

Lions look for first road win

By Mike Still
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Joe Britt is unfazed by the fact the Towson men's lacrosse team has won four straight games and stands alone atop the Colonial Athletic Association as the only undefeated team in league play.

MEN'S LACROSSE

He isn't intimidated by the Tigers' recent success because for Britt, Towson is just another team on the schedule.

"We're gonna go to Towson, and they're gonna be a good team, but every team we've played against has been a good team," the senior said. "It's nothing we're not ready for, nothing we're not prepared for."

Though what Britt, a Fairfax, Va., native and face-off specialist, couldn't ignore about the Lions' trip to Towson on Saturday is this game means more now than anyone on the Penn State team could have ever expected just a week ago.

With its win against Hofstra last Saturday, Penn State now holds

the key to its postseason ambitions.

And the Lions know the road to the playoffs starts with the Tigers. "The Hofstra game really changed our whole season," Britt said.

"We were all sorts of down in the dumps, and a couple of things go our way and all of sudden our season went from, 'Man, we're a 1-7 team,' to, 'We're 2-9 and have a chance to make it to the tournament.'"

As high as his team's confidence is with the season on the line, coach Glenn Thiel recognizes the challenge it'll face against the Tigers.

The Lions will need to control the ball, make the most of possessions and make sure they set the pace of the game from the get-go against a very aggressive Towson team, Thiel said.

In practice this week, Thiel's squad has been practicing at game speed, assuring it's ready for the Tigers' tenacity.

"Monday was a short practice, but the intensity was still there with a lot of running around," Britt said.



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"You have to play hard and you have to play the whole game so we're just really trying to stress that point."

Ultimately, the Lions' last game of the year April 30 against Delaware will be the deciding factor on whether or not they make the CAA's postseason tournament, Thiel said.

But undoubtedly, this weekend's match up is just as important.

Freshman Nick Dolik, a Bloomfield Hills, Mich., native, who won the conference's player of the week award this week, wants to keep his season alive.

"We know that both of these last two games could be our last," freshman Nick Dolik said.

"If we keep doing well and keep working hard, we can keep our season alive."



Sophomore Matt Mackrides (10) and the Lions are searching for their second conference victory 12 p.m. on Saturday against Towson.

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