

Lion sports roundup

By TERRY NAU
Collegian Sports Editor

Lost in the crowd at Saturday's Penn State-Rutgers basketball game was football coach Joe Paterno, several assistants, and some talented high school football players. Although it may not seem like football season to some of us, this is a crucial time of the year for Paterno. More games are won or lost in March than any other time of the year. An old coaching axiom states "you can't win without the horses," and even Paterno, the nation's winningest coach, subscribes to the theory.

Penn State can invite scholastic stars and their parents to the campus twice during the recruiting period. It exposes prospects to advice from academic people, movies of Penn State football games, a pep talk from Paterno, a Penn State winter sports event, and a fraternity party.

The basketball team helped Paterno's cause by coming through with a win over Rutgers ... Swimming coach Lou McNeill was out of town over the weekend — which meant he didn't get to see the high school state championships that were held at the Natatorium.

McNeill was helping the Lion swimmers place third in the Big Four Meet at Pittsburgh while the scholastic swimmers were breaking records, and watering coaches' mouths, in the Natatorium.

John Piatt won the 200-yard individual medley and the 200-yard butterfly for Penn State, which also received a second from Lane Schuckers in the 1000-yard freestyle, a second from John Iskat in three-meter diving, and a third from Tom Watson in the one-meter diving.

Now, if only some of those high school phenoms could fall in love with the Natatorium and Penn State's nonscholarship program ...

Penn State's gymnastics team wasn't in action over the weekend but it should have received the Congressional Medal of Honor for competing against Pitt last Wednesday night in Pittsburgh.

The gymnasts usually compete to organ music at Rec Hall which complements the mood of the sport perfectly. At Pitt they were greeted by hard rock music.

Normally accustomed to competing before large crowds, the gymnasts performed to a gathering of about 200 Pitt fans. As Glenn Sheeley once said, "I've seen bigger crowds in the men's room."

Pitt's gym program isn't quite up to snuff these days and its miserable score of 101 points didn't extend Penn State's third-string reserves in the slightest.

It wasn't long ago that the wrestling team went through an easy dual-meet schedule and abruptly finished second in the Easterns. One has to wonder how the gymnasts will do in the upcoming tournaments after waltzing through a schedule which can only be described as "laughable."

Penn State is an overwhelming favorite to win this week's Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics League tournament in Rec Hall beginning Thursday at 7 p.m. Its real test will come at the nationals in Ames, Iowa later this month.

The main pressure at the Easterns this week for Marshall Avener, Billy Mitchell, John Crosby of Southern Connecticut, etc. will come in the all-around.

The all-around competition will serve as a qualifying round for the semi-final Olympic Trails and the NCAA championships so the pressure will come from several directions for any Olympic hopefuls in the field.

Penn State track star Greg Fredericks is making the IC4A championships one of his favorite stops. Fredericks won the two-mile run in 8:44.3 yesterday and anchored the Lions'

distance medley relay team of Jim Allahand, Karl Tawold Dan Supulski and himself to a three-second win over Penn.

Fredericks, who won the three and six-mile runs in last Spring's IC4A outdoor championships, won by 20 yards over Villanova's John Hartnett in the two-mile while running well within himself.

After a reasonably successful indoor season, the Lion thin clads are looking forward to the glamorous outdoor season which begins in April ...

Penn State's rifle team shot its way past Brooklyn College on Saturday, 1340-1213. Kurt Kummer (277), Jeff Kauffman (273) and Ed Sterling (268) paced the Lions, who finished their season with a 5-4 mark.



NAU



Double winner

JOHN PIATT won two events over the weekend in the Big Four swimming meet held at Pitt. The Lions finished third despite Piatt's wins in the 200 individual medley and the 200 butterfly and other fine performances by Lane Schuckers, Tom Watson, Bob Krimmel and John Iskat.

Pucksters skate over Mohawks, 6-1; Lions' defense sparkles in ninth win

By BILL GUTHLEIN
Collegian Sports Writer

Defensive consistency, including an outstanding performance by Lenny Capello, allowed the Harrisburg Mohawks only one goal while the Penn State offense racked up six to give the Lions a 9-4 record on Saturday.

"It was the best defensive game of the year," claimed Lion coach Larry Hendry. "Lenny Capello played a superb game. He was always on the puck, he rushed the Mohawk plays well, you could say he made no mistakes the entire game."

Capello remarked that the defense as a unit was playing a much stronger game.

"We're hustling more and we played solidly. No one was walking into the goal," he said.

Penn State's domination of the game was a result of a strong passing game, especially around the net.

"Passing has been one of the major improvements of the season," Hendry said. "The Lions' first goal of the

game came at :38 in the first period when Jim Hodgson broke away with the puck and passed back to left wing Dick Merkel for the score.

The club marked again five minutes later when defenseman Frank Dougherty raced the length of the ice, cut to the left of the net and passed to center Scott Bertazzoni for the point.

The final goal of the stanza came with :29 left to play when high scorer Dick Merkel (16) brought the puck into the offensive zone and came up with an unassisted lamp lighter.

The second period saw two more Penn State goals at 6:35 and 13:54. The Lions' fourth goal of the game came on a two-man rush on goal. Defenseman Lenny Capello maneuvered the puck up the ice and then flipped it to John Hancock who pushed it past the Harrisburg goalie.

The fifth PSU score came on a perfectly performed scoring play. Scott Bertazzoni passed the puck in front of the net where charging right wing Jim Graulty backhanded into the goal.

The final period saw the Mohawks come up with their only point of the game when Ralph Goodwin of Harrisburg drew an inexperienced goaltender Herb Brown out of position and allowed. Penn State came back later in the period when Jim Graulty's shot from the point was tipped into the corner of the net by Scott Bertazzoni.

After the game Mohawk coach Ed Augustine found the play of Frank Dougherty to be the spark of the hockey club's offensive play.

"If there are any game stars, Dougherty is one of them. He wrote the Penn State attacks. He brought up the puck and he controlled the puck during the penalty kills. Without him we would have done much better," Augustine said.

Augustine listed three factors that contributed to the Harrisburg defeat; the size of the rink in the Ice Pavilion, the absence of three powerful skaters, and overly cautious backchecking.

"Because all of our players didn't come we were forced to juggle three lines and work with only two defensive pairs. We wanted to contain the fast breaking that lost us our first game in Hershey. The cautious backchecking allowed State to score inside," Augustine observed.

Lion-coach Hendry's only disappointment was that the club didn't take more shots-on-goal.

"We were a little chippy out there (referring to a fight that saw third-line players John Hancock and Dave Bechdel ejected from the game), and

we played sloppy in spots, but I wish we would have taken more shots. All in all we are an improving team," Hendry said.

Mohawk coach Augustine disagreed with Hendry's observations.

"I didn't notice any big improvement. Of course we would have to play a few more games to really tell. State breaks and sets up its plays in the same way. I noticed that one of the club's lines was strong, but there was no real difference between us and the others," Augustine said.

Hendry summed up his team's ambitions after its ninth victory. "I want to have ten wins this year," he said.

Penn State will host the University of Maryland in a two-game series this weekend to try for his goal.

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