick Brooks surveyed his bench. It was late in the third period of the Bulls' contest with the Penn State Icers Saturday. With one glance, he knew his team was spent.

Maybe it was the weekend road trip which went from Buffalo to Delaware and then a took U-turn third period." back to Happy Valley. Maybe a last-minute loss in Delaware last Friday night deflated the Bulls. Or maybe Brooks' team knew the chasing the puck. Penn State won game's outcome already was determined, trailing 6-0.

But what was so apparent throughout Penn State's pair of home victories this past weekend - 20-2 over Duquesne and 6-1 over Buffalo - and what Brooks realized his team lacked, was depth.

"Our biggest problem was our team speed and we don't have the depth that (Penn State does)," Brooks said. "When I'm looking up and down the bench for somebody to go out there and contribute who hasn't had a lot of ice time, (we're missing the) skill factor."

Trailing 2-0 heading into the strides.

third period Saturday, the Bulls were prepared for a third-period comeback. What the Bulls got instead was an uppercut to the chin. Penn State used the first two periods to wear down Buffalo, and three lines. It's a wear-and-tear the final period to put them away.

"Penn State came out with a great effort in the third period," Brooks said. "I think fatigue was a factor for us very much in the

The Icers won the scrums in the corners. They seemed to be a half stride ahead of the Bulls when the small battles that ultimately won the war.

Credit that to the Icers' four speedy forwards in freshmen Travis Dorsey and Kyle Jordan and bruising forwards sophomore C.J. Patrick and senior Alon Eizenman, the Icers exhausted Buffalo.

As a former Icer, Penn State bumps a team must endure along the American Collegiate Hockey Association schedule. By using four lines, the Icers stayed fresh and had an extra hop in their

"It gives us that difference in depth that's important at this level," Battista said. "Especially over a 36-game schedule, it adds up. It's too long of a season to play thing.'

Indicative of Penn State's depth, its checking line leads the team in

scoring. "Our checking line scored three more goals," he said. "They're leading the team in scoring. It's amaz-

By mixing different units of defensemen with forwards, the Icers kept Dugesne (Friday's opponent) and Buffalo guessing. Every line scored this weekend, and solid lines. With undersized, but every Icer saw time on the ice, including all four goaltenders.

> But after just six games, Eizenman believes the Icers won't discover how deep their team is until later in the season.

"I think our depth hasn't been coach Joe Battista knows the tested yet," he said. "With all due respect to Buffalo, they don't have the horses to test our horses. It's not really a race."

> But if it were, Penn State would've lapped Duquesne and Buffalo several times.

## Lady booters enjoying season of firsts

By JOHN GIBLIN

Collegian Staff Writer

Records are made to be broken. Among a whirlwind of emotion, the Penn State women's soccer team claimed its first Big Ten Tournament title in school history Sunday. In addition to running the gamut of postseason play, the Lady Lions shattered numerous individual and team records during the weekend.

"This feels great," said goalkeeper Emily Oleksiuk. "We've been talking about this since August. We've done so many things, been through so much — our team is just great.'

No. 11 Penn State (19-3-1, 10-1-1 Big Ten) is the first team in Big Ten history to claim both the regular-season and tournament titles in the same year. Penn State is only the second team to host the Big Ten Tournament and win the final game in the same season. In 1994, Wisconsin claimed the first Big Ten Tournament title with a 3-0 victory against Minnesota in Madi-

"At the beginning of the year, we didn't know how good we were tory, the Lions are 11-0 this season going to be," said senior forward at Jeffrey Field, annihilating the Carole Dutchka. "For us to end this way — it's just incredible.'

"We've done so many things, been through so much - our team is just great."

> — Emily Oleksiuk Penn State goalkeeper

In addition, Penn State broke the record for most wins by a Big Ten team before the NCAA Tournament. The Lions earned their 19th victory of their season, one more than 1997 regular-season champion Minnesota and tournament champion Michigan posted last season.

"This is another first for this team," said Penn State coach Pat Farmer. "I don't know how many they've gotten, but I keep changing our goals on the board from black in the beginning of the year to red when we get them. They've really built some confidence."

In its march towards national prominence, Penn State has taken to heart the phrase "home-field round bye and will play the Indiadvantage." After yesterday's vicprevious record of a 7-0 regular season in 1996.

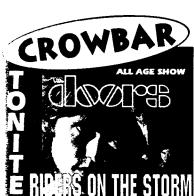
"This game was just so much fun," said forward Courtney Lawson. "I can't imagine anyone not having an incredible time. It's the final, championship round, at home in front of all your fans — this is just such a great class that is going to be graduating, I can't imagine anyone not running and having a great time."

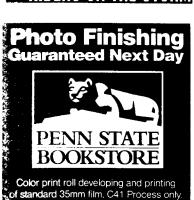
This year's squad constantly has been referred to as overachievers. The Lions don't look at themselves as having played above their heads, but rather as a team that has been overlooked since day one.

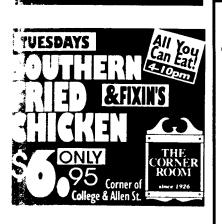
"I think they've exceeded what I thought they might do at the beginning of the year, but I've always hated that overachiever word,' Farmer said. "I think that's for people who don't correctly assess the talent level.'

Penn State has brushed aside criticism all year. With yet another goal and numerous other records under its belt, the Lions look forward to yet another appearance in the NCAA Tournament, where as the No. 7 seed they earn a firstana-Wright State winner Sunday at Jeffrey Field.

'They've done better than we've planned," Farmer said, "but not better than we hoped."









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