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Women's soccer weathers late-season storm Team clinches sixth-consecutive playoff berth, has sights on PSAC-West crown

By Brandon Fox
Rocket Sports Editor

When the ship that is the Slippery Rock women's soccer set out on its journey this season, it knew there would be some rough waters.

The only question was how the crew would manage when that time came.

After going winless during a recent three-game span, the Rock's ship looked as if it was losing steam. But, as it turned out, all the crew needed was a little home cooking.

The green and white returned home after a season-high four-game road trip, which included back-to-back shutout losses to Bloomsburg and rival IUP. The team found its scoring touch again, knocking off Charleston (W. Va.) 6-0 last Saturday and Wheeling Jesuit 4-0 on Monday's game.

"We came out flat against Bloomsburg," Head Coach Noreen Herlihy said. "They scored early and we didn't put our opportunities home. Against IUP, we were not mentally ready and again we gave up an early goal."

In the 2-0 loss at IUP, the Rock (12-3-1, 6-1-1) dominated the second half, out-shooting the Crimson Hawks, 11-4, but were again unable to capitalize on its many opportunities.

"We clearly dominated the pitch in the second, and it looked as if we were going to score," Herlihy said. "We didn't put our chances away, but lesson learned. I thought, despite the loss, that we could use the momentum from the end of that game and use it against Charleston."

The Rock certainly did, taking a 1-0 lead in the fifth minute of play, on a



Freshman Alison Hindley attempts to steal the ball from a Charleston (W. Va.) player during the Rock's 6-0 blowout victory last Saturday. Hindley netted three goals for her first-career hat trick. The green and white clinched its sixth-consecutive playoff berth.

STEVE REED/THE ROCKET

Danielle Cooper goal. The game remained 1-0 until freshman Alison Hindley took the game into her own hands, or rather, her feet.

Hindley scored the Rock's next three goals to give SRU a comfortable 4-0 lead.

She netted her first goal of the game in the 40th

minute to make the score 2-0 just before halftime. Five minutes into the second half, Hindley nailed a corner kick from Meghan McGrath, before she closed out her first-career hat trick with a goal in the 53rd minute.

The Rock would tally two more goals, one from Linda

Schremeister and a final goal from Mallory Neubert, who put an exclamation point on the victory in the 72nd minute. SRU out-shot Charleston by an outrageous 35-3 margin.

"It was a huge confidence boost," Herlihy said of the six Rock goals against Charleston. "I thought

we scored some crankin' goals and really used the momentum from the IUP game."

The green and white followed the 6-0 whitewashing with a second-straight shutout, blanking Wheeling Jesuit (14-4) 4-0.

"Wheeling is a good team and they were coming off a 5-2 win over Edinboro, so we knew it would be a much different game than against Charleston," Herlihy said.

The teams had battled to a scoreless deadlock until Courtney Hoover scored what turned out to be the game-winning goal in the 69th minute to give the Rock a 1-0 lead.

SRU then scored three more goals in a 20-minute span, led by Hoover, who netted her second goal of the game in the 85th minute.

"We put it away once we got the first one," Herlihy said. "It was also huge to know that we have players who can come off the bench and contribute."

"That makes a huge difference in games, when you know anyone can come in and make a play."

The Rock once again dominated play, out-shooting WJU 26-10. Rock goalie Lauren McManus as credited with four saves.

Herlihy's troops have already clinched a berth in the conference playoffs, but have their sights set on the PSAC-West title and a first-round bye.

"We haven't looked at the standings and we aren't going too," Herlihy said. "The girls know that we want the No. 1 seed. That is our goal, and we know we have to go out and earn it, and it starts now."

Cross country runs with the best at Penn State

By Josh Rizzo
Rocket Contributor

The Slippery Rock men's cross country team ran with the big boys at the Penn State Invitational and performed extremely well.

The Penn State Invitational included teams from Wake Forest University, located in North Carolina, to Guelph University, which is located in Guelph, Ontario.

Even with the wide range of competition, which included Division-I opponents, SRU's men's team held its own, placing seventh out of 20 teams. SRU ended up scoring a combined 187 among its top five runners. The winner of the invitational was LaSalle University, with a score of 62.

The winner of the PSU Invitational was an unattached runner. Since the runner did not factor into the scoring, the tournament directors did not include his name in the results.

The top finisher whose time was reported in the scoring was the University of Kentucky's Andre Silva with a time of 26:16.

SRU junior and two time All-American Jeff Weiss finished three seconds off of Silva's pace with a time of 26:19. So while Weiss finished third overall, he only earned two points because of the unattached runner who won the race.

Weiss also garnered some extra attention for his finish at the race. As the top non-Division I finisher, Weiss was named the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference men's cross country Athlete of the Week.

Pat Reagan also cracked the top 20 for the Rock. Reagan managed to come in 13th with a time of 26:40. The Rock's No. 5 runner was unable to participate in the race because of an injury.

Kevin Dustin, who won the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Invitational, has had problems with his shins and decided not to participate in the race.

"We had a solid run, but the guys definitely have better races in them," Coach John Papa said. "If everyone on the team runs their best race, we should be the favorites to win the conference, but we need to earn the title. Nothing will be given to us."

The women's team, however, did not have as much success. They placed 23rd of 25 teams, with their best runner being Katie Bork. Bork placed 89th with a time of 23:03.

Other notable finishers were Jaime Wright in 113th place, Leslie Kramer in 126th, Kim Smith in 140th and Rebecca Younger in 144th.

The Rock will next be competing in the PSAC championships in Kutztown on Oct. 27.

Men's soccer rebounds with two straight victories

By Erin Fisher
Rocket Contributor

The Slippery Rock men's soccer team moved into second place in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference on Tuesday after defeating Shippensburg 4-1.

Shippensburg jumped out ahead of the Rock in the 26th minute of play when Jason Miller tapped one past Rock goalie Greg Blum.

It didn't take long for the Rock men to retaliate. Senior defender Joe Ross evened the score at 1-1 with his first goal of the season. He managed to get a head on a free kick from teammate Steve Perri.

"The game just goes to show that when we take our chances, we can score from all over the field like Joey (Ross) did," Rock sophomore Iain Langstone said.

Less than 10 minutes later, Langstone put Slippery Rock ahead, scoring off a ball from sophomore Lucas Feathers.

The first half of play ended with Shippensburg leading 7-5 in shots, but down by one goal.

Minutes into the second half, Langstone got the ball in Shippensburg's defensive third

of the field. Langstone beat the defender, beat the keeper and put the ball firmly into the back of the net, giving the Rock a 3-1 lead.

In the 71st minute of play, senior Jeff Hamley secured the Rock victory, scoring his second goal of the season. The assist came from Feathers and freshman Toby Bowser.

Shippensburg tried frantically to get back into the game, managing four shots in the last five minutes of the game, but Blum and the Rock defense stayed solid.

Slippery Rock came out of the contest with 16 shots. Langstone recorded three of them, while Ed Mocarisky added another three.

Hamley, Feathers, Shaun Reid, and Mitch Walters contributed two shots each. Blum recorded six saves for the Rock.

"We played consistently throughout," Langstone said. "There's still room for improvement, but it was a promising performance."

The Rock came into the game 8-5-2 overall and 7-3-2 in the PSAC after defeating Kutztown 2-0 last Saturday. Sophomore Jeremy Deighton put Slippery Rock on the scoreboard early in the first



Eddie Mocarisky plays the ball up field during Saturday's 2-0 shutout of Kutztown. The Rock defeated Shippensburg 4-1 Tuesday, grabbing sole possession of second place in the PSAC.

PHIL SWARTZLANDER/THE ROCKET

half, scoring his sixth goal of the season.

Senior Nick Christy passed the ball to Perri, who crossed it in front of the net. Mocarisky let the ball go, giving Deighton a perfect opportunity in front of the net.

Midway through the first half, it looked as though Slippery Rock was going to pull ahead 2-0, but the goal was called back due to

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