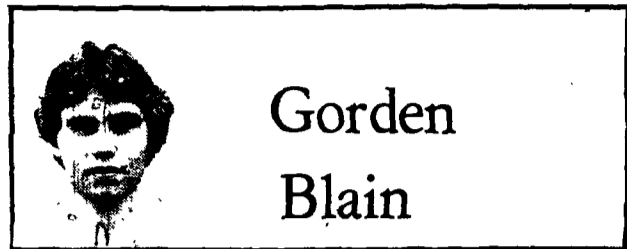


Maurone heroics unknown

Want to make a bet?
If you ask most people at Penn State if they know who Jim Cefalo is and Rich Maurone is, Cefalo would win with no sweat.
In fact, you are probably wondering yourself who Rich Maurone is?
Well Rich Maurone is Penn State's hope in the NCAA swimming and diving championships this weekend in Cleveland, Ohio.
Just what Rich Maurone has done all became clear to this writer last Friday in of all places, Physical Science 8 class.
One hundred or so pair of eyes watched Jim Cefalo walk in.



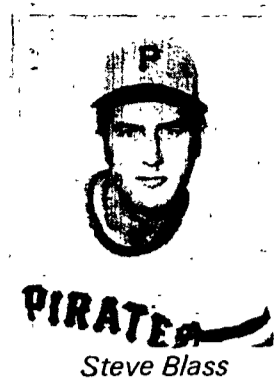
Gorden Blain

It brought on murmurs, "There he is. That's Cefalo. Man he's good. He's a nice guy too."
But then Maurone walked in and of course he's just another student to the others. It all came together. Actually those two guys, Cefalo and Maurone are very much alike.
What Maurone has done in swimming and diving at Penn State parallels with what Cefalo has done in Penn State football as a freshman.
Last year as a freshman, Maurone became the first diver in Penn State history to be in the National competition. Maurone finished 10th in Easterns last year and was eliminated in the National's preliminary diving. One can imagine the pressure.
"I was diving well before the national meet last year," Maurone said as he prepares for his second Nationals trip. "But when I got there and saw all these other guys that are supposed to be so much better than I, and I had to wait to dive, all of my composure went. Man I was really nervous last year."
"It's a real head trip to go into," Maurone said about the national diving. "I feel a little bit more confident this time."
This year, Maurone will have somebody to accompany him on the one and three meter diving boards, senior, Jim Rightley. Neither diver qualified with the required point total until the last dual meet with Villanova.
The competition is different in Cleveland than what the Lion divers have been running into all year. They only lost one diving event all year and that was the one meter against Pitt

early in the season. Now they go up against 90 swimmers from all over the nation. Ohio State is the power.
"When I was 10th in the Easterns last year," Maurone remembers, everybody was asking, "Where's he from?" It feels good to be the only one there to represent Penn State. It really boosted my confidence to represent us in something nobody else has done before."
Penn State's aquatics program never has been very successful because the Lions swim against teams that recruit. Penn State does not give scholarships. Yet diving coach Bob Goldberg has built a diving power in the East at University Park. This year Maurone finished second on the three meter board in the Easterns.
"When I first came here I was mediocre," Maurone says. "The whole two years has been a learning experience and I've been improving. I keep amazing myself."
"When I dive it's not like a chore, it's not regimented—go out and work your ass off and don't have fun—it's not that way here," Maurone says. "Almost all of my success is due to Goldberg. If I didn't have him I don't think I'd be this much improved."
"I can sit down and talk to him about other bullshit than just diving," Maurone says about his coach. Maurone says that he decided to come to Penn State when he met Goldberg at a clinic. And he is glad he came here.
"I'm really glad I came to Penn State," Maurone says. "It is really not swimming oriented around here. The environment around here is so much better and it makes me want to work my hardest and yet I have a lot of fun."
Winning can be a lot of fun. Maybe the fun is just beginning for Maurone. With his talent and improvement Goldberg is very optimistic about Maurone. Maybe not for this year in the nationals but in upcoming years. Maurone put Happy Valley on the map when it comes to jumping into pools. And happy days seem to be just beginning.

For Blass, not a good situation

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — Steve Blass put it very succinctly. "It's not a good situation," he said.
Blass, baseball season — and his career — could end any day now. But the one-time ace of the Pittsburgh Pirates who so suddenly and for no apparent reason lost it all is not about to sneak out of town in the dark of night.
"I told myself I'd give myself an entire spring training and I plan to take it," Blass said after his latest fiasco. The right-hander pitched what he called three decent innings against the Chicago White Sox Monday before it all caved in on him during the fourth.
It was an old story for Blass, one which is about to send him to retirement. He walked home five runs in that one inning. Overall, he allowed 10 runs and 11



Steve Blass

in the inning for interference.
"I cussed the umpire," he said. "I was pulling so hard for Steve." Murtaugh's language got him thrown out of the game, and it was the first time Murtaugh could recall being ejected from an exhibition game.
Blass was dejected. As he sat in front of his locker, he put his head into both hands. Finally, a writer approached him and he looked up. "Hi," Blass said. "Same old stuff, eh?"
It was the same old stuff, and that's what makes Blass' demise different.
He's not just another player having a hard time making a club. He's 32, a seasoned veteran, a two-time World Series winner. He's experienced the high of success, the abyss of failure.
He won 19 games in 1972 and was the stopper on the Pirate staff. Then the roof caved in.
Blass' struggle has lasted two years. During that time, the Pirates have sent him to their Charleston, W. Va., minor league team, to an occultist and even carried him as a nonroster player the end of last season so he could sharpen his control.
None of it has worked, and now it appears just a matter of time until Blass is released.
"It's going to be hard for them to give me many more chances," Blass said. "There are a lot of pitchers trying for a few jobs. They have a lot of decisions to make. All I can do is try to keep myself ready."
"It's hard for me to get away from the fact that there's so little time left in spring training. It's not a good situation."

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