

September 21, 2007

## Women's soccer takes out Mansfield

*Earns highest national ranking in three years*

By **Brandon Fox**  
Rocket Sports Editor

In the first four weeks of the season, the Rock women's soccer team has taken a page from the Jeffersons: They have been movin' on up.

In the latest National Soccer Coaches Association of America Division II national poll, the Rock earned a No. 3 ranking, the highest position the Rock has attained since it (7-1, 4-0) held the same spot in the Oct. 5, 2004, poll.

The ascent in the polls comes fresh on the heels of the Rock's 4-0 whitewashing of Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference East opponent Mansfield last Saturday.

With the win, the Rock also maintained its place atop the NSCAA Northeast Region poll.

Each of the four goals during Saturday's offensive outburst came within a 10-minute span in the first half. Senior Jaimi Wilson got the team rolling, scoring with a penalty kick goal in the 21st minute of action after junior Danielle Cooper was taken down inside the box.

The Rock would find the net again about a minute later when Cooper was able to head the ball past Mansfield keeper Samantha DeLiere to give SRU a 2-0 lead. Mallory Neubert tallied her third goal of the year off an assist from freshman Cara Kelleher, who was named

PSAC-West Player of the Week, in the 27th minute.

The Rock's final goal would come from leading scorer Meghan McGrath, who converted on a Melisa Sharek pass in the 30th minute of action to give SRU a commanding 4-0 lead.

"It was nice to see us finally be able to put away those opportunities," said Head Coach Noreen Herhliy. "Too often we haven't put it home in the past."

Defensively, the green and white were led by goalies Lauren McManus and Sarah Lacey, who both saw time in net.

"Lauren and Sarah are really battling out there," Herhliy said. "It was nice to get them both in there."

Herhliy also expressed her pleasure with the chance to get some of the younger players into the game early and give them a chance to play.

"It was nice to give some of the senior players a well-deserved rest," Herhliy said. "It was also great to get the younger players some game experience. That is one of the things that I think separates this team from last year's squad, in that we have a great amount of depth at all positions and we can put different people in and not miss a beat."



Senior Kristin Mikolajczyk (No. 10) stretches in an attempt to steal the ball during a match against Lock Haven last season. "Miko," as her teammates call her, has been an asset for the Rock in 2007. Her work ethic and determination have helped a young SRU squad to a No. 3 national ranking.

One of those younger players, freshman Cara Kelleher, who was starting in place of the injured Alexis Chiani, has stepped into a starting role very well.

"Cara got the game-winner against Lock Haven, which was huge for not only the team, but for her as well. It was the first game she has started this year and she really stepped up," Herhliy said. "It is nice that she can come in and fill that role for us at any time."

Kelleher also praised the ability of the younger players to step up when needed.

"We all know where we fit," Kelleher said. "We don't have a lot of experience, but we know we can come in and get the job done when need be."

The Rock's success in the first eight games of the season has been aided by the ability of a relatively young defense to shake off any troubles associated with playing as part of such an untested group.

"Our defense has improved all season and especially since the Kutztown loss," Herhliy said. "Our shutout on Saturday was great in that we were able to build

some confidence heading into some tougher games."

Keller said that good defense is all about trust, which is something she thinks the team has plenty of.

"We are all comfortable in the back, and we trust each other," she said. "You have to know that people will cover you. You have to trust the system and the players."

The Rock will look continue its success when it battles PSAC-East foe Millersville on Saturday at N. Kerr Thompson Stadium. Kickoff is set for 3 p.m.

## Volleyball drops third straight

By **Haley Gaidosh**  
Rocket Contributor

The rebuilding process for the Rock volleyball team is proving to be a longer and more difficult challenge than expected.

After Saturday's loss against Edinboro and Tuesday's loss against Lock Haven, the Rock sits at 0-3 in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference-West and 8-6 overall.

Even after a three-game losing streak, Head Coach Laurie Lokash believes in her team and still expects it to get the job done.

"They are looking at the glass half-empty right now and playing with doubt," Lokash said. "But I am not."

The Rock has been struggling of late. It lost all three games in a recent match-up with Edinboro, but Lokash is not quick to take anything away from the Fighting Scots.

"They played well and took advantage of our mistakes and our lack of aggression," she said. "Edinboro has some very good hitters, and if we don't take them out of their offense by serving aggressively, they have the ability to put the ball away."

The inability to serve and pass successfully played a major part in the loss against Edinboro.

"From a passing standpoint, since we did not serve receive well, we did not get quality swings and gave Edinboro easy balls to convert," Lokash said. "When that happens, the result is the same as when we don't serve effectively."

Junior Anastasia Urbanik, who had six kills at Edinboro, knows

SEE VOLLEYBALL, PAGE C-4

## Cheating is business as usual for Belichick



BRANDON FOX

From *The Cheap Seats*

Cheaters never win. Unless of course you are Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots.

With the recent cheating scandal involving Bill and his boys, the National Football League has had to handle the latest in a long line of unpleasant headlines. These range from Chris Henry and Michael Vick to one of the most beloved coaches in the entire sports world.

I dislike Belichick and the Patriots very much, and it's not just because I am a die-hard Miami Dolphins fan. This scandal has given more reason for the world to hate that whole crew up north.

Roger Goodell has said that one of his goals as commissioner is to clean up a

SEE PATRIOTS, PAGE C-4

## Men's soccer wipes out West Chester

*Moves into sole possession of third, four points out of first*

By **Erin Fisher**  
Rocket Contributor

Though not the outcome it had hoped for, the Slippery Rock men's soccer team continues on its seven-game unbeaten streak after tying Shippensburg University on Monday afternoon at Bob DiSpirito Field at N. Kerr Stadium.

The Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference game ended 2-2 after a double-overtime showing, bringing the Rock to a 4-1-2 PSAC record and a 5-2-2 overall mark.

"We didn't play well," Rock Head Coach Matt Thompson said. "This was the poorest I have seen them play as a unit this season."

"But sometimes you have to give credit to the other team. They came to play soccer, and they did it well."

Sophomore Jeremy Deighton got the game going in the first half after landing a header in the back of the net during the 17th minute of play. Assisting him were Steve Perri and Patrick Cormac.

Almost 10 minutes into the second half, Deighton went one on one with the goalie and dumped the ball off to sophomore Iain Langstone, who gave the Rock a 2-0 lead.

In minutes, Shippensburg had battled back to even the score. Chaos in the box allowed Austin Alfonsi to net a goal for the Red Raiders. Shortly after, David Rostad tied the game at 2-2.

That is how the score would remain, forcing the two teams into sudden-death overtime.

"To be fair, the team did show resilience," Thompson said. "We could have given up after their second goal, but we didn't. They kept going and digging deep."

Shippensburg outshot the Rock in regulation play, 22-18, but SRU redeemed itself in overtime.

In the first 10-minute period the Rock got off only two shots to Shippensburg's four, but in the second, Slippery Rock came out with six shots and did not

allow the Red Raiders any.

"We had our chances, we just couldn't put it in the net," Thompson said.

Freshman goalie Greg Blum tallied six saves, none of which occurred during overtime play.

Deighton contributed seven total shots to the Rock offense, four of which were on goal.

He was recently named PSAC Athlete of the week for his performance in two Rock victories last week.

"I give a lot of credit to

my team," Deighton said. "We have been working our butts off to win against some of the top teams in the conference. Without my team, I wouldn't have had any of those opportunities."

Off an assist by Toby Bowser, Deighton scored the game-winning goal in overtime last Saturday afternoon against West Chester in a PSAC match-up.

Rock senior Ed Mocarsky scored the first goal late in the first half on a pass from Nick Christy.

West Chester tied the game almost halfway through the second half, forcing the game into overtime, where Deighton's goal clinched the victory.

"We are on a great run," Thompson said. "We are still unbeaten, and still looking forward."

The Rock will continue that run in PSAC play as they take on Millersville on Saturday afternoon at Bob DiSpirito Field at N. Kerr Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for noon.

This will mark the fifth conference game in a row for the Rock.

Saturday's game will be the Rock's last before embarking on a four-game road trip that may make or break the Green & White's season.



CHARISE LUTZ/THE ROCKET

### Upcoming games

- 9/22 MILLERSVILLE
- 9/26 @ California (Pa.)
- 9/29 @ East Stroudsburg
- 10/6 @ Bloomsburg
- 10/10 @ Wheeling Jesuit
- 10/13 KUTZTOWN
- 10/16 @ Shippensburg
- 10/20 WEST CHESTER