



Marek Polidor (5) takes a faceoff against Ohio this weekend.

Lack of physical play haunts Icers

By Greg Garcia
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State Icers head coach Scott Balboni could barely watch. Standing above his players in front of the bench, he bowed his head down in disappointment.

It wasn't the same team. The team he was accustomed to watching. There was something different about the Icers this weekend, which ultimately led to their first loss this season.

After a thrilling come from behind, 3-1, victory Friday, the Icers seemed flat on Saturday. The execution on special teams wasn't there and the level of physicality, something the Icers (6-1) usually bring game in and out, was subpar.

When asked how his team played Saturday, Balboni replied with one word, "poorly."

Any time the Icers managed to fight their way back on the scoreboard, it seemed someone was heading to the penalty box. The Icers recorded a season-high 26 minutes in the sin bin Saturday — including a 10-minute misconduct penalty from senior forward Tim O'Brien.

Balboni cited the lack of physical play due to the poor play on special teams. He said his team didn't generate enough power play chances because they were not working hard enough. When a team is not working hard, the opponent doesn't have to try and take a player down, or slash them — thus resulting in a penalty.

Instead, the Icers were the victims committing the penalty.

For first-year assistant coach Josh Hand, the Icers-Ohio

series was not what he initially expected.

"This series was not very physical," Hand said. "I heard the Penn State-Ohio rivalry was much more physical than this."

Hand thought many of the penalties were a result of mental lapses instead of playing physical. He said the mental lapses prevented the team from being aggressive and keeping the Bobcats' defense on its heels. Not only was the effort not there, but Hand explained how the process, which includes the forecheck and back check, was non-existent.

Junior forward Paul Daley said the team put themselves in a big hole by taking some of those penalties Saturday. He went on to say how good teams would make a team pay for those mistakes.

While there were numerous controversial calls, Daley refused to put the blame on he officials.

"This is our fault, no excuses," Daley said. "We can't blame the refs for what happened."

However, O'Brien saw things differently.

"I don't know, that ref I guess was just out to get us," he said. "You can't do anything about it. I don't know why he gave me 10 minutes. I was just tapping my stick at him telling him nice call."

Daley is hoping his team can move on from the loss, and prove a point the rest of the season.

"This is not the Penn State team we are," Daley said. "Now, we have to go out and show the league what we're about."

To e-mail reporter: gjg5044@psu.edu

Lady Ruggers dominate

By Greg Fernandez
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

On a chilly Saturday morning, the Penn State Lady Ruggers faced off against Princeton with three of their top contributors out due to injury.

Missing junior captain Sadie Anderson, and senior selectors Kyle Armstrong and Lisa Henneman, the team didn't skip a beat, pummeling Princeton 50-8 at the Lady Ruggers' West Pitch.

After a week of preaching about getting off to a faster start in the beginning of games, coach Pete Steinberg said he was extremely pleased with the depth and grit his team showed.

"I would say in the second half we played some of the best rugby we played all year and I think part of that is when we were without out some of our studs," Steinberg said. "Everyone had to step up and I think that was really satisfying about that game was that everyone stepped up because they didn't have to wait for Sadie, Lisa or Kyle to do something. We said we have to do something and if we can keep doing that and not relying on our best players we can be successful."

The team scored five tries each

"If they passed it, we would just hit them so it would scare them for the next time. I don't know what their strategy was, but it didn't work."

Deven Owsiany
Senior

half, constantly putting pressure in the Princeton zone as they continued their dominance through the ERPU, bringing their record to 3-0 in conference play.

Freshman Lauren Barber, filling in at fullback for Henneman, led the way with two tries as the Lady Ruggers' offense clicked for most of the game. Barber, who started her first game at fullback and displayed good bursts of speed and quickness, said the team wanted to come out strong and with a chip on their shoulder.

Senior Deven Owsiany, who filled in as captain for the injured Anderson, agreed, saying the team had been practicing on their tacking and physicality all week at practice.

"When [Princeton] had the ball and they passed, it was our goal, especially as back was just to hit them," Owsiany said. "If they passed it, we would just hit them so it would scare them for the next

time. I don't know what their strategy was, but it didn't work."

With the injury bug hitting the team this week, Owsiany said she was happy with the way some of younger players came in and played, especially against a scrappy and athletic team such as Princeton.

"I think Brie Barto, Lauren Barber and Oliva Lindsey all did well coming in and taking a leadership role with our selectors and captain out," Owsiany said. "Having our selectors and captain out gives us the ability and experience to have people step up. It doesn't matter if they are in the game though, you can still step up and be vocal."

Steinberg said this depth will help the team in the future, especially in the ERPU championships on Nov. 6-7.

"I think Princeton played really well with us in the first half, especially for a young team," Steinberg said. "But I think the depth we showed today will be big thing for us in the long run."

To e-mail the reporter:
gmf5047@psu.edu

Women swimmers start 2-0

By Dan DiBacco
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

In the first of only three home meets this season, the women's swimming and diving team made the most of it for the home crowd Saturday afternoon.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

After a dominating 174-67 win over West Virginia on Oct. 16, the Nittany Lions cruised to a comfortable 187-113 win over Virginia Tech Saturday at the McCoy Natatorium, improving to 2-0 on the season.

The Lions handed the Hokies (2-1) their first loss of the season, as impressive individual performances led the women to a big non-conference win. A win that coach John Hargis partially attributed to a tough loss to Virginia Tech last season.

"Last year against Tech, we lost a heartbreaker," Hargis said. "I think our upperclassmen definitely put that in the back of their mind."

Sophomore Amy Modglin continued her impressive start, catching her coach's attention as she dominated the 200-yard distance Saturday, taking first in the 200-freestyle, 200-backstroke, and 200-IM.

"Modglin is in a league of her own right now, she's just swimming unreal," Hargis said about her big day.

However, Modglin wasn't the only Lion to pull off the trifecta for

"Modglin is in a league of her own right now, she's just swimming unreal."

John Hargis
women's swimming coach

first-place finishes Saturday. Sophomore Paige Whitmire also grabbed three first-place finishes, as they teamed together with freshmen Rachel Butler and Mackenzie Powers to take first in the 200-medley relay.

Later in the meet, the duo teamed up with juniors Samantha Palser and Erin Thomas to take first in the 400-freestyle relay. In between the two relays, Campbell also took first in the 100-backstroke, while Whitmire grabbed first in the 50-freestyle.

Hargis said this week was one of the toughest weeks of practice he's put his team through, and he was surprised at how well his team swam, showing no signs of fatigue.

Freshman Chelsea Weedman shared her coach's sentiments. "It's exciting knowing that we're not rested at all for this, and we still swam as well as we did," Weedman said.

"I feel [the season's] going well so far." The Lions' next meet is a two-

day meet in Charlottesville, Va. on Nov. 19-20, when they take on Virginia and Big Ten foe, Indiana.

"I'm glad we have the break," Modglin said. "I think we have a lot to work on and a lot to improve on."

Hargis however does not like the four-week break between meets, but assured he will do everything he can to keep his team fresh, and have them ready.

Heading into Charlottesville undefeated is big for the Lions, from both a record and mental standpoint, and Modglin believes that it will set the tone for the rest of the season.

"This positiveness that we had [Saturday], I think is just going to roll into the next meet, and hopefully the whole season," Modglin said.

Despite the break, Hargis is already looking ahead, as he has to get his team prepared for two strong women's squads in Virginia and Indiana, but for now he's happy in the direction his team is going.

"Our schedule from here on only gets harder," Hargis said. "But, they've reacted to this point very well, and hopefully we'll continue to get better."

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