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## A tale of two halves

*Rock women continue Jekyll & Hyde act in fourth-straight loss*

**By Josh Rizzo**  
Rocket Contributor

Forty. That's the number of minutes in a college basketball game.

Twenty. That's the number of minutes the Rock women's basketball (7-14, 1-5) team shows up to play.

Heading into Wednesday night's key match-up with Clarion (14-6, 4-2), the Rock had yet to play a full 40 minutes of solid basketball since the conference schedule began.

The margin of error for the Green & White coming in was already slim if it hoped to earn a berth in the PSAC playoffs.

And Wednesday night, it got a little slimmer.

The Rock was handed its fourth-straight loss, a 65-48 setback at Clarion.

Once again it was a tale of two halves for the Rock, only this time it was the first half that gave them problems as the Golden Eagles put it away early.

The Rock's only lead came when redshirt sophomore Haley Gaidosh scored the game's opening lay-up.

After that initial basket, however, the Rock fell behind and was never able to recover.



Clarion ended the half on a 22-8 run and took a 38-19 lead into the half.

"We couldn't find a rhythm in the first half," senior post player KellyAnn Staudinger said. "We were out of whack."

The Rock shot a putrid 7-for-28 (25 percent) in the first half and turned the ball over 10 times, leading to 15 Clarion points.

"It was just one of those days shooting the ball," Staudinger said. "We couldn't hit anything, and when you aren't hitting your shots, it is important to take care of the ball, something we didn't do."

The second half was a different story, however, as the Rock outplayed Clarion.

But it was too little too late as the Rock attempted to climb out of a 19-point hole.

The Green & White did manage to outscore the Golden Eagles 29-27 in the second half but never got closer than 15.

The Rock's post players once again led the charge for the offense.

Gaidosh scored 12 points and pulled in nine rebounds while senior KellyAnn Staudinger scored a team-high 13 points and grabbed eight boards.

Before the loss to Clarion, the Rock fell to Shippensburg last Saturday, 74-58.

Again, the Rock played a solid 20 minutes, trailing by

only three, 32-29, at half.

But turnovers and poor defense allowed the Red Raiders to pull away thanks to some hot shooting.

Shippensburg shot 16-for-32 in the second half, including 6-for-12 from beyond the arc.

For the game, the Red Raiders shot 12-for-23 from three-point land while also forcing the 17 Rock turnovers.

SRU is currently last in the PSAC in three-point field goal defense.

"Our Achilles' heel is our perimeter defense," Rock Head Coach Laurel Heilman said. "We need to get back to basics and try and stop other teams from hurting us from behind the arc."

The Rock's problems on defense have also led to some match-up problems with the PSAC's best.

Shippensburg's Lauren Beckley, last season's PSAC Rookie of the Year, dropped 23 points on the Rock last Saturday, including her 1,000th career point.

Beckley, a sophomore, was the fastest player in PSAC history to reach that milestone.

Gaidosh attributed the problems to the team's psyche.

"Whenever we go into half down less than 10, we all have the attitude we can

come out in the second half and win the game," Gaidosh said. "However, in the second half, once a team makes a few baskets and extends the lead, the team gets discouraged."

Gaidosh led the way for the Rock in Saturday's loss, scoring 15 points and pulling down seven rebounds.

Sophomore Julie Molloy and junior Amanda Nero each scored 13 in the losing effort.

SRU has now played every team in the PSAC West at least once this season.

The Rock will start the second half of its conference schedule Saturday against Lock Haven (6-13, 1-4) at Morrow Field House in a 1 p.m. tip-off.



## Men's playoff hopes still alive despite loss to Clarion

**By Phil Swartzlander**  
Rocket Assistant Sports Editor

The Slippery Rock University men's basketball team split this week's games, coming out on top with a last-second victory over Shippensburg University and dropping a 13-point contest to Clarion University.

The Rock struggled on Wednesday night in Clarion. The Golden Eagles entered the game tied for fourth place with the Rock in the PSAC West.

SRU fell behind early and never gained the momentum needed to fight for the lead.

"We had good energy for a while, but the whole team is battling flu-like symptoms, so it took us away from the game," Head Coach Jamal Palmer said.

Clarion received five double-digit scoring efforts and used a 14-4 run in the first half to go ahead at halftime 35-29.

The Rock never contended with the hot-shooting Golden Eagles in the second half, falling behind by as many as 17 points.

Junior point guard Darnell Johnson led the Rock with 16 points while dishing out four assists.

Junior wing Erroll Robinson shot 7-for-10 from the field for 15 points, but also committed a game-high six turnovers.

The loss dropped the Rock to

4-16 overall and 2-4 in the PSAC West.

The first wave of PSAC divisional games are now complete and the Rock stands outside looking in at the playoff race.

The team will need a few wins down the stretch to jump Clarion into the fourth and final playoff spot.

The Rock earned one of those wins last Saturday against struggling Shippensburg when freshman Itay Levi nailed the game-winning three-pointer with 13 seconds left.

With just over three minutes left to play, the team trailed by seven before Johnson hit a huge three-pointer to bring the Rock within four.

"Darnell is one of the toughest guys out there," Palmer said. "He wants the ball and he wants to put the team on his back."

On the defensive side of the court, tough team defense forced a terrible shot from Shippensburg with junior Jamar Scales pulling down the rebound. Scales then dished the ball to Cory Somerville, who scored an easy lay-up to cut the Shippensburg lead to two.

Then the Rock forced a shot clock violation, but could not



Junior guard Erroll Robinson drives for two of his team-high 17 points in last Saturday's thrilling 74-72 victory over Shippensburg. The Rock currently holds a 2-4 record in PSAC West play, and sits one game out of the final playoff spot.

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## Indoor track & field team has record-setting weekend

**By Andy Barlow**  
Rocket Contributor

It was a busy weekend, to say the least, for the SRU indoor track and field squads.

The women's team competed at the Akron Open in Akron, Ohio, while the men's team split and participated at both the Akron Open and the State Farm Games at West Virginia University in Morgantown, W. Va.

At the end of the day, four SRU records were shattered by Rock athletes at the University of Akron.

Freshman Jeren Debardelaben won the 60-meter dash with a time of 6.88, besting the school mark and qualifying for the NCAA Division II national championship meet.

In long distance, Pat Reagan ran the 5,000-meter event in 14:37.76. He also qualified for nationals.

In women's competition, Jennifer Hansen set a record for the pole vault by successfully clearing a 12-foot, 5.75-inch mark, improving on the qualifying height she had

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