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## Men's basketball drops back-to-back road heartbreakers

By Phil Swartzlander  
Rocket Assistant Sports Editor

The SRU men's basketball team lost two close games against PSAC crossover opponents West Chester University and Millersville University on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

With seven minutes remaining in the second half against Millersville, the Rock led 57-44 and then led by six with a minute and a half left.

But then Millersville used a smothering defense to create three turnovers and scored six points to tie the game.

"We knew the pressure was coming, but it was too much and we just threw it away," Rock Head Coach Jamal Palmer said. "We probably should have called time out."

In the first overtime, SRU had a three-point lead with just over 30 seconds remaining, when Millersville hit a game tying three-pointer to

send the game into double overtime.

The Rock had no chance in the second overtime as the Marauders scored seven unanswered points to pull away from the Rock, which ultimately dropped the contest 81-77 to the defending PSAC champions.

"To play on the road against the best team in the conference and one of the best in the country is tough," Palmer said.

Millersville boasts two excellent guards in Reggie Bates and Charlie Parker, both of whom were the focus of SRU's defense.

The Rock did a good job of shutting down Parker, an all-PSAC player, but Bates torched the Rock for 36 points.

"We had a hand in the face of Reggie all night long, he just made tough shots," Palmer said.

Rock junior guard Erroll Robinson led the team in

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## Reagan reigns supreme

Captures PSAC's Cross Country Athlete of the Year honors

By Josh Rizzo  
Rocket Contributor

Imagine running on a team with someone you looked up to.

SRU junior Pat Reagan is doing just that.

Reagan said he has looked up to teammate and three time All-American Jeff Weiss since high school. In high school, Reagan and Weiss ran in the same competitions, with Weiss often finishing a minute and a half in front of Reagan.

Both runners came to SRU, with Weiss becoming The Rock's top cross country runner. However, Reagan worked hard with Weiss, with whom he had formed a close friendship. And Reagan's hard work paid off in 2007.

Reagan earned his first accolade after winning the SRU Invitational. He was named Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference's men's cross country Athlete of the Week for the week of Oct. 8.

Reagan was right in stride with Weiss on Sept. 15 at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Invitational on Sept. 15. Five SRU runners, Weiss and Reagan included, crossed the finish line at the same time, with Kevin Dustin winning the race.

Reagan and the rest of the Rock men managed to continue their success throughout the year and advanced to the Division II National Championship meet as a team for the first time in 16 seasons.

Reagan, however, shined brightest on the big stage.

At the Division II National Championship race, Reagan placed 12th, finishing in front



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rock cross country runner Pat Reagan was named PSAC Cross Country Athlete of the Year, to go along with his All-American status that he earned with a 12th-place finish in the Division II Championships held Nov. 17 in Joplin, Mo.

of any other SRU runner, with the next closest being Weiss, who finished 37th.

For his effort, Reagan earned All-American honors and was named PSAC men's cross country Athlete of the

Year.

Despite his long list of personal achievements, Reagan has a very modest take on his accomplishments.

"I thought going into the national championship race,

I could finish in the top 15 if I ran the race of my life," Reagan said. "I didn't expect to get the (PSAC men's cross country Athlete of the Year)

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### Winter Break Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
12/18	@ Kutztown	8 p.m
12/19	@ ESU	8 p.m
12/23	@ Ashland	8 p.m
12/29	@ Youngstown St.	8 p.m
1/6	vs. Bloomsburg	8 p.m
1/13	vs. Mansfield	8 p.m

## Women's basketball ravaged on road

### Rock suffers back-to-back blowout losses

By Josh Rizzo  
Rocket Contributor

The SRU women's basketball team was enjoying a solid start to its 2007-2008 campaign.

That is, until last weekend.

After building up a 3-1 record, the Rock women (3-3) had to travel to West Chester and Millersville for Pennsylvania State Athletic crossover games.

Both teams were unbeaten entering their match-ups with the Rock.

The Rock had not played a road game entering the weekend.

A combination of inexperience and turnovers led to two blowout losses, a 71-53 defeat at the hands of WCU and a 72-45 loss to Millersville.

"We weren't ready to play," senior forward KellyAnn Staudinger said. "It is simple as that. We started slow and Millersville and West Chester took advantage of it."

"They were prepared for us, and we just weren't ready for them."

Coach Laurel Heilman saw her team's weekend performances as a considerable step backward.

"We got in a big hole right away in both games and had to work back into the game," Heilman

said. "We threw it all over the gym and need to work on taking care of the ball."

The Rock will also have lost senior guard Chere' Marshall, who broke her wrist during the team's first practice after Thanksgiving break.

Last week, she had a cast put on her shooting hand and will be out for six to eight weeks.

The loss will have a major impact on the team, Heilman said.

"Marshall has the best grasp of the game out of anyone on the team," Heilman said. "She is a confident player and our best ball handler."

The loss of Marshall, who was averaging 10 points and five rebounds a game, leaves a big scoring gap for the Rock.

"It definitely hurts our team offensively," Staudinger said. "She does so much for us at both ends, but we will really miss her scoring."

"As a team we must go out and get the job done. Regardless of who is out on the floor, we need to get it done."

Haley Gaidosh, who plays in the post for SRU, has been one player who has answered the call for the Rock.

She led the team in scoring against Millersville and West

Chester, with 10 and eight points, respectively.

The Rock will take on the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown at 6 p.m. at Morrow Field House, where the Rock is 3-0 this year.

This will be SRU's last home game until Jan. 6, when it hosts Cheyney.

UPJ has taller guards and likes to have them play in the post, which could create a major disadvantage.

That means the Rock must capitalize on UPJ's mistakes, Staudinger said.

"We are going to need to execute when we get the chance," Staudinger said. "UPJ is always an intense rival, and if we don't match that intensity, it could hurt us."

UPJ defeated the Rock 61-57 on Nov. 16 in the Clarion Classic.

The Rock will have two more games before heading west to San Diego for the Surf'n Slam Tournament, where the team will play Southern New Hampshire and Assumption.

The Rock kicks off its PSAC West schedule in a Jan. 16 match-up against the Edinboro Fighting Scots.



ARCHIVED PHOTO

Senior KellyAnn Staudinger boxes out a Mercyhurst defender during SRU's 71-61 victory on Nov. 26. Staudinger is tied with Chere' Marshall in points per game with 10. She has also pulled down a team-high 30 rebounds.