

Hens nip Youngstown 20-13 to finish at 9-2

By JONATHAN FEIGEN

For some reason, whenever the Youngstown Penguins and the Blue Hens match up it is never easy. In fact, when these two teams get together you can pretty much figure the Hens will have to come from behind to pull out a win.

Saturday's contest at Delaware stadium was true-to-form as the Blue Hens had to mount a second half comeback behind John Davies, a hobbling Hugh Dougherty and a tenacious defense to down Youngstown 20-13.

"They are always tough, always a rival," said senior guard Tom Toner. "They came in talking about paybacks (for last year's defeats at the hands of the Hens) and stuff so they were pretty fired up. It's such an emotional game. For a lot of guys it was the last game of our careers. Kind of a wierd feeling."

It probably was the last game for Hen seniors unless the 1AA playoff selection committee decides to give Delaware an unlikely early Christmas present with a bid to their post-season tournament.

"I've been playing since I was six," said stellar senior linebacker K.C. Keeler. "That's a lot of games and practices. It's strange to think that today was the last time. We knew we had to come out for the second half and kick some guys around."

That they did as the defense held Youngstown to just a 30 yard Paul McFadden field goal while the Hen offense began to get their act together.

With the Penguins holding a 10-7 halftime lead John Davies took over at quarterback and hit senior Ed Wood with a perfect 16 yard touchdown pass over the middle. The rest of the yardage of the 5 play, 33 yard drive came on another Davies to Wood connection. It was a Joe Valentino interception on a Bob Lundquist tip that set up the drive.

"Davies played extremely well," said Coach Tubby Raymond. "He's very cool, poised and knowledgeable."

Although there were many fine offensive performances, Wood had three big catches, (Gino Olivieri ran for 78 yards) they were all overshadowed by the Hugh Dougherty story.

Dougherty came into the game needing just 88 yards to reach the 1,000 yard plateau. For him that would have been in the bag but the fullback was hampered by a pulled hamstring that he suffered against Maine a week earlier. Normally a hamstring injury would sideline a runner, but Dougherty would not be denied.

"I didn't think I'd make it," said Dougherty, "not the way the leg felt. I started the game really tight and they were going to take me out after the third series but I asked Tubby to please let me try one more series."

Dougherty responded picking up 32 first half yards despite a noticeable limp. Early in the fourth quarter he broke loose down the left sideline picking up 44 yards before Dave Morvay caught

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Review photo by Neal Williamson

ON THE WAY to 1000 yards is running back Hugh Dougherty. Playing with a pulled hamstring muscle, Dougherty helped lead the Hens to a 20-13 win over Youngstown St.

Spikers notch third at tournament

By DAVID WEST

The women's volleyball team overcame a tough loss

to defeat Courtland University, 15-10, 15-13, and placed third in the Eastern Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (EAIW) Regional Tournament Saturday in New Haven.

The Lady Hens lost to Southern Connecticut in the semi-finals, 15-12, 6-15, 7-15, 15-10, and 15-17. They were ahead in the final game, 14-10, and served match point twice, but failed to score. Southern Connecticut rallied to defeat the Hens and advance to the finals.

"We should have won that match," said Coach Barb Viera. "They had a number of mistakes, but we failed to take advantage of them."

Donna Methvin led the team with 23 kills and 5 service aces, while Kim Grinnel added 18 kills and 4 service aces.

"The players were really upset after losing," said Viera. "This team showed its character by coming back to defeat Courtland. That's the mark of a good team."

She added that despite the disappointing loss, her team enjoyed a successful season. "We only lost two Division II matches, and we won two tournaments (at Massachusetts and Rhode

Island)," she said. "Even though we didn't win it all, we had a very good year."

Last year's regionals saw these same two teams square off for the right to travel to Florida for the national tournament, with the Hens coming out on top. This helped to inspire their opponents, according to Viera.

"They were really psyched to beat us this year," she said. "They played well, but with a couple of breaks, it could have gone the other way."

The Hens had to face four opponents before meeting Southern Connecticut. They defeated Ithaca (15-8, 15-5), the University of Massachusetts (15-9, 15-7) and the University of New Haven (15-11, 15-7) before facing Catholic University in the quarterfinals.

In what Viera described as a hard-fought match, the Hens triumphed 9-15, 15-6 and 16-14. In the third game, they trailed 9-14, but came back to win and earn a berth in the semi-finals.

Against Catholic, Donna Methvin led the team with 17 kills and 4 service aces, while Carolyn Mendala added 11 kills.

The team finished the season with a 39-15 record.

Stickers place third in nationals

By DELLA MYERS

The Blue Hen stickers pulling a little extra from inside claimed third place in the national field hockey tournament by beating San Jose when a Sharon Wilkie goal settled the double-overtime contest, 3-2, Saturday.

Coach Mary Anne Campbell summed up the intensity of the contest saying, "We just had to forget fatigue and play with a lot of heart."

San Jose's Jennie Gilbert smacked in the game's first goal with 17:17 off the clock. Wilkie came right back with a score minutes later. Gilbert, however got another goal, and San Jose carried a 2-1 lead into halftime.

With only nine minutes left in the game, Delaware's Kathy Hudson evened the score at 2-2 by putting in a drive from the top of the circle.

A penalty stroke in the final moments of regulation action handed San Jose an open opportunity to close the contest. The referees had called an intentional foul on the Delaware defense and awarded San Jose the benefit. Gilbert took the shot. The ball sailed toward the upper left corner of the cage but hit the goal posts and fell short.

"We could hear the timer ticking," said senior co-captain Patty Wilkinson. "Then the ref called the foul. They could have won it on that, but the shot hit the post. We felt like we were given a second chance and got fired up."

In the second over time period, Sharon Wilkie collected her second goal and closed the contest by firing a reverse stick pass from

Carol Miller past the San Jose goalkeeper. Wilkinson termed the play "picture perfect."

"The feeling after the game was relief," commented Wilkinson. "We would not have been happy with fourth place or losing our last game. It was Thank God, we got the job done."

The emotion was not quite the same the day before as the Hen's lost their third contest of the season with Penn State, 3-2, in sudden death overtime.

The action of the game must have felt strange to the Lady Lions who had let up only four goals in the past 22 contests with the last ten games being shut outs including two against Delaware.

After Delaware's Debbie White matched a Candy Finn tally for the Lions, Sharon Wilkie put the Hens ahead, scoring at the 28:35 point. The Hens, with a 2-1 lead, had the Lions praying until Finn deadlocked the game with less than three minutes left in the contest. Finn then won the game for the Lions on her hat-trick on overtime.

"We were really upset to have it so close, especially the defense," stated Wilkinson. "The offense had already accomplished their goal by scoring against their goalie. Instead of thinking 'Let's score another,' we thought 'Let's hold them.' I think that was the problem."

The Lady Lions went on to capture first place in the tournament beating California, 2-1, in the title match and ending their season undefeated.