Owls gain confidence



PHOTO | MATEUSZ GAZDZICKI

Setter Kimi Mitchell, a sophomore, sets the ball during the game against Saint Anselm College on Friday, Oct. 2 at Pelz Gymansium.

Women's Volleyball finds its rythm in four-set victory

By Noah Nunez
General Reporter

The Owls found themselves the victors of a close game as the Women's Volleyball team defeated Saint Anselm College, going 3-1 on Friday, October 2.

The volleyball game was a part of a celebration for faculty and staff, who were invited to come and watch the game to support the players, which ended up being a big help for middle blocker Sarah Stark, a senior.

"It was amazing knowing that they're all here to support us, and we could honor them tonight. It brought the game a lot more energy tonight," Stark said.

Going into the match, the Owls were confident in their abilities even with the pressure of this being their first conference game, with the crowd full of faculty, and their previous game going to five sets.

Outside hitter Kerrigan Habing, a junior, was excited going into this match, recognizing the skill of Anselm but still ready to take them on.

"We felt good coming off the AIC match; we went to five with them, but we had a lot of energy, and we were pretty consistent, so we felt pretty confident coming in," Habing said.

The game started out rough for the Owls, losing the first set to a number of errors on their part, allowing Anselm to take over.

Quickly after this early loss, the Owls began to take over the game, with Head Coach Lisa Barbaro believing the early game was what led the Owls to find their groove in the match and begin their domination.

"But really, we were just finding our rhythm," Barbaro said. "I think once we kind of found that and started to connect and play, it all came together."

Tensions rose in the last minutes of the game as the Owls found themselves battling back and forth with Anselm for the game, with a tie that lasted; the Owls pulled through, closing the set 29-27

"I think we started a little bit slow, but I think the second set we started to control what we could control and it helped," Habing said. "I think that helps a lot and also our energy picked up a lot towards the end."

A climatic and satisfying win for the Owls is exactly what the staff and faculty who support these players in their education deserve with their appearance.

This positive attitude extended to Barbaro as well, who was ecstatic at the support they received and being able to get their hard work in the faces of more people.

"So great to finally have faculty and staff be able to come here and just be in our space and be able to see what we do every day. They work hard and our athletes work hard too, and it was just great to have us in a different space other than the classroom," Barbaro said.

Men's soccer secures win at home



PHOTO | LILY RAND

Forward Jayson Dumont, a senior, battles a St. Thomas Aquinas College player for possesion during the game on Sep. 29.

By Noah Nunez
General Reporter

The Men's Soccer team earned another win on the home field against St. Thomas Aquinas College, taking over the game with a clean 2-0.

With an impressive display of confidence following multiple injury recoveries, Head Coach Reuben Ayarna believed this aspect of their game plan is what led the team to their victory.

"We felt confident in our competition that we're gonna fight for every single ball, and the guys came out, and then they showed it, and so I'm really proud of them for playing that way," Reuben said.

The Owls started off the game with the first goal against St. Thomas by forward Izan Villa, a freshman, making it the first of his career.

Villa recognized the skill St. Thomas put on display throughout the match but found a simple solution against what they put on the table.

"They fight a lot; it was a good team," Villa said. "They are good with both, but we do things better than them, so we win"

Outperforming a lot of what St. Thomas was putting on the field in this game was what the Owls were truly out to do. They proved that despite the difficulties, they were able to make it over the challenge St. Thomas set forth.

One of the major difficulties the Owls found themselves dealing with in this game was St. Thomas's goalie who helped them play such a wonderful game and proved the biggest challenge.

"Listen, having a goalie like that, with that height and also being able to play from the back, well, it's really beautiful to see from them. I think they are really good too," Reuben said.

Midfielder Solomon Aidoo, a junior, found the team to be the hardest challenge they have faced so far.

"To be honest, they gave us a really hard time. Even though we won the game, but I think so far they are one of the best teams we've played so far; they are really, really good," Solomon said.

Even with the Owls holding the majority of possession over the ball, a flaw in their plan became evident that could have cost them the game.

Often the university would lose the ball, blocking themselves from having total control over the score and giving St. Thomas more opportunities to catch up than they might have wanted.

"We didn't take care of the ball, and when you're up by a goal, and the team is chasing like that, you cannot give them any chance to try to create chances" Reuben said.

Owls keep building momentum



By Draven Dabrowski
Sports Columnist

The Owls are heating up as October begins. The university put together another impressive week, with big wins, standout individual performances and plenty of momentum building as teams move deeper into their seasons.

The football team continued its strong start Saturday, Oct. 3 with a dominant 40-10 road victory over Saint Anselm College. The win improved the university to 3-1 overall and 2-0 in the NE10 Conference.

The university has now scored at least 30 points in three straight games for the first time since 2017.

Running back John Amaning, a graduate, helped lead the offense with 92 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 15 carries.

Quarterback Brandon Jorgensen, a graduate, also had one of his best performances of the season, completing 18 of 29 passes for a season high 258 yards and a touchdown.

Wide receiver Seth Westover, a graduate, was Jorgensen's biggest target, catching four passes for 111 yards. His biggest play came early in the second quarter when he connected with Jorgensen for a 65-yard touchdown that gave the Owls a 20-0 lead.

Kicker Daniel Benzi, a senior, was another major part of the win. Benzi went a perfect four for four on field goals and made all three of his extra-point attempts, finishing with 15 points.

The Owls finished with 518 yards of offense while holding Saint Anselm to 295. The defense also recorded a season high four sacks and intercepted two passes.

The team will now turn their attention toward Homecoming, when they host Monroe University on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 2 p.m. at Jess Dow Field.

Back at Jess Dow, women's soccer earned a 1-0 win over Southern New Hampshire University behind an early goal and a strong defensive performance.

Forward Bella LaPerle, a senior, scored just over six minutes into the game for her third goal of the season. That was all the offense the team needed.

Goalkeeper Makenzi Pastreck, a sophomore, made sure the lead held up, recording seven saves. Five of those saves came in the second half as Southern New Hampshire increased the pressure.

The Owls outshot the Penmen 16-11 and picked up its second straight home victory. The Owls returned to Jess Dow on Tuesday, Oct. 6, against American International College.

Away from campus, the universities swimming and diving teams competed at the Fairfield Invite on Friday, Oct. 2 and Saturday, Oct. 3.

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