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Women's soccer can't be stopped

Victory puts Rock on verge of sixth-straight playoff appearance

By Brandon Fox
Rocket Sports Editor

The Slippery Rock women's soccer team is on the brink of its sixth-straight Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference playoff berth.

The Rock (10-1-0, 6-0-0), which is ranked fourth in the country, has won all six PSAC-West games this season, including last Thursday's thrilling 3-2 victory over archrival Indiana (Pa.) (5-3-0, 2-3-0) and Wednesday afternoon's 3-1 triumph over California (Pa.).

Sandwiched in between those wins was a 2-0 blanking of PSAC-East opponent Millersville.

In the Green and White's win over IUP, Meghan McGrath put the Rock up 2-0 in the first 20 minutes of the game after netting her seventh and eighth goals of the year.

It took only four minutes for SRU to find the net, as McGrath converted an assist from Danielle Cooper.

Then, 16 minutes later, McGrath again found the back of the net, this time converting assists from Melisa Sharek and Courtney Hoover.

"We put ourselves in great position to get up 2-0," Rock Head Coach Noreen Herlihy said.

IUP came roaring back with a penalty-shot goal by Carina Honeygosky in the 25th minute.

"It was a defensive error," Herlihy said.



Senior Jaimi Wilson nails a corner kick during the Rock's 2-0 victory over PSAC-East opponent Millersville. The Rock, unbeaten in six PSAC-West games, currently holds an eight-point lead in the West. A win Saturday over Edinboro would virtually lock-up a playoff berth for SRU.

"There was a back pass to the keeper and they read it and were quick to capitalize on it. Their girl was supposedly taken down in the box by Lauren (McManus), which gave them the PK."

Indiana tied the game 10 minutes later when McManus failed to collect a loose

ball after rejecting the initial shot. The game would remain tied until the 87th minute, when freshman Ashley Paganie took a short corner and drilled the game-winner just out of the reach of IUP goalie Kelsey Dowling.

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Volleyball gets bounced by Cal

By Phil Swartzlander
Rocket Assistant Sports Editor

The Slippery Rock women's volleyball team lost its fourth straight Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference game with a 3-0 loss to California (Pa.) at Morrow Field House on Tuesday night.

The Rock dropped the match to a tough Cal team by scores of 30-28, 30-23 and 30-13, slowly falling apart throughout the match.

In the first game, the Rock fell behind by a score of 24-20, but after a timeout, the team regrouped to bring the score to 28-26. Cal took a timeout to slow the pace and regroup.

The Rock could not complete the comeback as they could not string points together and they lost game one 30-28.

The team's youthful inexperience began to show as The Rock fell behind by as many as five points, at 20-15, in the second game.

They rallied back within two, at 21-19, but then the wheels fell off and The Rock lost five straight



Anastasia Urbanik passes the ball during Tuesday's loss to California (Pa.). The loss was SRU's fourth-straight in PSAC play.

points to make the score 27-20 before eventually falling 30-23.

In a two-game hole, the team showed its inexperience again as it made multiple mistakes and helped Cal finish off the Rock 30-13.

Coach Laurie Lokash said that the team

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Tennis duo falls short of nationals

By Josh Rizzo
Rocket Contributor

A pair of Slippery Rock women's tennis players nearly served up an ace at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's East Regional tournament.

Sisters Kayla and Samantha Blackburn finished second in the "A" doubles bracket.

The Blackburn sisters dropped the championship match to California U. of Pa.'s top team, 6-4, 6-1.

Winning would have advanced the Blackburn sisters to the

ITA Small College National Championships.

The Rock has not had a pair qualify for the ITA National Championship since Ashley Michaux and Jessica Bungo qualified in 2003.

The Blackburn sisters played doubles together while at Chestnut Ridge High School.

Kayla is a junior, while younger sister Samantha is currently a freshman. Samantha enjoys playing doubles with her older sister in college.

"I think we work well together," Sam said. "We have a great opportunity to win the

Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference doubles title."

The sisters are currently SRU's No.1 ranked doubles team. Individually, Kayla is No. 1 for singles, while Samantha is No. 3.

SRU other doubles team in the "A" bracket which featured Jessica Hilborn and Laura Handy also won their first round match-up.

The Rock did not fare nearly as well in singles competition. In the "A" singles bracket, only Hilborn advanced past the first round. Three of the four Rock women lost in their first match after receiving byes in the first round.

In the "B" singles bracket,

SRU fared a little bit better with two players advancing past the first round. Kelly Stenger and Christina Rhoades both won their first round matches, but also fell in second round competition.

Coach Matt Meredith believes his team could have performed better.

"I believe we could have done better, but we still have the second best team in the region," Meredith said. "We have a young team and need to get match tough."

SRU (3-0) had a match at West Liberty State yesterday, but the results were unavailable at the time of print.

Bandwagon fans not fans at all



BRANDON FOX

From The Cheap Seats

I am now in my sixth year at SRU. I have seen a lot of things in the time it took me to get my degree, many of which have gotten me fired up. One of those things is a bandwagon fan, namely the Pittsburgh Penguins or Steelers kind.

Let me start by saying that I salute the true fans of Pittsburgh. The ones that have been around cheering through the lean years that the Penguins and Steelers have endured, the ones that live and die with the Black and Gold.

There are some fans however that give die-hard fans a bad name. It's not only happening in Pittsburgh, but all over the country. These "fans" only come out and cheer when the going is good. I like to call them "feel-good

fans" because they only cheer when everything feels good.

Take, for example the Boston Red Sox, of which I am a die-hard fan. I grew up loving them. I suffered through the heartbreaking losses and the Aaron "F--ing" Boone homerun. Now, granted, I don't live in Boston, so I can't tell you what they had to be going through until 2004, but I can tell you this: After the Red Sox won the 2004 World Series, it seemed as if EVERYBODY was a part of Red Sox Nation. You saw shirts and hats being worn by people who just wanted to be part of the feel-good story. They weren't true fans at all. They were simply bandwagon jumpers.

It happens all the time. A team wins and suddenly its fan base grows by a few million.

Let me go back to the Steelers. They won the Super Bowl in 2006. Jerome Bettis finally got the ring he coveted, and better yet, he got it in his hometown of Detroit. During their run to the Super Bowl, the Steelers picked up some fans. Fans who claim they love the Steelers, yet when they struggle, are the first to put away the gear and state that they never liked

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Overtime loss snaps Rock soccer's streak

By Erin Fisher
Rocket Contributor

In a game full of missed opportunities, California (Pa.) University snapped the unbeaten streak held by the Slippery Rock men's soccer team with a 2-1 triumph.

The setback dropped the Rock's record to 5-2-2 in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference and 6-3-2 overall.

California outshot SRU, 6-3, but the Rock had plenty of opportunities in and around the box, including eight fouls on California to use to their advantage.

"The little things that we were doing that made us better, we just weren't doing," Rock Head Coach Matt Thompson said.

Midway through the first half, California capitalized on a pass in the box by Pedro Palladino. Felipe Souza, who had four total shots on goal, knocked the ball over the head of Rock goalie Chris Cook.

Minutes later, it looked as though Jeremy Deighton would tie the score on a breakaway, but the SRU forward was taken down by a Vulcan defender.

Senior forward Ed Mocarsky was officially credited with the lone Slippery Rock goal, but it was truly a team effort. Freshman Mitchell Walters received the ball deep in Vulcan territory and crossed it, the ball landing at the feet of Iain Langstone. Langstone dropped the ball back to Mocarsky in the box, who then fired it past goalkeeper Derek Yobbi.

Mocarsky's goal came with a minute to play in the first half, leaving the score tied at 1-1.



Rock senior midfielder Steve Perri fights past a Millersville defender in Saturday's 1-0 victory. The win extended SRU's unbeaten streak to eight, before Wednesday's 2-1 overtime loss at California (Pa.).

Thompson gave the team a well-needed pep talk at halftime, he said.

"We told them to show some passion, and play with heart," Thompson said.

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