Men's soccer beat a perfect storm

By Dillon Flanigan
By Sports Editor



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

Being held back by a teammate, Queens College midfielder John Morell, a graduate, argues with the referee before being given a red card.

It was a gritty and suspense-filled men's soccer game on Wednesday, Sept. 18, as the university defeated non-conference opponent Queens College 3-1 at Jess Dow Field.

The game was delayed for about 20 minutes, as the opponent's scheduled arrival was delayed, pushing back warmups and the game by roughly 30 minutes.

"To be in a game that has so much emotion, and for the game to be affected so much by all the things that we couldn't control," Head Coach Kevin Anderson said "I thought it's a test of resilience. It's a test of a team to see who can put the pieces of this thing together when it's a difficult situation."

Once the game started, those in attendance were in for more than just a soccer game. There were several fouls and offsides called on both teams, as Queens College took an early 1-0 lead during minute 16.

Over the next 18 minutes, the Owls tightened their defense, allowing only one shot on goal that was saved by goalkeeper Devin Juan, a senior, as the offense attempted four shots, which all missed. That was until Zico Groenveld, a junior, evened the score at 1-1, his first goal of the season.

"We knew that there was a lot of space on the right," Groenveld said. "And going into the game, I felt fit, and I wanted to make those runs, and my teammates found me in very good spots, so I'm grateful for them giving me the ball."

Shortly after the goal, the physical opening came to a head in minute 38, as defender Edward Mensah, a graduate, was given a yellow card. After a conversation with the referee, Queens College midfielder John Morrell was given a red card and ejected from the contest.

The action on the field was delayed as Morrell aggressively confronted the referee while held back by his teammates. He eventually retreated to the bench, engaging the coaching staff in a heated verbal argument.

As Morrell was exiting the field, a group of fans cheering on each team got into a separate verbal dispute that was mediated by Jay Turiano, the university's assistant coordinator of athletic facilities & academic support specialist.

A minute later, after back-to-back shots saved by Juan, Owls midfielder Solomon Aidoo, a sophomore, was handed a red card and escorted off the field by Joe Hines, the university's associate director of athletics and coordinator of athletic facilities.

Unfortunately, Aidoo was not available for comment post-game.

"I think it's always easy to judge something," Anderson said. "I haven't seen the video yet, so I'm not sure where either of those lie, but we have to respect the call, and we got to continue with the game."

At the half, now playing 10 v 10 with the ejections, the Owls needed to adjust their game plan.

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Softball head coach resigns

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

If the departure of former head coach of gymnastics Byron Knox came as a surprise, then the university's loss of another veteran head coach is another shocking blow to the coaching roster.

In a late press release on Sept. 12, the university athletics and recreation department, led by Terrance Jones, announced that Head Softball Coach Jillian Rispoli had resigned to "pursue other professional opportunities."

In Rispoli's tenure, she went 125-230-1 including a 4-4 record in four NE10 Conference appearances.

In the same release, the university named Kate Bowen as the interim head coach of the program.

Bowen resigned on the same day from Springfield College as head coach of their softball program.

"Bowen is a highly respected coach with experience in athletic administration," Jones said in the press release. "We're ecstatic to bring someone of Kate's caliber to Southern to guide our softball student-athletes."

Bowen served as head coach in Springfield for eight seasons and served as a graduate assistant for three seasons prior. She held a 180-88-1 overall record which translates to a .697 winning percentage, the release goes on to say.

"I am excited to join the Southern Connecticut State University family and to come back home to Connecticut. I look forward to working with this group of student-athletes to continue and build upon the program's tradition of excellence," Bowen said.

Bowen was a former softball player in her own right at NCAA Division I Manhattan College, receiving several team and personal accomplishments, including being a two-time recipient of Manhattan College's Female Student-Athlete of the Year.

The press release further states she played three seasons for the Stratford Brakettes, a professional softball team winning three national championships.

The Southern News reached out to the Athletic Department and received the following statement.

"Jillian Rispoli resigned her position as SCSU's Softball Head Coach to relocate to another state with her family," the athletic department said.

For more on this story, visit thesouthernews.com

Women's soccer loses on senior day in NE10 opener

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor



PHOTO | LILY RAND

Forward Nicky Deslauriers, a junior, steals and dribbles past a Panther.

In a tough NE10 conference game on Saturday, Sept. 21, the women's soccer team fell to the Adelphi University Panthers 1-0.

After coming off a road win at Holy Family University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the team returned home for senior night and their NE10 opener.

This game was delayed, as the field hockey game going on earlier that day was extended; therefore, warmups and a pregame ceremony were kept on hold until after the previous game had wrapped. After honoring their eight seniors, and a national anthem performance by Owls forward Laura Ryer, a senior, the game was underway.

"I was really proud of our players. They did what we asked them to do. They played with heart; they played with passion. They were organized; they were brave," Head Coach Adam Cohen said. "I couldn't really ask them to do anything more."

The Owls had several opportunities to score early, as forward Laura Ryer, a senior, had a corner kick that was saved by Adelphi's goalkeeper Peyton DeRouen.

DeRouen had nine saves during the game, while the Owls goalkeeper Kaelen Fabry, a graduate, had four.

The game was tied 0-0 at the half, as the Owls tried many creative ways to move the ball around and to stop the movement from the Panthers, but it was not easy.

"The players, they're so creative. That's kind of the beauty about soccer," Cohen said. "The coaches give the foundation and the ideas and the concepts, but once the game starts, the players take over. A lot of those creative moments come from the players."

In the early minutes of the second half, what seemed to be minor collisions between Panthers' Micaella Romagno and the Owls' forward Nicky Deslauriers, a junior, were given a yellow card in two separate instances.

Cohen said: "I just think that's part of the game. They're playing hard, and sometimes it happens."

There were many kicks out of bounds by the Owls to disrupt the seamless speed of the Panthers.

Many times, it worked, as it would result in a lost opportunity for the Panthers. However, in minute 70, Adelphi took a 1-0 lead.

"I think we really knew that they were going to be trying to look for the over-the-top ball, and we were really able to protect that," forward Shelby Green, a junior, said. "We were very confident that we would be able to score, and I think that just knowing that all NE10 teams are very good, you have to finish your chances."

In the final two minutes of the game, everyone was on the edge of their seat. Deslauriers started the Owls' attempt to tie the game, as her kick was saved by DeRouen.

After she missed, everyone who was on the edge of their seat was on their feet, as forward Alexie Rosado, a graduate, connected for the header but missed by inches, hitting the top of the goal instead.

Midfielder and forward Sydney Myers, a sophomore, would miss her shot, as Rosado and the Owls' final attempt resulted in a save by DeRouen.

For more on this story, visit thesouthernews.com



Goalkeeper Kaelen Fabry, a graduate, misses the save as Adelphi University scores a goal.

Field hockey drops nail-biter

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

The university women's field hockey team fell 3-2 to the American International College, AIC, Yellow Jackets, after a double-overtime shootout on Saturday, Sept. 21.

"I thought we played really hard. I think we played extremely well," midfielder Lindsey Onofrio, a freshman said. "We had a lot of intensity coming into the game, but sometimes it just doesn't work out in our favor."

On Sept. 14, the Owls went on the road to play AIC, losing in regular overtime 1-0.

In this Saturday's game, the Yellow Jackets jumped to an early 1-0 lead in the first quarter with a goal by forward Fenna Voll, as they held the Owls off the board in the first half.

There were several missed opportunities by both teams in the first half, as each goalkeeper collected four saves apiece.

"A lot of the things we just talked about those first touches, those lead passes, the spacing that we were trying to get," Frassinelli said. "Then just the execution inside the circle for releasing those shots and getting those rebounds."

Three minutes into the third quarter, forward Keana Criscuolo, a freshman, scored her second goal of the season, the first in the game.

Criscuolo was assisted by midfielder Trinidad Rodriguez Ricchiuti, a senior, and quickly tied the score at 1-1.

Six minutes later, AIC scored their second goal, taking a 2-1 lead.

It was not until late in the fourth quarter that the Owls tied the Yellow Jackets at 2-2 with a goal from Onofrio, the first of her career.

"Thanks to my teammates who did the work up front," Onofrio said, "I kind of just trusted my instinct and went to the same spot that I usually go to, and I'm just happy it worked out in my favor."

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PHOTO | LILY RAND

A Yellow Jacket is defended by midfielder Lindsay Onofrio, a freshman.