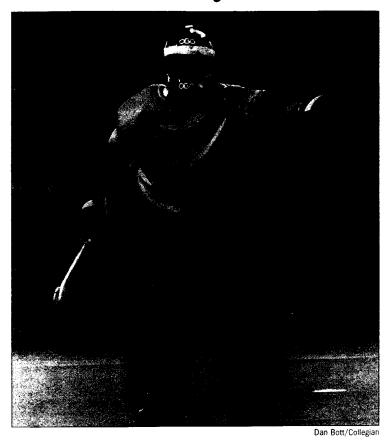
Field hockey looks back following Michigan State win



Goaltender Ayla Halus shouts directors to her teammates during a

By Joe McIntyre COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After a tumultuous, disappoint-Penn State field hockey team is back.

And back with a vengeance.

upending of No. 7

FIELD HOCKEY Coming off a 4-1

Michigan State last Friday, the Nittany Lions field hockey program has returned to where players and coaches say it always should be.

The Lions (9-3, 3-1 Big Ten) have gone from a 1-2 start with losses to then-No. 3 Virginia and No. 5 Connecticut, to winning eight of nine and oozing with confidence.

"For a grade, I'd give us an 'A' right now," assistant coach Lisa Bervinchak-Love said. "Sunday against Michigan State we had a great effort and our competitiveness was awesome, it was probably one of the best games with the success as well. competitive edge I would say. We just have to be careful that we still stay focused and just take it one practice hard and don't get com-

And complacency was something senior captain Lauren Alloway said she saw in last year's team. There was a lack of personing and upsetting year in 2009, the al accountability last season she said, and that was a major factor in the disappointing year.

"I think another big aspect of it is the overall atmosphere," Alloway said. "Last year a lot of people weren't taking responsibility of their own actions and blaming other people. And if you're blaming others, you're not going to get better."

But a year later, things are much different.

After a Michigan State goal tied the game at one Friday, the Lions took a timeout and came together as a team. They gave each other confidence with positive comments and encouraging words. It was something the Lions didn't do last year and weren't as successful, as a result.

And along with team success, confidence is breeding individual

The Lions have won four Big Ten Player of the Week awards already this season with Kelsey game at a time and we continue to Amy winning Offensive Player of the Week once and goalkeeper Ayla Halus winning Defensive

Player of the Week three times, including this past week for her nine-save effort against the

Spartans. Halus is only the third Nittany Lion to win the award three times in a season. Assistant coach Annie Zinkavich most recently accom-

plished the feat in 2001. And even though the award is an individual accomplishment, head coach Char Morett said for Halus to win the award three times speaks of how well the defense has played in front of her. Defense and goaltending are one unit, she said, and when the goalkeeper is awarded, the entire backfield is recognized.

With an away contest against No. 6 Ohio State coming up on Sunday, Bervinchak-Love said Halus and the Lions have a great chance to make the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2008, they just can't afford any setbacks.

'We're in a great position right now, our destiny is in our own hands," Bervinchak-Love said. "It's still up to how we play. We don't have to rely on anyone, we have it in our hands to control our postseason play.'

To e-mail reporter: jrm5401@psu.edu

Bourchier leads young tennis team through fall schedule

By James Nicol COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Youth isn't an obstacle for the

men's tennis team, it's an opportunity for young players to gain valuable experi-

MEN'S **TENNIS**

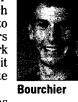
The team consists of only one senior, and is comprised primarily of underclassmen.

The lone senior on the team, Eddie Bourchier, is the captain and leader of the team. A native of Big Ten honors last season and has gone 5-1 in singles so far this cation can take them.

fall, and 4-0 in doubles with junior teammate Jason Lee.

'We expect him to have an outstanding senior year," coach Todd Doebler said.

"More importantly really mentor and teach these guys how to become leaders and how to work hard and what it takes to compete at this level."



Bourchier has embraced his role on the team Australia. Bourchier earned All- and shown many of the younger players where a high level of dedi-

"Having a younger team with- done and just working hard this out many guys that are older, I fall and as a younger group try to think for me I really have to make come in and play well this year sure I'm doing everything right, even the little things like showing season and step up and do some a good example, because they look damage." up to you a lot," Bourchier said. "I remember when I was a freshman 3, 6-2) in the semifinals of the and sophomore I looked up to the Princeton Invitational. seniors and I think you influence them a lot in how they do things and go about their ways.'

Bryan Welnetz, a sophomore, the opportunity to learn from mate Taylor Cohen (7-6(7-2), 6-1).

Bourchier in his last season.

and hopefully take that into next

Welnetz lost to Bourchier (3-6, 6-

At Princeton, several young players showed off their talents. Freshman Russell Bader made it to the finals of his Flight B singles said he hopes to take advantage of bracket, before falling to team-

The tournament was highlight-We've got to take into account ed by Bourchier's performance. what he's done and try to adapt, The set he dropped to Welnetz Welnetz said. "Knowing what he's would be the only one of the tour-

nament, in which he won the Flight A singles and doubles titles.

The tournament showed that gaining experience is still very important for the younger players. Upperclassmen players won all three titles, but had to pass through young Penn State players on the way to the singles titles.

"Us young guys and especially the older guys performed well at Princeton and were looking forward to our next few tournaments in the fall season," Welnetz said. "I think that was a good start to the season and I hope it carries over to the spring.

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