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## DIVISION CHAMPIONS!



### Rock set for run at PSAC title

PHIL SWARTZLANDER/THE ROCKET

By **Brandon Fox**  
Rocket Sports Editor

Stunning the top team in the region is good.

Clinching the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference West title is great.

Winning the PSAC Championship and earning a berth in the regional playoffs?

Now that would be wonderful. That is the next goal the Rock (15-3-1, 8-1-1) and Head Coach Noreen Herlihy wants to cross off the list.

The Rock clinched the PSAC West title with a 2-0 win over Clarion last Thursday. The win also gave SRU a first-round bye and home-field advantage heading into next week's conference playoffs.

"It is great to have a home game," Herlihy said. "We get to sleep in our own beds and be in our own environment. But you know, it is the playoffs and teams are going to come in and try to get it done, so we have to be ready to go."

Last Saturday the Rock faced off against West Chester, which

was ranked fifth nationally and first regionally coming into the game. In a game that may have been a preview of the PSAC Championship, the Rock stunned the Golden Rams with a 3-1 victory.

The Rock jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the seventh minute after Danielle Cooper ripped a shot into the top corner off an assist from Jaimi Wilson.

"Dani had a crackin' goal for us early, and it set the tone for the game," Herlihy said.

SRU would find the net again just 10 minutes later, as Alison

Hindley scored her fifth goal in four games, to give the Rock a 2-0 lead.

"They were kind of stunned," Herlihy said. "We jumped on them early and I don't think they knew what hit them."

"We wanted to attack them early and take the game to them. I am really proud of the players, because they played wonderful soccer."

Hindley netted her second goal of the day, putting the Rock up 3-0, when she took a pass from Meghan McGrath in the 56th minute. The assist was the 25th of

McGrath's career, which moved her into a tie for the school record.

Rita Alton put West Chester on the board with an unassisted goal in the 68th minute, after she took an errant pass from the Rock defense and beat Lauren McManus on the right side.

Despite the defensive error, Herlihy praised her defense over the last five games and feels that they, along with the rest of her team, is playing their best soccer of the season.

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### How sweet it is



STEVE REED/THE ROCKET

The Rock rugby team, better known as Shamrock RFC, will hit the road this weekend when the team travels to Grand Valley State University for the Midwest Sweet 16 tournament.

### Volleyball digs in, makes bid for regionals

By **Josh Rizzo**  
Rocket Contributor

Ten years is a long time.

The world has changed a lot in the past decade, but a 10-year-long streak was brought to an end by Slippery Rock's women's volleyball team on Tuesday night.

SRU (21-13 overall, 2-6 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference West) beat Lock Haven (10-16, 3-5), ending a 22-match streak of futility that dated back to the teams' first square-off in 1997.

SRU didn't only break the long losing streak, but also they clinched its third consecutive 20-win season.

The victory also helped the Rock in its quest to earn a NCAA regional tournament berth.

Lock Haven was ranked No. 3 in the region entering the match and now sits just one game above the Rock in the PSAC.

Four players had double-digit kills to help the Rock storm back to upend Lock Haven.

Anastasia Urbanik, Jen Blasko, Louise Schultz and Andrea Campbell all had more than 10 kills each. Urbanik led the squad with 14.

True freshman Ann Bixler led the team with 23 assists. She is one of the 10 freshmen currently on SRU's roster.

"Making the adjustment from high school has not affected our play because our practices are so intense," Bixler said. "The practices help us prepare for playing through such a long season because everything is more intense at the college level."

Riding high after an important win over Lock Haven, SRU continued its momentum by defeating Point Park University (24-9) in a non-conference showdown.

The Rock managed a 3-1 victory on a very emotional senior night.

The team had a pre-game slide show to honor its seniors: Jenn Scott, Schultz and Campbell. Scott is listed as a redshirt junior, but

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