

Lions pick up some wins

By James Nicol
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A rainy day in Virginia didn't stop the Penn State men's tennis team from posting some wins in the first round of the ITA Atlantic regionals.

The team posted a 3-2 record in the singles and went 2-0 in doubles on the first day of the tournament.

Jason Lee, Brian Welnetz, and Harry Seaborn all won their first round matches and will continue singles play tomorrow.

In doubles, Welnetz and Seaborn upset Virginia's Philippe Oudshoorn and Justin Shane, 6-2, 6-4, to gain their first doubles win together. They upset a Virginia pair that was seeded and playing on their home court.

"We went in to the match just wanting to play confident and have a lot of fun and then as the match kept on going we were playing really well," Welnetz said. "We were definitely surprised but we knew we could play with these guys so we kept our confidence and our energy up and came out with the win."

Russell Bader and Taylor Cohen defeated Tim Walsh and Charlie Caris of Georgetown to help the Nittany Lions go undefeated in doubles on the day.

"We played really good doubles today," Cohen said. "We've been working hard on that in practice so it was definitely good to get those two wins."

The rain forced many of the matches to be played on a mixture of indoor and outdoor courts. Welnetz said the team is used to switching back and forth in the State College weather and it wasn't an issue for the team.

"We get a lot of mixtures of indoors and outdoors back home so I don't think it's an excuse or an advantage," Welnetz said. "I just think it's part of our culture at Penn State, were so use to switching indoor to outdoor it's just something we don't blink an eye if we have to do."

Senior captain Eddie Bourchier had a first-round bye in singles, as the tournament's No. 6 seed. He and teammate Jason Lee also had a bye in doubles and will play today in the second round of the tournament.

The tournament brings together schools from the ITA Atlantic

region. Penn State is joined by other schools from Pennsylvania along with programs from Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Coach Todd Doebler said he hopes the competition helps the team get experience against top players.

"There are a lot of good teams here so this is really a great chance to see how all the hard work this fall is paying off," Doebler said.

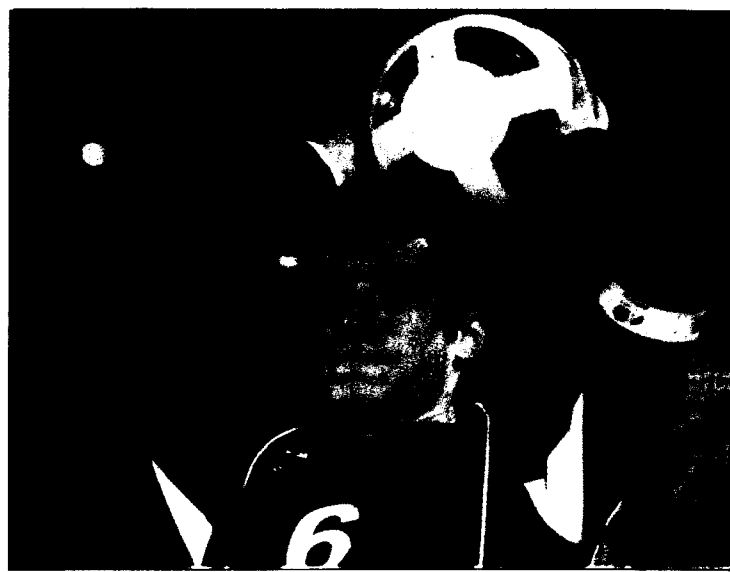
"It's important to see where we're at and to get these guys some matches against some really good players."

Several teams that will be participating in the tournament will be opponents again in the spring. Virginia Tech, Lehigh and Navy are competing this weekend and also appear on the schedule in the spring.

The second round of play begins 9 a.m. today in Charlottesville and continues until Sunday.

The winners of the singles and doubles titles at this regional event qualify for the ITA National Indoor Championships held next month in Flushing Meadows, N.Y.

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Sarah Finnegan/Colegiian

Andres Casais attempts a throw in against UMBC.

Casais steps up

By Mike Still
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Andres Casais is the type of player any coach would love to have on his team.

The senior co-captain on the Penn State men's soccer team does what is asked of him, and he does it to the best of his ability.

After spending some time on the sideline in the Lions' past few games and playing as a substitute mostly as a midfielder, the defender started on the defensive line last night against the UMBC.

"It's great to be back on the field and to try and help the team the best way possible," Casais said. "As long as coach needs me, he'll put me wherever and I'll try and do the best I can."

Normally a center back, Casais was asked to play left back against the Retrievers, a position he hadn't played in years.

But despite his inexperience on the outside the Lions' defensive line, Casais rose to the occasion.

Coming into the game, Penn State's main focus defensively was stopping the Retrievers' leading scorer, forward Levi Houapeu.

Despite not having played defense in a few games and doing it a spot he normally doesn't find himself, Casais held Houapeu scoreless Wednesday night, shutting down the star striker one-on-one for most of the game.

"He's very quick and great with the ball at his foot," sophomore defender Brian Forgue said of Houapeu. "If you keep him going backwards, don't let him face up. I think that's the best way to keep him in check and I think he [Casais] did that."

In the 15th minute of the match, with the Lions struggling offensively, coach Bob Warming subbed in speedy sophomore John Gallagher at left back to give Penn State an offensive spark from the back line.

The move forced Casais to the midfield where he played 13 minutes until Gallagher was subbed out.

As a natural defender, Casais needed to make the necessary adjustments to his game in order to play his best as a midfielder.

"It's a little bit here and there," the senior said. "If you're a soccer player, just with some tactics and some a different mentality here and there, I think you should be able to play any position you can."

Casais' versatility and his willingness to do whatever is asked of him is something his teammates admire.

Fellow co-captain Drew Cost was thrilled to see Casais making the most of his opportunity to contribute.

"It's awesome," fellow co-captain Drew Cost said of Casais' eagerness to help his team. "He's very resilient. He realizes that he'll go and play wherever we need him, and tonight we needed him at left back. Hopefully he keeps it up."

As a team captain, Casais' job is to do whatever it takes to help his team win.

Whether it be from the sidelines, or any part of the field, Casais tries to do what he can whenever he's called on.

"It was great having him back there," Forgue said. "He played really well."

"His presence as a captain, as a leader, with experience, it's invaluable. We really enjoyed having him back there."

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Favre keeps details quiet

By Dave Campbell
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Brett Favre doesn't want to talk about any subject but the Green Bay Packers, while the NFL is seeking more information about allegations he sent suggestive messages and lewd photos in 2001 to a woman who worked for the New York Jets.

Speaking at a conference call with reporters in Green Bay ahead of Sunday night's Vikings-Packers game, Favre called the NFL's investigation into his alleged behavior a "league matter." Minutes later, he also declined to answer a series of questions about the situation in his weekly Wednesday news conference with Minnesota media.

"That's a league issue," Favre said, "that I just have to leave at that."

The Vikings quarterback met with NFL vice president for security Milt Ahlerich on Tuesday about his alleged advances toward then-Jets game emcee Jenn Sterger two years ago, when Favre played for New York.

Favre brushed off a question

about whether the situation has weighed on him, insisting it was instead the "front five for Dallas" that weighed on him last week. He said this week his "focus is solely on Green Bay."



Favre

Asked why he hasn't denied the allegations, Favre said: "The one thing I'm going to say is that's something that's within the league, and I'll just have to leave it at that — let that process work itself out."

Sterger has hired lawyers but has not commented on the allegations, which were posted on Deadspin.com without her cooperation.

The website paid a third party for the texts, voice-mails and graphic photos, said to be of Favre, that it posted in a video. Sterger has not commented on the website's report.

Attorney Joseph Conway said Wednesday his firm will advise Sterger "and pursue any potential remedies that may exist." He confirmed being contacted by the NFL, but said nothing had been decided on a possible meeting

between Sterger and the league.

Sterger is now a TV personality for the Versus network. Her manager, Phil Reese, said she's had no discussions with Favre representatives about a possible financial settlement stemming from the allegations.

Deadspin posted an e-mail Wednesday that it said it received from Ahlerich, asking to set up a meeting with the editor to talk about "sharing any and all details you ... may have on this matter."

Favre appeared relaxed at the podium inside Minnesota's practice facility.

While refusing to acknowledge concern about the investigation and insisting he's only worried about the Packers, Favre took time to mention their multiple formation defense, the pressure of facing his old team and the magnitude of the game given a tight NFC North race.

Then, with a touch of self-deprecating humor, he poked fun at his age and questioned his ability to hold up in Green Bay.

"I look old, gray and weary, with crows feeding on me and that stuff," Favre said.

Asked about the reaction he's expected from the Packers fans, Favre cracked a slight smile.



Paul Sancya/Associated Press
Mariano Rivera (left) and Jorge Posada celebrate the Yankees' victory.

Yankees avoid elimination

By Howie Rumberg
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Lance Berkman lay flat on his back on the warning track behind first base as a hushed Yankee Stadium crowd watched nervously.

Berkman thought he hit his head in the fourth inning of Game 5 of the AL championship series. Everyone else was worried that the New York Yankees lost another first baseman Wednesday, a day after Gold Glover Mark Teixeira went down with a strained right hamstring.

Teixeira is out for the playoffs. Berkman is sore his from head to rear end.

"You always worry about getting a concussion," said Berkman, who had his lower back wrapped in a bandage. But it's not the case, so other than that, it's just a spill." Berkman wiped out on the red-

clay colored warning track while chasing a foul popup. His head snapped back as he slipped hard onto his back near the stands.

The switch-hitter rolled over onto his stomach as the Yankees came out to check on him. After a few tense moments he caught his breath, then got to his feet and remained in the game.

"I overran the ball just a hair. I tried to stop to catch it and my feet just came out from under me," he said. "I was looking up for the ball and the next thing I know I was flat on my back looking up at the sky."

After the half inning, Berkman said trainers used smelling salts on him in the dugout then he changed his cleats from the plastic ones he used most of the year to a pair with metal spikes.

"It felt like I got lit up in football," Berkman said.

Berkman had started seven games at first since coming to New York from Houston at the July 31 trade deadline before Wednesday and has played 717 games there in his career.

It's a big responsibility. Clearly you can't fill a guys shoes like

Tex," Berkman said. "It's an opportunity to be able to play and be in there regardless of who's pitching ... Personal stuff aside it's about helping this team try to win."

With the Yankees' 7-2 victory Berkman will likely get the start again Game 6 Friday night in Texas.

"He's probably going to need some treatment and we are going to have to get him ready for Friday," Girardi said.

Berkman batted sixth and went 0 for 2 with a sacrifice fly and scored a run.

Infielder Eduardo Nunez replaced Teixeira on the roster before Game 5. Should the Yankees win the final two games to win the best-of-seven ALCS, Teixeira would not be eligible for the World Series. Teixeira said the injury will need six to eight weeks to heal.

Robinson Cano moved up to Teixeira's No. 3 spot in the lineup and homered in four at-bats.

"It's as good as it gets," Girardi said. "Robby has been big in our lineup all year and he has been big in the post season."

Lawyer: dying football player ignored by cops

By Jim Fitzgerald
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOSHEN, N.Y. — Paramedics ignored a handcuffed and dying college football player shot by police and attended to injured officers for several minutes while his friend stood by screaming for help, a lawyer hired by the student's family charged Wednesday, calling for an independent investigation into the death.

Brandon Cox, who was grazed by a police bullet in the burst of gunfire that killed Danroy "D.J." Henry, left the car under his own power after the shooting, then realized no one was helping Henry, lawyer Michael Sussman said.

"He saw the victim come to the vehicle, drag his friend out, handcuff his friend, lay his friend head-down on the ground, and no help was coming," Sussman said.

When paramedics arrived and began tending to the officers, Cox began screaming for help: "We've been shot! We've been shot!" Twelve to 15 minutes passed before Henry received medical help, according to Cox, Sussman said.

Messages seeking comment on the paramedic's actions were left with a spokesman for the Westchester police, which made the arrests.

Sussman did not know which ambulance company answered the call, and a Mount Pleasant police dispatcher said the department uses several companies.

Mount Pleasant police Chief Louis Alagno, who is investigating the shooting with state police, did not return a call seeking comment. Alagno said Monday that Henry was handcuffed until officers realized he was gravely wounded, then was uncuffed and treated.

Police have said that Henry, a 20-year-old Pace University student, sped away and hit two officers after a policeman knocked on his window. But Sussman said Wednesday that eyewitness accounts from Cox, a third man in the car who wasn't injured and others contradict that story.

Henry was at the wheel of his car in a fire lane early Sunday when a police officer beckoned him to move along, Sussman said. Henry complied and had driven just a few feet at low speed when another officer yelled that the car should be stopped, at which point an officer ran in front of the car with his weapon drawn and started firing within seconds, according to Sussman.

Several agencies are investigating.

Also Wednesday, the lawyer for three of Henry's teammates said they had been brutalized by officers and arrested when they tried to help their mortally wounded friend after witnessing the shooting.

One player knows CPR and begged the police to let him try to

save Henry, but instead "they put a gun to his ribs and they told him to back ... up or he would be next," attorney Bonita Zelman told The Associated Press.

She said the other two teammates were zapped with stun guns when they tried to intervene. They said Henry "was on the pavement, handcuffed and dying, and no one was helping him," she said.

Westchester police spokesman Kieran O'Leary said one of Zelman's clients, Yves Delpeche of Brooklyn, N.Y., had to be subdued with a stun gun.

But O'Leary said the department had received no formal complaint regarding excessive force.

"If we received one, we'd look at it," he said.