

# Lafayette foe of diamondmen

By GARY SILVERS  
Collegian Sports Writer

It's becoming a habit. Every time the Penn State baseball players peer up in the sky, they always seem to say the same thing: "Look, it's a bird. It's a plane. It's . . . raining again."

Hopefully today will be different. After a rainout at Ithaca Sunday, the Nittany Lions (1-0) return home to meet Lafayette in a 3 p.m. battle at Beaver Field.

The starting line-up is the same as last Wednesday's with righthanders Jim Farr and Steve Neilson slated to pitch and an inexperienced team right behind them.

"I hope we don't have a letdown from last week," Farr said referring to the 6-0 victory over Lehigh. "We have a very young team up the middle, who just need a little con-

fidence."

The same confidence Farr and Nielsen had in the opener when they yielded the Engineers just five hits in nine innings while striking out 11.

"I was pretty pleased with our opening performances," Farr said, "especially since we combined for a shutout. We haven't had much work, however, and really need it. The reason we're both gonna pitch again today is to get ready for the doubleheader Sunday against Rutgers."

But what about the other veteran hurlers, Dick Miller and Frank Deutsch and the two freshmen, Dave June and Mark Lambert? Won't they see some action?

"Well, we're primarily gonna stick 'em between starts, so there won't be too

ween starts, so there won't be too much of a problem. If there is one, however, Deutsch might get the nod.

"As for the freshmen," he added, "I really haven't seen too much of them. It's going to be tough for them to get playing time because we already have an experienced staff. They'll pitch some though."

The Lions are also carrying two other freshmen starters, second baseman Bill Benner and shortstop D. Bob Orwig, who unlike the two rookie pitchers, made their debuts early.

"It's a big transition going from high school ball to college," Farr said, "and consequently, they're pressing a bit. They'll be fine with a few games under their belts."

Another big transition is going from college football to baseball and turning from 60,000 fans at Beaver

Stadium to just 400 at Beaver Field. It also takes exceptional athletes like Penn State's right and center fielders, Andy Onkontz and Randy Sidler.

"I think they've made the adjustment rather well," Farr said. "They're not real tough defensively, but have good power and should drive in a lot of runs. The rest of the offense should be productive also, especially against righties. Just give us 10 to 12 more games."

But today will just be game number two. And the Lions will try to make it two in a row over Lafayette.

"Last year we beat them 6-4," Farr said, "and had a week lay-off just like this year. I don't want the game to be like the one in '75, however, because not only did we get beat (16-14 at Lafayette), but were forced to go through the entire pitching staff."



Photo by Eric Felack

This Lehigh batter lost the race against Penn State second baseman Bill Benner's throw. The double play saved the Lions 6-0 shutout last Wednesday.

## Competition includes SConn's Kormann

# Pflieder set for USGF championships

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The Penn State men's gymnastics team sent two representatives to Tempe, Ariz. last weekend for the NCAA individual and team championships.

One was Colonel Karl Schwenzfeier, the coach, whose team scored just 403.95 points the week before, only to be eliminated from further competition. The other was Captain Kurt Pflieder, the senior all-arounder whose 104.25 combined score (compulsory and optional routines) in the finals made him the tenth best collegiate gymnast in the country.

"I was really pleased with my performance," Pflieder said. "I didn't make too many mistakes and definitely accomplished what I set out to do."

And indeed he did, for his 50.9 compulsory (11th) and 53.35 optional (ninth) scores earned him a plane ticket to Baton Rouge, La., for the United States Gymnastics Federation championships in May.

"That competition determines the best gymnast in the country," Pflieder said, "and not just collegiate ones. I'll be competing with guys like Wayne Young and Gene Whelan (former State Olympians)."

Last weekend the West Chester native competed with guys like Kurt Thomas (Indiana State), Bart Conner (Oklahoma), and Peter Kormann (Southern Connecticut), who finished one, two, and three respectively in the nation.

"Even though Thomas won the event," Pflieder said, "it wasn't a good meet for him. There was a lot of pressure, however, because he also had to compete for his team. He's such a super gymnast though that he can definitely afford to have a bad meet and still be the best."

And what about Conner? Believe it or not, he's just a freshman.

"Bart's developmental process is really advanced," Pflieder said. "He comes from Illinois, which is the most active high school gymnastics

state in the country. They have as many as 100 gymnasts on a team in some schools."

And the goal of those competitors is to compete for a high-caliber collegiate team such as Indiana State or Oklahoma and do what they did last weekend — win the NCAA team championship. Both tallied exactly 434.475 and settled a tie.

"I was very close to the Indiana State gymnasts all season long," Pflieder said, "and wanted them to win very badly. Last year they didn't make it to the finals because we beat them in the regionals."

The roles were reversed this year, but Pflieder's third place finish in the east was still enough to qualify him individually. And luckily it did, but the nationals marked the senior's final collegiate appearance.

"I want to continue for as long as my body will hold up," he said. "Stopping at the end of college is like stopping in the middle of a stream. I was such a slow maturer that I actually won't hit my peak until I'm 26 or 27. Just in time for the '84 Olympics."

## Equestrians gallop to second

The Penn State Equestrian team trotted, hurred and looked almost the best of an 18 team field in finishing second at the Horse Show held at Princeton University last weekend.

Receiving first place ribbons for Penn State were Jenny Conway, Karen Martz, and Lori Senior for their riding on flatlands performances. Jeff Grisewood earned top honors in the hurding over fences category.

Second place awards went to Andrea Guerrein, Carol Swandby and Missy Unkovic on flatlands. Martz and Jane Pascarella garnered second places in the over the fences competition.

"The kids all rode real well, I was quite pleased," coach Jane Flynn said. "We had probably the toughest group of horses but we coped with them very well."

The second place finish elevates Penn State into a fourth place tie with Bucks County Community College in Region VI. Centenary leads, Lafayette second, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, third.

Penn State will have one

more match before tournament time arrives. The local riders will trot to Ursinus College April 17th for their final meet of the year.

If Penn State finishes first, it could qualify for a post season berth, Flynn said.

—NR

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Boston	41	36	.532	7
NY Knicks	37	41	.474	11½
Buffalo	29	49	.372	19½
NY Nets	21	57	.269	27½
Central Division				
Houston	48	31	.608	—
Wash	45	33	.577	2½
S Anton	47	36	.564	5
Cleve	42	36	.538	5½
N Orleans	34	44	.436	13½
Atlanta	31	48	.392	17
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
y-Denver	48	30	.615	—
Detroit	42	36	.538	6
Chicago	41	37	.526	7
Kan City	40	38	.513	8
Indiana	34	46	.425	15
Milwaukee	28	52	.350	21
Pacific Division				
y-L A	51	27	.654	—
Portland	46	33	.582	5½
Golden St	43	36	.544	8½
Seattle	39	40	.494	12½
Phoenix	31	47	.397	20

Today's Games:  
Houston at Boston  
New Orleans at Buffalo  
Philadelphia at San Antonio  
Chicago at Washington  
Atlanta at Denver

## Rose signs 2-year pact

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Cincinnati Reds announced Tuesday they have reached agreement on a two-year contract with 10-time All-Star Pete Rose, who was threatening to play out his option.

The eleventh hour agreement came on the eve of the Reds' major league opener, the deadline Rose set before upping his demands \$25,000 a month.

Terms of the contract were not revealed.

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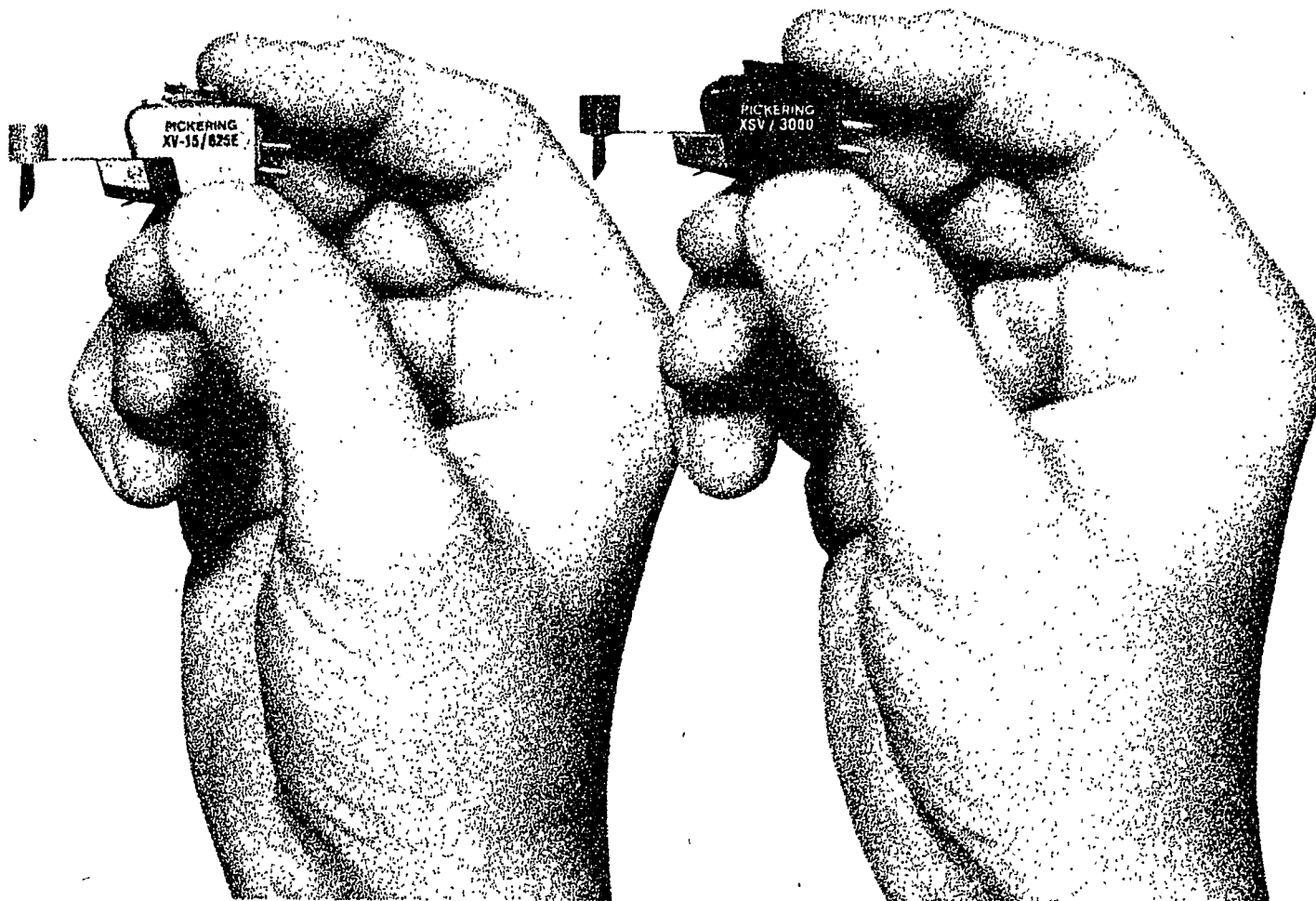
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