

with five hits and three RBIs this past weekend. Bell leads Penn State with a .338 batting average.

Bell breaks slump in weekend sweep

By Jake Kaplan

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Cassidy Bell knows slumps hap-

The center fielder on the Penn State softball team also knows the only

way to break out of them is to forget about the last at-bat and merely ideas on the current one.

SOFTBALL

You can't think about, 'Oh I struck out. or something like 9 in the four losses. Even before that, Bell said, "If you carry that that, though, the leadoff hitter into neur next at-bat, then that's ast a bad mandset. You wanna go Cassidy Bell led the Nittany Lions into the box thinking. I can hit this eirl, or You are not getting me cut again-

man did this past weekend in people," Bell said, "and you can't for-4, hit the ball well every at-bat, Penn State's sweep against Iowa at Nittany Lion Field. Bell led the Nittany Lions (28-16, 7-7 Big Ten) with five hits and three RBIs, including a 3-for-4, 2 RBI perform-

ance in Saturday's 7-1 win. Entering the weekend, however, Bell, who leads Penn State with a .338 batting average, had been struggling to get hits in conference play. She failed to muster any base knocks against Illinois and at Michigan, going a combined 0-forwent 2-for-11 in the series against Michigan State and Wisconsin, two of the team's ranked below Penn State in the Big Ten.

"For a while, I was just making

look at that as like it wasn't a hit. If it's solid contact, you can't do anything about that if someone makes a good play."

Bell said she is typically not a lucky hitter in terms of hitting the ball through the holes of defenders. However, Iowa (23-16, 8-3) implemented certain shifts for Bell's at-bats this past weekend, leaving the middle of the field somewhat open, which in turn helped her, the freshman said. Bell raised her Big Ten batting average to .275, good for second on Penn State.

"Cassidy is one of those kids that she just needs one sliver of a hit to get her back going again," Penn State coach Robin Petrini That is exactly what the fresh- good contact, it was just going to said. "And [Saturday] she was 3-

and that just carried over for today. I think that she's feeling comfortable and confident again, and I expect her to hit the remainder of the season."

Bell hopes to carry over her 5for-8 weekend performance into Penn State's 3 p.m. doubleheader against Syracuse (25-20) today at Nittany Lion Field. The two games against the Orange are the first two of the final eight regular-season games for Penn State.

"Just take this weekend and feel like, 'You know, you can do this,' and go into Syracuse," she said. "It's a new day, new game, clean slate, just start it all over and keep

To e-mail reporter: jyk5142@psu.edu

Schaefer makes impact at wing in exhibition game

By Andrew Robinson

Five minutes into Priday and C came. All Schaefer didn't look lost scoring a goal.

Thirty minutes bito the game, was a Schauber tooked lost, standing on the sideline in the -

our or her coaches, asking please at questions

The midfielder, phycked out at oregin the Penn State women. In the back of the net. It gave our search is seamly 2.1. Via. leaves to the back of the net. It gave our search and the search

coung Schwerer said "The carbe" the coache are yellow it. de, or but to so willing to a addition's wind I told them, I sold Hey this boot my position, because matter tells, yet sign bit veries. But into conformal travelst on their

in because of injuries and graduce

Throughout the spread

the while but in limited minsees in de sittle impact. Friday, in stanted all wide despite havng danset is experience at the

No shot it stopped her from buckett, un impression. Schaefer's not have solimous into the game. broat date tions energy early

the famules the complexion of de ander coach Erica Walsh sile's been working on it. her central detensive role and. The ball by her toot and she had shifted to the wing, was a driving committee that she could strike it

of that while still trying to bear. presty napressive in its own right. ed exactly what she were seen. Moretine raidfielder Christine coses, and delag out wide. Note threat a through ball right was and delagout wide. Not a first a through ball right in this alot of question is a said that the foot of a running Constraints to different planter at the sentence of the ball to the ball to select conclusion and firm as the plant street of the penalty box. Ripping a shot, the ball flew number his goal, past the keeper the appointight corner of

This is a strong to hit the upper 'V' goalie looked really - hooked like she could and at that angle, it's a Notes back at depah tiris species matter is finesse and strength at especially on the wings. Schooler, the same time. Schaefer said. along with several other placers. "I'm really solid with that lefty played at different positions to file that from the top of the 18 so I was models of officeral when I was taking

from ty minutes into the game, the play.



Ali Schaefer (right) made an impact at the wing position Friday against Maryland, scoring a goal.

there was Schaefer covering for her teammates when they wanted to attack the goal.

Shortly after Schaefer had scored, Nairn took the ball and cut to the left wing, meaning Schaefer had to shift into the middle of the field to cover for Nairn. The midfielder did it seamlessly, and the Lions created a scoring chance on

many minutes at wing to her name, she still made the right play more often than not.

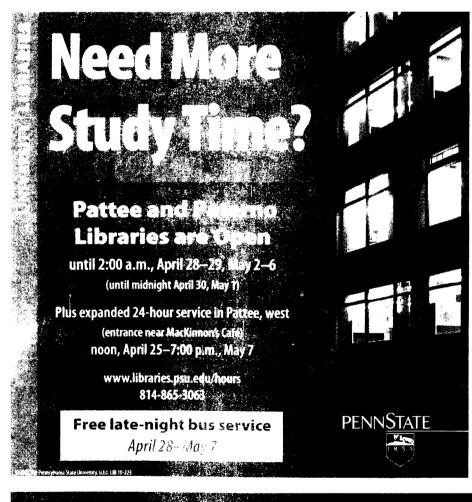
Regardless of her position, Schaefer brings a relentless style that her teammates have come to recognize.

"Schaefer's the type of player, you put her anywhere on the field and she'll give you 110 percent.

While Schaefer didn't have She's a hustler, definitely comes out every day and tries to get better no matter where she goes on the field," Nairn said.

"For her to put away a fantastic goal like that, it not only boosts the team's confidence but her own. knowing she can play out there and can do big things for us.

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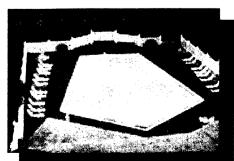


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