

# Men's soccer team looks to overcome regular season struggles

By Andrew Robinson  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The preseason is over and, from now on, the games count.

While the Penn State men's soccer team is ready to get its season going, there are still a few things that need improvement.

## MEN'S SOCCER

"We've got a lot of work to do," Nittany Lions coach Bob Warming said Sunday. "We were nowhere near the better team [Saturday]."

Despite some struggles against No. 20 Louisville in the team's final exhibition, the No. 16 Lions still emerged with a 2-1 win and a 2-0 preseason record.

Saturday's game was played in Fort Wayne, Ind., and the win was one more step toward Warming's goal of fixing Penn State's road woes of the past four years.

The Lions battled in both of their preseason games to get their desired result.

Against Hartwick College on Aug. 21, the team had to rally from a one-goal deficit to win 3-1, then broke a 1-1 tie against the Cardinals to win.

"We received a goal right before

halftime, and that's pretty much what we're working toward in terms of our goal scoring," senior co-captain Andres Casais said. "Our team showed a mental toughness coming out [in the second half] and we scored in the first 10 minutes and held our lead."

Through the preseason, Warming has been happy with the production from his core players, as well as his reserves and newcomers.

Warren Gross, the starting goalkeeper, sat out Saturday's match with a minor injury, but Warming said reserve keeper Brendan Birmingham turned in a strong performance in net. Freshman forward Jordan Tyler has been an impact player early, scoring a goal against Hartwick and adding two assists against Louisville.

Offensively, striker Corey Hertzog has continued to be the go-to option for the Lions, with an assist against Hartwick and scoring both goals against Louisville.

Penn State opens its season on the road and has a mid-September trip to Colorado scheduled, something the team knows will make for difficult travel.

Overcoming that adversity is something Warming and Casais

know will be a key to success this season.

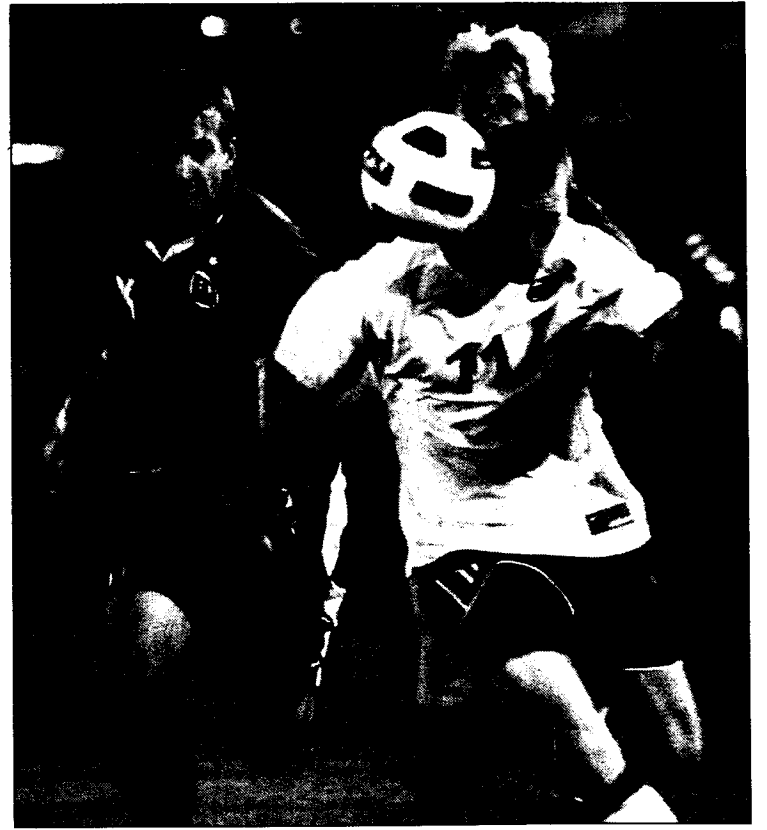
"Our first game's gonna be away and half our games are gonna be in other places, obviously away games are gonna be very important for us," Casais said. "If we want to be a national contender, we have to win our away games."

But the senior defender is also ready to get the season started and likes what he has seen so far in preseason.

Because of the amount of time the team spent travelling on the bus this weekend, it is limited in how much training it can do before leaving for Columbus, Ohio on Thursday.

But in his short time as head man of the Lions, Warming has come to respect how his players carry themselves on the road.

"They enjoy traveling together, they're a great group to have on the road and they're gentlemen," Warming said. "I've gotten a lot of compliments from people about their behavior. They're really representing Penn State really well, not only on the field but on the road as well."



Andrew Dunheimer/Colegian

Corey Hertzog (11) beats two Hartwick defenders to the ball during Saturday's match

To e-mail reporter: [adr5079@psu.edu](mailto:adr5079@psu.edu)

# Weekend gives women's soccer team mixed results on set pieces

By Alex Angert  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Judging by Penn State's performance on Sunday at Jeffrey Field, apparently practice doesn't always make perfect.



Tom Ruane/Colegian

Lexi Marton (4) prepares to kick the ball Sunday. The Nittany Lions lost to William & Mary, 2-1, at Jeffrey Field.

After spending a large portion of practice this week working on set pieces, notably corner kicks, head coach Erica Walsh was not pleased with her team's showing during its 2-1 loss to William & Mary on Sunday.

"Set pieces are so much about desire," she said. "We had some near misses and we have a lot to build on there."

But so much of it is putting your body at harm's way and we haven't proven that we're willing to do that yet."

By the end of the afternoon, the box score showed seven corner kicks — none of which resulted in a goal — and a disappointing loss to an unranked Tribe squad.

However, Sunday's performance did not completely reflect the weekend as a whole. After going 0-for-11 on corner kicks in the opener against West Virginia on Aug. 20, the Nittany Lions went a combined 1-for-15 in two games this weekend.

And though the Lions only capitalized once, that one goal proved to be one of the highlights of their hard fought draw against one of their newest rivals, Virginia, on Friday.

With the Lions yet to put a tally

on the board, midfielder Christine Nairn lined up in the corner and booted a high, powerful kick that fell in front of forward Tani Costa. The redshirt freshman received the kick and passed it to freshman Hayley Brock, who scored for Penn State.

"We've been working on that," Brock said. "Just staying composed and getting a foot or anything on [the ball]. That's exactly what happened."

Over and over again during practice, Walsh and the rest of the coaching staff drilled the importance of set pieces into the players' heads as the team lined up in formation in front of the net to both defend and convert corners.

"It's just a mentality," Walsh said. "It takes repetition. It's boring."

A glance up and down the Penn State roster, and Walsh sees all the pieces in place to be lethal on corner kicks and set pieces.

Now, it's just a matter of putting those pieces together outside of practice.

"Look at the size of Lexi [Marton] and Carly [Niness]," Walsh said earlier in the week. "There's no reason we shouldn't be having some success on attacking set pieces."

While the players are there to be successful and the team continues to practice as often as possible, there is really no telling what can happen on a given set piece in a game.

On Sunday against the Tribe, in the span of one minute, Penn State had two straight corner kicks. The first was a high lofting kick from Nairn, which met the head of forward Maya Hayes, but sailed wide of the goal. The second was a shot that had virtually no air under it and went into the side of the goal.

"It's really hard to tell," assistant coach Ann Cook said, "because until you are in that pressure cooker environment of game time, you don't necessarily know what you've created."

To e-mail reporter: [ada147@psu.edu](mailto:ada147@psu.edu)

# penn state lion line now hiring

calling  
all  
chatty charlies  
gabby garrys  
shmoozy suzys  
verbose vickys  
and  
persuasive pattis!



we've got a great part-time job for you

We're looking for a few good telefundraisers

- Make your own schedule every week (and still only work 3½ hours per shift!)
- No dress code or uniforms... wear what you've got already!
- Guaranteed base pay—with the opportunity to earn incentive bonus every night
- Enhance your resume and gain skills that will impress future employers
- You'll never have to get up early... and you NEVER have to work a football Saturday!

★ Penn State Lion Line  
101 Rider House  
(112 S. Burrowes St.)

[www.LionLine.psu.edu](http://www.LionLine.psu.edu)