# Lions overcoming adversity, finding confidence

By Alex Angert **COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER** 

Sept. 21 — that's when it all changed.

Coming off a shocking loss against Dartmouth, coach Erica recommit themselves in confer-

ence play.

That's exactly

WOMEN'S SOCCER

what they did, as the coach has noticed a different culture in the locker room and her players' attitudes

This change in desire has since translated onto the field, with the Lions pulling off three comebacks in the past two weeks resulting in wins.

"It's all about September," alsh said. "We faced so much Walsh said. adversity in September and we talked about it. We dealt with it and we dealt with the emotions and how to deal with adversity. And now it's really helping us."

Win or lose, Walsh has been impressed with her team's fight over the last few weeks.

Against Northwestern on Oct. 8, defeat.

the Nittany Lions quickly found themselves down a goal 11 minutes into the game on the road. But the team was never rattled and Christine Nairn tallied two goals to lead her team to a victory.

A week later against Minnesota, Walsh challenged her players to Penn State found itself in a similar predicament. Only this time, the Lions were facing the No. 15 team in the country and didn't have as much time to pull off a comeback. The team was still trailing more than 70 minutes into the game.

Luckily for the Lions, the Northwestern comeback reassured the players the game was far from over. With only 17 minutes left, freshman Taylor Schram used her head and butted the ball into the net to tie things up.

helped winning Northwestern and coming back from losing," she said. "We had the confidence now knowing we could do it and overcome adversity.'

This newly gained confidence is evident in the way the players have been attacking opponents.

Being down in three of their last four games, the team has never simply rolled over and accepted

"I'm tired of dealing with adversity."

> Erica Walsh women's soccer coach

"Not once did we put our heads down," Ali Schaefer said about the Minnesota comeback. "At halftime everyone was like, 'Alright, we're completely in this.' Right until the last 20 [minutes], we were pushing and pushing. I think the entire team just believed in ourselves.

Two days after that victory. Penn State was at it again and down early against Wisconsin. Down by two, the Lions slowly chipped away at the Badgers and tied the game up on a thrilling goal by Maya Hayes.

This time, the comeback came up short, as the players were caught off guard and allowed Wisconsin to retake the lead 45 seconds after Penn State tied it up.

Despite the loss. Walsh said she was absolutely pleased with her team's heart and mentality to battle back from adversity.



Freshman Taylor Schram (19) celebrates after a goal vs. Minnesota.

lining in an otherwise upsetting been poor and that's causing us to loss as Walsh is starting to become sick of needing to come from behind

Our fight and our desire has been very good." Walsh said. "Our But that was simply a thin silver concentration to give up goals has

play against adversity and deal with. And we've done a good job, but I'm tired of dealing with adver-

To e-mail reporter: ada147@psu.edu

# nother conference title an uphill battle for Lions

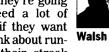
**By Andrew Robinson** 

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Rumors of the end of the Penn State women's soccer team's Big Ten streak have been slightly exaggerated.

While the Nittany Lions' two

losses in the conference have put them in fourth place with four games left, they aren't out of it yet. But, they're going to need a lot of help if they want to think about running their streak



to 13 titles in a row. 'We have four games left, we have three weeks to battle, our

choices on and off the field these

make the difference," senior co- been frustrated all season after captain Megan Monroig said. "We have to win out no matter what, we have to have a lot of things go our way in the Big Ten to possibly win. But if we win out and pray to the soccer gods, maybe we can still get in the tournament."

But before any higher power steps in, the players have to win their next four games. In order to get into the NCAA Tournament, a team must finish with at least a .500 record.

With eight losses already, a program high for a single season, one more loss would ensure Penn State stays home for the first time in 15 years. The Lions have, in order, games with No. 17 Illinois, Indiana, Purdue and Michigan remaining.

Though her team isn't dead yet, next three weeks are going to Penn State coach Erica Walsh has

not being able to walk off the field enough times with the knowledge her team competed to its fullest.

"I'm disappointed. We're just starting to come around and starting to play," Walsh said. "Friday night I thought we had the courage to try to play so my disappointment is more with this team than the Big Ten or any streak. You want your team to play and perform and [Sunday] we didn't play and perform.

with a 6-0-0 conference record. while Penn State is third with a 4-2-0 record.

For the teams to split the title. the Buckeyes would have to lose two of their last four games and again, Penn State needs to win

"We have to win out no matter what."

Megan Monroig senior co-captain

can clinch the Big Ten title is Oct. rely on other things," Evans said. 29. While there are plenty of outside factors involved in keeping the Lions in the hunt, sophomore midfielder Maddy Evans said the team is focused on what it can control.

After dropping their head-to-Ohio State leads the Big Ten head matchup with Ohio State, the against the wall and I guess this is Lions have lost their chance to affect the race directly. Now forced to wait out other games around the conference, Evans said there's a slight feeling of helplessness knowing the team doesn't control it's own destiny.

"Instead of us being in complete The earliest date the Buckeyes control of our success it makes us "That's always tough.

But, at this point, the Lions have nothing to lose and all season, the team has shown it plays its best soccer when backed into a corner.

"We've said a few times we play really well when our backs are the epitome of playing with our backs against the wall and playing for pride and to represent Penn State," Evans said. "We'll continue to move forward with each game because I think that's what we've been doing.

To e-mail reporter: adr5079@psu.edu

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# **By Jacqueline Bigar**

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your life work. Look at what our twang, and pracefully let go. It would gle, von retlenk vom procestes at-express note referst a streets at lide are than constant in that a year. It is are attached, the two of you will open ns a new level of indestanding of car pineback tropy concessions of to respect each other a me. Tup? instructs. They are lacky for the APTES can be challen mer.

5 Dynamic 4 Positive. Average, 2-86-80, 1-Difficult

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You at

ARIES (March 23 April 30)
\*\*\* You might want to listen more than act in the morning. You will want to move a project forward after you have shored up some of the details. Pressure builds, whether you want it to or not Still, choose your timing. Tought, All

TAURIS (April 20 May 20)
\*\*\*\* I see the a.m. to your benefit.
Though many could be surprised by your actions, or you theirs, you don't see the path through the problem. Do a better job of listening to others' points of view the evening Tonight Take some much needed GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Many people respond in surprise ing ways to you taking a stand or assum-

inservings, or sibility. Househa meet recording to be twift action or slan-responding training countries land may de aprincet

\*\*\*\* You could understand a lot more of that is frome on behind the occie. You'll see much more than in the past of on keep tack and observe. Take rwn ir the affernoon. Officis respect was approach astudion Jordan A NOTE AND LO 110 the service 2.

\*\*\*\*\* beautiful office close associate acceptance of evidents and possibilities are remitled to the control of the contro

the conception of the choice and possibilities. Don't take anything as given unless it is written and signed. Check in with an expert of two it need be. Not, will find nt cyclic Homelit Take minew vistas ( VIRGO) (Vag. 23 Sept. 22) \*\*\* Others will dominate the scene Whether you fight them or join in is your

choice. You will discover that by going along with their program, they can see how strong their ideas are. Have a con-versation late in the day. Tonight, Dinner FIBRA (Sept. 23 Oct. 22).

and where you are heading. An anexperfed bump in the road could cause a problem, but it doesn't need to be an obstacle. Network, and socialize later today Tonight Say "yes" to an offer SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

\*\*\*\* Xllow your creativity to flow and flourish. Your ability to understand what is happening helps you find a solu-tion. Understanding evolves if you can remain stable and direct, foright: Relay

SAGILLARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\*\* Be sensitive to a domestic matter. You might want to shake loose, but have no possibility of it. Allow greater

than between you and those close to you. Not everything can be about work. Tomght I et your han down. CAPRICORN (Dec 22:Jan 19)
\*\*\*\* Keep expressing your ideas,
even it you get an off-the wall reaction. You are laying the foundation for a new centure. Lie back in the afternoon, and see what comes toward you. You are

changing, and people are changing with cit. Head home AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Leb. 18) ★★★★ Reach out for someone at a disfance or an expert whom you trust ulti-mately. You might change your mind about a situation with the more information you get. Follow through on what is

happening behind the scenes Toright: Visit with friends. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\*\*\* You are all smiles and willing to give 100 percent. The unexpected occurs. You have the ability to deal with whatever comes along. Second thoughts

treat BORN TODAY Singer Forn Petty (1950), actor Jerry Orbach (1935), slugger Mickey Mantle

occur in a meeting, and you might want o reverse your course. Tomght: Your

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