SPORTS

Cross country teams post mixed results at Invitational

By Zack Feidman COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Though rankings suggested it, Saturday's race proved Penn State's cross country teams will underdogs

again this season.			
The	No.	24	CROSS
Penn	S	tate	COUNTRY
women's team		00000000	
turned in a third-			

place finish, while the men placed fourth at the Harry Groves Spiked Shoe Invitational at the Penn State Golf Courses Saturday morning.

After finishing 11th nationally last season and winning the Big Ten championship, the team finished behind only No. 11 Georgetown and No. 7 Princeton, and both runners and coaches expected a finish on par with what the teams ended up with over the weekend.

'We're pleased with the thirdplace finish. I think we competed very well against [Princeton and Georgetown]," coach Beth Alford-Sullivan said. "When the rubber hit the road a little bit on this course — the last half is very difficult — I didn't think our women ran as tough as they can. But it's September, and you don't want

until October and November."

In similar fashion to last week's Dolan Duals, both the men's and women's teams ran in a pack for there was a little disappointing." the first part of the race.

out on top for Penn State, placing seventh overall with a time of 21 minutes, 16.6 seconds on the 6,000meter course, averaging a 5:45 mile.

"I think it was one of my better races I've had here. I think it has to do with me maturing as a runner," Milhouse said. "But we have so much talent in the front pack of our team. Any day, we could run this race and someone else will finish in front.'

Alford-Sullivan said she was happy with the men as well as the women, saying the men have shown much more focus and determination already this season. Led by juniors Kyle Dawson above their expected performand Vince McNally in the 8,000meter race, Penn State earned two of the top seven spots.

Though Sullivan said she was happy with the men's results, McNally said he wanted to beat unranked Navy, which finished in McNally said. "We're content third place, just ahead of the Lions.

third. It was pretty close, them to run as tough as they can McNally said. "It kind of sucks

that we're trying to set our sights on the Georgetowns and and on Princetons, to have Navy slip in

McNally said the team will con-Junior Kara Millhouse came tinue trying to run as a pack for the bulk of races, but identified a weak spot in the team's game Saturday on which to improve.

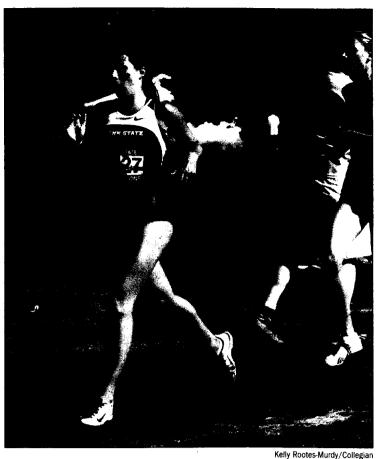
> "It's kind of tricky, because we wanted to run more as a team [Saturday], but we went out a little hot," McNally said. "Getting up there with Kyle, [Chris] Cipro and I in what I call the peloton, we could have been back leading our whole group of guys instead of being in our own little pack out front.

With the next meet coming on Sept. 25 in Minnesota, both teams' runners are anticipating competition of even higher quality.

And while neither team finished ance, McNally said September is all about building up the team and solidifying the team's strategy.

"It's September, so I think this was a good baseline, especially off of what we were last year," [with this race] as a team. So we're just going to build off this "It would have been nice to be race and keep getting better."

To e-mail reporter: zef5005@psu.edu



Lucia Sofo (4127) runs for Penn State at the Harvey Groves Spiked Shoe Invitational this past weekend.

Field hockey team pleased to be back in the win column

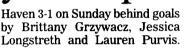
By: Joe McIntyre COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The last time the Penn State field hockey team got a win was back in late August.

Back then, the sun was shining. the bleachers were hot and the water jets provided a treat for fans

watching the game at AstroTurf Field. But a lot can change in a little over two weeks.

Today on a cloudy, chilly and damp mid-September day, the Nittany Lions did something they failed to accomplish against the No. 3 and No. 5 teams in the nation get a win.





Morett the victory. "You know, it

does feel good to get a win," Morett said. "But you know, it's always like, 'How did we play?' I thought that we played a great second half against Connecticut The No. 16 Lions defeated Lock always come back in the second the top 20. Although it may seem worked on in practice during the

Haven 3-1 on Sunday behind goals half and played a better second as if playing an easier opponent week is the main goal of the game. by Brittany Grzywacz, Jessica half. And I felt that we did that today.'

Not only did Penn State need the win for the rankings and standings, senior captain Daneen Zug said pulling out the victory was psychologically huge.

"It feels great. I think we need-ed to get that win," Zug said. "Today was a big game. We want to see those wins, we don't want to see those loses, but when you play tough teams, when you have a tough schedule, it happens sometimes and you've just got to play through it. And I think we came out well today."

Lock Haven was the first team

would help the team relax, forward Lauren Purvis said it actually did the opposite.

The freshman goal scorer said it's in fact tougher to play a squad the team is expected to beat. And if the team didn't come out with a win today, it would have been a huge disappointment.

"Well there's always pressure to do well and always win," Purvis said. "But when you're the higher seed it's kind of, 'If you don't win you're like, it's not good.'

Morrett said the best way for the team to overcome the added pressure is to come out of the locker room with a game plan and [last weekend], and that's what we Penn State has played all season stick to it. She said executing the talked about at halftime. We've that wasn't nationally ranked in aspects of the game they've

After that, everything else will fall into place.

"I think the kids probably feel a little added pressure," Morett said. "But I think for us, the youth that we have on the field, let's try to stick to the game plan, let's try to keep the field spread."

But Morett said she was happy with how her team handled the expectations against Lock Haven in Sunday's victory.

"And I think you can see the way we transferred the ball across the field, that we were able to get the ball down the field, was something that we were very effective with today," Morett said. "So that was very positive.'

To e-mail reporter: jrm5401@psu.edu

Men's and women's golf seasons begin with meets on the road

By Matt Clancy COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State men's golf coach Greg Nye knew when the season inexperienced team that would

lot of his game is very sound and tough course. he's highly competitive"

"It was a good opening tourna-

Mike Miller's play." Nye said. "A Nye and his golfers said was a

McDonagh and fellow senior Miller, who was making his col- T.J. Howe, the only two returning began that he had a relatively legiate debut, shot a 217 to finish members of the team who played with a 78. as the Nittany Lions' top golfer. regularly last year, struggled through the first two rounds and ment for his first tournament as a entered the final round of play in ties for 59th and 65th place, respectively, in the 81-man field. "I didn't play nearly as well as I planned on," Howe said. "I was a little rusty, I haven't played competitively in about a month. There was a little flaw in my swing that caused me to have some issues

"I'm really really excited about classmen struggled on what both and didn't allow me to put up some very good numbers."

Howe recovered to shoot a 70 (-1) on the final day, but The tournament will continue McDonagh's hardships continued through Tuesday, but Penn State

goal of being an All-American this in the 21-team field.

opened its season Sunday at the Cougar Classic hosted by the College of Charleston.

The tournament will continue shot an opening-round 297 on McDonagh, who set a personal Sunday, leaving it tied for seventh

FIELD HOCKEY

have to grow as GOLF the season went on.

However, it was the least experienced member of his squad, true freshman Michael Miller, who played the best this weekend at the Wolf Run Intercollegiate in Zionsville, Ind.

Penn Stater," senior Tommy McDonagh said.

Miller said that he thought he played well, and was not worried about his first college experience. "I was more excited than nervous," Miller said of his debut.

However, Penn State's upper-

year, said that while he drove the ball well he struggled with his iron, which cost him.

"I'll be hitting balls all this week." McDonagh said, "and hopefully figure it out."

As a team, Penn State finished 12th out of 15 teams.

Meanwhile, the women's team

"We have a much better team attitude this year," said senior Gia Fanelli, who shot an openinground 73, tied for the team-best with senior Giulia Carando. "We are all just putting in the extra time that we didn't last year.'

To email reporter: mjc5290@psu.edu

