

# Netters look 'down the line'

By GORDEN BLAIN  
Collegian Sports Writer

Penn State's tennis team's weakness "down the line" has caught up with them but may not hurt their effort tomorrow at Rochester.

After opening with wins over Georgetown and George Washington, the Lions ran into overmatched teams from Maryland and Columbia. Only Penn State's two top netters, Jan Bortner and Miguel Maurtua, were able to pull off singles wins in the two losses.

"We don't have the team to win against good, tough teams," number two singles player Maurtua said. "Our weakness down the line is our basic problem the way I see it."

Maurtua and Bortner each compiled a 12-4 singles record during a 10-6 record last year. They teamed to win the eastern doubles championship.

Maurtua is a junior from Lima, Peru and is finding the going tough already.

"It's really disappointing," Maurtua said. "There's a lot of pressure on Jan and me to win and we do, but the team loses. Everybody has to win for us to win the match."

"I had a really tough match," the veteran said referring to Columbia's 9-0 whitewashing. "And against Maryland it didn't mean anything to me to win because everybody else lost. It gets me really depressed."

The problem of team depth may take away from the play of Bortner and Maurtua because their practice time against each other is limited.

"Last year we practiced all the time," Maurtua said. "This year we hardly practice together. We play

everybody to help their games out. They're not competition-ready players.

"We are all working hard to improve our team down the line," Maurtua explained. "And the coach is really working hard."

When Maurtua talks about "down the line" he talks about the Lion's depth beyond him and Bortner. Bortner and Maurtua are respected by the Eastern schools but there is a drop-off after the seasoned veterans.

"Down the line" for the Nittany netters are number three player Jack Cobetto, freshmen Mark Darby and Ken Metrick and juniors Sam Schwartz and Jim Howell. Cobetto is a freshman and is a surprise. Maurtua gives Cobetto a chance against the powerful Ivy League teams like Pennsylvania and Princeton.

"If we play tough teams like Columbia we might win some points, Jan and myself and maybe number three but after that any good team we won't be winning those points," Maurtua said.

Maurtua called Rochester a lot better than Georgetown and George Washington, and said they won't blow them out like they did the last two years.

Maurtua added that Penn State is not "that far behind Columbia" as the 9-0 smashing they gave the Lion netters might indicate. "The thing is they just outmatched us in every position. I didn't expect anymore than two or three points at the most," Maurtua said. "Bunis (Bortner's opponent from Columbia) is the best in the East."

"We just couldn't pull the close ones," Maurtua added. I went to a tie breaker and I could have won but I had really bad luck."

Penn State might be having trouble against the tough schedule they play this year but the Lions have more problems next year when they lose one of the top players in the East in Jan Bortner.

"The team is changing. Next year will be very crucial," Maurtua said. "It's really hard to say but it depends on how good the coach is going to recruit."

# Nittany Relays to feature 44 teams

By DAVE BROWN  
Collegian Sports Writer

Many of the top trackmen in the East will converge on Beaver Stadium today and tomorrow to compete in the fourth annual Nittany Lion Relays.

The two-day meet, which features twelve defending individual champions, is the premier attraction of Penn State's 1975 home track schedule.

"It's a big meet," said Harry Groves, PSU track coach and meet director. "It's a meet for everyone, but by and large it's an intercollegiate meet."

The Nittany Lion Relays provide not only a high caliber of competition for men's and women's teams (44 in all) in the open events, but competition for joggers, intramural relay teams, and persons over 40 years old.

The Penn State track team took five first place finishes in last weekend's Colonial Relays in Williamsburg, Va. and should be in the thick of things again this weekend. Four Lion performers, Bill Gifford, Knut Hjeltnes, Mike Sands, and Mike Shine, copped titles and set records in this meet last year and will be back to defend their crowns.

In the past few years the Nittany Lion Relays tended to be rather wearisome for the spectators since Saturday's session was overly long. But this year Groves is trying to accommodate the area's track fans by moving some of the top attractions to this afternoon to lessen tomorrow's load.

Today's, outstanding events include the 440 intermediate hurdles, the distance medley relay, and the six mile.

The distance medley relay should be one of the best races of the entire meet. It's the only relay race held today so all the teams will be fresh for it. Plus a host of talented teams are

entered. The Philadelphia Pioneers (led by sub-four-minute miler Reggie McAfee), Cornell, Villanova (the defending champ), Essex Community College, and Penn State are the leading contenders.

In the intermediate hurdles, it looks like a battle between PSU's Mike Shine and Villanova's Greg Eckman, one of the nation's top ranked junior (19 and under) hurdlers last year. Shine won both the 120 high hurdles and the 440 intermediate hurdles in last year's meet. Shine, an All-America hurdler, tuned up for this meet by breaking his own intermediate hurdles record last weekend in Virginia.

The decathlon starts at 3:15 p.m. today with the 100-meter dash, long jump, shot put, high jump, and 400-meter run. It will conclude tomorrow morning with the 110-meter hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin, and 1500-meter run.

Slippery Rock's Bill Fletcher is the man to beat in the decathlon, but he could be challenged by Rochester's Robert Ryan, Brockport State's Mark Lineweaver, or the Lions' Mark Bilyk (who was fourth in the IC4A's last year).

The shot put competition begins at 11 a.m. tomorrow with defending champion Dave Doupe of Cornell heading the pack of entries. Doupe won the outstanding field performer award in last year's meet on the strength of his meet record heave of 59-7. Nittany Lion Knut Hjeltnes, who set a PSU record with his put of 59-5 last weekend in the Colonial Relays, should make his presence felt.

An awesome array of talent will compete in the javelin, which starts at noon tomorrow. Dave Weiss of the Philadelphia Pioneers is the defending champ in this event, but he should receive stiff challenges from George Kouvolo, the 1973 javelin champ and meet record-holder, and Greg

Geraci, who has thrown over 270-feet for the Bruce Track Club. Weiss' winning toss last year was 245-8.

In the two-mile relay set for 1:15 p.m., Cornell stacks up as the favorite.

Cornell's quartet set a meet record and Beaver Stadium record with a 7:24.2 last year, but could be pressed by any one of the meet's strong relay entries.

In the invitational 100 slated for 1:40 p.m., PSU's Mike Sands, who won the meet last year with a 9.6, and Essex' Fred Brown are the best bets.

From 2:35 p.m. until 5:10 p.m. the relays will take over. There will be relays in the shuttle hurdle, 440-yard, sprint medley, 4-mile, 880-yard, and one mile.

The relays, which feature the cream of the meet's talented crop, should be the highlight of tomorrow's action.

"There's some great individual events, but the athletes and coaches tend to rely on the relays (in this meet) since after the Penn Relays (April 25) there's no place to run them," Groves said. "They're all good relays."

Several of the nation's top relay times were recorded in last year's meet. Allegheny Community College broke the national junior college record in the four-mile, but finished second to the Philadelphia Track Club. Essex Community College set meet records and Beaver Stadium records in the 880, mile, and sprint medley relays.

Penn State is the defending champion in the 440 relay and shuttle hurdle relay.

Groves said he expects the Pioneers, Cornell, Villanova, Essex and PSU to have some "stomping relays."

Groves summed up the meet: "There are some exciting type of relays and some specialists, but we need the weather."

# Track gals 'to see what's going on'

By BARB PARMER  
Collegian Sports Writer

After trouncing Maryland, 72-36, in their varsity debut Tuesday, the Penn State trackwomen prepare for a weekend of running and field events when they compete in the Nittany Lion Relays held at Beaver Stadium.

The Lady Lions found the going easier than they expected against the Terrapins in their opening meet as a varsity team.

"I think we could have done with a little more competition," Penn State coach Chris Brooks said. "I think the girls at least have a little confidence in the fact that it was obvious they were in better condition than the Maryland girls."

The women took seven of 13 first places and swept the second and third spots in each individual event in which they did not place first.

The 880-yd. medley proved to be the most outstanding event of the day, with Lee Ann Plessler, Pat Daley, Carolyn Wernstedt and Karen Johnson teaming for a new Penn State record, 1:54.7. Johnson, running the 440-yd. leg of the event, took the baton 30 yards behind her Maryland opponent. Three yards short of the finish line, Johnson overtook the Terrapin runner nabbing first place in record-breaking time.

Three other Penn State records were set in the meet. Daley captured first place in the high jump, clearing the bar at a record 5-4. In the javelin throwing contest, Chris Landis (93-7 1/2) and Laurie Brilla (92-11) took first and second, respectively, smashing the old Penn State mark of 77-4 1/2. In the 440-yd. event, Johnson broke the tape at 61.1, four tenths of a second better than the previous mark.

In the Nittany Lion Relays, starting at 3:00 Friday afternoon, Brooks is looking for more Penn State records to be broken because of the high caliber of competition.

Featured in the field of about 20 teams will be two Canadian women, Louise Walker and Susan Bradley. Walker, a high jumper from the Toronto Track Club, cleared 6-0, only three and a half inches short of the world record.

Of the Penn State women entered in the contest, Brooks said, "We've just got to realize that here we have world class competition. This is a good chance to see what's going on in the world of women's track."

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