

Fencers keep slate clean

By MIKE MISSANELLI
Collegian Sports Writer

The good news in yesterday's win over Navy for the Penn State mens fencers in the final home meet of the season may be overshadowed by the bad news.

The good news is that the Lions whipped the Middies, 17-10, before a standing room only crowd in the fencing room and leave University Park without ever losing in 1976-77.

But the bad news is in order for the Lions to remain undefeated, they must meet the challenge of a pentagonal meet in Detroit next weekend, a 10 hour ride and a mere two days before finals week.

And sorry folks, more bad news: Lion All-American foiler John Corona had his streak of 26 consecutive victories stopped by Navy's LaSelle Booker.

"All week in practice I haven't been fencing well, so last night I had a talk with myself. I figured, the reason I wasn't fencing well in practice was that I knew all my teammates moves. I didn't think I was going to start against Navy, so when I got the nod, I made up my mind not to lose."

In Bohl's case, it was a question of the mysteries of fencing.

"Fencing is a weird game, you never know what is going to happen," the junior said. "I've only been to two practices in two weeks because of my school work load, didn't get much sleep

last night, but when I got here, I felt really good. Sometimes after a layoff, you review what you've done all season, and it all comes back to you."

But Bohl's foilmate Corona, had his troubles. The All-American was wiped out by Booker, 5-0, in the first match and had to scrap to win 5-4 over Peter Sisa in the second.

"I have no excuse," Corona said about losing to Booker, a man he had beaten before. "Today he was a better fencer than me. I just wasn't fencing up to par. Some days you get the peanuts, some days you get the shells. Today, I got the shells."

The Lions did however, have little trouble in winning their 12th straight. Although the score was 5-4 after the first round, Penn State then opened up a 13-5 lead by winning eight of the next nine bouts. The Middies put on a rally with three straight wins, but sophomore epee fencer Jeff Haney clinched the victory with a 5-3 win over Charles Ivey.

The win was especially sweet for Penn State mentor Mac Garret who was given a special tribute at the conclusion of the match before the packed gallery, which included many parents of the fencers.

"Penn State, State College and the entire state of Pennsylvania should be quite proud of this team," the coach said. "We had another fine day."

Two of Saturday's finer performances

belonged to Haney and junior foiler Ken Bohl, who each went 3-0 on the day. According to Haney, a change in tactics enabled him to sweep through his three wins.

"I got up at about 7:30," he said, "took out the trash, walked around downtown and got my hair cut. I wanted to get my adrenalin flowing for this one."

"Losing in his first bout caused a psychological imbalance in John," Garret said. "He said lets down a bit when he feels he can't lead the team to victory himself. But he's a great human being and one of the finest leaders we've ever had at Penn State."

Next weekend the Lions will have to be tough to end their season unbeaten. They will fence Wayne St., last year's number two team in the nation, as well as Detroit, Illinois, and Wisconsin-Parkside in their first pentagonal meet of the year.

"Finals are going to be a big deterrent to this meet," Corona said. "We're going to study Friday and Saturday on the bus. And Wayne St. will be tough. They always seem to import an outstanding foreign fencer."

"The schools we'll be meeting are all tops in the midwest," Garret confessed. "There's going to be no easy competition for the fellows the entire day. But if we don't take these schools lightly, we're going to finish our season unbeaten."



Penn State's Bill Squire (right) battles it out with sabre fencer Robert Richards of Navy. Penn State won the

match 17-10 to remain undefeated and kept its hopes alive for a national championship.

Photo by Bob Gurneer

Volleyballers spike four on road

By CHUCK BUCHANAN
Collegian Sports Writer

Continuing their winning ways, Penn State's undefeated spikers claimed four victories at West Point, N.Y. this weekend.

The Nittany Lions, 9-0 in collegiate match play, had a tough time getting started, however, against a tough Delaware squad. Playing what Lion Coach Tom Tait could only call "very, very bad volleyball," Penn State dropped its first game, 4-15.

The Lions came back strong from this opening setback, though, and went on to win eight consecutive games.

Behind the excellent serving and receiving of Dave Evans and Dave Phillips, Penn State grabbed the second game by a 15-12 count. The comeback was complete in the third and final game of the match, as Carey Seavy and Frank Guadanino brought the hitting to life. The Nittany Lions took that see-saw affair, 16-14.

Delaware, an Eastern Collegiate Volleyball League member, went on from this defeat to win its next six games. The Nittany spikers will face the Blue Hens again this season, and the two look right now to be the favorites to capture the ECVL championships late in April.

The Lions had an easy time of downing their next three opponents.

"We thoroughly dominated East Stroudsburg with just excellent all-around play," said Tait of Penn State's 15-6, 15-7 trouncing. "We did not have a single mistake blocking in the first game, and our receiving really came together in the second."

Rich Emanuel, the latest addition to the Lions' starting lineup, played a full game, as did the Seavy brothers, Jeff and Carey.

Penn State then man-handled the host Army squad, 15-7 and 15-6, as Dave Mull's serving kept the Cadets off-balance most of the match.

In their final action of the day, the first stringers bombed Albany State, 15-6. Coach Tait then inserted the second team, and, except for some communication problems mid-way through the game they played well. Frank Agnew, Rich Genday, Mike Casey, and Don Uveges played particularly well in the Lions' 15-11 victory.

The Lions hope their winning ways will continue through this weekend, as it will be a crucial one for them. Penn State will play three ECVL divisional matches, with a home contest against Cornell this Sunday capping the action.

Boosters capture own indoor tournament

It may not be much, but the Penn State soccer team gained a little measure of revenge from Hartwick Sunday in winning an indoor tournament at Rec Hall.

Hartwick, which edged the Lions 2-1 last fall and later went on to place third in the NCAA championships, managed a tie with the Lions in morning round-robin action but lost a 3-2 overtime game in the semifinals.

Penn State went on to dominate Cleveland State, 5-0, in the finals, after which

Lion coach Walt Bahr said that winning and losing really aren't important in an indoor tournament.

"We were playing indoors and anybody can win," he said, "and we had an advantage because we practice here (in Rec Hall)."

The Lions gained the No. 1 seed for the afternoon semifinals by finishing with a 1-0-2 record in the round-robin portion. Penn State blanked Cleveland State, 2-0, and tied

Akron, 2-2, to go with the deadlock with Hartwick.

Cleveland State and Akron were tied for second at the end of the morning round with 1-1-1 marks while Hartwick was at 0-1-2.

In the first semi, Matt Bahr's goal 3:41 into sudden-death overtime capped the Lions' come-from-behind win over Hartwick. After Ken McDonald gave Penn State a 1-0 halftime lead, Hartwick took a one-goal edge in the second half until Sal Bom-

marito's game-tying goal with 2:12 left.

Kevin Costello, Bob Erlich, Jim Stamitis, and McDonald all scored in the first half of the championship game as the hosts breezed to the title.

The Penn State boosters will travel to two indoor events this month, starting Saturday at Lafayette in a six-team tournament. On Feb. 26-27, Penn State travels to Hartwick for another six-team affair.

—Pete Dougherty

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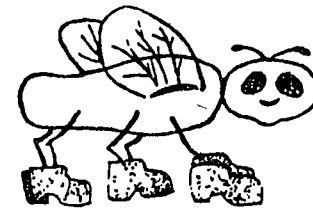
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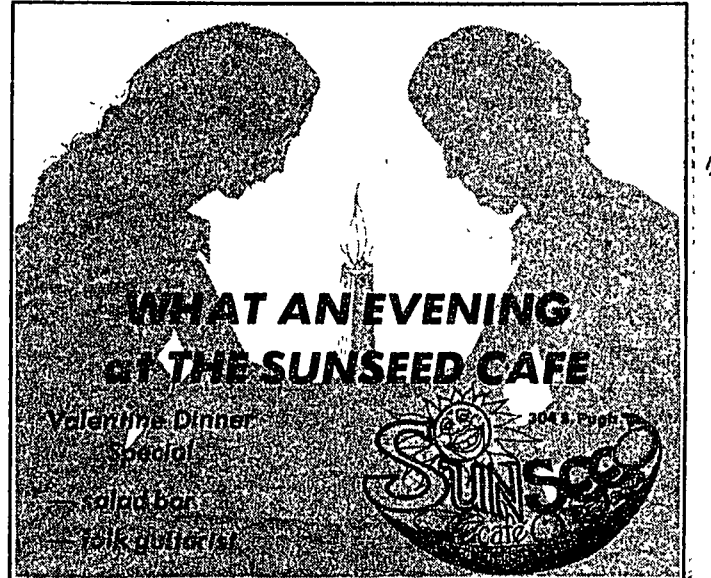
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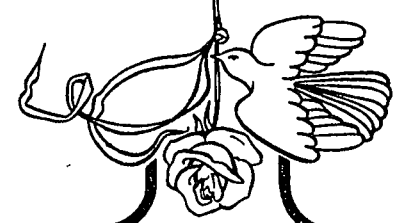


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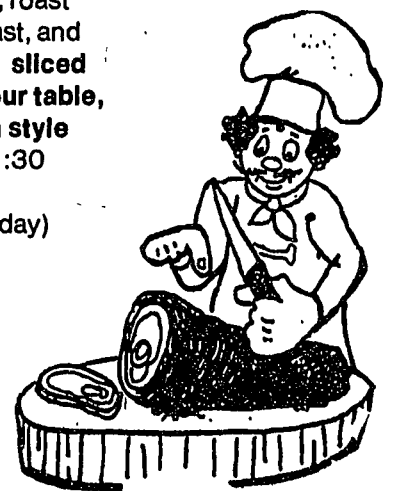
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