

May 4, 2007

## TWO TO GO!

*SRU baseball team wins first two games of PSAC playoffs as hunt for title continues*



NATHAN COLLINS/THE ROCKET

Junior center fielder Travis Trimbur plows through West Chester catcher Bob Stumpo, contributing another run to the Rock's 13-5 victory over the Golden Rams on Wednesday. The Rock defeated California (Pa.) 8-2 on Thursday to move into the semifinal round of the PSAC Championships.

**By Caleb Pardick**  
Rocket Staff

Playoff baseball is generally known for its intensity and mounting pressure.

But it was a display of patience that vaulted the 2007 Rock baseball team into the third round of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Association Championship tournament.

The Rock (33-13) patiently waited out the California (Pa.) pitchers in Thursday's 8-2 win, drawing eight walks from three different pitchers. Playing the waiting game paid off in the fifth and seventh innings

in particular, where two walks in each of those innings contributed to seven runs.

Rock Head Coach Jeff Messer said the team's plate approach wasn't the result of anything he told his players.

"It just kind of happened that their pitchers had some control problems and we were very patient at the plate," said Messer, whose team now sits just two wins from a PSAC championship. "In our minds, a walk's as good as a hit, and we just waited them out."

The Rock, which has won 11 of its last 12 games and took three of four games last weekend against

Shippensburg to earn the West Division's No. 2 seed, pounded out nine hits in the second-round win. The team trailed by one after the top of the fourth. But the Rock bats came alive in the home half, scoring four runs on five hits to take a lead that it would not relinquish.

At the heart of the Rock attack against California were freshman second baseman Billy Messer (Jeff's son) and junior first baseman Dan Hudeck, who each went two-for-four, and driving in two.

Hudeck said the team's play of late is what he's expected all along.

"Our spirits are up right now," said Hudeck, who leads the team on the

season with 34 RBIs. "We're playing the kind of baseball we know we can play. And if we keep it up, we're going to be able to go places."

He also said the team's patience at the plate has enabled both him and the team to play to their potential.

"For me, ever since I got in a groove a few weeks ago, I've just felt so much more relaxed," Hudeck said. "It's been nice to be able to relax and know I can just produce the way I can."

Freshman southpaw Rich Hocanson turned in a strong performance as well, scattering six hits and allowing just two runs in six innings of work to pick up his fifth

win of the season.

Hocanson, who defeated PSAC West Division No. 1 seed California (34-14) back on March 30, said his ability to spot his pitches proved pivotal in Thursday's win.

"I was able to locate my pitches and hit my spots really well," Hocanson said. "I tried to mix up my pitches a little bit better than normal."

Playing a key role in the Rock's win against California and its win over West Chester in first-round play on Wednesday was junior reliever Craig Misiewicz. He has

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### Tennis defeats Bentley, set to play Bloomsburg

**By Phil Swartzlander**  
Rocket Contributor

The No. 34-ranked Rock women's tennis team shut out Bentley College, 5-0, Thursday at the regional stage of the NCAA Division II Tournament.

The win in the first round marks the third time that the team has moved on to the second round.

To prepare for the match against Bentley, head coach Matt Meredith worked the team hard.

"We really focused on doubles this week, especially setting up points," Meredith said.

The work paid off for the Rock as they swept all three doubles matches.

In the No. 1 doubles match, the pairing of sophomore Kayla Blackburn and freshman Laura Handy won their match quickly, 8-0.

The No. 2 pairing of senior Ashley Greene and freshman Jessica Hilborn fought tough and won 8-6.

The sophomore pairing of Lara Rizzi and Christina Rhodes finished out the sweep of doubles by the score of 8-2.

Meredith was extremely pleased with the results in doubles.

"The girls did exactly what they should have. They came out and took care of business," Meredith said.

With doubles giving the

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### Football will rely on an experienced defense in '07

**By Adam Brewer**  
Rocket Sports Editor



NATE DAYMUT/THE ROCKET

Junior quarterback Nate Crookshank prepares to hand off the ball during the Green & White game last Friday.

A common cliché in football is that offense wins games and defense wins championships.

That just might be the case for the 2007 Rock football team this season, as the low scoring Green & White game last Friday is another reason why SRU might depend more on its defense.

In the Green & White game at N. Kerr Thompson Stadium, the Green defeated the White squad in a defensive battle by the score of 16-7.

On offense for the Green team, junior quarterback Nate Crookshank passed for 143 yards with one interception.

Crookshank's main targets on the night were the top three receivers on The Rock roster.

Junior wideout Paul Favars

caught four balls for 50 yards while junior H-back Colin Golden had five receptions for 44 yards.

Redshirt sophomore wide receiver Terry Grossetti hauled in two passes for 40 yards to round out the passing attack.

Junior running back Corey Manfull made his return to the field after missing the entire 2006 season with a solid effort in the last spring practice.

Manfull rushed for 50 yards on seven carries.

Backing up Manfull for the Green team was redshirt sophomore Travis Sarver. Sarver had eight rushes for 24 yards in the contest.

On defense for the Green, sophomore defensive end Tyler Boudreau was a menace on the d-line, racking up three tackles and two sacks, one of which was good

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