

Lion gymnasts at Pitt tonight; Wettstone leaves starters home

By MARK SIMENSON
Collegian Senior Reporter

The Penn State gym team concludes phase one of its season by traveling to Pittsburgh to face the Pitt Panthers tonight. The Lions also close out their dual meet season and end the initial phase in coach Gene Wettstone's three part strategy. Undeclared and 6-0 in the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics League, State is shooting for its 19th consecutive victory. Phase two of the Wettstone plan officially begins tomorrow (priming for the Eastern Championship) but the regular gymnasts have been practicing the compulsory routines for a few weeks now. The final phase concerns preparing for the National tournament at Iowa State on April 6-8. The Lions will be trying to better their third place finish behind Iowa State and Southern Illinois in the 1971 tourney.

While the regulars are focusing on national recognition and the number one ranking in the country, Wettstone and a group of back up gymnasts are making the trip to Pitt.

The Panthers own a 2-6 record and seem headed for coach Warren Neiger's second straight 3-7 season. The fact that Pitt won't present much of a challenge has caused the Lion mentor to leave his top troops in the South Gym.

Far from being a wasted meet, the Pitt contest will enable Wettstone to get a chance to view some of the depth he has recruited. The master planner that he is, Wettstone is thinking ahead to next year in terms of what gymnasts will help the team.

"This team is a chance to give them experience so that we can call on them next year," he said.

The team that is making the trip is the same one that faced the Navy junior varsity a month ago.

"We will have to average better than 6.8 per event to beat them," he concluded. An average of 6.8 would give the team a score of 122.4, seven points less than it scored against the Middies.

Wettstone later changed his mind and indicated that they would have to do better than 130 to beat Pitt.

The Lions will be using three freshman in the all-around positions against three Panther juniors.

Hobey Clark leads the promising group of rookie performers that include Bill McCurdy and Stu Gerould. Clark produced his best all-around effort when he edged McCurdy 43.55-42.10 in the Navy meet.

The specialists will also be vying for attention. Seniors Vince Faust and Sam Kimmel graduate leaving spots open on the rings and high bar.

Sophomore Tom Oster hopes to apply pressure to fellow side horse workers by making a good showing on the leather piece.

With this lineup Wettstone will be able to answer any question marks he has about his team's strength for next year.

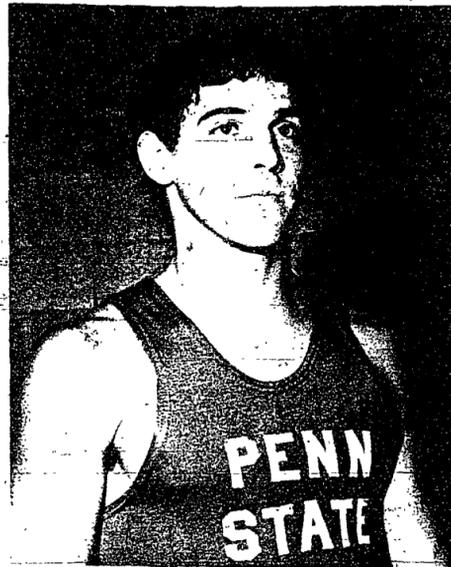
The gymnasts will be under pressure to win the meet on their own. If the meet is still undecided after four events, Wettstone has the option of using John Juliano on the parallel or horizontal bars. Juliano, a freshman all-around, has seen considerable action this season.

For Pitt, this meet ends a long season for the Panthers. They are loaded with underclassmen, but have some experienced gymnasts in a few key spots. All the all-arounds are juniors which should give them an advantage in that category.

Joe Gracik is the Panthers' top performer on the side horse. According to both Wettstone and Neiger, the junior Gracik is "Eastern medal potential" on the side horse.

Neiger will also be counting heavily on his freshman to score points. Pitt boasts a Pennsylvania high school champion on the still rings in John Hornick.

Though this meet won't be the most exciting in terms of individual gymnasts, it is an integral part of the Wettstone plan for 1973.



BILL McCURDY, all-around performer on the Penn State gymnastics team will be taking on the substitute role tonight when the Lions travel to Pitt. Coach Gene Wettstone is allowing his starters to stay in University Park to prep for the upcoming eastern championships.

NOTICE

1972 Spring Term students' estimated bills were mailed to all students February 25, 1972. If you do not receive a bill at your home address of record please stop at the Bursar's Office, 103 Shields Building immediately. Estimated bills with non-continental addresses are being re-addressed locally this week.

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Hodgson leads Lion pucksters

By BILL GUTHLEIN
Collegian Sports Writer

Jim Hodgson scored two goals and passed off for two more to pace the Penn State hockey club in a recent win over the Rutherford Sabres. Hodgson, who missed three games after getting injured in the original Pittsburgh Knight game on January 22, was playing his first game since his injury.

Coach Larry Hendry is surprised that the man he has termed PSU's "super center" is back so quickly after injuring his right shoulder so badly.

"The fact that he came back after such a short time, after such a major injury shows the attitude he has. He's a team leader, he instills enthusiasm in the guys," Hendry observed.

The Hythe, Alberta native just says, "I like playing." In the fourteen previous years of hockey he had only suffered four stitches.

Despite his freak accident he has found evidence which has proved when intramural and intercollegiate sport is

combined, hockey is the ninth-most injury prone.

In order are Canadian football, wrestling, judo, skiing, rugby, boxing, gymnastics, association football (soccer type game), and ice hockey.

The University of Toronto concluded that football is about 7 1/2 times more dangerous injury-wise than hockey.

Hodgson is an assistant professor in the Laboratory of Human Performance Research. The general aims of the Performance Lab is the study of the physiology of exercise. Currently Hodgson is consulting with a graduate student on a project which will determine the energy expenditure while playing squash. He is also studying adaptation of work in the heat.

Hodgson adapts to the cold of the hockey rink very well.

The 5-7, 150 pound faculty member played in the midget and junior leagues, and in the University of Alberta from 1958-61.

Now Hodgson is the star of the Penn State team.

"Hodgy is the best, most talented guy I've ever played with. Playing on the line with him is a joy. He has a good close-in-shot, and he is the best passer we have and he back checks well," Hendry said.

Hodgson is pleased with the team as a whole. He is happy that everyone is taking the team more seriously than what they did when it started. He feels if hockey never becomes a varsity sport it will still serve as interesting entertainment for hockey fans.

The first line center has some criticisms about the team, too.

"We are strong in skating

and goaltending but we are a bit weak in defense and in passing. We don't take advantage of the large ice surface."

He did admit that the defense has come a long way.

The development of a defense takes longer than the development of a line because the trend is for a defenseman to go both ways, offensively and defensively.

Whatever the strength of the defense or the goaltending scoring will still be accomplished by the forwards and Hodgson is the best Penn State has.

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Riflers win
Penn State's rifle team picked up two wins Saturday in a tri-meet with William and Mary and VMI. The Lions scored 1356 points while VMI finished second with 1342 points, William and Mary was third in the competition with a score of 1296.

Mark Hall led the Lions with a 281 score followed by Jeff Kauffman (273), Kurt Kummer (269), Ralph Johnson (267) and Rich Yeager (265).
Penn State (44) will meet Brooklyn College Saturday at 2 p.m. in Rec Hall.

Fencers take 11th
The Penn State women fencers extended their record to 11-1 this weekend with decisive victories over Randolph-Macon College, 14-2, and Madison College, 15-1.

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