

November 2, 2007

## Rock KO'd by Cal

## Volleyball falls to PSAC leader California

By Phil Swartzlander  
Rocket Assistant Sports Editor

Once again, the big win slipped through their fingers.

The Slippery Rock football team lost another heartbreaking game on Saturday, falling 22-13 to California (Pa.) University at N. Kerr Thompson Stadium.

The Vulcans came into the game boasting a smothering defense, a powerful offense and an undefeated record, but Cal never watched Corey Manfull run the ball.

The junior running back rushed the ball 37 times for 175 yards against the Cal defense that had only been allowing 33 rushing yards per game.

"I had confidence in my offense line, they were opening up some holes for me," Manfull said.

With two quick touchdowns by Cal and an out-of-rhythm offense, Manfull got the Rock moving on its fifth drive of the game with a 40-yard run. He later scored on an 8-yard run to narrow the score to 12-7. On the six-play drive, Manfull ran the ball on every play.

A bad punt in the second quarter gave Cal great field position at the SRU 24-yard line, but the Rock defense dug in and forced Cal to settle for a field goal, making the score 15-7.

"Our defense came up big, especially inside our 25," Rock Head Coach George Mihalik said.

The Rock D had a forced fumble, an interception and three sacks to go along with the 300 yards of total offense allowed.

With time running out at the end of the first half, the Rock lined up for a field goal, but ran a fake where redshirt senior defensive back Jim D'Amico ran to the corner of the end zone.

D'Amico got close, but was brought down on the Cal 5-yard line. The Rock offense could not get on the field to stop the clock, and a scoring chance was thrown away.

"We practiced that play all week long and we were going to do it the first time we sent our field goal team out there," Mihalik said. "We just ran out of time."

The third quarter became a defensive struggle, as neither team could get its offense rolling.

In the fourth quarter, the Cal offense had a chance to pull away, but redshirt sophomore cornerback A.J. Saunders



Offensive lineman Dave Mulvihill kicks his helmet as he walks off the field after the Rock's heartbreaking 22-13 loss to PSAC rival and undefeated California (Pa.) last Saturday at N. Kerr Thompson Stadium. The loss marked the final regular-season home game for Mulvihill and the rest of the seniors on the Rock roster.

intercepted Cal quarterback Joe Ruggiero at the Rock 20-yard line to stop momentum Cal was building.

The Rock took the turnover and ran with it, keeping the ball on the ground 12 times during the drive. Although the run was

the Rock's bread and butter for the game, a crucial moment came when the Rock relied on senior quarterback Nate Crookshank to come through. Crookshank hit redshirt

SEE MANFULL'S PAGE C-3

By Haley Gaidosh  
Rocket Contributor

Even after the Rock volleyball team's 3-0 loss to California University of Pennsylvania on Tuesday, the Rock's hope for a regional playoff berth still remains.

With the loss to Cal, the Rock stands at 2-7 in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference West, ahead of only Indiana University of Pennsylvania in the standings.

The Rock will close out its regular season at home against IUP on Saturday at 3 p.m.

Rock Head Coach Laurie Lokash said that to defeat a team like California (9-0, 28-3), which has clinched the PSAC West title, her team would had to have played nearly perfectly.

"Cal is an extremely aggressive team, and they are the strongest in the region because they are the most physical and aggressive," Lokash said. "If we wanted to win against Cal, we had to play a lot better than what we did, and we had to eliminate the easy mistakes we made."

Senior Louise Schultz led the Rock effort with ten kills, 17 assists, and nine digs. Schultz said that it is hard to go against Cal because of the amount of confidence with which the Vulcans are playing.

"We just played flat and (like we were) not excited to play," Schultz said. "They are a great hitting and blocking team, and we had trouble hitting against such big blocks because we don't have that in practice."

Playing an undefeated team posed other problems to the Rock effort, said junior Anastasia Urbanik, who added eight kills and six digs.

"We all played timid and flat," Urbanik said. "They were beatable, but we just didn't bring it together like we needed to when facing an undefeated, top-ranked team. You can't get away with many

SEE REGIONALS, PAGE C-3

## Men's soccer goes down fighting against Millersville

By Erin Fisher  
Rocket Contributor

The Slippery Rock men's soccer team saw its season end and playoff hopes dashed last Saturday at Millersville, but it didn't go down without a fight.

After losing its previous two games, the Rock had to win on the road against Millersville to secure a playoff spot in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference playoffs.

"It was another long trip and not easy to get ready for," Rock Head Coach Matt Thompson said.

Senior captain Jeff Hamley said the team was fully aware of the win-or-go-home circumstances that came with the game.

"All the players knew the situation, knew what we had to do," Hamley said. "From there on out it was win or go home. Knowing that, we all knew what we had to do to get the job done."

Within the first 15 minutes, it was apparent that the game was going to be physical.

Ten fouls and two yellow cards were handed out

between the two teams in the game.

Millersville tested Rock goalie Greg Blum, landing nine shots in the first half, while Slippery Rock only managed three.

Shaun Reid, Hamley and Lucas Feathers each got a shot off in the first half, but none of the shots were on goal.

The first half ended with 18 fouls, but no score between the two teams.

"The team really did not play well the first half," Thompson said. "I think it was difficult knowing that we had to win on the road."

Early in the second half, Tim Hollenback put Millersville on the scoreboard, tucking the ball in the lower right corner past Blum.

In the next few minutes, Hamley and senior Eddie Mocarsky tested Millersville keeper Matt Langione but were unable to put anything past him.

Feathers and freshman Mitch Walters tried their best to keep the pressure on Langione, but their shots sailed wide, leaving the score at 1-0.

A confrontation on the field in the 63rd minute

of the game resulted in both a yellow card on Mocarsky and senior Mike Monte being ejected from the game.

"Being captain, I tried to calm everyone else down," Hamley said. "I had to stay calm because other players look to me, but it was definitely tough to stay focused."

Emotions ran high as SRU slowly saw its playoff hopes dwindling, and the game began to get out of control.

When Thompson was ejected in the 88th minute of play and refused to leave the field, referees called the game, but not before ejecting Reid and Derek Angus as well.

A total of seven yellow cards were handed out to the Rock to go with four red cards as well. Following the game, the referees required a police escort out of the facility.

The Rock led Millersville

in shots the second half, 9-7, but it was not enough to secure a victory.

"To the players' credit, they dominated the rest of the game and created many chances," Thompson said. "But we could not score that important goal."

The team finished with a PSAC record of 8-6-2 and an overall mark of 9-8-2.

"I would have liked to go out on top, but I'm definitely pleased with the season," Hamley said. "But we beat a couple big teams, and that was good. The whole season went well."



PHIL SWARTZLANDER/  
THE ROCKET

### Final PSAC Standings

	PSAC Record	Overall
1. ESU	14-2-0	18-2-1
2. Lock Haven	11-5-0	13-6-0
3. Millersville	10-5-1	11-8-1
4. West Chester	9-7-0	9-10-0
5. California	8-6-2	10-7-3
6. Slippery Rock	8-6-2	9-8-2
7. Shippensburg	5-9-2	7-11-2
8. Bloomsburg	3-12-1	3-15-2
9. Kutztown	0-16-0	1-18-1

Thompson said he still feels this was a good learning experience for the team.

"The younger players will learn from some of the defeats and will take the feeling of not making the playoffs into next season, when we hope to be back in the playoff hunt," Thompson said.

Last Saturday's loss also marked the final games in the college careers of eight Rock seniors: Chris Cook, Nick Christy, Jeff Hamley, Greg Hutton, Ed Mocarsky, Mike Monte, Steve Perri and Joe Ross.

During their four years at

the Rock, this dynamic group helped to turn around what was struggling program.

They compiled a 53-29-7 overall record in that span, making two trips to the conference playoffs and capturing the Rock's first PSAC Championship in nearly 30 years.

During their tenure, the seniors also help the Rock to its first ever bid to the NCAA Division II National playoffs, which also came in 2005.