Football faces setbacks



PHOTO | MATEUSZ GAZDZICKI

The university football team gather together in a huddle during their game against Franklin Pierce University on Saturday, Oct. 31.

The Owls look to overcome defensive struggles

By Noah Nunez
General Reporter

The Owls faced devastating defeat at the hands of Franklin Pierce University, going 14–48 on Saturday, Oct. 31, extending their losing streak to three.

The Owls knew going into this game that it was going to be an uphill battle, with Head Coach Joe Loth finding that the team's defense faltered throughout the game and led to the eventual loss.

"We couldn't get off the field defensively. Offensively, we started okay but didn't run the ball as consistent enough as we needed to, we had to encircle," Loth said.

The game began with the Owls scoring the first touchdown, quarterback Mike Kinik, a senior, helped to secure what the team thought was going to be a dominant lead throughout.

This, however, was counteracted by Franklin Pierce scoring two touchdowns in the first quarter.

"I think they got a little jump on us too early in the game, and we came down a little bit. I feel like at halftime we got more juice coming out, but they just kept on the throttle, and we just couldn't stop them," Kinik said.

The rest of the game ended up being rather one-sided, with Franklin Pierce becoming dominant, exploiting the weaknesses in the Owls' defense and staving off their own offense.

While the other point scored this game was by tight end Isaac Lynch, a freshman, his attitude towards the game at halftime stands as emblematic of the Owls' philosophy and why they kept their heart in the game.

"We've all been doing this for a long time; we want to win. We're out here going hard, but you know it just wasn't enough. Go harder. I mean, what else is there to do?" Lynch said.

Any loss is tough on a team and finding ways to keep it up becomes another aspect the university needs to work on.

For the Owls, getting players matched to the same mindset of how they are handling defense going forward seems to be a priority in an attempt to break this losing streak.

"This is tough, like we've lost three in a row now. When you lose three games in a row, you need to get the team back on the same kind of mode," Loth said. "It's a challenge just one of the challenges in the football team. When you lose a couple of games in a row, how do you get it right?"

The plan now seems to be getting everyone together and figuring out how to hammer out these issues they have been dealing with for a while now.

"Tomorrow's a new day; every game's a new game. We're just waiting to go 1-0 next week, 1-0 every single day Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and then win the game," Kinik said.

Field hockey suffers narrow defeat



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETICS

Back Sofia Frassinelli, a junior, standing on the field during the game against Southern New Hampshire University on Sunday, Nov. 1.

By Noah Nunez
General Reporter

The women's field hockey team found themselves unable to break through the single goal Southern New Hampshire University scored and lost their game on Sunday, Nov. 1, going 1–0 and finding themselves in need of a regroup.

Head Coach Kelley Frassinelli said the team was well positioned going into the game and also learning from their previous loss, but the cards were not in their favor offensively, leading to the point difference.

"We were in a good space coming off our Franklin Pierce game. There were some little things we certainly needed to be consistent with, and I think we played a really strong game here, and some of the consistency of what we wanted to do wasn't there," Frassinelli said.

Throughout the game, the Owls found themselves backed onto defense, unable to make any advancements throughout due to the strong offensive pushes from Southern New Hampshire leading them to control the ball for the majority of the game.

Even when the university was able to go on the offensive and attempt shots on goal, they often found that their offence was not enough to make a difference in the game.

"We wanted this the whole game," midfielder Ruby Webb, a senior said. "Unfortunately, we didn't capitalize and didn't make the connections that we should have. We played the more defensive game when we should have been a little more offensive."

This form of play left the team unable to make any advancement up the field and dealt a blow to their ability to function together as a team.

An important thing about games like this is to never feel hopeless at any point in them, and the team seems to have their own way to help themselves get back up.

"Getting in a circle, that's something that helps when we're like this. Once we're bringing it in, when we're cheering, turning on each other when we're right about to go on the field, it helps us," midfielder Isabelle Sharp Sr., a freshman said.

The university now has found themselves looking inward and seeing what aspects of their play can be improved during practice even when that comes with its own issues of getting together.

"It is little by little, we don't have everybody at practice just because of their class schedules and what not," Frassinelli said. "I think that affects the overall play and how we are progressing."

Athletics sees mixed results



By Draven Dabrowski
Sports Columnist

As October came to an end, the university faced challenges in competition, while the men's and women's swimming and diving teams delivered several standout performances.

The women's soccer team saw its NE10 Conference tournament run come to an early end on Sunday, November 1, after falling 5–3 in a penalty shootout against Bentley University following a 1–1 tie through double overtime.

Forward Frida Norret, a sophomore, wasted little time putting the Owls ahead, scoring just 36 seconds into the match. The unassisted goal was her seventh of the season and first of her postseason career.

Despite surrendering the equalizer less than two minutes later, the Owls defense held firm throughout the remainder of regulation and both overtime periods.

Goalkeeper Makenzi Pastreck, a sophomore, recorded four saves, including three in the second half, to keep her team in contention.

Norret, defense Saga Möttönen, a freshman, and defense Ryleigh Phillips, a sophomore, converted their penalty attempts, but the team was eliminated after Bentley converted all five of its attempts. The Owls finished the match with a 7–5–6 record.

Back in New Haven, the Owl's field hockey team suffered a narrow 1–0 defeat against Southern New Hampshire University at Jess Dow Field.

Goalkeeper Lyndsay Troisi, a junior, made eight saves, while defender Sofia Frassinelli, a junior, contributed a crucial defensive save during the opening quarter to prevent an additional goal.

Despite facing consistent offensive pressure, the defense improved as the game progressed, allowing just four shots in the second half after facing 10 in the opening two quarters.

The Owls generated three shots on goal but were able to come away with the win. The loss dropped the university to 7–10 overall and 3–5 in conference play.

The university's football team also struggled at Jess Dow Field, falling 48–14 to Franklin Pierce University in an NE10 conference game.

The Owls opened the game with an impressive 12–play, 75–yard touchdown drive, capped by a one–yard rushing score from quarterback Mike Kinik, a senior.

However, the Owls were unable to maintain their early momentum, allowing 48 unanswered points before finding the end zone again in the fourth quarter.

Quarterback Brandon Jorgensen, a graduate, completed 15 of 23 passes for 123 yards and a touchdown.

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