

Lions set to begin season this weekend

By Matt Clancy
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Penn State men's golf team made a somewhat surprising run to the NCAA finals in the spring season, and it is making no secret about the fact they expect to be right back there this year.

MEN'S GOLF

"I think all of us agree that [our goal] is the NCAA finals," senior Tommy McDonagh said. "We have a lot of talent."

However, senior T.J. Howe cautioned that the road back to the

finals is one tournament at time and begins this weekend with the Wolf Run Intercollegiate Tournament in Zionsville, Ind.

Howe has played in this tournament twice before and is familiar with the course.

Last year, Howe finished as the best Nittany Lion in Zionsville with a plus-5, good for 15th place for a Penn State squad that finished eighth out of 17



Nye

teams in the tournament. "It's a tough course but it rewards good play," Howe said. "If you're hitting it well you can score."

Howe said the key to the course is positioning off the tee and setting yourself up for good angles for putts.

Joining Howe in Zionsville this year will be McDonagh, senior Jason Cohan, junior John Burke, and freshman Michael Miller.

"It's a fairly young club from an experience standpoint," coach Greg Nye said. Nye added the tough course,

combined with a strong field would make it hard to accurately measure the potential of this year's squad.

McDonagh said that he has set a personal goal of being an All-American this season.

To achieve that and help his team reach its goal of the NCAA finals, he has to play well in every tournament.

"I just want to go out and hit fairways and greens," McDonagh said.

"I ironed out the kinks with my driver. I've been hitting a lot better and

hitting my wedges a lot closer. Hopefully it translates into a good season."

Although it is early in the season with a relatively inexperienced team, McDonagh and Howe are the only regular starters back from last season going to Wolf Run, the players are focused on getting off to a hot start in their quest back to the finals.

"There's no reason why we can't repeat and make an NCAA finals again," McDonagh said.

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Seravalli recovering from offseason surgery

By Anthony Barton
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Nick Seravalli remembers the hit.

Skating up the boards in practice a week before Thanksgiving break last year, teammate Marek Polidor checked the Icers junior

ICERS

forward, which gave him an injury he'd have to deal with all season long.

"I just felt something wasn't right," Seravalli said. "Next thing I know I'm talking to [coach Scott Balboni] saying I can't feel my groin anymore and I think I definitely did something to it."

The pain got gradually worse, and eventually he said he

felt the other groin tear.

After the injury, Seravalli saw a specialist over winter break and was told he had two choices — have surgery at that point and hang it up for the season, or try and play through it and have surgery in the offseason.

He chose the latter. "I don't think it's anything a lot of guys wouldn't play with,"

"Basically, my ab ripped off the top of my pelvis."

Nick Seravalli
Icers' forward

added extensions to his abductors.

"Basically, my ab ripped off the top of my pelvis and my groins ripped off the sides," Seravalli said. "I basically had nothing attaching myself to my core."

Needless to say, the surgery that was supposed to take an hour ended up taking more than two.

The rehab has been arduous.

"After surgery I basically had to learn how to walk again," Seravalli said. "Not so much taking steps, but I had to learn how to use my core all over again."

As it stands, he is currently going through the process of repairing all the scar tissue in his groin and abductors, and is set for a late-October return.

That said, Balboni said he wouldn't rush Seravalli back unless he's 100 percent.

"Nick is a tremendously hard-working kid and he has so much desire to be on the ice right now, it's just killing him inside," Balboni said. "It's very hard right now to keep him off the ice to heal this type of injury, but we aren't going to bring him back if he's at 80 percent." Once he does get back, Seravalli said he won't be tentative on the ice.

"I don't really care about hurting myself again," Seravalli said. "I don't think I'm going to be hesitant at all, because if you think about getting injured, you'll just set yourself up to actually get hurt."

Seravalli said. "It was extremely painful to walk, but at that point in the season our team was dropping like flies."

After a season that saw him put up 36 points, Seravalli was set for surgery.

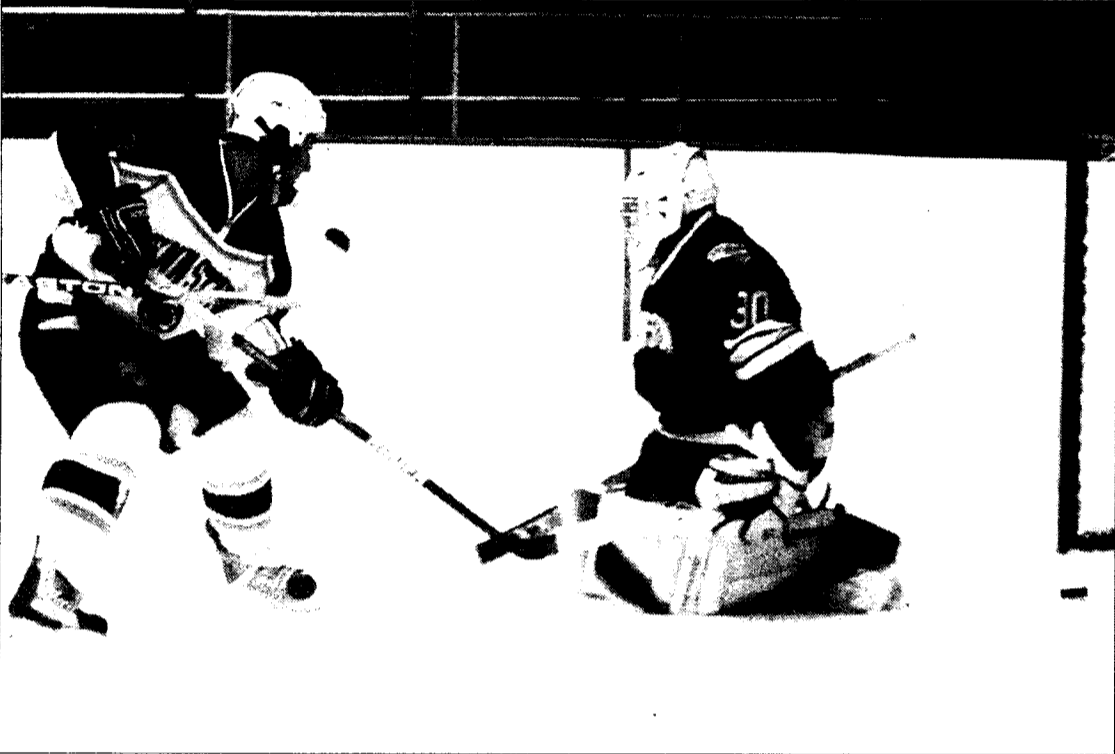
An MRI revealed something was wrong, but Dr. William Meyers told Seravalli he wasn't sure exactly what he would have to do until he performed the surgery. He elected to have it done May 12, but not before getting a little advice from a NHL star.

He had a chance to talk to Philadelphia Flyer Danny Briere, who had just gone through the same procedure by the same doctor six weeks before. After attending a Flyers playoff game in May, he had a chance to go in the locker room after the game and talk to the former All-Star forward.

"He told me the first day it's not going to be bad, second day it's going to get a little worse, and the third day, he said, good luck getting out of bed," Seravalli said. "He was right on the money too, I don't think I got out of bed once that day."

During the surgery, Dr. Meyers fixed five groin tears, a hernia and

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Nick Seravalli (left) scores a goal in a game last season. Seravalli had surgery during the offseason.



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