

Trackmen, Cats dominate blustery Nittany Relays

By RICK WEBER
Collegian Sports Writer

Villanova and Penn State dominated a field of 40 university and track club teams at the sixth annual Nittany Lion Relays over the weekend.

Before the colossal event began, Penn State track coach and meet director Harry Groves extolled Villanova for its strong relay squads. And when the meet reached its conclusion late Saturday afternoon at Westley Parkway Junior High School, the Wildcats had proven Groves correct.

Villanova won five relay titles in the championship division — the mile, two-mile, four-mile, sprint medley and distance medley relays.

In addition to the relay titles, Villanova claimed an individual title in the triple jump as Nate Cooper leaped 48 feet, two-and-one-half inches.

Villanova's other place finishers included Greg Eckman (third in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles), John Burns and Dean Childs (second and third in the mile run).

Penn State trailed Villanova with four first-place titles, but the Lions captured 18 place finishes to be the overwhelming leader.

First-place finishes were recorded by freshman standout Ray Krombel (10,000-meter run), George Malley (open nine-mile road race), Bill Austin (400-meter IH), and Dave Hajnak (decathlon).

Hajnak, a 6-1, 163-lb. senior, trailed Ken Talton of Cornell and Ken Osborne of the Philadelphia Pioneer Track Club after Thursday's events.

But Hajnak said he was satisfied with his position.

"I felt pretty good because I usually come back harder the second day," he said.

On Friday, Hajnak took a second in the 110-meter high hurdles and won the pole vault and javelin to clinch his victory in the grueling event.

"The pole vault was the key," he said. "That's where I pulled away. I knew they couldn't touch me in the next two

events."

Austin's victory was notable because he bested a good field which included Maryland's Greg Eckman and Lion Paul Pollock.

"His time (:54.6) didn't look that fast," said Groves, "but under the conditions it was good. He beat the IC4A champ, Eckman, to win it."

The conditions Groves was talking about included 35-degree temperatures and bone-chilling 20-mile-per-hour gusts of wind which hit the athletes directly in the face coming off the second turn.

"The weather was hard," Groves said. "It just wears on you and you feel tight and stiff. It's probably good in the long run because you get tougher from it."

Nearly all the performances suffered from the frigid temperatures and strong winds. Some examples: Villanova won the distance medley in 10:12.5, a full 23 seconds slower than the meet record its relay squad set in 1973; and Villanova won the two-mile relay in 7:41.2, 17 seconds off the record.

The wind also played havoc with some of the jumpers.

"It was a pretty tough wind," said Lion freshman Joe Batteer, who took fourth place in the triple jump on Friday. "It made my approach a little slower. The run is a big part of the jump. If you feel you are running slow, it's gonna mess up the rhythm of your jump."

"It affected everyone," Batteer added, "but it probably affected the other guys more than me because I've been practicing in bad weather all spring. Cooper would have hit 50 (feet) if the weather had been better."

Putting the weather aside, Penn State's only other nagging problem was its inability to capture a title in a relay event.

The Lions took seconds in five relays — the 800, sprint medley, distance medley, mile and four-mile.

"I think we held the record for seconds," Groves said. "Where we could have won, someone was there to stop us."

That someone was Villanova. The

Wildcats continually held off Penn State, winning four of the five events in which the Lions finished second.

The most exciting of those came on Friday in the distance medley.

Lion anchorman Paul Stemmer was about four or five yards behind Villanova's Ed Takacs when he received the baton for the final leg.

Stemmer reduced the margin to two steps as the runners approached the final lap. Then they hit the windy backstretch. On the last turn, Stemmer started to kick. But Takacs maintained the margin to the tape and edged Stemmer by one second.

"I was satisfied with our performances," Groves said. "We scored in a lot of places. A lot of teams weren't able to do that."

"People use this kind of a meet to develop. It's early and they know it's gonna be chilly. They know it's really not that important yet."

Beta Theta Pi fraternity turned in one of the most outstanding performances of the meet in the eight-man intramural mile relay on Friday. Its relay team took first place in 3:17.9, breaking the record of 3:18.4 it had set on Thursday.

"We just tried to better Thursday's time," said Barry Fagan, a member of Beta Theta Pi's strong team. "We were about 11 seconds ahead of the closest team on Thursday. We figured that unless someone came up with a super performance, we'd win."

Fagan said the wind bothered the runners, although the record-setting time didn't show it.

"The wind bothered us, especially on the first, third and fifth legs," he said. "It almost blew you off the ground."

MEET MEMOS: Winston Strachan of Alfred University was named the outstanding performer in the field events.

Strachan won the long jump (22-11) and the high jump (6-8). "He definitely deserved it," Groves said. "The combination of those two events is difficult under any conditions. He beat a lot of good guys."



With Nittany Mountain in the background, State's Paul Pollock digs for a second place finish in the Nittany Lion Relays' 110-meter hurdles event. Photo by Barry Wyshinski

Red-hot Miller provides punch

Baseballers double dip Rutgers

By GARY SILVERS
Collegian Sports Writer

In his first 23 trips to the plate last season, Lions' left fielder Bob Miller produced just one hit for a .047 batting average. This year has been a bit different, however, for after leading the team to a 3-1, 9-3 twinbill sweep at Rutgers Saturday, he has now mustered eight safeties in 11 appearances, including four doubles and a homer.

"Bobby hit some real shots last weekend," Lions' mentor Chuck Medlar said. "As a matter of fact, he didn't hit a bad ball all day. That good wrist action is back."

And so was Lion hurler Jim Nielsen, who after posting a sub-par 4.06 earned run average last year, came alive in Saturday's opener, yielding just three hits in eight innings, while striking out nine.

State's offense didn't help the big rightie any, as it left 13 men stranded on the basepaths, while scoring just one run in the seven regulation frames. Rutgers, however, could do no better, but it was not until the eighth, with the score knotted at one, that the Scarlet Knights were finally overtaken.

Lions' right fielder Andy Onkontz started the two-run rally with a walk. Catcher Tim Searer advanced him to second which set up the game winning double by Bill Benner (2 for 4). Shortstop Bob Orwig followed that sequence with a single to center and the visitors opened game one.

In the nightcap it was all Penn State. And Bob Miller (4 for 4, three doubles). The Lions jumped off to a 7-0 lead after the first three and a half innings and never looked back.

The biggest outburst occurred in the first, when State

put together four hits and a wild pitch by Rutgers starter Mike Nalinski to produce three early runs. The big blow was a two-bagger by Miller, knocking in Randy Sidler and Kevin Maronic, who both reached base on singles.

The Lions went on to tally single runs in the second and third and two more in the top of the fourth before the Scarlet Knights finally dented the scoreboard with an unearned run in the bottom half of the

inning. Rutgers scored their final runs of the game in the fifth on a single by Doug Tighe and

a homer by center fielder Jeff Helman. The winning pitcher in game two was Jim Farr (2-0), who went six innings, allowing five hits and three runs, while fanning five.

"We really thought Rutgers would hit the ball like last year," Medlar said, "especially after they just beat Bucknell Friday (10-1). It's definitely an under class ball club from the last time we saw it."

The Lions next contest is at 3 p.m. tomorrow when they host Bucknell at Beaver Field.

Bullets, Chenier beat 76ers

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Phil Chenier broke out of his shooting slump yesterday by scoring 29 points to take the Washington Bullets to a 131-121 National Basketball Association victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Bullets, who lost to the 76ers by 32 points in Philadelphia Saturday night, outscored them 36-28 in the third quarter to take the lead for good. Chenier had 14 points in the period.

Mitch Kupchak came off the bench to score 23 points and grab seven rebounds for the Bullets who finished with the same 48-34 record they had last year.

Kupchak sank 10 of 17 shots to finish second

in the league in a field goal percentage with a .572 mark — the best ever for a rookie.

Julius Erving, who had 40 points Saturday night, scored 31 before sitting out the fourth quarter. George McGinnis did not play because of a sore toe.

The 76ers finished the regular season with a .502 record, the best in the Eastern Division.

Referees Jake O'Donnell and Joe Gushue refused to work the game as NBA referees walked out on the league's final regular-season games.

Eastern League referees Joey Crawford and Richie Jackson officiated the game.

Men's results from Nittany Lion Relays

Decathlon — 1. Hajnak, PSU, 6446; 2. Talton, Cornell, 6067; 3. Papa, Slippery Rock, 5969.

Nine-mile road race — 1. George Malley, PSU, 48:07.2 (Relays record; old record 48:50, Sam Bair, unattached, 1976); 2. Steve Palos, Greater Rochester Track Club, 48:15; 3. Charles Trayer, Reading ATC, 48:38.

10,000 meters — 1. Ray Krombel, PSU, 31:20.3; 2. John Doub, Shippenburg, 31:30.1; 3. Tim Dolan, Bucknell, 31:46.0.

Discus — 1. Mike Dakan, Bucknell, 149-4; 2. Terry Bruce, Alfred, 142-1; 3. Tom Kadlen, Bucknell, 139-2.

400 IH — 1. Bill Austin, PSU, 1:54.6; 2. Linford Jones, Slippery Rock, 55-3; 3. Greg Eckman, Villanova, 55-4.

Championship distance medley relay — 1. Villanova (Mark Belger, Glenn Bogue, Phil Kane and Ed Takacs); 10:12.5; 2. PSU, 10:13.8; 3. Syracuse, 10:31.5.

Triple jump — Nate Cooper, Villanova, 48-21; 2. Julius Brown, West Penn Track Club, 46-8; 3. Larry Dietrich, Bloomsburg, 46-5; 4. Joe Batteer, PSU, 45-5.4.

Mile — 1. Ken Schappert, New York Athletic Club, 4:22.0; 2. John Burns, Villanova, 4:22.1; 3. Dean Childs, Villanova, 4:23.4.

Shot put — 1. Steve Bulger, Seton Hall, 50-11/2; 2. Robert Carr, Slippery Rock, 49-6 1/2; 3. Mike Wallace, Pittsburg, 49-1.

Pole vault — 1. Todd Wunderlich, Slippery Rock, 15-0; 2. Bob Hottle, PSU, 14-0. (Others failed to clear opening height of 13-6)

Open 110-meter hurdles — 1. Mike Holston, Hagerstown, 1:50.0 (wind aided at 0.69 mph); 2. Paul Pollock, PSU, 1:53.3; 3. Richard Prescott, Delaware St., 1:53.

Open 400 meters — 1. John Chambers, Seton Hall, 1:08.8 (wind aided at 6.82 mph); 2. Aaron Harvey, Delaware St., 1:09.3; 3. Rick Swanson, Colgate, 1:09.

Hammer — 1. Al Jackson, Philly Pioneers, 198-4 1/2; 2. Carl Shields, unattached, 194-7 1/2; 3. Gary Greaser, PSU, 168-6.

Invitational 100 meters — 1. Calvin Dill, Seton Hall, 1:04 (Relays record; old record 1:05, Mike Sands, PSU); 2. Mike Sands, New York Pioneers, 1:05; 3. Eldred Stephens, Fredonia, 1:07.

Open Javelin — 1. Greg Geraci, Bruce Track Club, 250; 2. Ken Andrews, Bruce Track Club, 220-10; Kevin Johnson, Bruce Track Club, 216-7.

3,000-meter steeplechase — 1. Pete Heesen, East Stroudsburg, 9:18.3; 2. Kelly O'Brien, PSU, 9:35.8; Jim Dougherty, Rochester, 9:41.9.

Long jump — 1. Winston Strachan, Alfred, 22-11; 2. Julius Brown, West Penn TC, 22-5; 3. John Sallade, PSU, 22-4 1/2.

Championship two-mile relay — 1. Villanova (Fallon, Kane, Takacs and Belger), 7:41.2; 2. West Virginia, 7:46.7; 3. PSU, 7:47.0.

800 meters — 1. Bill Miller, Hagerstown, 1:55.2 (Relays record; old record 1:56.5, Mike Martin, Mt. St. Mary's, 1976); 2. Jack Cavanaugh, Baltimore TC, 1:55.5; 3. Tom McLean, Bucknell, 1:55.9.

400 meters — 1. Joseph Coombs, Essex, 46.9 (Relays record; first time contested); 2. Mike Sands, New York Pioneers, 47.5; 3. Bill Hicks, Philly Pioneers, 48.1.

Two-mile run — 1. Charlie Maguire, Philly Pioneers, 8:59.4; 2. Greg Fredericks, Philly Pioneers, 8:59.4; 3. Mel Boyd, Pitt, 9:03.3.

Shuttle hurdle relay — 1. Seton Hall (Williams, Wyatt, Ware and Bunting), 1:01.2; 2. Bucknell, 1:01.6; 3. PSU, 1:01.8.

High jump — 1. Winston Strachan, Alfred, 6-8; 2. Jeff Curruheren, Bloomsburg, 6-6; 3. Dan Goodyear, Pitt, 6-6.

Championship 800 relay — 1. Essex (Bethel, Muhammad, Husbands, Coombe), 1:16.7; 2. PSU, 1:30.9; 3. Philly Pioneers, 1:31.2.

Championship mile relay — 1. Villanova (Harbour, Belger, Bogue, Eckman), 3:15.2; 2. PSU, 3:16.4; 3. Delaware State, 3:16.6.

Championship 440 relay — 1. Essex (Bethel, Muhammad, Husbands and Paul), 4:41; 2. Seton Hall, 4:47.3; Delaware State, 4:41.3.

Championship sprint medley relay — 1. Villanova (Bogue, Brown, Harbour and Beller), 3:26.9; 2. PSU, 3:28.2; 3. Seton Hall, 3:34.0.

Four-mile relay — 1. Villanova, 17:10.9 (Flynn, Childs, Burns and Takacs); 2. PSU, 17:18.5; 3. Syracuse, 17:34.1.



Trackwoman Patti Knighton broke the Beaver Stadium women's long jump record with a jump of 18 feet, two and three-eighths inches but was edged out of first place by teammate Regina White's 18 feet, two and three-quarter inch leap Sunday in the Nittany Lion Relays. Photo by Laurie E. Usher

Keystone impressive in sprints

Trackwomen control distances

By DARLENE HROBAK
Collegian Sports Writer

While most people were enjoying Easter candy and family dinners yesterday afternoon, the Lady Lion track team was at Beaver Stadium battling an impressive Klub Keystone in the Nittany Lion Relays.

Between them, Penn State and Klub Keystone (an AAU club) took 14 of 18 first places and set four new Beaver Stadium records.

"You could divide the events into two halves," said Klub Keystone coach Hickey. "Penn State took the half-mile and up, and we took the other events."

Klub Keystone, who came away from the Relays with nine first places, set new highs in the 100-yard dash and the 880-yard medley relay.

Rhonda Yancy ran an 11.1 to surpass Lady Lion Tina Leatherman's old record of 11.3 in the 100-yard dash. Four Klub Keystone harriers, shaving the old record by more than a second, compiled a time of 1:48.5 in the 880-yard medley relay.

Penn State sprint coach Warren Coleman commented on Klub Keystone's domination of the shorter races. "If I could have those sprinters from Klub Keystone, I could win the national championships," he said. "They're class sprinters."

"We're (Penn State's) coming," he said. "We're improving, but the competition is, too."

The Lady Lions, living up to what is becoming expected of them, did much better in the distance races. In the Distance Medley Relay Penn States Donna Gardner (880), Lea Ventura (440), Hilary Noden (three-quarter mile) and captain Kris Bankes (mile) shattered the old record of 12:34.2 with a time of 11:56.

Regina White (18-2 3-4) and Patti Knighton (18-2 3-8), earning first and second positions in the long jump for Penn State, both surpassed the old Beaver Stadium record of 18-11-4.

The fifth and final record of the Relays was set by Central Jersey Track Club's Penny Fales. Fales broke another Beaver Stadium record by more than two seconds with a time of 1:03 in the 400-meter hurdles. She is ranked seventh nationally in that event.

In the half-mile (880), Kris Bankes ran a 2:15.5 to win the event, and together with teammate Peggy Hall, who raced to the time of 2:16.2, qualified for nationals.

"I was very pleased with all the half-milers," said Lady Lion coach Chris Brooks. "Their times are well ahead of what they should be at this point in the season."

"Kris Bankes is doing now what she was doing at the end of last year," Brooks continued. "She

probably could have run a faster time if she had some competition."

Penn State also secured top honors in the two-mile relay (Carolyn Wernstedt, Lisa Turner, Kathy Mills and Peggy Hall) with a mark of 9:36. In the discus, Barb Hess connected on a throw of 117-0 1-2 to beat out her nearest competitor's, teammate Gayle Bodin's, throw of 103-3-3-4.

One distance event that the Lady Lions did not capture was the two-mile. Penn Stater Janet Norem finished second with a time of 11:53.8 behind Bucknell's Sue Cluzel (11:50.6).

Two other distance events, the three-mile and the mile, were cancelled.

Lady Lion freshman Vicki Cesan (high jump-5-4), Patti Knighton (100-meter hurdles-15.4), Regina White (100-yard dash-11.3) and Rhonda Dakelman (javelin-133-4) all secured seconds in their respective events. The second places marked their first competition in an outdoor season as Lady Lions.

Some of the teams that were scheduled to compete in the Nittany Lion Relays did not show up, and the crowd that looked on was sparse. Coach Brooks attributed these factors to Sunday being Easter.

"It was our first meet," she said of the team's showing. "And all in all, we were pleased."

NBA refs' strike begins a game early

By The Associated Press
National Basketball Association referees, who already have voted to strike next week's playoffs, walked out on the league's final eight regular season games yesterday.

The strike was ordered by Richie Phillips of Philadelphia, the attorney for the 24-member National Association of Basketball Referees, which represents all but two of the league's referees.

"The NBA has refused to negotiate or recognize the association as the collective bargaining agent for the referees," Phillips told The Associated Press yesterday. "As a result, the referees who are members of the association have gone out on an unfair labor practices strike against

the league."

An NBA spokesman termed the strike "illegal" and vowed to hold the referees responsible for possible damages. Regarding possible negotiations, the spokesman said, "The NBA will not submit to extortion."

The contracts of the 26 referees expired yesterday, the final day of the regular season. In past years, according to NBA Deputy Commissioner Simon Gourdine, there always were separate agreements for the regular season and the playoffs.

"New contracts were always negotiated after the playoffs for the following season," Gourdine said.

Not anymore, says Phillips.

"At this stage, it is very unlikely that the referees will return only on the promise of negotiation," Phillips said. "We want to have a contract before we work. We will no longer work without a contract."

The groundwork for the strike was laid earlier this week.

"The members of the NABR met in Chicago Monday and voted 24-0 to strike the playoffs," explained Phillips. "They further voted to empower the executive committee to declare a strike prior to the end of the regular season if the NBA persisted in its unfair labor practices."

"We held out every hope that during the past week the NBA would negotiate in good faith. The NBA has continued to refuse to do so despite many entreaties on the part of the referees' association to get to the bargaining table."

Phillips said he was in contact with league officials at 7 a.m. yesterday.

"We gave Commissioner Larry O'Brien and the NBA till noon to let us know they were willing to sit down and negotiate," Phillips said. "If they had done that, there would have been no strike. Since they did not get back to us, they apparently are not prepared to negotiate."

"I'm shocked and disappointed that matters have reached this stage. This development is very disappointing to me. I don't know why the NBA has taken the position it has — there's no reason for it. Maybe they didn't know that our association was serious. Now they know."