

# Lions Meet Colgate; 'Taming' Gymnasts' Side Horse Donato Injures Back Harder Than Riding Stallion

By DEAN BILLYCK

Lion coach John Egli is fast becoming a firm believer in the advertisement that claims "When It Rains, It Pours." And who can blame the veteran State coach. He has just lost his sixth player this season because of either injuries or academic ineligibility.

The latest victim in the seemingly endless chain reaction is starting guard Bobby Donato. The junior field general dislocated his back during the overtime win at Bucknell Tuesday and will not be able to start tonight when the Lions meet Colgate at Hamilton, N.Y.

The game against the Red Raiders, coupled with a clash at Syracuse tomorrow evening could spell the difference between a good or "just fair" season for the Nittany cagers. State is 7-2 and is shooting to take a 9-2 mark into Wednesday's clash against ninth ranked West Virginia.

"THESE ARE two big games and they are going to be tough ones," Egli said last night as he watched the Lions run through a light workout before boarding a bus for the trip to Colgate. "I wouldn't bet on either of them. We have so many injuries, we're lucky to even be able to have a team on the floor."

Earlier this season senior co-captain John Mitchell severely injured his knee and except for token appearances, hasn't been of any help to the club. The leading returning scorer from last year isn't even making the trip, but is expected to be ready for the battle with the Mountaineers.

Center Terry Hoover is also injured and is still wearing a partial cast on his finger. He will make the trip though, and Egli expects the 6-7 sophomore to be ready for West Virginia.

State lost three other players through academic failures.

Egli will start four sophomores and a senior against Colgate, a team the Lions beat last month at Rec Hall, 62-40. Sophomore John Ludwig, who has scored just nine points this season, will replace Donato. Egli indicated, however, that Donato may be pressed into action if his back responds to whirlpool treatments. Center Tom Malinchak, for-

By JOE GRATA

(Today begins the first in a series of five articles covering the fundamentals of gymnastics competition on a number of gym apparatus. Tomorrow: The long horse.)

Hard-nosed western cowhands who travel the rodeo circuit taming wild broncos might find riding the side horse in front of 5,000 tense and quiet gymnastics followers the most frightening experience of their lives.

Of all the apparatus employed in modern-day gymnastics, including the still rings, horizontal bar, long horse and parallel bars, probably the side horse appears to be the easiest to master.

However the side horse rates as one of the most difficult to master. In fact, almost all scores awarded on this piece of apparatus are lower than those of other events.

The side horse itself consists of the body (a padded, cowhide covered cylinder-like affair slightly longer than three feet), four legs and two pommels, commonly called the hand grips. The top of the side horse sits almost four feet off the floor.

Points for a side horse routine are awarded as follows: 30 for difficulty, 20 for combination and 50 for execution. The three add up to a possible score of 100.

Obviously, the two essential parts in a side horse routine are getting on and getting off the apparatus. These are called the mount and dismount, and when they're of special value and performed with elegance, the movements add maximum effect to a



RAY CHERRY

... executes scissors on side horse

routine—and more often a judge's over-all opinion.

To be an artistic gymnast, a performer must show that he is the master of his body and its movements and that he can complete his exercise with grace, ease and sureness. The most common faults on the side horse include consistent "brushing" against the apparatus, unnecessary repetition and performing parts too easy in relation to the standard of difficulty.

Movements are pre-categorized

into parts of "B" and "C" difficulty and when they're executed in a strategic combination they comprise a gymnast's routine. The judges, of course, must consider whether these difficulties exist in their essential parts.

A normal routine on the side horse might include leg circles and scissors, forward and backward with one of these at least twice in succession, a double leg circle, a moore, and a tromlet to end with a loop dismount and a one-quarter turn.



RON AVILLION

... starting forward

ward Ron Avillion and guard Bob Weiss are State's other starting sophomores. Senior co-captain Earl Hoffman will handle the other forward post. With his 30 point performance against Bucknell, Hoffman upped his average to 21.1 points per game and his field goal shooting percentage to 49.1 per cent.

Colgate is 2-5 for the year while Syracuse is 3-5.

A double victory this weekend would give the Nittany cagers their best start since the 1954 club won 10 of its first 12 games and finished with an 18-6 chart.

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