

## Two top teams in Rec Hall feature

# Gymgal showdown set for Thursday

By BARB SHELLY  
Collegian Sports Writer

Thursday night the nation's two top-rated women's gymnastics teams, Clarion and Penn State, will meet at Rec Hall, 7-30.

The top-ranked collegian gymnasts in the country, Penn State's Ann Carr and Clarion's Connie Jo Israel, will be competing for all-around honors.

Clarion, that little state school in Western Pennsylvania that no one ever hears about, has long had a monopoly on women's gymnastics. The team's all-time record is 41 wins and seven losses. Clarion, coached by two-time Olympian Ernestine Weaver, won the national championship last year.

That championship team is back in its entirety, along with some highly-sought freshmen, and Clarion is boasting more depth than ever.

"Clarion is very confident that they are going to win Nationals," Penn State assistant coach Marshall Avenier said.

"They have said that they are not worried about Penn State," he continued. "But any time a team has to come out and say they're not worried, they're worried."

"They're favored, we're underdogs," Avenier said. "But if there's any way in the world to beat them, we'll do it."

The competition Penn State will be up against:



Israel, last year's all-around national champion, is currently ranked second nationally behind Carr. Clarion's senior won nationals last year after a spectacular recovery from serious knee surgery in 1975.

Competing with Israel will be freshman Carrie Englert, who placed fifth all-around in the 1976 Olympic trials. Englert was high scorer in the floor exercise among the U.S. women in Montreal.

Three sisters, Deana, Debbie and Donna Johnson, bring more talent to Clarion. Twins Deana and Debbie are three-time all-Americans, and Donna, a freshman, just missed the cutoff for last summer's Olympics.

Junior Karen Brezack, National collegiate vaulting champion last year, is back also.

"What they have over us is depth," Avenier said. "Ann (Carr) can match their top and Karen (Shuckman) can hang in there with the best of them," he said. "The meet will be won on the third and fourth counting score. We have a very small margin of error."

Clarion's highest score so far this season has been 146.2. Penn State scored 145.4 against Temple but regulars Claudia Coldren and Joan Gackenback did not compete in the meet.

"They've got more depth than we do and they're more proven than we are," Penn State coach Judi Avenier said. "But if we can put it all together we have a shot at winning."

Both coaches were concerned about a letdown after the Clarion meet. "We have our two toughest meets of the season within 48 hours," Marshall Avenier said.

"Regardless of what happens we're going to have to rebound immediately and face a very tough Indiana State."

Indiana State comes to Penn State Saturday night and is currently ranked ninth in the nation. Only Penn State and Clarion have higher scores. "If we're not careful, they'll knock us off," Avenier said.

"It's going to be a nip-and-tuck all weekend. Nip-and-tuck and pike and layout," Avenier added.

## Erichsen holds key for cagers

Where the Penn State basketball team goes, Chris Erichsen usually goes. And where Chris Erichsen goes, the Penn State basketball team goes.

So if the Lion cagers hope to win even one game in the Eastern Collegiate Basketball Conference playoffs (March 2-5), the 6-6 senior forward from Harpers Ferry, W.Va., will have to do it for them. It's as plain and simple as that.



Pete Dougherty

It's true that Erichsen isn't Superman, he won't make Penn State the NCAA champions (although it is theoretically possible), and he does have teammates. But the Lions are a different unit on the basketball floor with their co-captain in the line-up—even when he's out of shape, as evidenced during State's 77-64 triumph over Navy Saturday night.

"Erichsen has already shown what he can do for us," said Lion coach John Bach after the Navy win. "He'll be in better shape. He had to be taken out because he was tiring badly."

Erichsen wasn't in shape because of an 11-game layoff after a foot injury. He saw some action against Temple Wednesday, but got his first start Saturday night and responded with 23 points—on 9 of 15 from the field and 5 of 6 from the line—and nine rebounds.

"Another week or two of practice and I'll be okay," Erichsen said after his 29-minute stint. "I'm surprised I'm doing this well after sitting around five or six weeks. The Lord must have put me in shape."

The individual contributions Erichsen makes are obvious. He has by far the highest points-per-game average on the squad, and leads the Lions or is near the lead in most other offensive categories. His most impressive game came just before he was injured, as he led the team in points scored, field goal percentage, free throw percentage, rebounds, blocked shots and steals, and was one shy of the lead in assists. For one player to do all that is, indeed, very rare.

But what he adds to the team as a whole is even more vital. All one needs to do is compare the Erichsen-less and the Erichsen teams on the floor.

Center Carvin Jefferson said, "He really helps the team when he's out there. When he's effective, he helps the team spirit."

If Erichsen can lead the team through the season's final three league games, then the Lions could roar a little in the league playoffs. But winning the last three games is no easy task.

All of the remaining contests are league encounters, and all three teams have faced Penn State earlier.

First comes West Virginia. The Lions were whipped, 81-62, in Morgantown, but the Mountaineers have since stumbled drastically (from 8-2 to 14-8), and Erichsen was missing then. An upset win over West Virginia at Rec Hall Wednesday would give the cagers about a 50-50 chance of—get this—sharing the Western Division title of the ECBL.

Next Saturday the Lions travel to Pittsburgh to meet the Panthers, who lost to Penn State, 74-60, two weekends ago at Rec Hall but have since knocked off nationally-ranked Cincinnati.

Then comes a Feb. 23 Rec Hall clash with Duquesne, which disposed of State 88-74 in January. Again, Penn State was without Erichsen in a game that saw the Lions within five points of the Dukes with less than two-and-a-half minutes to play.

Penn State could conceivably win any or all of the games. If they do win all three, the Lions would finish in a first-place tie with West Virginia at 5-5, ahead of both Duquesne and Pitt. Either the Dukes or the Panthers would be State's first-round opponent if the Lions did not end at 5-5.

Which team they will play is indeterminable, as is a possible second-round opponent. ECBL officials have yet to decide the format for either.

But with a little luck Penn State could draw George Washington, Massachusetts, or West Virginia. The Lions can be competitive with any of the three.

Dreaming a little further, the cagers probably would face either Villanova or Rutgers in the finals if they made it, no matter what format is used. A Penn State win is highly unlikely, although a victory would put the Lions—who at best will be a 14-14 team—in the NCAA playoffs.

Fantasizing? Perhaps. But without Chris Erichsen, the cagers may as well stay home.

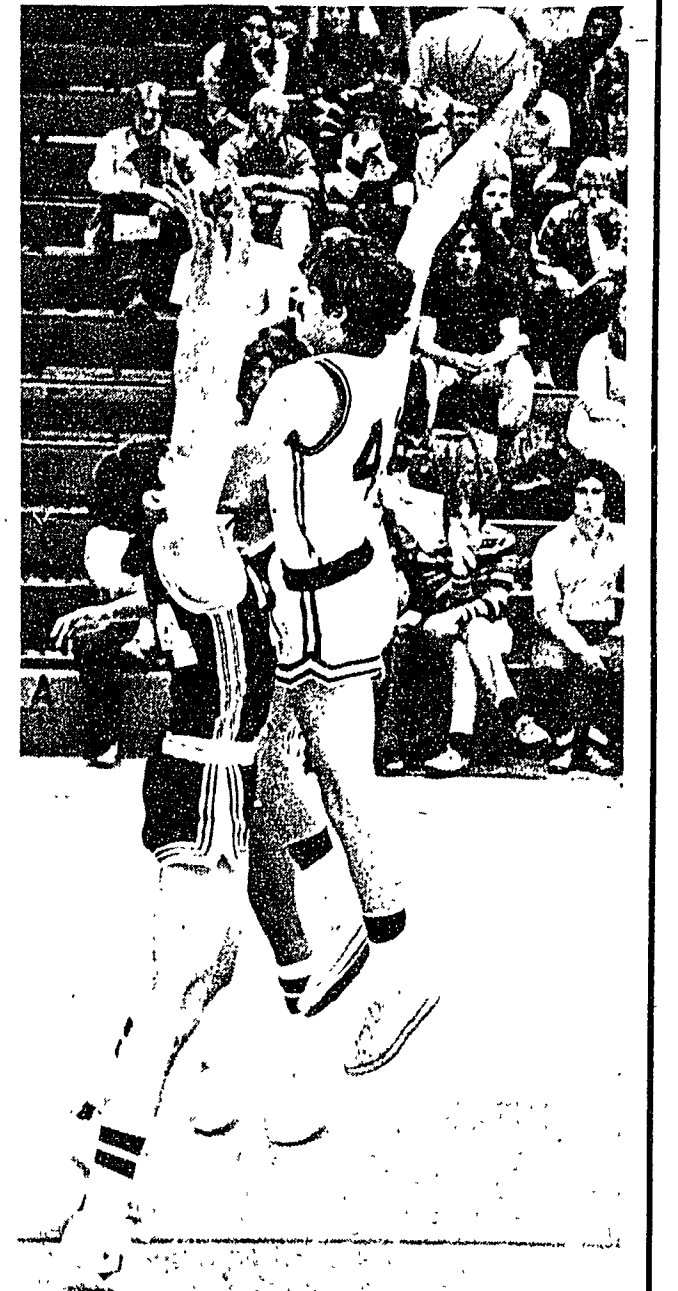
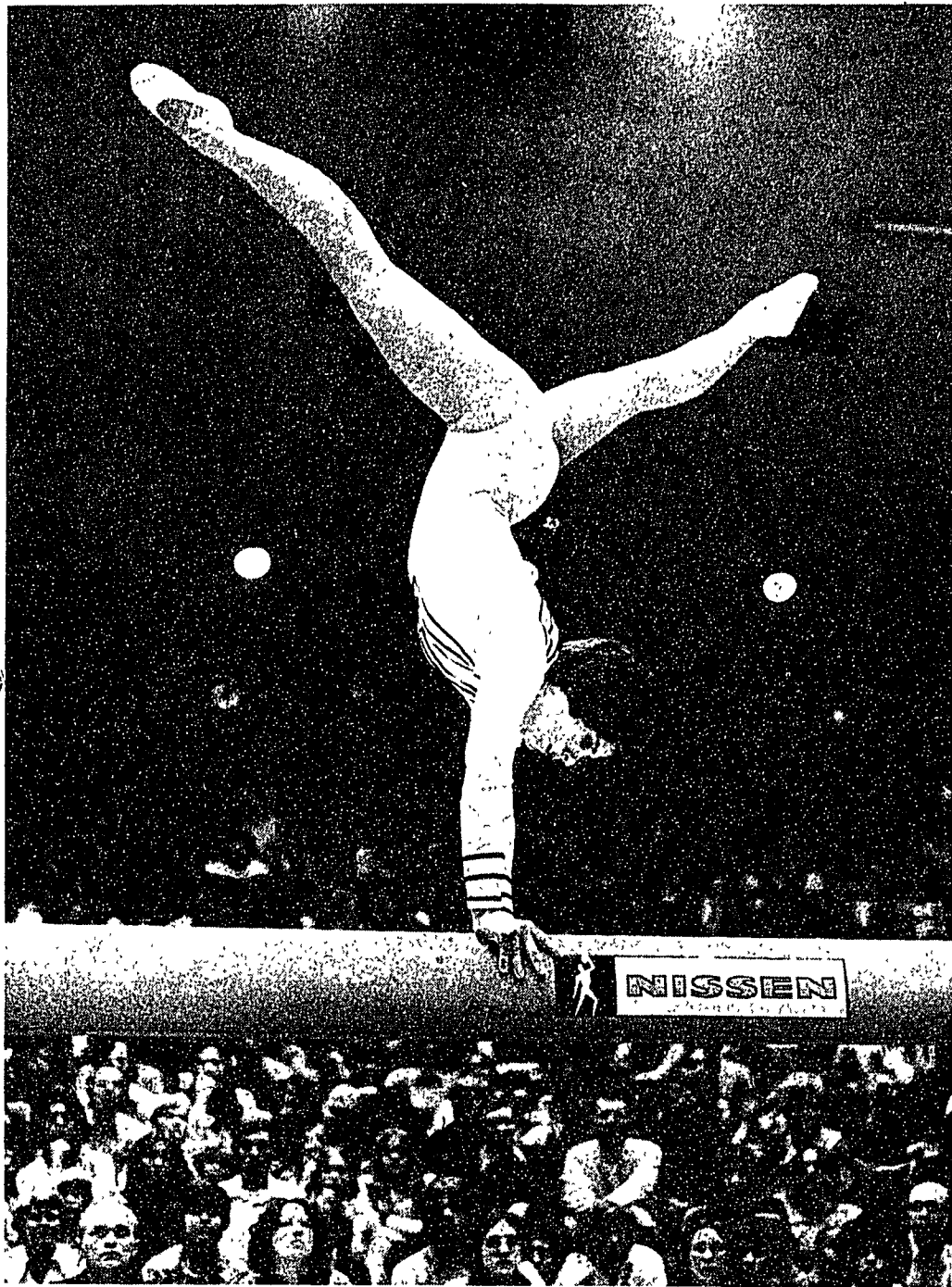


Photo by Lynn Dudinsky

Chris Erichsen goes up for a shot in Penn State's 77-64 win over Navy Saturday night. Erichsen reaffirmed his value to the team with 23 points and nine rebounds in the win.



Nationally top-ranked all-arounder Ann Carr will be hearing the footsteps of Clarion's Connie Jo Israel Thursday night at Rec Hall.

## Grapplers draw season to close, eye nationals

By GEORGE WEIGEL  
Collegian Sports Writer

The wrestling season is drawing to a close but two more goals remain for the young Lion grapplers to conquer.

They've already won eight of nine meets—including Battle No. 61 of the war with Lehigh—and they are still in first place in the Eastern Wrestling League.

Although two regular season meets remain, tournament time is just around the corner.

The State wrestlers will meet Pittsburgh Saturday and then entertain Montclair State Feb. 26 while most other students are home relaxing or soaking up the sun in Florida.

Then comes the EWL tournament March 5-6 at Lock Haven. But the highlight of the year follows a week and a half at the NCAA championships in Oklahoma, where several Lion wrestlers have a good chance at winning.

Captain Jerry White, who is 11-0-1 with four falls, probably is Penn State's biggest hope for a national champion.

Last year he advanced to the quarter-finals before losing to national champ Chris Campbell of Iowa 3-1. Campbell is back again this year and he will probably be the main obstacle for White.

Another tough opponent will be Michigan's Mark Johnson, who came back to tie the Lion senior earlier this season in a dual meet 7-7.

But White has been wrestling well this year and he plans to be in top form for Nationals. He said he's going to stiffen his workouts around now to get ready.

This year White has won the Wilkes and East Stroudsburg opens and the Penn State

Invitational. With a good day March 19, he could add the NCAAs to that list.

Four other Lion wrestlers have outside chances at winning, but pretty good shots at placing.

Mike DeAugustino, 10-0 in his freshman year at 118 lbs., is already one of the tops in the nation but he'll have to deal with Mike McArthur of Minnesota and Jim Haines of Wisconsin.

DeAugustino was rated fourth by National Mat News in its mid-season picks.

Bill Vollrath, 11-1, could place also if he has a good tournament. The junior from Hatboro will have to avenge his loss to Michigan's Mark Churella and beat some other tough 150 pounders like Joe Zuppann of Iowa State and Roye Oliver of Arizona State to win, however.

At 158, Dave Becker is a contender but he'll have to beat Superman to win. Superman, alias Lee Kemp of Wisconsin, was 39-0 last year and has beaten Olympic hero Dan Gable, among many others, in the past.

There are some other outstanding wrestlers in this weight class, including Iowa State's Kelly Ward and Paul Martin of Oklahoma State.

Becker, a junior, is 11-1 on the year but he'll have to wrestle his best to place this year.

Sophomore Bill Bertrand faces the same situation as Becker as there are a lot of excellent 190 pounders across the nation. Again, with a good tournament and some upset wins, he could be a placewinner.

As a team, the Lions are now 8-1 and should move up in the national rankings after beating fourth-rated Lehigh. Penn State was ninth last week, according to the Amateur Wrestling News.

## Runners snag four firsts at Delaware Invitational

By DON HOPEY  
Collegian Sports Writer

Penn State's trackmen couldn't be sure if they were at a marathon or a track meet, but when the Delaware Invitational finally ground to a halt some nine and a half hours after it had begun they had copped four events and placed in a few more.

The meet lasted from noon on Sunday until 9:30 at night and caused more than a few late dinners, but the Lions managed to win the two-mile relay, the distance medley relay, the 880 yard run and the 1000 yard run.

In the two mile relay, the Lions turned in a time of 7:38.8 for first place. Their splits were: George Malley, 1:56.8; Bill Shesky, 1:55.4; Pat Rexroat, 1:54.2; and Mike Wyatt, 1:52.4.

John Nicholson (1:54.8 in the first half-mile), Wyatt (:51.2 in the quarter-mile), Malley (3:03.2 in the three-quarter mile), and Bruce Baden (4:18.6 for the mile), combined to win the distance medley in 10:08.0.

The Lions were doubling in quite a few events and Rexroat came back to win the Penn State dominated 880 yard run. Rexroat won it in 1:55.0, ahead of teammates Shesky, who finished second in 1:57.3. Ron Smith, third in 1:58.1, and Steve Black, fifth in 1:58.3. In the 1000 yard run, Malley got an individual first place ribbon to go with his piece of the medley and two-mile relay prizes by turning in a 1:15.2.

In the 60 yard high hurdles, Dennis Rock finished third in :07.5 and Paul Pollock, fourth, in :07.6. In the mile run Walt Majak came in fourth in 4:18.2 in a race he had

never run before. In the 440 yard run, Keith Falco was fifth in :49.5. Wyatt, there's that name again, was fifth in the 600 yard run in 1:13.2.

The Lion's mile relays finished fifth in an event won by Howard University in the time of 3:13.9. State's time was 3:20.0, with splits of :51.0 for Don Tracey, :49.6 for Bill Austin, :49.9 for Pollock and :49.6 for Falco.

In the long jump, John Sallade finished fourth with a jump of 22 feet, two and a half inches. Bill Carroll was fifth in the pole vault with a vault of 14 feet even.

Up the coast in New Haven, Conn., Al "Little-dab-will-do-ya" Jackson and Gary Greaser threw the 35-pound weight in the Vitalis Olympic Invitational. Jackson finished second to Wayne Durrigan of Southern Connecticut with a throw of 59 feet, six and a quarter inches, good enough to qualify for the NCAA indoors.

In other track action over the weekend, the fifth annual Nittany Valley Track Club Marathon was won by Dave Felece who beat 40 contestants with a time of 2:27.47. University student Paul Stemmer won the three-mile run at a development meet in Bethlehem, Pa., in the fast time of 13:26 flat. That time ranks him in the top five or six nationally at that distance, according to Lion Coach Harry Groves.

In action over term break, the Lions will compete in the Central Collegiate Championships in Ann Arbor and the National AAU's in Madison Square Garden in New York on February 25.

## Hill sets record in Flyer win

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Al Hill scored two goals on his first shots as a National Hockey League player and added three assists for a record five points as the Philadelphia Flyers defeated the St. Louis Blues 6-4 last night.

Ron Andrews, the NHL publicist, said as far as he could determine Hill was the first rookie to score five points in his first league game.

Hill, 21, joined the Flyers earlier yesterday from the club's Springfield farm team in the American Hockey League.

It took the 175-pound winger just 36 seconds to turn on the red light with a 45-foot bullet past St. Louis goalie Yves Belanger.

After the Blues' Red Berenson tied it at 10:38, Hill sent the Flyers ahead 55 seconds later when he deflected a shot by Rick MacLeish into the net.

It was not known whether Hill's fete of two shots and two goals in his first game was a record, since the NHL doesn't keep such statistics.

Hill helped the Flyers make it 3-1 at 17 minutes of the opening period, when Reggie Leach converted the rookie's pass from behind the net into Leach's 23rd goal of the season.

The Flyers boosted it to 4-1 at 6:28 of the second period on a 55-footer by Bob Dailey, and Mel Bridgman upped it to 5-1 at 14:19 with the help of assists by Bobby Clarke and the irrepressible Hill.

Bruce Affleck's third goal of the season reduced the Flyers' lead to 5-2 at the end of two periods. In the final stanza, Clarke made it 6-2, before Berenson's second goal and a score by Bob Hess for St. Louis completed the scoring.

## Billingham signs two-year contract

CINCINNATI (AP) — Pitcher Jack Billingham has signed a two-year baseball contract for an undisclosed amount, the Cincinnati Reds

announced yesterday.

Billingham was 12-10 last year with a 4.32 earned run average.

He won the second game of

the World Series and continued his near perfect performance in the fall classic. In a seven-game span, Billingham has given up just one earned run in 26 innings.

Billingham has been one of the top winners on the Reds' staff, and has 77 victories.

### Major league standings

National Basketball Association				National Hockey League				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				CENTRAL CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				Patrick Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	W	L	Pts	GP	
Philadelp	33	29	.623	Philadelp	33	11	78	225
Boston	26	27	.491	NY Isl	32	15	8	74
NY Knicks	24	29	.453	Atlanta	24	22	11	59
Buffalo	19	33	.365	NY Rng	21	24	13	55
NY Nets	17	36	.321					
Central Division				Smitty Division				
Washington	30	22	.577	St. Lou	23	26	6	51
Houston	29	23	.558	Chgo	21	27	10	52
Cleveland	28	24	.538	Colo	17	31	9	43
S. Ant. On	29	25	.537	Minn	13	30	13	39
N. Orleans	24	30	.444	Vancvr	16	35	6	38
Atlanta	22	34	.393					
WESTERN CONFERENCE				WALEES CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				Norris Division				
Denver	34	19	.642	Mont	42	7	93	281
Detroit	32	23	.582	Pitts	25	23	9	59
Kan. City	28	28	.500	Wash	19	26	11	49
Indiana	25	30	.455	Wash	16	32	10	42
Chicago	23	32	.418	Dirt	15	33	7	37
Milwaukee	17	42	.288					
Pacific Division				Adams Division				
Los Ang	35	19	.648	Bain	33	19	6	72
Portland	35	21	.625	Buff	32	17	6	70
Golden St	30	24	.556	Tnto	27	22	7	61
Seattle	29	26	.527	Cleve	18	29	9	45
Phoenix	25	27	.481					
Saturday's Game								
No games scheduled								
Sunday's Result								
West 125, East 124								
Yesterday's Games								
No games scheduled								
Today's Games								
Detroit vs Boston at Hartford								
Portland at Cleveland								
Seattle at San Antonio								
New York Nets at Chicago								
Phoenix at Kansas City								
New Orleans at Milwaukee								
Atlanta at Golden State								

### IM Scores

COED VOLLEYBALL  
SUNDAY'S RESULTS  
Montreal 5, Detroit 3  
Buffalo 6, Minnesota 2  
Boston 4, Cleveland 2  
New York Rangers 8, Toronto 3  
Chicago 4, Atlanta 2

## Daum stays dressed; Lifters lose

Susan Daum (11th-nutrition) could have entered her first weight lifting meet at Villanova University this weekend if she had agreed to do one thing before the meet began — weigh herself in front of three male officials in the nude. Daum didn't go to the meet.

"Even with street clothes on I still would have weighed under 114 pounds, the category I was in," she said. "But they said it would be discrimination, if I was allowed to weigh in in street clothes."

Daum would have entered the meet with the Penn State Barbell Club's powerlifting team.

Penn State would have won the meet if Daum had com-

peted, Bill Jones, the powerlifting team captain, said. Penn state lost to Villanova by one point. However, Daum would have been given three points just for entering the meet, Jones said, since only one other team had a lifter in the 114-pound category.

He said that the Amateur Athletic Union, the national amateur athletic association, mandates the nude weigh-in regulation.

Daum had planned to attend the meet and protest the regulation. However, she said that team members persuaded her not to protest since a protest might influence the weight lifting judges decisions about Penn State's team.

Team member Bruce Clark (2nd-education) said he and other team members would have been willing to protest the regulation.

"The guys were all for her," he said. "We needed that weight."

Daum said she lifted weights all last year on her own and for a physical education class.

— KR

Villanova defeated Penn State 31-30 in the Collegiate Powerlifting Championships this past weekend.

Bill Jones took the Outstanding Lifter Award in the 165 lbs. class with a total lift of 1365 lbs. He set three Penn State Collegiate records: 480 lbs. in the squat, 350 lbs. in the benchpress and a total of 1365 lbs.

Jones also set four new undergraduate records with a dead lift of 535 lbs. along with his totals in the squat, benchpress and overall total. His total in the benchpress was a new Penn State Open record.

In the 198 lbs. class, Rory McCoy took second and set three new Undergraduate records: 440 lbs. squat, 365 lbs. benchpress and a total of 1305 lbs.

Steve Jones took second in the 148 lbs. class with a total of 1000 lbs. and a new Penn State Collegiate Record of 380 lbs. in the squat.

In superheavyweights, Bruce Clark was first with a total lift of 1265 lbs.

— JT