

Beach's downfall on pommel horse

(continued from page 7)

Kormann and Beach both thought the judging was tough on compulsories, particularly in floor exercise. And although Beach actually scored higher in compulsories than in optionals, (54.40-54.30), he claimed that his compulsory scores were the lowest he ever received in two years.

"But I thought my compulsories were strong nonetheless," he added. "The scores in the all-around were pretty close, and it was all a matter of judging. I really couldn't have asked for

anything more, since this is the first meet I made it through 12 routines. Some weren't too good, but some weren't too bad, and I'm just glad I didn't miss on any completely."

Beach seemed to be an early candidate for first place in the all-around, but he ran into trouble on pommel horse, where he scored just an 8.5 in compulsories and an 8.1 in optionals.

"I can't understand it, because p-bars are technically my worst," said Beach. "It takes a long time to develop the good swings, but it always seems that I have the hardest time competing on the horse. It's something psychological probably. I just have this little trauma every time I get up there."

The competition between Beach and Thomas was also close for the third spot, but Beach pulled out the decision with a pike open, full dismount on the high bar which gave him a 9.65 in that event. Thomas was not sharp all night, particularly on the parallel bars, scoring only a 8.35 in compulsories.

Netwomen smash Madison in opener

Winter practice showed results Saturday as the Penn State women's varsity tennis team won its opener, 8-1, over Madison College, Va.

Penn State coach Joan Nessler said her team played well against good competition, noting that three of the six doubles matches were close.

Penn State's top player, Joy McManus, had no trouble in the first singles spot, defeating Madison's Jody Pansy 6-1, 6-2.

Second singles Wendy Gavett had to go to three sets to defeat Ann Carrington 7-5, 1-6, 6-1. Nessler said Gavett played aggressive tennis, especially in the third set, against a very consistent opponent.

Joan Backenstose, playing third singles, overpowered her opponent, Karen Bachtell, 6-2, 6-2, and fourth singles Molly Wesner found the going as smooth. Wesner defeated Mary Carrington, sister of Madison's second singles player, 6-1, 6-1.

Penn State's Bailey Symington was defeated by

Madison's Pat Higgins, 3-6, 4-6.

To complete the singles lineup, Penn State's Mon Androsko beat Marsha Williams 7-5, 6-3. Androsko won the first set after being down 5-3.

In the doubles, McManus and Micki Larkin beat Pansy and Carrington 6-2, 6-4. Nessler said Penn State overpowered its opponents by strength more than strategy.

Gavett and Backenstose played an aggressive net game and beat Bachtell and Carrington 6-1, 6-1. Wesner

and Symington came back from a slow start and defeated Higgins and Williams 7-5, 6-1.

In jayvee action, Minda Fall beat Cory Gravelly 6-3, 6-1. Jeanne Peterson lost to Merle Evans 5-7, 6-2, 4-6, in a three-hour marathon. Karen Goldstein defeated Barb Schoeske 6-3, 6-4.

Peterson and Androsko won their doubles match, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, and Goldstein and Fall were also successful, winning 6-3, 6-4.

—Barb Shelly

Rankin, Geiberger card golf victories

PALM SPRINGS, Calif., (AP) — Judy Rankin charged from the pack and won the \$200,000 Dinah Shore Winner's Circle Golf Championship going away yesterday with a final-round 68, good for a three-under par 285 and three-stroke victory over Betty Burfeindt.

Rankin, who had earlier rounds of 74-72-71 at Mission Hills Country Club in this rich tournament, collected \$32,000 and a new car for her Winner's Circle victory, which was completed in rain.

Beginning yesterday's final round at three strokes off the pace set by Saturday's co-leaders, Kathy Whitworth and Sandra Haynie, Rankin had four birdies and a bogey to take the early lead yesterday with a front-nine 33, moving past the fading leaders.

She made a 35-foot birdie putt from the fringe of the green on the par-four 15th hole to go four under for the day and move into a comfortable three-stroke lead.

Tied for third was the trio of Jan Stephenson, Jane Blalock and Chako Higuchi at one over par for the tournament. Stephenson shot a 71 Sunday, Blalock a 72 and Higuchi a 73. Whitworth and Haynie both had their problems yesterday. Whitworth struggled to a 77 to finish three over par for the

tournament. Haynie ballooned to an 80 on the final round and finished nine strokes behind Rankin.

Pam Higgins, who challenged Rankin for the lead most of the day, bogeyed the 17th and 18th holes to go two over par for the day and the tournament.

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Steady Al Geiberger, pro golfer's "Peanut Butter Kid," turned back the charge of Lee Trevino with a gritty, three-under-par 68 and won the Greater Greensboro Open by two strokes yesterday.

Trevino started the day five strokes behind the front-running Geiberger and once closed within one shot, but was turned back at the tough 16th hole where Geiberger almost made an ace and settled for a birdie that put his lead at two — this time with only two holes to play.

The quiet, unassuming Geiberger — given his nickname for his habit of munching peanut butter crackers to keep up his frail strength during the course of a round — scored his fourth victory in the last 18 months of a revitalized

career with a 268 total, an impressive 16-below par on the 6,643 yards of rolling hills and pine woods that make up the Sedgefield Country Club course. The total matched the best 72-hole score on the tour this year.

Trevino, suffering through the longest victory drought since he burst on the scene as the 1968 U.S. Open Champion, challenged with a six-under-par 65 that lacked two strokes of being good enough.

But his best performance of the year, a 72-hole score of 270 and a refunding putting touch stamped him a solid contender in next week's Masters championship, the only one of the Big Four titles he hasn't won and now one of the major career goals for the swaggering, fast-talking, quick-quipping Trevino.

Clarion captures AIAW crown

Women gymnasts 5th in nation

The Penn State women's gymnastics team took a fifth place and Lady Lion Karen Schuckman placed seventh in all-around in the AIAW championships held this weekend at Appalachian State College in Boone, N.C.

Penn State's total of 104.25 was outdistanced by team titlist Clarion (107.95), Southwest Missouri (106.8), Cal. State-Fullerton (106.3), and Southern Illinois (106.0). Schuckman's AA score was 35.85, while first place finisher Connie Jo Israel of Clarion had a 37.05.

Although the Lady Lions failed to place anyone in the top six in any of the events, Coach Judi Avenier didn't seem dissatisfied.

"We didn't do as well as we wanted to," Avenier said. "However, we did not

fall apart. The other teams were a little bit better than we expected them to be.

"Even though we had a lower score than we did at regionals (where Clarion beat them 107.15-105.75), four of the schools had scores that we had never attained."

There was one minor inaccuracy in Avenier's last statement, as Penn State did have 108.75 in its meet against Indiana State, but most insiders believed that the scores were somewhat inflated because of the national television audience. In any case, the coach of the Lady Lions, who also finished fifth last year, did feel her squad performed up to par.

"We were disappointed. We wanted to improve on our standing from last year. But there's no shame in losing to teams

who are better than you are," Avenier added.

In the individual events, Claudia Woody of Southwest Missouri won the vaulting competition with a 9.5, while PSU's Schuckman had an 8.85.

Southern Illinois' Denise Didier and Southwest Missouri's Cheryl Diamond tied for first in the uneven bars with scores of 9.3. Schuckman again led Penn State, this time with an 8.95.

Schuckman had a 9.05 in the balance beam but failed to place. Israel won that event with a 9.2.

And in the floor exercise, 1972 Olympian Roxanne Pierce of Temple outclassed the field with a 9.4, while Schuckman obtained a 9.0.

—Pete Dougherty

Swordwomen slip in nationals

By GARY SILVERS
Collegian Sports Writer

The Penn State women's fencing team, which finished the 1976 season with a sparkling 16-2 record, compiled only 73 points last weekend to finish a disappointing seventh in the National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association (NIWFA) Nationals held in Montclair, N.J.

As expected, San Jose, which earned 111 out of a possible 116 points, took first in the tournament, with

Brooklyn finishing a distant second (101) and Cal State-Fullerton third (95).

San Jose was led by Stacey Johnson (29-0), who didn't know how to lose, and Vincent Hurley and Hope Konecny (28-1), who each lost only once. The Californians' pool "A" fencer, Gay D'Asaro, posted the "worst" record on the squad, winning 26 of 29.

Jeanette Starks (28-1) and Ofra Davis (25-4) paved the way for Brooklyn and Virginia Bleamaster's 24-5 mark was tops for Fullerton. Against the top three, State lost all 12 bouts.

"We met San Jose in the morning," Lady Lions' coach Beth Cramer said, "but it didn't turn out to be an advantage."

"I really expected us to take at least one from them," she added, "but they were just phenomenal as was Fullerton."

The Lady Lions were led by state champion Bronwyn Jones, whose 21-8 record ranked her sixth in pool "B."

"Bronwyn really had trouble putting things together the first day," Cramer said. "The defeats really got to her."

"However, she did come back the second day, losing only to Cornell and Brooklyn," she added.

Next in line for State was pool "C" fencer Wendy Paschedag, who compiled a 19-10 mark, finishing ninth.

"After the end of the first day, she (Paschedag) finally realized that she had to attack when trailing and it paid off because she lost only three times on Saturday."

Pat Mlynek and alternate Donna Grischowsky also put on a good show in the tourney, combining for 18 pool "D" wins.

In the "A" pool, co-captain Lisa Simpson knew she had her work cut out and suffered the consequences, winning only 15 of 29.

"Lisa lost five labelle bouts," Cramer said, "and neither she nor Bronwyn (Jones) were really aggressive enough to have done well in the pool."

"I don't think we ever fenced up to our potential," she added. "We seemed to have a lack of real drive."

And speaking of drive, when the individual finals were completed, all 30 schools undoubtedly "knew the way to San Jose." After each of the Californians' fencers earned her way into the competition, Hurley, D'Asaro, and Johnson captured first, second, and third place respectively making San Jose the undisputed champions of the nation.

Specialists pace trackwomen in Club Keystone invitational

Although it was the runners who were expected to carry the load this year on the Penn State women's track team, it was the field women, and particularly the shot putters, who were impressive in the Club Keystone Invitational yesterday at Germantown Academy in Philadelphia.

There was no team competition in the event, but the Lady Lions' individual performances — three of which broke school records — were encouraging in light of next week's Nittany Lion Relays.

Kerry Kuipers, with a toss of 38 feet, 5 1/2 inches, led a Penn State sweep in the shot put. Second was Lorrie Brilla, who recorded a toss of 33 feet, eight inches, while Barb Hess took third at 32 feet, eight inches.

Another impressive field performance was

turned in by Lila Johns in the javelin. Her throw of 92 feet took first place in that event.

The record-setting performances came in running events.

Lea Ventura's first place time in the 220 of :25.22 shaved a full second off the record set by teammate Tina Leatherman earlier in the year.

Kris Bankes' time of 2:16.7 in the 880, even though it was in a third place effort, broke the Penn State record of 2:18.7 set by Mary Loncher last year.

Liz Berry completed the assault on the record book with a well-run 11:06.0 in the two-mile race, which ellipsed an astounding 33.6 seconds off Becky Antle's mark set last year. Berry's time was good for second in the event. —PD

S P O R T S T R I V I A

Friday's answer: Jay Whelan, brother of this year's winner, Gene Whelan of Penn State, won the Nissen Award in 1975.

Today's question: Before Larry Bowe and Dave Cash turned the trick last year, who was the last keystone combination to hit over .300 in one season?

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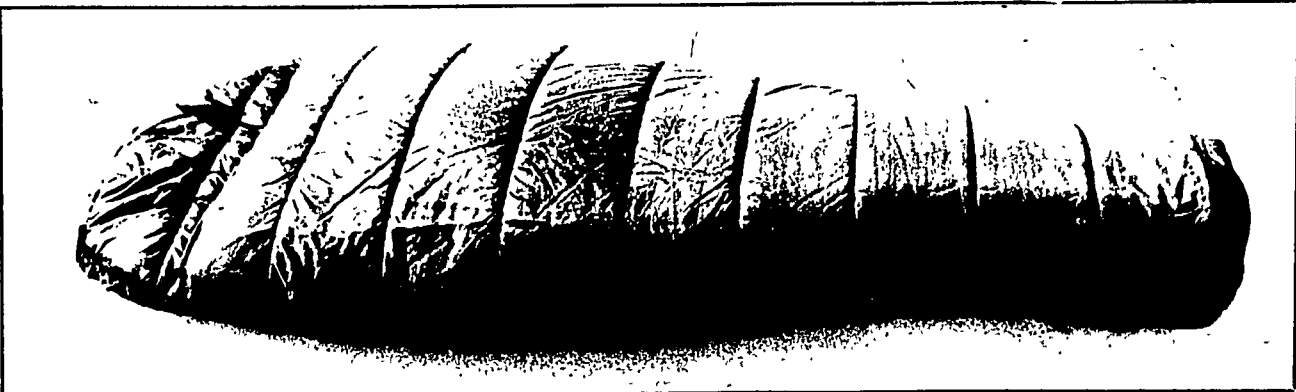
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