Owls suffer setback



PHOTO | LILY RAND

Women's volleyball team huddle on the court during their game against American International College on Oct. 20 at Pelz Gymnasium.

Women's volleyball team suffers defeat in close match

By Valentina Toro
Managing Editor

The university women's volleyball team struggled to maintain its early leads Oct. 20, falling 3–1 to American International College in a NE10 Conference matchup at Pelz Gymnasium.

The Owls fall short despite leading early in three sets. The university showed defensive intensity but committed costly errors that prevented it from finishing close stretches of the match.

"I think we came out with a lot of energy, and we had some really good moments, but I think it was just really up and down, and in the end, we just couldn't close," setter Kimi Mitchell, a sophomore, said.

The university opened the first set with a 9–3 advantage behind Libero Alyssa Ferreira's serving and consecutive blocks. AIC recovered with a 10–3 run, before taking the set.

Head Coach Lisa Barbaro said the university's mistakes at critical points made the difference in an otherwise competitive match.

"I just think it was a lot of unforced errors at some crucial points in the match," Barbaro said. "We struggled to get out of certain rotations, and that was the difference."

Outside hitter Kerrigan Habing, a junior, delivered three consecutive service aces during a five-point surge that tied the score at 16 in their second set.

Right side hitter Sydney Bennett, a graduate, finished the set with back-to-back kills, giving the Owls its only set victory.

Habing led with 15 kills and 15 digs, while Bennett contributed nine kills and five blocks. Mitchell recorded 36 assists, six kills and seven digs.

Barbaro said the team's serving showed improvement, although missed opportunities still affected the result.

"I think we were more consistent and aggressive with it," Barbaro said. "It was just the timeliness of sometimes when we miss those serves."

Mitchell said the team's desire to avenge its previous loss to AIC added pressure when points became especially important.

"We just didn't respond well as far as closing out in tough moments when the score is close," Mitchell said.

The university's ability to challenge a strong conference opponent offered encouragement, but its late-set execution remained an issue.

With four matches remaining, The Owls faced an important stretch in its pursuit of a favorable conference finish and potential postseason opportunity.

Barbaro emphasized concentrating on the next opponent rather than looking ahead to a possible rematch.

"We have to just regroup and refocus," Barbaro said. "We have lofty goals of the season of winning a championship and all that. But really, we gotta get it done one day at a time."

Women's soccer settles for draw



PHOTO | WILLIAM GAGNÉ

Midfielder Julia Salley, a sophomore, battles Adelphi University players for possesion of the ball during the game on Oct. 20.

By Noah Nunez
General Reporter

The women's soccer team closed out their game against Adelphi University in a straight 0–0 draw on Oct. 20.

The game itself was incredibly close, with Head Coach Adam Cohen seeing both teams display excellent control of the ball; however, neither was able to get it over the line or take any sort of lead.

"We have high standards, high expectations, and you know the players have been working so hard; they're looking forward to playing these competitive games," Cohen said.

The Owls were hoping for a win not only for the points it would net them but also to provide them a safety net for their remaining games.

Defense Maya Tellier, a sophomore, described the attitude around this game and how it affected her and her teammates' play.

"Going into the game, I think we had a lot of, like, the idea of we need to win this game. I mean, the next 3 games we have to win them, so we really have no room for error," Tellier said.

The game itself started with both teams finding their footing, but as the game continued, the cracks began to form as more and more time was spent in the middle of the field rather than the ends.

The reason for this lopsided approach to the game landed on what defense Olivia Morrissette, a sophomore, thought was a drop of possession in the second half.

"We kind of decided to just keep kicking the ball like we didn't keep the ball," Morrissette said. "If we had possession of the ball, I think we would have been way more successful"

In the aftermath of the game, the look of the game became clear, and the good surrounding it was brighter than any failure the Owls faced.

The game showed how resilient the team can be when faced with a tough challenge that seemed impossible throughout the entire game.

"I like to see that they're able to respond when it's hard, and that's what they did. You know we have injuries and people fatigued in all different ways, and they're able to respond and put in their best effort within the second half," Cohen said.

A draw like this is not only going to provide a different point on the result sheet but a different response from the players regarding how they viewed the game.

"This was a really good tie. Like, we need another point just to keep going because we're all even in the rankings right now, so I think this is a good tie for us," Morrissette said.

Weekend delivers excitement



By Draven Dabrowski
Sports Columnist

A last second field goal, and three convincing wins highlighted a weekend of mixed emotions for the university's athletics, as the Owls experienced both sides of competition on Saturday, Oct. 24.

The Owls field hockey team continued its strong stretch of play with a 3–1 victory improving to 7–8 overall.

Midfielder Lindsey Onofrio, a junior, led the Owls offensively, scoring twice on two shots. Forward Keana Criscuolo, a junior, added another goal, while midfielder Avery Vaccaro, a sophomore, and midfielder Ruby Webb, a senior, each contributed an assist.

Goalkeeper Lyndsay Troisi, a junior, played all 60 minutes, recording six saves while allowing just one goal. Despite being outshot 15–9, the Owls made the most of its opportunities, putting five shots on goal.

This win marked another positive result for the team, who will look to carry that momentum into their next matchup against Adelphi University on Tuesday, Oct. 27.

Women's soccer also found success offensively but settled for a 2–2 draw Saturday, Oct. 24 bringing its overall record to 6–4–6.

After falling behind early, forward Frida Norret, a sophomore, responded in the 33rd minute, intercepting a pass before working her way through the defense and scoring her fifth goal of the season.

Just four minutes later, forward Bella LaPerle, a senior, gave her team a 2–1 lead after connecting on a corner kick delivered by Ryleigh Phillips, a sophomore. The goal was LaPerle's fourth of the season.

The Owls lead slipped away in the 80th minute when Saint Michael's College scored the tying goal, leaving the Owls with a draw.

Goalkeeper Makenzi Pastreck, a sophomore, recorded six saves in the match.

The Owls will conclude their regular season Oct. 28 against Assumption University.

While women's soccer narrowly missed a victory, the football team suffered a difficult finish in a 32–29 loss Saturday Oct. 24.

Quarterback Brandon Jorgensen, a graduate, delivered a career performance, completing 20 of 31 passes for 317 yards and four touchdowns.

Wide receiver Seth Westover, a graduate, also recorded a career high 170 receiving yards on seven receptions, including two touchdowns.

The university entered halftime leading 14–7 before extending its advantage to 21–7 early in the third quarter. However, the Owls surrendered 22 unanswered points and found themselves trailing 29–21 late in the fourth.

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