

Lady Ruggers to face tough test in Navy

By Greg Fernandez
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Last year when the Penn State Lady Ruggers faced off against Navy, the team was trounced, 41-0.

WOMEN'S RUGBY

This year, after coasting to victory in its first three conference games, Penn State will travel to Navy for a fall rematch at 1 p.m. Sunday in a matchup of two of the nation's top teams. Since the Lady Ruggers changed conferences, they wanted to make sure to play a team during the fall that would push them to the limit and prepare them for next week's

championships and the season. "It's a strategic scheduling tactic to have the team stands in the country's ranks.

"That's the first year that Navy is not in our league," Steinberg said. "It is important because we were not tested by some of the best teams in the country, but it is also important because we lost to Navy in the league the last two years and last year by 41-0. We now turned it around and beat them in the spring, but the team wants to not let the loss in the fall become a pattern."

After the loss last year to the

Midshipmen, Henneman said the players have had this game on their minds leading up to the match.

"Navy is the team we are keeping in mind all season because we know they are one of the teams that can beat us," Henneman said. "The past two fall seasons they have beat us, so naturally, we have a chip on our shoulder."

For some of the new, inexperienced players, Henneman said this will be a good chance for them to see what a real competitive rugby match looks and feels like. Steinberg said there will be a lot of flexibility in the substitutions throughout the match and hopes to let a lot of the newer players get

a chance and play against Navy's A-side.

"We have a lot of competition so this is a chance for the players to step up and show they deserve time next weekend at the EPRU championships," Steinberg said.

The team will almost be at full strength, welcoming back junior captain Sadie Anderson and senior selectors Kyle Armstrong and Lisa Henneman, who all missed the match last week against Princeton due to injury. The team, though, will be missing two of its starting props, juniors Lauren Poole and Caitlin Singletary.

With the loss of the two juniors, Steinberg said the team will be missing some of its more experi-

enced players, some size in the front line and some dynamic players.

He said sophomore Gabby O'Connor, junior Kelly Sager and senior Susan Smarto will fill in and he expects them to continue building off their good play last week end. The players hope to come out of this game with a win, but the match against Navy will be a barometer for what they will need to improve on for the rest of the season.

"This is the game that will truly test how far we have come, and also how far we have to go," Henneman said.

To e-mail reporter: gmf5047@psu.edu

Giants take 2-0 lead with shutout

By Ronald Blum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

For a team that barely made it to the playoffs, the San Francisco Giants are locking more and more like a baseball juggernaut.

BASEBALL

Matt Cain pitched 7 2-3 innings and combined with his bullpen on

a four-hitter, Edgar Renteria reprised his better success with a home run and three RBIs, and San Francisco broke away for a 9-0 win Tuesday night and a 2-0 Series lead.

"We've put ourselves in a good position," said Cain, who hasn't allowed an earned run in the post-season. "We've just got to take that confidence and some of the good approaches that we've had into

these last two games and take them down to Texas with us."

Forty of the previous 51 teams to take a 2-0 lead have gone on to win the title, including seven straight and 13 of the last 14.

After a day off, the Series resumes for the first time in Arlington, Texas. Colby Lewis starts Game 3 for the Rangers on Saturday night against Jonathan Sanchez.

Starters

From Page 13.

players who have played so many games a rest, good things will happen."

With goals from Tani Costa, Toney and Hayley Brock, the Lions got an early 3-0 lead. Walsh took the cautious approach and pulled her starters early and often throughout the game.

First off the field was midfielder Jess Rosenbluth only 17 minutes into the game with the Lions' offense.

When Naim came on, she was hit by Toney, Costa and another Lion. She scored.

At the 30th minute, the entire bench was cheering from the sidelines as their replacements kept them in by keeping the intensity

high and pushing the lead. "I was so excited and we were so close to a title tonight," Naim said.

"I was nervous, but we could get things done really quick. I was on the bench did a lot of things, and the game going well, it was great."

During the second half, Walsh pulled out her 11 starters and substituted in Jess Rosenbluth and Toney.

"I didn't take long for me to get going, I was coming off the bench and I was on a picture of me."

Costa goal in the second half. "I was so excited and we were so close to a title tonight," Naim said.

Costa goal in the second half. "I was so excited and we were so close to a title tonight," Naim said.

the four defenders were all zipped up again on the sideline watching their teammates finish off the Hoosiers.

With hopes to win the Big Ten for a 13th straight year still alive, Thursday's early dominance was crucial in giving Walsh a well-rested squad to go into West Lafayette, Ind. over the weekend.

"It felt really great because we have a tough game coming up this Sunday against Purdue," Costa said. "It felt great, not only for our starters to get the early goals, but allowing our bench and everyone to last get a chance to play and prove themselves on the field."

"I think we did a really good job supporting each other. We put ourselves in a great position for Sunday."

To e-mail reporter: ada147@psu.edu

Big Ten

From Page 13.

despite winning the last national championship, the Big Ten is in a down cycle. North Carolina is coming off a 11-game unbeaten record, and Boston College, Clemson and Wake Forest all underwent off-season roster changes.

In the Big East, which now has eight teams to the NCAA tournament last year, goals are set for one of the league's top 10 schools from a year ago.

The lone returner is the University of Providence, which finished second to last in the Big East last year.

As for the Big Ten, with the exception of Evan Turner, the only player who has played in the tournament is Robert Hummel, who is a senior

in his final year of eligibility in his conference. "I've been playing a year in the Big Ten, and I've had four national titles in my career. Ohio State has had four national titles, and I've been a contributor in all of them. I've been tabbed as a national contender."

That stability in the Big Ten has allowed coaches like Wisconsin's Bo Ryan (10th season), Michigan State's Tom Izzo (16th season) and Northwestern's Bill Carmody (11th season) to build up their programs.

As a result, as many as seven Big Ten teams could make the tournament, which has happened only twice since 2000.

"There's going to be no weak sisters in the Big Ten," Izzo said at Big Ten Media Day.

To e-mail reporter: jps5226@psu.edu

Revenge

From Page 13.

outdated Purdue in West Lafayette, Ind. for the first time since 1987.

One night later, the Navy Lions suffered another surprising upset defeat to an unranked team, this time in Bloemfontein against Indiana, which had never beaten Penn State in 40 matchups.

Penn State has played better since its last two losses, entering tonight on a four-match winning streak and winners of 84 consecutive matches at home dating back to 2005.

But Penn State coach Russ Rose isn't keen on talking about revenge. He just wants his team to play better than the last time it lined up opposite the Hoosiers and the Beermakers.

"I never talk about revenge or something like that," Rose said. "That doesn't make sense. This isn't a gang war. It's college athletics." "We're disappointed in how we played, and, at least from my standpoint, the other teams

are going to win and we're going to lose. Purdue are going to win and we're going to lose. Both received a bye last week's AVCA national tournament.

Over the weekend, the Hoosiers won its last six games, including a sweep of No. 10 Penn State last Friday. The Hoosiers' lead by senior middle linebacker Jackson, who is first in the Big Ten in blocks per game, and is tied for first in the Big Ten in both sacks and trailing only Virginia Tech's Ariele Wilson. Jackson is the reigning AVCA national player of the week.

Wilson's best performance against the Hoosiers, he matched 12 kills on the Hoosiers' frontage. The Hoosiers' lead by Penn State in the Big Ten, however, was serviceable.

Wilson's best performance against the Hoosiers, he matched 12 service kills on the Hoosiers' frontage.

Wilson's best performance against the Hoosiers, he matched 12 service kills on the Hoosiers' frontage.

"It's another match for us," said D'Errio, who is coming on one of her best matches of the season against Northwestern last Saturday in which she recorded 18 digs.

"We're at a good building point in our season right now and things are starting to fall together and we're looking at each match as one match at a time. Obviously it's in the back of our minds that they beat us, but it's not a revenge type situation."

In third place in the conference standings, Penn State is two games ahead of both Indiana (17-5 5-5) and Purdue (14-7 5-5) and could gain even more ground in the Big Ten with two wins this weekend.

"It's not revenge. It's a lot of 'Do a better job this time,'" senior middle hitter Fatima Balza said. "We know that last time we played against them, we didn't play as well as we're supposed to. We didn't play together. Now, this time, we're going to show everything we have right now."

To e-mail reporter: jyk5142@psu.edu

Women's Soccer

From Page 13.

Field. Entering the game, the forward was third on the team with three goals, but after her hat trick, she was tied with midfielder Christine Nairn for the team lead with six.

"It felt amazing. It was just great getting three goals out there tonight and scoring half of my goals for the season," Costa said. "It just felt really good. It was a good confidence booster."

Just over four and a half minutes later, senior Dani Toney had a shot saved out to Nairn's feet and the sophomore cracked an attempt in that was blocked by a Hoosier defender.

Nairn didn't have to move as the ball came right back to her and she put the second try past the goalkeeper, who had been pulled off her line. The goal was set up by senior midfielder Megan Monroig, who drew Indiana's defense to the end line before dishing off to Toney.

"Monroig did all the hard work getting it baseline and cutting it across then Tani just got in the way of everyone to let the ball pop out to me," Nairn said. "I just placed it. I hit the girl in the stomach the first time but then put it away."

After halftime, Costa went back to work.

Just 2:02 into the second half, Costa hustled in after a shot and was rewarded when Hoosiers keeper Shannon Flower lost her handle on the ball. Costa corralled the loose ball, turned and took a touch across the middle before placing a shot to the far post of the open net.

Despite holding a four-goal lead, the Lions kept pressing and Costa completed her hat trick less than four minutes later. Toney played a low cross in front of the net that Costa one-timed into the net.

It wasn't first time the Hawaiian had three goals in a game, but this one meant a little

"It was a good confidence booster."

Tani Costa
forward

more given the way Costa has had to work her way into the rotation this year.

The forward said it was between the PK and her second goal for her favorite of the night, but the penalty kick put her in the right mindset.

"The coaches at the beginning of the season said on PKs it's between me, Christine and Ali Schaefer," Costa said.

"It goes to whoever's feeling confident and who will make it takes it. I got the foul and I said 'I know I can do it' and Christine let me have it. Then I put it away."

Penn State coach Erica Walsh called the win a professional performance, and said all the pieces fell into place for the Lions.

In Costa, the Lions have a physical forward who complements the lightning-quick trio of Toney, Hayley Brock and Maya Hayes. When Costa stepped up for the penalty-kick, Walsh said she had plenty of confidence the forward would drain it. Walsh said Costa is a natural-goal scorer and Thursday's performance was nothing new from the red-shirt freshman.

"She does that every day in training, literally every day," Walsh said. "We've just been waiting for that to translate into goals in games and it's starting to finally."

Sophomore Maddy Evans, Costa's close friend and roommate last year, was glad to see the forward's work finally be rewarded.

"I'm so happy, she deserves it so much and she wants it more than anyone too," Evans said.

"It was so exciting to see her get it and I'm so happy for her and I think we're going to see a lot more of that."

To e-mail reporter: adr5079@psu.edu

Icers

From Page 13.

Immediately following the goal, Hume was replaced in net by sophomore Dan Ivanir, who shut out Liberty for the rest of the game.

"Teddy getting pulled is 100 percent our fault, both forwards and defensemen," O'Brien said. "We need to clean up our defensive zone, and we can't have turnovers like that because it could cost us like it obviously did tonight."

Trailing in the game, one Icers player began to set the tone physically.

In his first shift after the Flame's third goal, junior forward Paul Daley stepped on the ice and delivered three consecutive big checks to different Liberty players.

His play continued in the third. After finishing a check in the neutral zone, the puck slipped out to O'Brien, who deposited his first goal of the game to knot the score at three. Daley finished with three assists on the night, all to O'Brien.

"I knew midway through the second period we weren't playing to the intensity we wanted

to," Daley said. "When they went ahead 3-2, I just wanted to go out and throw the body around and get the team going and get them motivated. I thought I did a good job of that even though it was pretty tiring."

Daley wasn't the only player playing physically. Midway through the first period, while in the penalty kill, sophomore defenseman Rich O'Brien finished a check on a Flame player, hitting him through the glass and causing an approximate eight minute delay.

"I've never put anyone through the glass before," O'Brien said. "I didn't really notice what happened until I heard the whistle and skated over to see what it was."

Penn State and Liberty will return to the Greenberg Ice Pavilion tonight at 9 to play the final game in their two-game series.

"Obviously our goal is to sweep for the weekend," Balboni said.

"Right now I'm just looking out coming out and playing hard from the start, taking it one period at a time and we'll see what we got."

To e-mail reporter: acb5152@psu.edu

Wrestling

From Page 13.

incoming class will mark the second top-three recruiting class in the last two years for Penn State.

Despite the accolades this recruiting class has received, Sanderson knows it will be the leadership of his upperclassmen that can make or break the season. Sanderson said the team can not throw too much on the freshman at once, and will look to let his more experienced players teach the newcomers the way of Penn State wrestling.

"It starts in practice," Sanderson said. "I look toward the

upperclassmen to show off a good attitude in general, and a great level of confidence. I want these freshmen to buy into what we tell them as a staff, and when they step on the mat to know that they represent Penn State like they have been here for two or three years."

Redshirt junior and two-time All-American, Frank Molinaro, said it is the responsibility of the older guys to come in and show the younger guys how to wrestle. "Whether it is in the gym in practice, or tips in the locker room, Molinaro said the younger guys look up to the upperclassmen to make sure they are not slacking.

"When I was a freshman I remember getting beat down," Molinaro said.

"So when these freshmen come in we need to beat them down, because soon enough these new guys may be beating us down. We need to get them while we still can."

Redshirt sophomore Quentin Wright shared the same opinion as Molinaro, but left one particular redshirt freshman out of his target list. That man would be Ed Ruth.

"He is one guy that will never get the freshman tears from getting beat on," Wright said.

Sanderson has extremely high expectations for Ruth this season who will wrestle at 174 pounds.

Sanderson said Ruth, along with redshirt freshman David Taylor will be in the mix right away.

"Ruth is going to be a lot of fun to watch this year," Sanderson said. "He's a very special talent and competitor and he will be a fan favorite. That is tough to do on the team that we have."

Ruth said seniors such as Brad Pataky really work the younger players hard to get the most out of them.

He pointed especially to Pataky, whose motor never stops in practice situations.

"He will just keep coming after you," Ruth said. "He looks at everyone as an opponent, teammate or not."

Andrew Alton said the most important thing to him is to just have the upperclassmen lead, by example. He said the older guys will get together with the freshmen for poker games and just to hang out. Alton said he already feels completely comfortable with the team.

Redshirt junior Cameron Wade said he thinks the freshman class is competitive enough to be able to work hard on its own when the feet hit the Rec Hall mat.

"They may need some more prep talk before their first match, but any of these guys could have a huge year," Wade said.

To e-mail reporter: bmg5094@psu.edu