

Lions' season ends with OT loss to Syracuse

By Zach Fleagle
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With all zeros on the clock, the underdog Nittany Lion field hockey team was awarded a penalty corner and a chance to advance to the second round of the NCAA tournament.

FIELD HOCKEY

Jess Longstreth passed the ball out to the top of the circle, Hannah Allison took the shot and Syracuse goalkeeper Leann Stiver made the initial save while players scrambled to find possession. The goal didn't come to be as the Lions fell to the Orange in the opening game of the NCAA tournament, 2-1, at AstroTurf Field Saturday, when Lindsay Conrad

put away a rebound in overtime moving No. 4-ranked Syracuse to the next round.

But well before the overtime period and long before their penalty corner chance as time expired, the Lions battled not only a top-ranked team, but also themselves.

Seven minutes into the game, the Lions lost their No. 1 goal scorer and points leader, Kelsey Amy, to a red card.

Amy was racing down the right sideline, as she so often does, drawing a penalty corner when Syracuse's Nicole Nelson knocked her off the ball.

Soon after the call was made, Nelson, possibly frustrated with the call, cross-checked Amy, knocking her to the ground.

Amy jumped up to defend herself but did not physically retaliate.

As expected Nelson earned a red card for her actions, however the official wasn't finished dishing out the punishment. To the surprise of coach Char Morett and the Penn State faithful in the stands, Amy also received a red card, kicking both players out of the game and the winning team's player for the following game Sunday.

The official's decision left the Lions shorthanded. But even without the Big Ten's third-leading goal scorer, Morett said she was proud of the way her team battled.

"I couldn't ask any more of this team, they just fought so hard," Morett said. "We had to convert on the opportunities we had, but I think we were just running out of gas a little bit."

The team was just as surprised as Morett when it found out it would be without the services of its leading scorer, but senior captain Daneen Zug said the Lions had to refocus if they wanted to have any chance of winning.

"I was obviously very upset that Kelsey wouldn't be on the field for the rest of the game," Zug said. "But I knew that we couldn't lose our heads. As a team we had to come together and realize we're down a player, but so are they."

As they buckled down in an adjustment to their new game plan, the Lions fought off multiple

Orange opportunities in the second half and scored on one of their 10 penalty corner attempts.

But in the end, their efforts came up short when Syracuse tallied the winning goal in the 78th minute.

And although the season was shorter than she would have liked, Zug said she has no regrets.

"Looking back I'm sure we could have done a lot of different things," the senior captain said. "I thought we came out really strong in overtime and we dominated that time." "Things don't always go your way so they came down and got one in but our performance this year, and that game especially, was excellent so you can't be upset with anything."

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Freshman's win sparks victory over No. 15 Lehigh

By Brandt Gelman
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When true freshman Frank Martellotti arrived at Penn State this year, he did not expect to be in the position he is now.

WRESTLING

Senior Brad Pataky, a national qualifier last year, was slated to start at the 125-pound weight class this season, but after Pataky suffered a sprained knee in the off-season, Martellotti emerged as the starter.

Penn State

Lehigh

After an impressive 11-6 victory over Lehigh senior Mitch Berger on Sunday at Rec Hall, which sparked Penn State's 21-17 victory over the No. 15 ranked Mountain Hawks, Martellotti has begun to turn some heads within the team.

"Frank went out there and really scored big for us," coach Cael Sanderson said. "His match was one of the swing matches for the entire meet."

In front of a crowd of more than 5,500 people, Martellotti stepped on the mat and dominated the opening match from start to finish. He said he fed off the energy of the crowd, and added he could get

used to the atmosphere Penn State provides because, at Shady Side Academy in Pittsburgh, there was not a large wrestling following.

Martellotti's fast start set the pace for the team which won three of the first five matches before halftime, including pins by freshmen Andrew Alton and David Taylor.

Before Alton took the mat Penn State trailed Lehigh, 4-3, but Penn State took the lead for good 1:21 later after Alton pinned Lehigh freshman Stephen Dutton on a lightning quick reverse move.

"He is obviously gifted," Sanderson said of Alton. "He has great skills, which make things look so easy for him. He's going to be a lot of fun the rest of the year."

Alton wrestled with a purpose on Sunday as a large contingency from his hometown in Mill Hall made the trip to watch him wrestle. Gloria Bowers, an art teacher at Alton's alma mater of Central Mountain High School, said she has been watching Alton wrestle for the last four years and could not be more proud of him.

"When I was in the stands I was yelling, 'Go Andrew,'" Bowers said.

"When someone turned around and asked if I was his mom, I told her I wasn't, and that was just how everyone from Mill Hall feels about Andrew."

Taylor said he was inspired by Alton's performance as he took the mat.

He said he normally starts to warm up right around the 141-pound match, which is Alton's weight class.

The two freshmen train together and know they will both play an intricate role for the Nittany Lions this season.

"I was talking to Andrew before the match," Taylor said. "We both knew we would have to get bonus points for the team in what would be a close match."

Taylor pinned his opponent, senior Sean Bilodeau, in 3:33, and proceeded to walk across the entire mat waving his arms to pump up the crowd, prompting everyone in attendance to give Taylor a standing ovation. Sanderson said Taylor brings a lot of fire and enthusiasm with him, which pumps up the entire team.

"For the last year I have been thinking about my first home match," Taylor said. "And it could not have gone any better. To finally get out there and get that pin, it was just the perfect moment."

Penn State took a 15-7 lead into the half, and hoped to ride the momentum Taylor provided through the rest of the match. As the match progressed into the higher weight classes, Penn State began to struggle losing each of the last three matches.

Redshirt sophomores Justin Ortega and No. 3-ranked 184-pounder Quentin Wright were unable to defeat their opponents, losing 8-0 and 4-3, respectively. No. 9 Junior Cameron Wade fell in overtime to Lehigh junior Zach Rey, the No. 1-ranked heavyweight in the country, in one of the most anticipated matches of the day.

While Penn State will look toward finishing matches

stronger, the team will be happy with its first victory over Lehigh in the last three years.

"What we look for is effort and attitude," Sanderson said. "We didn't see that in the last three matches and that is a problem. We just need to work on the little things, it is still early in the season."

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Frank Martellotti (right) grapples with Lehigh's Mitch Berger Sunday.

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