

Women gymnasts rely on new faces

By JEFF YOUNG
Collegian Sports Writer

Some talented new faces, some determined old ones, and a lot of positive thinking will carry the hopes of the Penn State women's gymnasts for big improvement and a top spot in the regionals this season.

The women, who open at Pitt Saturday afternoon, finished 6-7 last year with their final match a tight 80.75-80.55 loss to West Chester. It was a streaky team, losing its first six meets, then winning six.

Head coach Barbara Block and her assistant Judy (Mrs. Marshall) Avener are hoping to continue those winning ways, but they expect a battle from at least four of their scheduled opponents: West Chester, Clarion, Kent State and Towson.

The women are 2-6 against West Chester, 0-3 against Clarion, 0-8 against Kent State and 2-4 against Towson.

Two of the new Lady Lions are Karen Schukman and Ellen Coccagna, both freshmen. Schukman, who hails from West Hartford,

Conn., was selected to participate in the U.S.-Japan international meet at Rec Hall in January 1972. Her best efforts take place on the balance beam.

Uneven parallel bars and floor exercise are Coccagna's strengths. She also is being counted on in the vaulting department.

Also vaulting will be last year's only representative at the national gymnastics championships, sophomore Karen Johnson of Towanda, Pa. She was the East's number two vaulter last year while placing 35th in national competition.

Three more sophomores, Nancy Park, Eileen Polusny and Sue Bergstrom will help carry the load on the balance beam and in floor exercise. Park specializes in both while Polusny concentrates on the floor exercise and Bergstrom

works on the beam.

Senior co-captains Amy Andrews, King of Prussia, and Dorrie DeLuca of Levittown perform on the uneven bars. Andrews missed a trip to last year's nationals by one place, finishing 11th in the Easters where the top ten qualified for nationals.

DeLuca, however, is presently suffering on the sidelines with mononucleosis. The date of her return is indefinite.

The remaining team members are Sheri Sommers, Cindy Freitag, Debbie Kreider, Terry Rowland, and Sharon Birdwell

PEOPLE IS COMING



Photos by Randy J. Woodbury

Swimmers and fencers start competition in championships

By DAVE MORRIS
Collegian Sports Writer

The swimming and fencing seasons got off to big starts recently with major tournaments held in each sport at Penn State.

For the fencers, under second-year coach Mac Garret, the big event was the Western Penn AFLA (Amateur Fencers League of America) exhibitions held here in November.

The Collegiate Open, originally scheduled for Saturday, was cancelled due to the gasoline shortage and the energy crisis. Directors of the event decided to call it off because they feared some teams would have difficulty in making travel arrangements. Among the schools which were to compete were Wayne State, the third place team in the NCAA finals last year, and Case Western Reserve, the host school for this year's NCAA finals.

The fencers won the first match of the year, 19-8 against Maryland. Penn State freshman Bill Squire, competing in the sabre, was the only player in the match

to win all three of his attempts. Jeff Butterick and Andy Nightengale were undefeated in the epee competition, with two wins each for the Lions.

After the match, Coach Garret said, "They (the team) looked real sharp. We have a young team, and we're building. The kids did a good job and deserve all the credit."

The Lion swimmers opened their seventh season of competition by hosting the Penn State Swimming and Diving Relay Championships last Saturday at the Natatorium. The Lions

finished 11th out of 15 teams. Maryland, which has won the championship every year since the competition was started, made it five in a row. Bucknell finished second, while Pittsburgh finished third.

The only local members who placed in the finals were Rich Maurone and Jim Rightley. The pair placed fifth in the one-meter diving event.

The swimmers, under the watchful eye of coach Lou MacNeil, start actual competition tomorrow, when they host Colgate. The meet starts at 3:00 p.m.



Captain Jim Shoemaker and coach Lou MacNeil

The sisters of Pi Beta Phi warmly welcome their "tremendous thirteen" fall pledges:

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and also enthusiastically congratulate their great new arrowman: "Baby Pineapple"

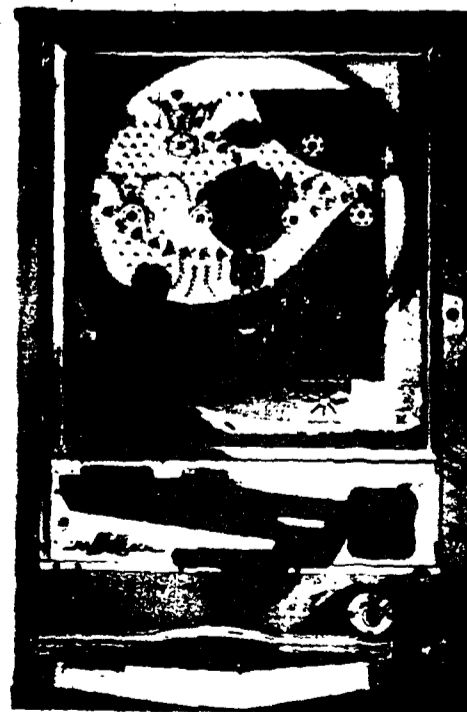
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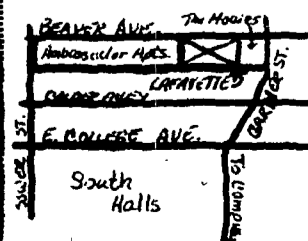
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