Men's soccer wins physical contest

Collegian Staff Writer

In a night that saw a wet field, missed opportunities and a profane crowd, the No. 2 Penn State men's soccer team beat visiting Robert Morris, 3-0.

The Colonials hardly stood a chance.

"They were No. 2 in the country, we just wanted to come in and throw them around," Colonials sophomore midfielder Jason DeFranco, said.

DeFranco was involved in a number of altercations. He received a yellow card 15 minutes into the first half for a body shot on sophomore midfielder Derek Potteiger.

DeFranco and Potteigers' altercation was just the start of what resembled more like a rugby game, not necessarily the soccer game that was taking place. Both teams' physicality resulted in no shots on goal for the Colonials, and a low output by the Nittany Lions' offense.

"You have to be in tremendous shape to play this sport," Lions men's soccer coach Barry Gorman said. "(Last) night was proof of that. I thought Robert Morris worked very hard.'

Robert Morris came out early, bumping and hustling after every ball with intensity. The Colonials' fierce play caused the Lions' offense to become disori-

"We were taken by surprise just a little," Lions defender Blake Novotny said. "It took us a little while to get our game on."

Physical contact has seemed to finds its niche in the eyes of American sports fans now. Its popularity has given the American fan a better chance to see just how intense a game can be. And that is what the Jeffrey Field faithful loved.

"(Physicality) is a big factor," Novotny said. "You can't be afraid out there, you have to want to get in there to make that tackle, you have to be physical in order to win.'

The second half proved to be much more physical than the first. Fans of both teams began to get rowdy, prompting the security guard to stand at the bottom of



Penn State men's soccer player Ryan Miller jumps up for a header against Robert Morris last night.

Collisions and tripping became commonplace, as fans screamed for the referees to pull put the yellow card on a number of occasions.

Because of contact with Robert Morris forward Bob Reckner, a bloody Novotny was helped off the field by teammates and a trainer. Before being helped off, he lay on the soaked terrain, his head ground into the turf with his arms and legs spread.

'Sometimes the physical play is dictated by the pace of the game," Colonials coach Bill Denniston said. "Penn State is very quick, we fell behind and had to be physical. We have played physical all year."

While the contact and overall play seemed to surprise fans, coaches and players, however, dismissed it as just playing soccer.

"I don't know how many times this has happened to me," Novotny said as he reached up to readjust the blood-soaked towel on his head. "Its just part of the

Women's soccer off to exciting start after beating tough teams

By JOSH DAECHE Collegian Staff Writer

The Penn State women's soccer team is off to another solid start. After losing its first game of the

season to Duke last Friday, the Lady Lions responded by upsetting Heels' home turf.

since 1994 that North Carolina lost at home and just the seventh time it ever lost in Chapel Hill, N.C.

The Lions entered the season as a top team in the country and prior to last weekend's trip to North Carolina, Penn State coach Pat Farmer said if the Lions beat North Carolina, they could beat anybody.

But only four games into the season, Penn State is a long way from the NCAA Championships.

New faces setting the stage It was only matter time before the freshman from Massapequa, N.Y., took center stage at Penn State, but few would believe forward Christie Welsh would crack into the Lions' scoring records after just two games.

After her four-goal performance against James Madison, Welsh rattled off a pair of goals against North Carolina.

goals in four games and is a threat whenever she touches the ball.

Penn State starting lineup is sophomore defender Kris Phillips. Phillips transferred from North

Carolina State, where she led the have risen to the occasion are

Women's Soccer Notebook

No. 1 North Carolina on the Tar team in scoring with 17 goals. She already has a pair of game-winning The loss marked the first time goals this season, including the clincher against the Tar Heels.

Phillips has shown the ability to be relentless on defense and has been a key part in Penn State's success so far this season.

Leading the charge

Penn State has been led by a variety of talented players on offense, but senior co-captain Courtney Lawson has led the charge up front for Penn State in the team's first four contests, contributing a pair of assists.

None shall pass Sophomore goalkeeper Emily Oleksiuk has started right where she left off last season with her

solid play. She recorded a shutout against Seton Hall in the home opener and denied a North Carolina penalty shot late in the first half en route to

her team's 3-2 victory. Named last year's Big Ten Rook-The freshman sensation has six ie of the Year, Oleksiuk has a 1.50 goals-against average this season.

Oleksiuk was named Big Ten Another new face to this year's Player of the Week for her efforts against the Blue Devils and the Tar Heels.

Other Penn State defenders who

starters Luanne Strom and Megan

They've both emerged as defensive threats in the backfield,

where they have braced Oleksiuk. Their play helped contain prolific scorers Kelly Smith (Seton Hall) and Kim Patrick (North Car-

olina). "Megan Mills has really stepped it up," Farmer said. "She's worked really hard and I'm happy for her."

The road ahead

Penn State's task will not get any easier this weekend when it hosts defending NCAA National Champion Florida, 2 p.m. Friday and Big Ten rival Michigan, 2 p.m. Sunday.

Both contest will be take place on Jeffrey Field.



Courtesy of Penn State

Pat Farmer women's soccer coach

Russell declines interview for 'SportsCentury' 50 greatest athletes Russell joined Jim Brown, Wayne Gret- and field. Just two women, Navratilova Russell said. "I never put myself in a class

By JEFF GOODMAN

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Bill Russell is in a class by himself.

Of all of the living athletes on ESPN's "SportsCentury" list, he is the only one to refuse an interview for the project.

The cable network released the names of media and fans. the top 20 athletes yesterday at the opening of its newest ESPN Zone restaurant in

presented in alphabetical order - and sur- to and she is my best friend."

prisingly showed up for the event.

"Bill Russell won't do an interview, but we did speak to his daughter, Karen," said ESPN's Mark Shapiro, who heads up the

project. "He has chosen to decline." The former Boston center, who won 11 NBA titles in 13 seasons with the Celtics. always had a rocky relationship with

"It wasn't necessary to do an interview," Russell said. "For the last 15 years, I haven't done any. The only reason I am Russell was among the elite 20 — a list here is because my daughter convinced me

zky, Carl Lewis and Martina Navratilova at and Didrikson, made the top 20.

the Times Square restaurant. The others on the list: Hank Aaron, Muhammad Ali, Wilt Chamberlain, Ty Cobb, Babe Didrikson, Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, Joe Louis, Willie Mays, Jack Nicklaus, Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, Babe Ruth, Jim Thorpe and Ted Williams.

Cobb is No. 20 and a 30-minute show will air at 10:30 p.m. Friday.

Seven of the top 20 are baseball players, while four come from basketball and track

The panel of voters consisted of broadcasters, writers, historians and ESPN per-

ESPN will begin two shows a week in December on the list.

The final one-hour program, featuring the top two athletes on the list, will be the list. Bird was No. 30 and Johnson is shown Dec. 26 on ABC.

Russell said being selected "doesn't mean much", but his choice for the centu-

ry's top athlete would be Brown. "This list gives us a lot of conversation,"

with these people because my agenda was different. It was winning games and that was all. Jim Brown is the best player ever to play football and was far and away the best lacrosse player ever."

He was surprised that a fellow ex-Celtic, Larry Bird, was not closer to Johnson on among the top 20.

"The only reason they do that is because Magic won five titles and Larry won three," he said. "I think they should be a

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Sept. 15, 1999: You naturally take the right action this year. Intuition guides you at work and with personal matters. Understand the art of communication; use it to maximize the quality of your life. Family and home are high-priority. Give some thought to a home office. If you are single, romance blossoms. Be careful, however! Someone you work with could have strong feelings for you. Open up to new and exotic personalities, especially those you meet after early winter. If attached, you seem to be in sync with your mate, wanting the same things. A trip might be important in the second half of your birthday year. A positive change on the homefront is likely, too. SAGITTAR-IUS is an anchor.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so: 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Opt for new beginnings, breaking patterns where you might previously have been rigid. Understand that you might not always communicate the essence of what is needed. Creativity remains high. Let your imagination help with a business discussion. Tonight: Make unusual weekend plans. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

tion. Evaluate money and emotional decisions. Be willing to brainstorm. Work remains a high priority. A boss is difficult or vague. Trust that, underneath it all, he has a concept or idea. Tonight: Take time to understand another who is key to your well-being. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ Breeze into work. Focus on efficiency. Don't hedge; speak your mind. Make better communication a goal. Just thinking or feeling something

**** Close relating takes you in a new direc-

isn't enough! Express your views. Make long-distance calls. Plan to take a seminar or workshop. Tonight: Spend time with people, not alone. CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Pace yourself; listen to feedback and zero in on the job at hand. Don't take a back seat with others. Make your ideas known. You don't always have

to be politically correct. Your sixth sense helps you

read an associate and discern what he really wants. Tonight: Work late, if necessary. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Take care of personal matters first, then launch into a brainstorming session at work. Moneymaking ideas add to your sense of security. Let your imagination merge with another's; together, you come up with amazing ideas. Note the energy between you. Tonight: Add some heat to your rela-

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ Handle calls, work and errands that involve

others as soon as possible. By afternoon, your concerns and sense of direction could change. A family member makes a request that you need to evaluate. Carefully consider a dietary or health change. Tonight: Roll on home. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Reach out for others; make sure the facts

are being presented. A child or new love interest

could be most deceptive. You can't seem to see

beyond the fog this person creates. Your inner voice gives you financial direction. Use it. Tonight: Visiting with a friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ You are personality plus. Make time for networking and visiting with others. Make it OK to have a lengthy lunch. Mix business with pleasure. Your imagination might be making more out of a money offer than you realize. Tonight: Get some chores

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ Do research in the morning. Have an impor-

tant discussion with a boss once you establish what is what. Though he may not always agree with you, you'll get powerful feedback. Accept some facts, rather than digging for logic. Some things just are. Tonight: Beam in what you want. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ Take an overview. Question what might be

another route to the same end. Make goals; brain-

storm and discuss objectives. Take charge. Do some

serious thinking later in the day, although you don't

have to make a final decision just yet. Tonight: Curl up with that best seller.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ Aiming for what you want remains a key priority. A partner attempts to keep you focused. Thank him for his good intentions, realizing that he doesn't always have the most diplomatic style. Network. Make an extra effort to pitch in. Tonight:

Where your friends are. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Others give you their opinions, whether you seek them out or not. Take the high road. Consider other opportunities. You might not always agree with others, but they are doing their share. Intuition helps you with your career and a boss. Tonight: Burning the midnight oil.

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