SPORT

Juniors looking to fill leadership void

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By Anthony Barton COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When coach Scott Balboni looks at the 2010 Penn State Icers, he sees no clear-cut leaders.

With only two returning seniors from last season's top 10 goal scor-ICERS ers, younger players will be counted on to not only replace the point production, but

also fill the leadership void. "It's a unique situation,"

Balboni said. "We're just starting with the team this year, and I'm waiting to see which of these younger guys steps up into that role.'

A few potential candidates to step up include juniors Nick Seravalli, Paul Daley and Chris Cerutti. All three are among the top-six returning scorers from last year.

"All three of those guys will have leadership roles in the team," Balboni said. "Cerutti had a breakout year from a point standpoint and I expect him to be an offensive physical and I est

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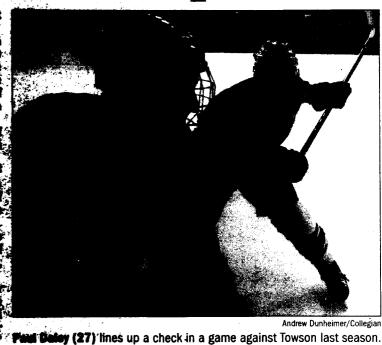
lace 1 have to focus on are harder on defense and p killing." Daley said

"He was a o great ice v 0 play a go that b gat: While Deley

ent guys step up and lead the team pens." this ar." Seravalli said. "We don't

The junior will be counted on to provide leadership to this year's team. think you could see a lot of differ- I'm interested to see what hap-

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While Doley is work leadership role on really have that at this point, so leader this year. Daley works that T

epth at goalie providing confidence for Lions

By Mike Still COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When starting goalkeeper Warren Gross suffered an injury just days before the Penn State

men's soccer team's final pregame MEN'S season against Louisville SOCCER Aug. 28. on defender Justin

Lee barely broke a sweat.

Lee wasn't worried because he knows the amount of talent the Lions have up and down the roster at the keeper position.

"I'd say any one of them can just fident heading into bit first

jump in and play just as W next state and. "That's a nice to have on the te that if one keeper goes do ter th have another hee jump in and replace him.

Against the Cardinals, r freshman Brendan Birn was called upon to replace Grub Though no statistics were pro

vided from the Lions' gan against Louisville, Birm held the Cardinals to just a أمحاز خز And B and bounced back a the one goal early in the second hall

The redshirt freshman was o

in sold **C**

"He's a great goalkeeper, obvithey how he's been playing e this past weekend," Gross aid of Birmingham. "We've been training together for all of last we've gotten to know each other pretty well."

Lee has seen the benefits of the two working together in training. Friendly competition has helped both of them greatly, he said.

"If there's competition, naturally you're gonna push yourself ause you wanna play," Lee said. They feed off of each other just because of the competitive standpoint."

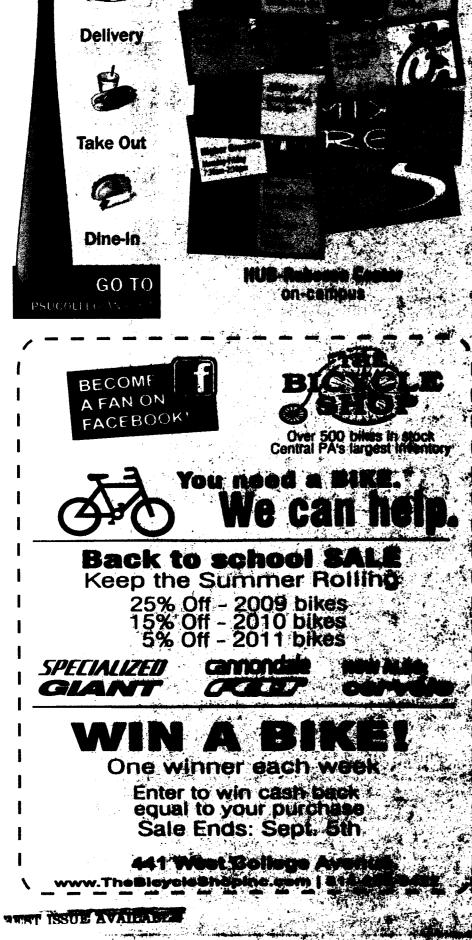
Gross only suffered a minor groin injury last week, and will be back in action on Sep. 3 when the Lions open their regular season schedule against Buffalo.

But the team knows that if Birmingham is needed, he will be ready to step up and perform.

"I would say the best teams always have the best keepers,' Lee said. "When you can have a keeper who can step in and play just as well as the first-string keeper, that says a lot about his character. It just really helps the team out."

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