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Women's soccer bounces back against Lock Haven

Stays atop regional poll, climbs two spots to No. 5 nationally

By **Brandon Fox**
Rocket Sports Editor

Heading into Saturday's "crossover" with Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference East opponent Kutztown (3-2-1, 0-2-1), the Rock, who were ranked no. 7 nationally at the time, had gotten out of the gate quickly and cleanly.

SRU finally stumbled. Their stumble came in the form of a controversy filled 3-1 loss at Kutztown. The Rock (6-1, 4-0) was clearly the better team on the field, but a combination of bad calls, poor defense and an inability to score landed SRU its first defeat of the season. "We just gave away two major goals early," Head Coach Noreen Herlihy said. "We made two huge defensive errors and they punished us for it. but it is something we have to learn

from. If we do that, we will be ok."

Herlihy also pointed to some poor calls by the referees as a reason the Rock struggled.

"When you complain it seems like a cop-out, but truthfully the calls made no sense," Herlihy said. "When that happens and your in attack mode if frustrates you, it's a natural reaction."

A loss is always tough to swallow, but Herlihy was still pleased with her teams effort.

"I am so proud of the girls because they never gave up," Herlihy said. "We were pinning the ball in their end, but the calls and the goals just didn't go our way."

During the game SRU was called of an unbelievable nine offsides while also losing leading scorer Meghan McGrath after she was given two yellow cards and sent off in the second half. The Rock

was also without sophomore defender Alexis Chiani, who sat out the game with a knee injury.

While the Rock may have stumbled on Saturday, they did not fall in Wednesday nights PSAC-West match up with Lock Haven (2-5-1, 1-2-1), although it looked as if they were headed in that direction.

The Rock won the game 2-1 in overtime, but had to come from behind to notch the victory. After an Arielle Gordon goal that beat Rock goaltender Lauren McManus late in the first half, it looked as though the green & white were headed for their second loss in a row.

Trailing 1-0 in the 84th minute junior Mallory Neubert took a pass for Meggie Howard in buried it into the back of the net, beating Lock Haven goalie Emily Wagner on the right side, to tie the game a 1-1.



LUKE LUBICH/THE ROCKET
Freshman midfielder Whitney Warmus (No. 5) plays a ball during Wednesday's 2-1 overtime victory over Lock Haven. Warmus was one of seven freshmen used by Head Coach Noreen Herlihy, who was without leading scorer Meghan McGrath.

"Once we scored that goal, we knew we were going to win that game," Herlihy said. "They began to play

defensively late in the game, because they would have been happy coming out of the game with the draw."

The Rock had a few more scoring opportunities in the

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Men's soccer stays hot at home

Tops undefeated Lock Haven with fourth straight win

By **Erin Fisher**
Rocket Contributor

The Slippery Rock men's soccer team battled to add another tally to the win column Wednesday afternoon as they took on Lock Haven University in a Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference game at N. Kerr Thompson Stadium.

The Rock entered the contest undefeated in its last four games, while Lock Haven had not lost a PSAC match-up in five games, but none of that seemed to bother Slippery Rock.

"We don't think about that," Rock Head Coach Matt Thompson said. "We just take it game by game."

In a tough contest, the Rock was able to triumph over the Bald Eagles with a goal early in the second half.

The goal proved to be all the team would need, as the Rock picked up the 1-0 win to improve to 4-2-1 overall and 3-1-1 in the PSAC.

Despite a valiant effort on both sides, neither team was able to put the ball in the back of the net during the first half. Lock Haven outshot Slippery Rock, 10-9.

The Rock came out energized and ready to play the second half, as senior midfielder Nick Christy capitalized on an opportunity in front of the net less than one minute into the half.



SAMANTHA CHALMERS/THE ROCKET
Derek Angus leaps over Lock Haven forward Doug Moran (No. 18) while Iain Langstone (No. 9) looks on during first half action Wednesday. Angus and the Rock improved to 4-2-1 overall and 3-1-1 in the PSAC with the win over the Bald Eagles.

The assists came from Ed Mocarsky and Jeremy Deighton.

"You just go out there and do what you gotta do," Mocarsky said. "We played as a team and gave 110 percent the whole time."

Christy's goal, just 15 seconds in the half, is the quickest goal to start a half this year in the PSAC.

The Rock got off 10 more shots on goal in an attempt to secure the victory. "A second goal would have been ideal, so that I could relax a little," Thompson said with a laugh. "But it was a first class performance."

Christy finished the game with four shots, two of which were on net. Iain Langstone added six more shots, and Deighton had three. Senior Steve Perri left the game early with an injury.

The game was physical, but an excellent display of soccer, Thompson said.

"It was a fantastic performance. This is the best effort I have seen all season. We are finally coming together as a team."

Freshman goalkeeper Greg Blum managed to get a hand on all seven of Lock Haven's shots on goal to earn his third collegiate win while posting his second shutout of the season.

The loss moved Lock Haven to 4-1-0 in the PSAC.

Lock Haven came into the contest tied for first place in the conference with East Stroudsburg.

"It was a solid performance all around," Thompson said. "We said we wanted to change the formation and attack more, and we did."

The Rock extended its winning streak last weekend after defeating PSAC opponent Kutztown by a 4-1 margin. Racking up goals for Slippery Rock were Mocarsky, Perri, Christy, and Deighton.

"The first half we didn't play so well," Mocarsky said. "But the second half we played how we wanted to play."

The men will travel to West Chester (5-2, 4-1), who have not lost to the Rock during Matt Thompson's reign as coach, this weekend for the third of eight straight PSAC tilts.

The Rock, who currently sits fourth in the PSAC trails West Chester by two points for third place. A win Saturday would vault the green and white into sole possession of third.

They will return home next Monday to take on Shippensburg (1-4-1, 1-3-1) on Bob DiSpirito Field at N. Kerr Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 3 p.m.



CHARISE LUTZ/THE ROCKET
Anastasia Urbanik sets the ball during the Rock's PSAC-West loss to rival Clarion. The Rock dropped the match by a score of 3-1.

Volleyball going through early growing pains

By **Haley Gaidosh**
Rocket Contributor

A slow but steady learning process seems to be the theme of the Rock Volleyball team's season.

After last weekend's tournament at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the loss of the first Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference-West match against undefeated Clarion, the Rock volleyball team carries an 8-4 overall record and an 0-1 mark in the conference.

Head Coach Laurie Lokash was very pleased with the defensive play of her squad, which went 3-0 at the IUP tournament.

Lokash said the team started off a little slow and hesitant, but picked it up and played a lot stronger as the tournament wore on.

"Defensively, we are outplaying everyone," Lokash said. "We maybe did not play the strongest teams last weekend, but once we get started, we play our level of volleyball no matter who the opponent is."

Junior Anastasia Urbanik, who had 31 kills in the tournament, said that the hitting was definitely getting better, along with the consistency and flow of the game.

"We used to be up and down, but this past weekend we leveled off a little bit," she said. "Our defense still isn't where it could be, but it will happen."

Junior Jen Blasko led the team with 36 kills at IUP and also noted the better flow of the team.

"We played a lot better together and the setting is coming along slowly but surely," Blasko said.

The Rock again came out sluggish in their first PSAC West match against Clarion, losing 3-1 on Tuesday evening.

"The first home conference game gives natural reason for being hesitant and tentative," Lokash said.

Senior Louise Schultz had 13 kills and, along with Keira Peoples, shared team-high honors for blocks with three each. She said the team seemed to struggle out of the gate this season.

"It's like we need a warm-up game to get us going," Schultz said.

SRU fell 30-26 in the first game and bounced back in the second with a 30-24 victory.

Mental mistakes proved costly, as SRU fell to Clarion (11-0, 1-0) in the third and

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SAMANTHA CHALMERS/THE ROCKET
Junior forward Iain Langstone (No. 9) fights for a header during second-half action in SRU's 1-0 shutout of Lock Haven.