## 12 | WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 2010

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN



Aleksander Ochocki (right) celebrates with ceach after last year's NCAA championsh

## Fencers Ochocki, Willette named to junior nationals

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Willette

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heren work. It means a

Ochocki experienced similar results, as he tinished second in the tournament after losing to Will Spear in the final round. Ochocki trailed 8-2 at the break before he eventually tied the match at 13.

I did all the right stuff but then came short at the end." Ochocki said. "It felt good to make the junior national team because I have not been on the team in the past two cears. It's a good feeling to be back.

Penn State coach Emmanuil Kaidanov was proud of his fencers and their efforts during the weekend. Kaidanov said it is a big accomplishment to make the team because of how tough the competitors are.

Now the tocus for Ochocki and Willette will turn back to Penn State, with the e good NCAA championships approaching at the end of March.

The NCAA championships will definitely prepare us for the world champiason anships." Ochocki said. "Many of the tencers who compete have already fenced or a notional team.

to e mail reporter: gjg5044@psu.edu



## By Ira Podell ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITEP

VANCOUVER, British Columbia The U.S. kids were all right.

The youngest collection of American hockey players since the NHL began supplying the talent for the 1998 Nagano Games opened this tournament with a workmanlike victory over Switzerland on Tuesday.

Bobby Ryan scored late in the first period, and David Backes and Ryan Malone added goals in the second to help the United States avoid a repeat of an opening-game letdown. During the 2006 Turin Games, the Americans began with a 3-3 tie against Latvia and never challenged for a medal.

Ryan Miller, considered the key to rebon. the U.S. chances to reach the podium. shop a was solid in making 14 saves. He powert turned aside the handful of scoring opportunities the 🔔 Swiss created and complied with rules barring corporate sponsorships by placing tape over the words "Miller Time' painted on his mask.

Medal about

RVIN ging (i. alone

elsethis intus intuctions in a game Feb. 7.

His only blemish United States came with 10:15 remaining when a pass attempt by Roman Wick struck the goalie's out-Switzerland stretched stick and tantalizingly trickled behind him for a chronic power-play goal.

With only goalie Jonas Hiller and ecoly defenseman Mark Streit as regular bora. NHL players. Switzerland put up opposition some early resistance but couldn't tionally sustain it. Hiller stopped 21 shots, facing only two in the third period.

In the appetizer before host Challementer Canada faced Norway, the Americanslooked crisp and coasted to victory. Provide a new second after a fast-paced start. Outside of a 444 of few miss connections on some passes against states es, there was no clear evidence the state of Americans had only one practice houses for the before play began.

Many fans were decked out in red cored dangetors Canada jerseys, but there was plenty (filler was of support for the U.S. and Swiss ming as all of the a teams. The biggest cheers were expendeble a canada reserved for American forward Ryan Kesler of the hometown Vancouver Switzerhand station Canucks, and Mike Eruzione, who ries over Caupets at captained the U.S. to Miracle on Ice Republic approximate glory in 1980.

Just when it seemed Switzerland Ralph Kenneverse and might get even at 1. Miller fought off a - of the duffeduard grad bouncing puck between his pads and NOTER Deviations of got a rush started the other way. dressed of the and keep? Backes streaked down the left side. Los Annuales to theme cut inside of defenseman Yannick. The United states of a Weber, and used a backhand-to-forehand shift to be at Hiller at 5:52 of the  $^\circ$  Moritz that see Hiller  $_{\rm M}$ second.

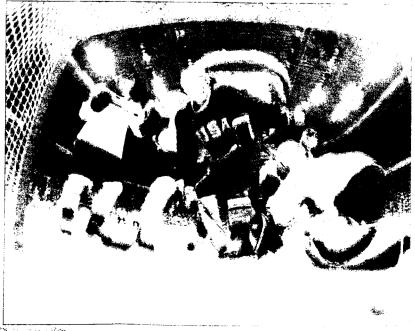
The Americans needed only 2:08 them also constructed and a more to make it 3-0 as Malone found a 1920

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U.S. forward Joe Pavelski (blue) watches a shot from teaminate class Malone slide into the net against Switzerland in Tuesday's opening round of second block ey play at the Winter Olympics. The U.S. defeated the Swiss 3-1 and is now 1 0 heading into its next game Thursday against Norway.

## Former player uses past as Lions assistant coach

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The encrent assists to the decision difform to 2002, was called the respective list. Ten All-Fir shman teen ratificanal and the relation anto two All-Big Ten first court accounters of 2000 and

While Walsoth was one of even state's most talented players, it was a first basis that mind Furthand melded are sent to a strong prime condidate to be once of some sent basis from condidate to be once a St.a Penn State

taust the X's and Origin is a second ught it to the mode perfect scale of the first of solid about her former coach "And I cand ot had that A-ha" moment and wanted to not intestenching in part because of my experience with the

And though she had task sender realization that she wanted to be a constructed lege, she never expected if to happen as soon. But when current head coach Coquese Washington took the Penn State job in a trought Walseth would be the perfect conducte to old to her stuff.

The Lions' current server class has had the privilege of being coached by both Portland and Waiseth, and senior Tyra-Grant sees similarities between her former coach and her current. assistant coach.

Rene could be a very hand assed coach and I think Maren has that too | Grant said, "She keeps her eyes on the protected she never takes a day off."

For the Lions this year, one of those prizes has been an NCAA tournament appearance something Walseth was accustomed to while playing for the Lions.

Walseth was a part of many successful teams while at Penn State, including the 2000 team that made the Final Four and the 1998 Women's

Notional Invitational championship team.

Her college success and familiarity with the Penn State program has been something she has been able to use in practice with the current players.

For Washington, this has been a big advantage for the team.

"She does an outstanding job of trying to convev to the current team the history, the traditions and the expectations that come with being a Lady Lion," Washington said. "I think she has a passion for this place because she is an alum."

Washington also added this has been a big advantage for her, too.

With Washington now in her third year of rebuilding Penn State's basketball team, she said Walseth has been an invaluable asset on the bench.

TAs the head coach, she helps me in a lot of ways understand what certain things mean and how significant some things are and how insignificant some things are to what we're doing in terms of the direction we're taking this program." Washington said.

Washington's description of Walseth compares a lot to how Walseth described Portland.

Walseth said Portland was the kind of coach who had a very basketball-specific language she was able to translate to her players when explaining what to do on the court.

Walseth, a one-time student of the game, has stepped into Portland's former role.

Maren is a very intense coach." Washington said. "She does a great job with the post players. Our post players have such a great relationship with Maren. She's an excellent, excellent teacher of the game. Very methodical."

Currently in the midst of a rollercoaster season - which has seen both a six-game winning streak and a six-game losing streak in the past month and a half — Walseth has been a major reason for the team's growth this year.

"If you look at our post players since the time that we got here. you can see their steady growth and their steady improvement, Washington said.

I think that is in large part to the way Maren teaches and develops them."

Walseth has been instrumental in the development of freshmen Nikki Greene and Marisa Wolfe, and Washington credits the amount of time and pride her assistant coach puts in with them. However, the amount of time Walseth puts in with the players is no surprise, as she realizes how special of a situation she is in being able to coach the team she once played for.

"I know that I am in a unique situation to be able to take advantage of it," Walseth said. "It's a lot of fun. I obviously am a product of the environment, and I was successful in having a good experience. I kind of see it as my role to help other kids have that same experience that I did. "Or a better one."

Chice Elmer (Collegian