

Cost's sacrifices paying dividends

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

In a few months, Drew Cost hopes his name will be called by an MLS team.

A few months ago, Bob Warming told Cost he would have to change his entire game if Cost wanted to be a professional.

"I give Drew a lot of credit because Drew has sacrificed part of himself to make our team better," Warming said. "Drew has sacrificed his desire for being an attacker for being more of a worker in the middle."

Cost, a senior co-captain on the Penn State men's soccer team was in position to act as the Nittany Lions' attacking midfielder and focus mainly on his offense. However, he has changed his game to take on more of a defensive presence and it's paid off for the Lions so far.

The senior is still posting numbers, with a goal and four assists through the first seven games of the year. A crafty player in the middle, Cost is making the most of

his chances and almost had a second goal Friday but his shot curved just above the crossbar.

Going back to that early season conversation with his coach, Cost remembers being put to task.

"He challenged me at the beginning of the year to play a lot tougher defensively, more like a two-way midfielder," Cost said. "Cover more ground, work harder, be more vocal, be a better leader. I took that to heart and I'm really trying to work on that stuff and I think I've done well so far."

At first, Cost said it was a little difficult to sacrifice some of the things he wanted to do but once he realized it was what the team needed, he was fine with it. Junior midfielder Mackenzie Arment said seeing Cost make those changes proves just how versatile the senior is.

After being named as a captain last spring, Cost's leadership has caught the eye of his teammates.

"He definitely leads us and gives us pointers and he keeps everyone accountable," Arment said.

"He leads by example but he's definitely picked up the vocal leadership."

Warming said he expects his captains to first focus on doing what needs to be done individually for the team, then helping everybody else. Now that Cost has accepted his role and settled in to it, he's started to help his teammates do the same.

Warming has sent plenty of players on to the professional level and he realized Cost wouldn't fit in the MLS as an attacking midfielder. It's not because Cost lacks the skills, but the designated player rule in the MLS allows teams to bring in foreign players with a minimal hit on the salary cap.

Instead, Warming told Cost he could keep his technical abilities but become the hard worker set in behind the attacker. That message and the way Cost embraced it has not only helped the Lions off to a 5-2-0 start but also put the senior in a good position for his own future playing soccer with the MLS SuperDraft awaiting in January.

"He's bought into it and it's helped our team now," Warming said.

"It's going to help him in the future."



Sarah Finnegan/Collegian

Cost (8) unleashes a header.

Hurd hoping to return

By Andrew Robinson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Emily Hurd has been doing a lot of watching from the sideline this season, and she isn't happy about it.

But for now, the freshman midfielder can only watch her teammates go through the rigors of practice and compete in games while recovering from a stress fracture in the fifth metatarsal in her right foot.

After being out for so long, Hurd just wants to get back and help out Penn State women's soccer.

"I'm keeping my hopes up that I can get in some games before the season ends," Hurd said. "It's very frustrating because I've been here for so long."

She first suffered her injury in mid-July during preseason training and thought she would be back by the team's trip to Portland Sept. 10-12. However, the stress fracture took longer than expected to heal and the freshman has been confined to a walking boot the last few weeks.

Hurd said Tuesday that she's been using crutches, along with a more protective gray boot to keep pressure off her foot and as a result, her foot feels better. At the moment, Hurd said she wasn't sure if it's gotten worse, but said she has a doctor's appointment next Wednesday.

"It honestly takes time for the bone to heal. Once the bone's healed then you can ease into it," Hurd said. "The way I did it was I put cleats on too early and when you have those pressure points of cleats pounding down so much and then going to the cleats right after just being in the boot, that's what I think re-injured it."

The coaches had hoped Hurd, a left-footed outside midfielder, would be a contributor early on. While the injury is in her non-dominant foot, Hurd said her right foot is her plant foot and just as important as she tries to not solely rely on her left foot.

Lions coach Erica Walsh said Hurd has the ability to provide good service from the outside, an area of play that hasn't been a strength so far.

"She could really help us, but it's a four-year investment," Walsh said. "She's had a good attitude about it and all I can say is we're really anxious to get her back."

Hurd has remained positive through the injury and has supported her teammates through the struggles of the early season.

Walsh said there's a possibility Hurd may redshirt, but the coach is still hoping for a return.

After missing all of the non-conference schedule and the first Big Ten game, time is running out for Hurd to get back and get into playing shape. The thought of losing the year to injury is looming over the freshman, but she is trying to avoid it.

"I think there's a definite possibility but I'm trying not to think about that right now," Hurd said. "I'm just trying to think about me being able to play as soon as I can."

To e-mail reporter: adr5079@psu.edu

To e-mail reporter: bjm5146@psu.edu

To e-mail reporter: ada147@psu.edu

To e-mail reporter: adr5079@psu.edu

Dantonio back with Spartans, to coach from box

By Brendan Monahan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio couldn't remain down for long.

Dantonio will be in a coaching box for the Spartans' home game against Wisconsin Saturday. The Michigan State coach suffered a



Al Goldis/Associated Press

Dantonio walks off the field.

heart attack less than two weeks ago after the Spartans defeated Notre Dame.

Dantonio said he'll gradually work his way back into his coaching duties, similar to how an injured player would work his way back during recovery.

"As an injured player, I guess you could say I'm day to day," Dantonio said. "So that's how I'm going to take it, and I'm going to allow the people that surround me to evaluate my progress, but I'm moving forward."

Watching his team on TV was an experience Dantonio called surreal. The experience allowed him to see his team from a different perspective, something he considers healthy because he could assess play differently.

Dantonio thanked everyone concerned for him the past week and a half, especially fans, previous players and coaches. Offensive coordinator Don Treadwell served as interim head coach in Dantonio's absence.

"He'll continue to serve in that responsibility when it's needed," Dantonio said.

Spotlight on Clayborn

When asked to assess the play of Iowa defensive end Adrian Clayborn this season, Hawkeyes coach Kirk Ferentz simply said he has done well.

Clayborn has experienced many double teams, and that attention has led to other Iowa linemen stepping up, like Mike Daniels, who has 18 total tackles, three more than Clayborn.

Ferentz said double teams are a part of the game, and his star defensive end is simply a player other coaches will focus their gameplans on.

"He's going to attract a little more attention maybe than he did two years ago," Ferentz said. "That's a part of being a good football player, and I think he's dealing with it very well."

Robinson ready to go

Last season gave glimpses of Michigan quarterback Denard

Robinson, which allowed Wolverines coach Rich Rodriguez to come to a conclusion.

While criticism of Rodriguez and the program ran rampant in 2009, Rodriguez said he knew the potential of Robinson and his other young players.

"We knew he was going to be an outstanding player," Rodriguez said.

Robinson has exceeded expectations. He gained 1,419 yards of total offense in four games but left Saturday's game against Bowling Green with an injured left knee. Robinson is expected to play at Indiana this weekend.

Wolverines backup quarterbacks Tate Forcier and Devin Gardner substituted for the injured Robinson. The offense managed to be productive without its starting quarterback, a positive sign for a team that may have seemed dependent upon his ability to take over a game.

"I'd rather not have it that way," Rodriguez said.

To e-mail reporter: bjm5146@psu.edu

Physical play a staple in Big Ten soccer games

By Alex Angert
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Defender Bri Hovington sprinted downfield toward her own goal as the ball was heading out of bounds. Michigan State's Olivia Stander trailed a step behind.

As soon as Hovington caught up to the ball to make sure it went out of play and give Penn State possession, Stander caught up to the Lion defender and knocked her over. And just like that, Hovington was on the ground, the referee stuck a hand in his pocket and the Spartan forward had herself a yellow card.

Hovington was far from the first player to end up on the ground and Stander wasn't the first or last player to receive a booking from the referees in each teams' Big Ten opener on Sunday.

However, this was no surprise to anyone going into the showdown as conference games mean play starts to get a lot more phys-

ical and increase in speed. "I said to the referee before the game to expect it to be physical because all of these Big Ten teams are," coach Erica Walsh said. "I think we responded very well in our battling mentality."

Players pushed and shoved from the opening whistle with frustration, tempers and intensity increasing as the game went on. On the sidelines, coaches jawed with the referees after a number of controversial whistles — which came early and often against both teams.

By the end of the game, four yellow cards were handed out and three of them were given to Penn State players.

And while some of the fouls and penalties called could have gone either way, there was no denying the added physicality during the entire match.

"We definitely knew it was going to be like that," senior Megan Monroig said. "That's how we play. I think that's one of the reasons why they actually got rid of the [conference] tournament because people go so hard and

get hurt right before NCAA's."

Along with the four cards given out, there wound up being 27 total fouls called — 14 for the Spartans, 13 for the Lions — and it was only fitting the game would be won on a penalty kick. However, this is a significant increase compared to earlier in the season.

Through the nine non-conference games Penn State played before Sunday's match, the Lions averaged only seven fouls and their opponents averaged nine.

If the conference opener against Michigan State is any indication of things to come, this upcoming weekend's showdown against Ohio State should be even worse, judging by the two teams' history together.

Last year, Penn State recorded 16 fouls against the Buckeyes and had three bookings, one of which was a red card.

After her own team's opener against Michigan, Ohio State coach Lori Walker also noticed the added physicality of Big Ten play and attributed it to all of the teams' similar strengths.

"I think sometimes you are just

going to see a more physical game because from top to bottom almost all of our rosters in the Big Ten have a lot of equality," Walker said. "I think it's true of all centre backs and Penn State's centre backs, they know how to play. And so it winds up becoming a physical battle because the matchups are so similar."

The Ohio State coach said during non-conference play, a lot of the teams aren't stacked up the same athletically, which leads to mismatches.

However, that won't be the case on Sunday when the Lions and Buckeyes meet as both teams fully expect yet another hard fought, rough game.

And just like the previous weekend's game, Penn State wants to come out with another solid battling effort.

"I think we set the tone for [the Michigan State] game," Monroig said.

"And hopefully we'll do the same thing and have the same attitudes Sunday."

To e-mail reporter: ada147@psu.edu

No better time for sports than the month of October

By Jared Shanker

By the time you pick up this newspaper, skip over the front page without a glance and furiously flip right to this column, the countdown to October will officially be under 48 hours.

No, I'm not counting down to Halloween sweets, the breathtaking State College amber foliage or the Republic of Cyprus' Independence Day. (Yes, there is such a country, and yes, I had to use Wikipedia to find it.)

I'm counting down to the MLB playoffs, pumpkin pie, the meat of the college football season, pumpkin pie, Midnight Madness and, of course, pumpkin pie.

And while I could write a lengthy column on my unhealthy obsession with that fall treat, this one centers around the fact no month is better for sports fans than October.

As the MLB season comes to a close, three races are still unsettled with five games left. As I'm sure many of the students here are aware of, only a half-game separates the Yankees and Rays in the American League East standings.

And standing in the way of a second straight division title for the Yanks: the Red Sox, who host the Yanks for three in Fenway to close out the season.

The AL is also witnessing a three-team race for home-field advantage. The Yankees, Rays and Central champion Twins are all within a game of each other entering Tuesday. Each field could very well be the deciding factor between who goes to the World Series and who spends the second half of the month shanking tee shots into said foliage. The Yankees and Twins — along with the Tigers — lead the AL with 52 home victories. The Rays are built to play on the turf of Tropicana Field.

In the National League, the West will be decided on the final weekend when the Giants and

Padres meet for a three-game set in San Francisco.

While baseball is great, let's be honest, football is king in this country, and October signals the real start of the college football season. There are no paties on deck for the Top 25 teams in October, and there probably won't be a better Saturday all season than this upcoming one.

No. 22 Penn State travels to Iowa City to face the team that has knocked the Nittany Lions out of the national title hunt the last two years, and No. 17 Iowa is 7-2 against the Lions under coach Kirk Ferentz. No. 1 Alabama and No. 7 Florida, winners of three of the last four national titles, square off in prime time. No. 8 Oklahoma and No. 21 Texas meet in the Red River Shootout (I don't care if it's politically incorrect, I refuse to call it the Red River Rivalry), and No. 4 Oregon hosts No. 9 Stanford.

College basketball is set to begin, too, with Midnight Madness starting in two weeks. In anticipation of the first day teams can practice, college stu-

dents will stay up way past their bedtimes to celebrate the start of the season by partying in basketball arenas across the country. (The Bryce Jordan Center need not stay open past normal operating hours.) It isn't exactly March Madness, but Midnight Madness and October come before March, well, in a basketball sense at least.

In the NFL, we separate the contenders from the pretenders. We'll see if the Chiefs are legit AFC West contenders with consecutive road games against the Colts and Texans. We'll see how the Steelers respond to having Big Ben back at quarterback after a potential 4-0 start. We'll see if the Cowboys and Vikings are just suffering from a slow start (cut Brett Favre some slack, it takes time for his 84-year-old body to heat up) or really just aren't that good. Mess up in October and it might not matter what happens in November and December.

Next week, the NHL drops the puck on its 93rd season, and Penn State is near the top of the hockey world after announcing

the building of a new hockey arena and the addition of Division I men's and women's hockey programs. It also doesn't hurt Pennsylvania has been represented in the last three Stanley Cup finals. (Have Flyers fans forgiven Michael Leighton, yet?)

In arguably the most anticipated sports debut since my column first ran on Aug. 25, LeBron James will begin his first season with Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and the Heat after James announced he will be taking his talents to South Beach. On Oct. 26, the Heat open the NBA season in Boston against the Celtics.

October is the only month of the year all four major U.S. sports are in season. The only drawback: no major tennis or golf tournaments. I think I'll live. Now, someone pass me the remote and a piece of pumpkin pie.

Jared Shanker is a senior majoring in journalism and history and is the Daily Collegian's sports columnist. His e-mail address is jps5226@psu.edu.



MY OPINION