

Verdrager done for this year

By **JOSH DAECHÉ**
Collegian Staff Writer

Forced from the starting line to the sideline for the first time this year, Penn State women's soccer midfielder Jeannine Verdrager will watch her team go after the Big Ten title and NCAA crown without her.

The junior midfielder out of Long Island, N.Y., has 18 shots and a pair of assists as she started all but two games this season for the No. 5 Lady Lions (12-1-1, 8-0-1 Big Ten).

Verdrager always could be seen running all over the field from Penn State's 18-yard line to her opponents' 18. She hounded the ball, fighting over it while trying to set her teammates up for the next shot.

But in Friday's game against Northwestern, she came across the middle of the field at the end of the first half for the last time this season.

On a routine play she has made so many times before, in which there was no contact between her and the Northwestern opponent, Verdrager was left helpless and has Penn State looking for answers.

"I was making a run at it and planted my left foot and opened my whole body," Verdrager said.

Then she twisted up and went down and was not able to get up, like she has so many times before.

"I knew exactly when it happened," she said. "The grind and a pop that you hear is the most disgusting feeling. It's exactly like everyone tells you. You can't explain it."



Collegian Photo/Alex DeJesus

Penn State midfielder Jeannine Verdrager (left) battles Minnesota's Jamie O'Garra for the ball during her team's 4-0 win Oct. 3 at Jeffrey Field. Verdrager tore her ACL last Friday against Northwestern and will miss the remainder of the season.

"It just sucks." The pop and grinding sound was what every athlete playing sports fears the most — the sound of a torn anterior cruciate ligament. The injury will sideline Verdrager for the rest of the season.

"Jeannine is such a big part of this team that we will miss her," Lions co-captain Courtney Lawson said. "But we're confident that we can respond whether I'll go back and play midfielder or Emily Medina, Kris Phillips or Shari Pickett. I am really not sure what Farmer will do but whatever it is we'll be ready."

Verdrager joins a list of roommates who have torn an ACL. Lawson tore hers in the beginning of her freshman season when she was participating in the National

Olympic Development Program and Pickett tore her right ACL in the 1997 preseason.

"The both of them returned and have played great, it's just disappointing that it had to happen," Verdrager said.

Despite being angry and upset, Verdrager said she has a positive attitude and wants to be a part of the team as much as possible.

"I have had moments, but it's a team sport and it happens. I can't be sorry for myself. I have to be positive and encourage the team. They know I want to be out there but it's just unfortunate," Verdrager said.

Though surgery has not been set, Verdrager said she thinks it will be after the Big Ten Championships in three weeks.

JMU tourney next up for M. Golf

By **CHRISTIAN TAYLOR**
Collegian Staff Writer

The Penn State men's golf team travels to take part in the James Madison Invitational tomorrow and Saturday at the Staunton Country Club in Staunton, Va.

Penn State has dominated its district teams during the fall season. In the Navy and Temple Invitationals, the Nittany Lions finished first and second, respectively. One more win would assure its authority in District II competition.

This will be the last time the Lions will face a mostly District II field for the rest of the fall season.

The Penn State starting five coming into this week's tournament will be Matt Abbott, Scott Phillis, Mike Saporito, Jeff Turton and Andy Latowski.

Abbott and Phillis are the only

"Going in we think we can definitely win."

— **Scott Phillis**
Penn State golfer

Lions to have previously played the Staunton Country Club Course.

The course has been described as hilly and a bit open. It is not as nice as the previous courses the team has played, but it is supposed to be one of the easiest.

"It's not a tough course and it's very scoreable," Phillis said. "Going in we think we can definitely win."

The Staunton Country Club Course is similar to the Elks Club Course in State College, so similar that Penn State men's golf coach

Greg Nye had his team practice there for this tournament.

Eighteen teams will vie in the meet, including Temple, Seton Hall, Richmond, Rhode Island, Villanova and James Madison.

"It will be tough to beat James Madison on their home course, but if we play well we think we can do it," Phillis said.

The team will play a practice round there today to acquaint itself with the course, and then 36 holes on Saturday and 18 Sunday.

Two years ago, Penn State finished second in this tournament, but this is a different team.

"It was one of our goals at the beginning of the season to beat all of our district teams," Saporito said. "So far we've been really successful and that's huge, if we play the way we're capable we should definitely keep it up."

W. Golf ready for ECAC tourney

By **JULIA ZIEGLER**
Collegian Staff Writer

The fall season for the Penn State women's golf team is officially over, but that isn't stopping the Lady Lions from participating in one last tournament before the weather gets too frigid.

This weekend the Lions travel to Bucknell, where they will participate in the 17th Annual Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship (ECAC). The ECAC Tournament is held in different locations each year. With Bucknell only about an hour's drive away, the trip is easy for the team to make and is one of the reasons that it is going.

The squad is scheduled to play 18 holes each Saturday and Sunday on the par-71 course.

Twenty-one teams are expected to compete in the tournament, including such competition as James Madison, North Carolina-Wilmington, Yale and Princeton.

"We haven't seen a lot of these teams play yet this year," Penn State women's golf coach Denise St. Pierre said. "And we have a very young team traveling with us this weekend, which should make for an interesting tournament."

At practice this week, the team concentrated on

working together to improve its overall game.

"We aren't really worried about preparing for the other teams. We're just concentrating on our own game," Lions freshman Keri Dugan said.

Five players will represent Penn State at the tournament, including senior Sara Doell, sophomore Andrea Lavelle, and freshmen Katie Futcher, Keri Dugan and Cynthia Skilton.

Penn State goes into competition as one of the favored teams to win. The only obstacle it has to worry about is the weather. With a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. both mornings, frost on the course at this time of year can be a problem. Although St. Pierre is worried about the effects that the weather will have on the players and the tournament in general, she said she is very confident in her team and feels good about the tournament this weekend.

The Lions are using this tournament as practice for their upcoming spring season. With such a young team, St. Pierre said she thinks the more practice the team has playing together, the better. And the more comfortable the team feels together, the closer the team is to that elusive national championship come May.

"This isn't the end of our season ... it's only the beginning," St. Pierre said.

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Today's HOROSCOPES

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Oct. 22, 1999: You express yourself with candor and direction this year. Others listen to you, especially when it comes to spending. Creativity surges to the forefront; others are clearly impressed by you. Your charisma speaks; others respond. If you are single, a love affair could have enormous impact. Be sure you are seeing this person realistically, however. If attached, you might enter into a euphoric phase together. First, however, you'll have to work out a domestic issue. Remodeling or a residential move is possible. ARIES can challenge you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ***** Carefully express what is on your mind. Pick and choose your company. By midday, your energy picks up. A friend reminds you of some fun plans. Don't let frustration get to you. Stay on top of changes. You could easily lose your temper. Be careful! Tonight: You're top dog.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** Reach out for others. Have an important talk. Both your imagination and your libido go wild. Realize where others are coming from. Take time to understand a boss. An authority figure may have a lot to share. A child or loved one rebels. Tonight: Take some personal time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** Take time to establish better understandings with those in charge. Communication flourishes as you learn more about a good friend or a close tie. Aim higher and be more confident that you'll reach your goals. A loved one is jealous. Tonight: Where the gang is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** Learn to flow with moodiness rather than fight your feelings. Discussions reveal a lot about what is happening on a creative level. You discover that a boss really does have your best interests in mind. What sounds like a dream, financially, might require more research. Tonight: A must appearance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Take time with a key figure in your life this morning. Discussions prove to be unusually productive. Finally, you can handle a money matter successfully. Things fall into place just as you would like them to. Make calls. Plan a getaway in the near future. Tonight: Don't let anything hold you back.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Let others take the ball and run with it. You might receive some interesting financial information; by using it, you can make headway. Trust your moneymaking skills; listen to your inner voice. Refuse to risk unnecessarily. Another needs your time and concern. Tonight: How about a lovely dinner for two?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** Plunge into work; discussions can help you financially. Don't back off an important premise. Let others make the first moves for now. A lot more is going on than you realize. Be careful, however - do not risk a relationship or money agreement. Tonight: Make it your pleasure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** You have high energy and are full of ideas and vitality. Another has very different opinions than you; you could end up disagreeing. Remember what is important professionally; don't lose sight of your objectives. Arrange office discussions in the afternoon. Tonight: Out with a coworker.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** A heartfelt discussion produces results, whereas being defensive or guarded will backfire. You are building greater trust with family and a close friend. A call puts a huge grin on your face. Follow a whim. Happiness is close by. Tonight: Kicking up your heels.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Communication is very important, although you could easily get frustrated. Think about what another suggests financially. Though it might sound like an excellent idea, there may be more going on here than you realize. Your sense of humor comes out. Tonight: Head home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** Build carefully and get to the bottom of a money matter. You discover that another is in agreement about a business plan. Together you structure stronger security and more potential growth. Make calls in the afternoon. Get together with friends later. Tonight: You could be surprised at your temper!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** Get an early start on the day, and you'll succeed. News from a distance is important. You gain a new perspective. Don't let another persuade you into taking a money risk. Make a must-meeting; don't be surprised if it turns into a GIF celebration. Tonight: Go with the flow.

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