

Soccer Starts Slow

by Sue Moreno
The Collegian

The Penn State Behrend Men's Soccer Team suffered three discouraging defeats their first three games of the season, despite the hard work and talent displayed by the players.

"Two of our first three games were against the toughest

teams on our schedule," said Dave Moyak a second year forward for the Lions.

In the opening game of the season against Allegheny college, a Division II rival, the lions lost 4-0. Three days later they faced Pitt-Johnstown, only to be shut-out 5-0. Their third loss was to S.U.N.Y. Fredonia by a score of 4-0.

Although they remain winless, Coach Grace states "Its

an attribute to be 0-3 and still have a positive attitude. These losses give us more expectations and make us work harder." Hard work is a highly rated value on this relatively young team.

The team is lead by their three captains, Rick Nese, forward, Shan Fleming, defense and Vince Pedraza, forward.

Last year's team ended up with a record of 3-11 and fourteen players. This year they have

twenty -three players and Coach Grace is looking at the freshmen and returning players to come through for the lions.

Coach Grace said " I am real excited to come back. Last year we had seven overtime games, which showed the players; we were right there."

" Our record doesn't reflect the way we play " says Sean Tucker a sophomore on the team.

During the Fredonia game

Vinnie Pedraza, Mark Furelli and Alan Cornell ,all forwards, had several shots on goal. Coach Grace says" the team has good chemistry, they work well together. The work rate is good."

The team has the potential and talent to be successful. With an addition of ten freshmen, the team only has good things to look forward to.

Coach Grace sites bad scheduling and many injuries as factors to the losses. The Lions' lost their starting goalie, Brett Erway, Saturday when he broke his leg against Baldwin-Wallace.

One thing that holds the Lions together is Coach Grace himself, as he stands behind the team and encourages everyone to play their best.

As Rusty Brown, a sophomore forward said about Coach Grace, "He keeps us fighting. He keeps our hopes alive."

Looking forward to the rest of the season, the Coach's one goal for the team is,"to be as good as we can be,, and play as hard as we can play...."

Sophomore Forward Bill Verdecchia said, "soon everything is going to come together and we will start to click. When that happens watch out!"

Come out and encourage the team to a victory during their next home game which is this Saturday at 1:00 against Brockport.

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