

Penn State Vs. Scandinavia

Tonight: Best of Gymnastics

By PAUL LEVINE
Collegian Sports Editor

Nearly 7,500 Penn Staters will pack Rec Hall tonight to see the Scandinavian gymnastics meet, but it's a safe bet that at least a few of them are coming to watch more than just the European athletes.

For one of the Nittany Valley's all-time favorite athletes is coming back to his alma mater tonight in what could be his last competition before the Penn State fans. He's Steve Cohen, the Lions' two-time NCAA all-around champion who graduated from Penn State last March and is currently a student at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. It will be Cohen's first competition since he won his second national championship last April, and his loyal fans want to see for themselves that their favorite hasn't lost his touch.

Little Insecure

"I actually feel a little insecure," Cohen said at practice yesterday. It's been nine months since I had any competition, and I can't help but wonder how I'm going to do."

Cohen has some good reasons for wondering. With his heavy study schedule at medical school, he has only been able to work in one-and-a-half hours of gymnastics practice three times a week.

"I can't say that I'm in the best possible condition," Cohen said, "but considering the circumstances I really can't expect to be in top shape."

Much speculation has been raised as to Cohen's future in gymnastics. With his long years of medical studies in front of him, there is indeed some

question as to Cohen's further international competition.

"I certainly want to go out for the Olympics," Cohen said. "But there are a lot of things standing in the way. I'm going to try to find a way, but I won't let anything interfere with my medical education. If I have to I'll give up gymnastics to become a doctor."

For Cohen to go out for the Olympics, he would have to drop out of medical school for an entire semester. In addition, there is the financial burden of traveling to all the qualifying meets which stretch from Tennessee to Colorado. Since Cohen is no longer competing with a university team, he would have to pay his own expenses.

"I am glad to be getting back into competition," Cohen said. "This could be sort of a stepping-stone for the Olympic trials if I do go out for them."

But before Cohen starts thinking about Mexico City, he has a little affair this evening in Rec Hall to occupy his mind. Although the fans are more interested in the individual performances than in who wins, the highly competitive Cohen has a strong desire to defeat the European visitors.

Stronger Than Cologne

"Overall this team is probably stronger than the Cologne squad which defeated us last year," Cohen said. "They have better balance with no weak links."

There certainly aren't any apparent weaknesses on the Scandinavian squad.

●Olli Laiho is a 24-year old Finnish gymnast who was a member of the 1962 and 1966 World Games team and the 1964 Olympic team.

●Mauno Nissinen, 20-year old Finnish gymnast, is presently a student at the University of

Washington in Seattle. He represented Finland in the World Games in 1966.

●Christer Jonsson, a 24-year old Swedish gymnast, was the 1965 and 1966 National Champion of Sweden. He is a pre-dental student at the Karolinska Institution in Stockholm.

●Hans Peter Nielsen, a 24-year old Danish teacher has won the Danish National all-around title three times. He won his first national title when he was 18.

●Trygve Gjerstad, a 21-year old Norwegian gymnast, is considered the second best in Norway.

●Thorbjorn Ingvaldsen, a 22-year old Norwegian, took part in the World Games in 1966 and placed third in the Norwegian championships.

●Eric Rosengren, 27-year old Swedish gymnast, is a law student at the University of Stockholm. He is considered the second best gymnast in Sweden.

Lions Good, Too

Penn State will be retaliating with some pretty good talent of its own. Former Nittany Lion gymnast and NCAA all-around champion Greg Weiss leads the Lion contingent. The 1962 graduate ranks as one of the favorites in tonight's all-around competition.

Penn State juniors Bob Emery, Joe Litow and John Kindon and freshman Dick Swetman round out the squad.

And of course there's Steve Cohen. "It may sound a little funny, but I am a little nervous about tonight," Cohen said. "I really love the Penn State crowd and I don't want to let them down."

Don't worry, you won't let them down, Dr. Cohen.



TWO OF the favorites in tonight's all-around competition are the Lions' Steve Cohen (left) and Finland's Olli Laiho. Cohen will be entering his first competition since winning his second NCAA all-around championship last April. Laiho was a member of the 1962 and 1966 World Games teams as well as the 1964 Olympic team. The international gymnastics meet gets underway at 7:30 in Rec Hall.

UCLA Set For Do or Die Days

LOS ANGELES (AP) — College basketball's greatest attraction in many a year, the Bruins of UCLA, begin this weekend a series of out of town trips that will within the month take them to Houston's fabulous Astrodome and New York's Madison Square Garden.

Unbeaten in 44 consecutive games and only 16 shy of the national collegiate record set by the University of San Francisco in the era of Bill Russell, the Bruins open the tour at Berkeley tonight.

It is a Pacific-8 Conference game against a much stronger Golden Bear team than the one the Bruins handed in the title chase last year.

UCLA will be at Stanford tomorrow night, then returns to its own Pauley Pavilion Thursday night against Portland for the only remaining home game in January.

Then the Big One

It will be the No. 1 Bruins against No. 2 Houston and a sellout crowd of 55,000 in the Astrodome Jan. 20, followed by the Madison Square appearance against Holy Cross and Boston College Jan. 26-27, respectively.

Coach John Wooden of UCLA believes in first things first, which means California and Stanford.

"Cal is extremely strong this year," Wooden says. The contest figures to be an interesting struggle between UCLA's Lew Alcindor and the Bears' Bob Presley.

Lew, at 7-1 1/2, is the nation's most highly publicized star. Presley, 6-10 1/2, is en route to breaking all scoring records. Alcindor's supporting cast, which probably could win consistently without the big junior, includes Edgar Lacey, 6-7; Lucius Allen, 6-2; Mike Warren, 5-11, and Lynn Shackelford, 6-5.

Presley readily admits that facing Alcindor poses his greatest challenge.



GINGER HETTEIMA, freshman gymnast for Penn State, will be one of the Lady Lions' all-around competitors in tomorrow's opening match against Springfield. The meet gets underway at 2 p.m. in the White Gymnasium.

Fencing Team Out To Upset Sharp Temple

An undermanned but optimistic Penn State fencing team will open its 1968 season tomorrow after noon in Rec Hall against a Temple squad which has 16 straight dual meets. The meet will start at 2 p.m. in the fencing room.

Coach Dick Klima's roster includes only 13 men — only four over the minimum required for an intercollegiate match. But the Lion coach said yesterday that his team was looking forward to meeting the high-flying Owls from Philadelphia.

"We're glad to be facing an undefeated team," Klima said. "Our boys are really psyched up for this meet. Meeting Temple should bring out the best in us."

Temple is 5-0 so far this year, after reeling off 11 straight wins a year ago.

The Lions have won only three meets over the past two years, but Klima is hopeful to get on the winning track this season. Penn State's schedule is the biggest (eight meets), and probably the toughest, the Lions have had since the sport was revived in 1962. It had been discontinued in 1951.

One of Klima's top fencers is Jerre Claus, a 27-year old service veteran who had a 9-2 record in the North Atlantic championships a year ago. Claus' performance in that tourney helped Penn State's sabre team finish third. Claus is the 1968 co-captain, along with Joel Coza.

Shepard Cites Intangibles

Bunning's Worth Rises

By IRA MILLER

Associated Press Sports Writer
PITTSBURGH (AP) — Larry Shepard, the new manager of the Pirates, says Jim Bunning's value to Pittsburgh probably will show up in other pitchers' performances more than in his own.

"He has got to make better pitchers out of the rest of our staff," said Shepard, looking ahead to his first season as a major league manager after 18 years in the minors.

Ranked Ninth

The Pirates' pitchers ranked ninth in the National League in earned run average last season and Pittsburgh finished sixth in the standings, 20 1/2 games behind St. Louis, although leading the majors in batting.

"I think he will do with our club what Sandy Koufax did with the Dodgers," Shepard said. "I think one thing that was never credited to Koufax was that he made better pitchers out of the rest of the staff—by taking the pressure off them."

Talks of Intangibles

"What I liked about the deal wasn't just that we got Jim Bunning, who can win 20 games. I'm talking about the intangibles that add up to a winning club."

Shepard, speaking by telephone from his home in Lincoln, Neb., also revealed he's toying with the possibility of juggling the Pirates' batting order.

He said he would experiment with moving Maury Wills to the leadoff spot and dropping Matly Alou to the No. 6 slot. Alou, who has been the Pirates' leadoff and No. 2 batter, hit .338 in 1967 and led the league with .342 in 1966, but collected only 55 runs

batted in two seasons.

Shepard figures that Alou will get more of a chance to drive in runs in the sixth spot.

"That would be the logical spot for him," Shepard said. "I'd like when we're coming up in the second inning, say, to have someone like Alou with the speed to steal and also someone like Bill Mazeroski with some power behind him where a double could score a run. But no one on our ball club is going to hurt us no matter where they hit in our line-up."

Get Him to Steal

"I want to get Wills where he can steal some bases," Shepard added. "You're blocking him off with someone like Alou coming up next because he likes to swing. You can't take a pitch away from him. I'll probably try Gene Alley or Mazeroski in that spot."

Shepard says the addition of Bunning in a trade last month, should give added confidence to the pitching staff, especially Bob Veale, who has been Pittsburgh's top winner the last couple of seasons.

"I know it was that way with the Phillies last year," the manager said. "And it was that way when I was in Triple A ball with Veale. We know that every fourth day we've got a stopper."

Before the Pirates obtained Bunning from Philadelphia, Shepard had said that Veale would have to learn to accept responsibility as the staff's leader. But now the leadership role has fallen squarely to Bunning, who cost the Pirates young pitcher Woody Fryman and three promising minor leaguers.

Coaches Choose Pont

NEW YORK (AP) — John Pont, who pulled off a 100-1 feat in leading Indiana University through a 9-1 season and into the Rose Bowl, was named college football's Coach of the Year yesterday by his fellow coaches.

The 39-year-old Miami of Ohio graduate was voted the annual Kodak Award in a poll of 2,000 members of the American Football Coaches Association.

The same group elected Cecil "Scrappy" Moore, who is retiring after 4 years at the University of Chattanooga, the Kodak Award for having done the best coaching job in small college ranks.

Moore's 42nd Chattanooga team had a 7-3 record and gave the slim, gray-haired grandfather a career mark of 171 victories, 146 defeats and 23 ties.

Losers Went Winner

Pont took a Hoosier team that had won only one of 10 games in 1966 and turned it into a winner that placed fourth in The Associated Press national rankings.

"Discipline and imagination were the trademarks of our team," Pont said. "The boys possessed tremendous spirit and drive. They didn't believe they could be beaten. They were a team that would make any coach look good."

Pont said that at Indiana this year he and his staff picked the best players and decided to forget about replacements.

"We sought to instill responsibility in them from the beginning," he added. "I called no more than 10 per cent of the plays. The other 90 per cent of the plays were left to our quarterback, Harry Gonsse."

"I believe in giving this responsibility to the players and we get more out of them. They learned to believe in themselves. They were a remarkable group."

Uncle Sam Says 'You' to Webster

HOUSTON (AP) — George Webster, the American Football League's rookie of the year, is entering the military service and will miss the AFL-all-star game Jan. 21 at Jacksonville, Fla.

The Houston Oilers announced yesterday the rookie linebacker from Michigan State is to report for Air Force Reserve duty today at New Orleans.

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