

Brian Masella puts a spirited tag on Temple's Bob Weikinger

ourneys put on nicely

By RAY McALLISTER Collegian Sports Editor Though not too many cared enough to show up for them, Penn State's first extravaganzas of the term were staged this past weekend and staged fairly successfully, at that.

The USGF, without the benefit of tradition or any other guidelines from the past, put on the inaugural "Championship of the USA" gym meet, while the EIGA countered with the 39th Eastern Intercollegiate Golf Cham-

As expected, a couple of local boys made good, undoubtedly saving the attendance counts at each tourney from total disaster. And the people who came saw what they had come to see: Penn State's Marshall Avener running away with the gym honors and Penn State's Dan O'Neill driving away with the golf honors.

Some of the problems of putting on any initial tourney were evident in the USGF meet, which could pull in only 4500 for the three sessions. The absence of Stanford's Steve Hug, who tied Avener for the all-around title at the NCAAs two weeks ago, surely hurt, as perhaps did the four-region format, which didn't lead to much in the way of competitions.

The East handily won the competition, the Mideast handily finished second, the Midwest handily finished third and the West handily finished fourth — nearly as had been predicted — suggesting there might be a direct correlation between the quality of gymnastics and the distance from the Atlantic Ocean. At any rate, the regional teams weren't given that much consideration by

'It sounds like a good idea," Southern Connecticut coach Abe Grossfeld, who headed the East squad. But Grossfeld added that a number of gymnasts wanted their own coaches along and so team unity necessarily was hurt. And if an individual did well, said Grossfeld, he likely would not be too concerned with how his team

"There's no regional pride," Iowa State's Bob Roth said. "We (Roth and three of his Cyclone teammates on

the Midwest squad) just went out as a team.' There was also an attempt made at a little national patriotism, too, as the meet was designed to give the U.S. program the proverbial shot in the arm. Placed on each

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scoreboard, "Make America proud" was the theme, which seemed a little strong when combined with a patriotism poem recited at the finale and the fact that several international events, notably the Olympics, currently are under attack for a little too much political

Twenty-four performers competing in each of six events bogged down the first two sessions so much so that one local writer left Friday night's routines to read back copies of LaVie and another left Saturday afternoon's to watch the ABA playoff game.

But the idea behind the "Championship of the USA" remains a good one. Bringing together the country's top gymnasts eventually will draw more, both as the organization of the meet gains guidelines from which to work and as the meet itself gains additional prestige.

As for the EIGA tourney, it started out as if it were in severe trouble, mostly due to the bad weather Saturday. But Sunday the sun came out and so did the fans, at least 300 of them, anyway, a figure which undoubtedly is a Blue Course record even if it does not threaten existing PGA

O'Neill, as had Avener, had been responsible for pulling out most of the fans and well over 100 followed him as he walked off with his second straight title by besting 104 others. There would have been 107 in the tourney, but Georgetown's two-man team showed up without any official representative of its university and was forced to pull out of the tourney without having even cracked the cellophane on a new pack of Titleists.

As for Penn State's two near-superstars, each was not without flaw. Avener, having taking the all-around and two individual titles, stepped up on the award stand once more than he should have. When teammate Jim Culhane was announced as one of the four selected to face the Chinese team later this month, it was Avener who bounced up to receive the applause. Sheepishly, he retreated, leaving one foot on the stand until his name

And O'Neill, having sunk the winning putt on 18, picked up the ball and smiled to the gallery. That was fine, but the photographers all were left with cameras poised and facing O'Neill's back.

Hopefully, Avener and O'Neill will learn.

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Lions split Owls, blank Hens

Assistant Sports Editor The Penn State baseball team hosted some pretty important guests over the weekend. Delaware, the western champ in the Middle Atlantic Conference, was entertained Friday by Mitch Lukevic's one-hitter as the Lions posted an

Then yesterday, the Temple Owls dropped by for a doubleheader and they were treated to a split in a couple of tight, exciting games. Temple is the MAC eastern champ.

Actually, the Lions weren't very gracious to Delaware as the Blue Hens were given a cold shoulder by the Lion bats and the 40 degree weather. Penn State came up with eight hits to go along with the six walks they were given by Delaware pitching. But the way Lukevics (4-1) was pitching, one run would have been enough.

The Blue Hen's only hit of the afternoon was a single by Jeff Marttila.

"Fastballs were my big pitches," Lukevics said. "They were moving real well. And I was hitting the corners for the first time this year.''

Brian Masella (3-1) went the distance for Penn State in yesterday's first game with Temple. He was touched up for two runs in the third on a double by third baseman Mark Lechner, and one run in the fifth.

In that fifth inning, Masella, after committing an error, took out his revenge on Owl shortstop Bob Weikinger. Weikinger was caught rounding third a little too liberally and eventually tagged out in a run down by Masella. However, the big lefthander got a little carried away with the tag and was given an unassisted tackle and as well as an assist on the play.

But Penn State couldn't crack Owl pitcher Gene DeStefano and finally dropped the game 3-1.

Penn State baseball statistics



Bristow signs with Sixers

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) Allan Bristow, Virginia Tech's 6-foot-7 basketball forward, said yesterday he signed a contract with the Philadelphia 76ers of the National Basketball Association because the offer was better than that made by the Virginia Squires.

Bristow was the 21st player to be picked in the NBA college draft April 24, and he also was a first round draft choice of the Squires of the American Basketball Association.



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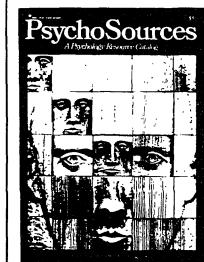


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The Lions came back in the second contest to gain the split after shortstop Jerry Micsky opened things up a bit with his homer and double. He also drew praise from coach Chuck Medlar for his glove work.

"Micsky played some real fine defensive ball out there today," Medlar said. "The thing that was getting us into trouble was bases on balls.'

In the second game, right fielder Kevin Burke broke a 2-2 tie in the sixth with a single and then the Lion relief pitching took over. Steve Correll held the Owls in check after getting out of a potentially disasterous situation in the fourth. Then Lukevics came on, after only one day rest and a short stay on the trainers table, and retied the final two to insure the 3-2

Temple coach Skip Wilson pointed to a double steal situation in the fourth as the reason for his team's defeat.

I think we lost that second game right out there at third," Wilson said. "Also, we used our two best pitchers yesterday in the Drexel doubleheader."

Medlar said he only had a few simple instructions for Lukevics when he brought him on with one out in the final

"I just told him there's one man on and one man out," Medlar said. "I know you have the stuff and I know you have the guts. Just rear back and throw strikes."

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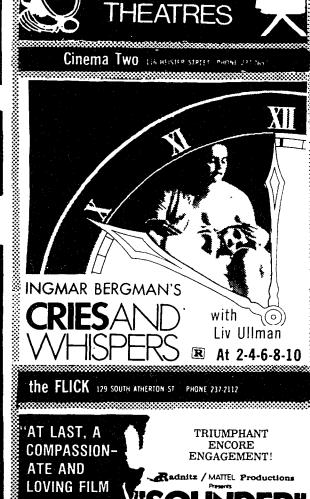
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