Late goal seals victory



PHOTO | MATEUSZ GAZDZICKI

The university men's soccer team standing along the sideline at Jess Dow Field during their game against Adelphi University on Oct. 7.

By Valentina Toro
Managing Editor

The university's men's soccer team defeated Adelphi University 2–1 Oct. 7, at Jess Dow Field, scoring twice after halftime before protecting its lead in the closing minutes.

The victory extended the Owls' unbeaten NE10 Conference start to five games and improved their record to 2–0–3 in conference play.

"This was a big one for us," Buchanan said. "This is probably our big turning point for us to go and really challenge for the league now."

The first half ended scoreless, but Adelphi created several opportunities. The Owls' goalkeeper Diego Flores, a sophomore, made four saves before halftime, including three during a stretch of pressure in the 32nd minute.

Forward Andrew Buchanan, a senior, and winger Izan Vila, a freshman, scored with Forward Jimmy Choi, a junior, assisting on both goals.

Choi tested the Adelphi goalkeeper early in the second half and the Owls continued pushing forward until Buchanan broke the tie in the 61st minute.

Buchanan said the difference came from competing for loose balls and making quicker decisions.

"We win a lot of second balls," Buchanan said. "We just get ourselves up the field."

Buchanan said scoring mattered most because it put the university ahead and gave his teammates an opportunity to finish the job.

The Owls doubled their advantage in the 80th minute when Choi connected with Vila, who scored his second goal of the season. Choi finished with two assists in 48 minutes off the bench, bringing his season total to three.

Adelphi answered just 77 seconds later. Zain Suterwalla scored off a pass from Cristian Escobar, cutting the deficit to one goal with nearly 10 minutes remaining.

Flores finished with five saves, while both teams recorded 11 shots.

Adelphi entered the match with three conference victories, making the Owls' ability to withstand the late pressure especially important in the standings.

Head Coach Reuben Ayarna praised the team's effort.

"I'm really, really proud of them, how they played," Ayarna said. "They fought for every single ball."

Ayarna said the team's ability to adjust defensively has been important during its unbeaten conference stretch.

Different players have filled roles while maintaining communication and organization.

"Next man up, he comes in, he does his job," Ayarna said. "Everybody's communicating, everybody's working."

Vila said the win could strengthen the team's confidence and trust moving forward.

"The goal isn't just mine. It's the result of all the effort my teammates have put in," Vila said.

For Ayarna, the result reflected the message he delivered before kickoff: winning sometimes requires more than attractive soccer, particularly when a team must battle through difficult stretches.

"Sometimes you gotta win ugly," Ayarna said. "There are some days that you play well, you win, and then there are some days that the only thing important is a win."

Women's volleyball faces rematch



PHOTO | MATEUSZ GAZDZICKI

The university women's volleyball team gather around the coaching staff at Pelz Gymnasium during one of their matches.

By Elena Panora-Jara
Contributor

The university's women's volleyball team will face American International College in a NE10 Conference volleyball match on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 5 p.m. in the Pelz Gymnasium.

The match comes less than a month after the university pushed AIC to five sets before falling short 3–2.

"No other team has taken AIC to five sets so far this season," assistant athletic trainer and NCAA diversity and inclusion designee Mercedes Himmons, said. "It's going to be a big game with a lot of excitement."

The Owls kicked off this year's NE10 play winning 3–1 against Saint Anselm College.

Altogether, the team secured 56 kills, with right side hitter Sydney Bennett, a graduate, leading the team with 18.

As of Oct. 4, AIC sits at the top of the standings with a 16–1 overall win/lose rate and a .941 winning percentage this season.

The university trails the Yellow Jackets with a 12–4 overall record and a .750 winning percentage.

The Owls' recent performance has generated buzz and excitement among students, one of whom says she is looking forward to seeing the team compete at home.

"It's going to be a pretty intense game," elementary education major Olivia Siciliano, a sophomore, said. "It'll be interesting."

For nursing major Ruth Jimenez, a freshman, the appeal of the upcoming game is not only the rematch between the Owl's and AIC, but also the atmosphere of another home game.

"There's going to be a lot of excitement; probably expect a huge crowd," Jimenez said.

While the match gives the university a chance to redeem its previous loss, the game will also include a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

In partnership with the university's division of diversity, equity and inclusion, the Organization of Latin American Students, has been invited to plan an artistic performance in between sets two and three that will celebrate Hispanic culture and diversity.

Himmons said the event reflects the university's commitment to diversity.

"It ties in with Southern's overall mission of being social justice forward and providing an inclusive environment," Himmons said.

The Tuesday, Oct. 20 matchup gives the Owls another opportunity to challenge one of the conference's top teams on home grounds.

Himmons said the game is also intended to bring students together through celebration.

Athletic pride takes center stage



By Draven Dabrowski
Sports Columnist

"Homecoming and Family Weekend" brought plenty of excitement as the Owls returned to action across multiple sports while also recognizing an important figure in the university's athletic history.

The university's football team gave the Homecoming alumni crowd plenty to celebrate. On Saturday, Oct. 10, they defeated Monroe University 35–28 at Jess Dow Field in front of 3,377 fans.

The Owls overcame a 14 point second half deficit, scoring 21 unanswered points to secure the victory.

Running back John Amaning, a graduate, led the offense with 146 rushing yards and three touchdowns on 30 carries.

Monroe took control early, building a 14–0 lead in the first quarter before Amaning scored the Owl's first touchdown. The Mustangs entered halftime ahead 21–7 and later extended their advantage to 28–14 in the third quarter.

The Owls responded with 21 consecutive points, beginning with Amaning's third touchdown late in the third quarter.

Quarterback Brandon Jorgensen, a graduate, connected with wide receiver Andres Perez, a sophomore, for a 31-yard touchdown with 6:38 remaining in the fourth quarter to tie the game at 28. Perez finished with nine receptions for 132 yards, while Jorgensen completed 16 of 19 passes for 186 yards.

Defensive back Emeka Yearwood, a freshman, intercepted the Mustangs on its following possession, giving the team an opportunity to take its first lead. Jorgensen capitalized with a one-yard rushing touchdown with 2:57 remaining.

Yearwood also recorded nine tackles, helping the Owl's defense hold Monroe scoreless throughout the fourth quarter.

The Owls will return to NE10 Conference play Saturday, Oct. 17, when they host Assumption University at 2 p.m.

During "Homecoming and Family Weekend," the university honored the legacy of former Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Head Coach Tim Quill with a scoreboard dedication at Bruce Hutchinson Natatorium on Friday, Oct. 9.

Quill, who passed away in February at age 58, spent 28 years leading the university's swimming and diving programs, establishing one of the most successful coaching careers in university history.

During his tenure, the university captured 34 NE10 Conference championships and produced 121 NCAA All-America selections. Quill also coached 13 individual national champions and earned NE10 Coach of the Year honors 28 times.

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