

Experience key to swimwomen

By JOYCE TOMANA
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

The Penn State women's swim team plunges into competition Saturday at the Pitt Relays and coach Ellen Perry has a hard time trying not to get too optimistic about this year's squad.

"This is the hardest working group ever," Perry said. "This team is practicing a hundred times harder than any team we've ever had."

"The schedule is much stronger this year. I don't know that we could go undefeated, but it will be an exciting year all around."

Had it not been for a 76-55 loss to Pitt last year, the Lady Lions would have finished undefeated. The squad posted a 10-1 record, one of the best in Penn State history. Highlight of the season was a 66-63 upset over Princeton.

Five of the eight swimmers who competed in the 1977 AIAW championships are back to anchor the veteran squad. Perry expects scores of individual and teams records to be

broken. The team is young but experienced, with two seniors, six juniors, eight sophomores and nine freshmen.

Captains Janice Fischer and Cindy Fry lead the squad. Fischer holds the Penn State records in the 200 IM and the 100 freestyle, and swam on the Eastern championship 200 freestyle relay team. The senior was also a national qualifier and AIAW All-American last year.

Fry, a junior, was also an AIAW national qualifier and All-American. She holds all the Penn State backstroke records. As a freshman, she set new Penn State records in the 100 IM four times, 100 backstroke five times, and the 50 backstroke twice.

Carol Mazzer is one of the several sophomores back after an impressive debut last season. She holds the Penn State records in the 100 and 200 butterfly and swam on the record breaking 400 medley relay team. Mazzer also made her way to nationals.

Another sophomore, Tammy

Brush, is a constant point-getter. She swam on the record-holding 800 freestyle relay team. Brush is in control of the Penn State records in the 200 and 500 freestyle.

Perry is looking for her newcomers to get their feet wet in the first few meets while picking up the necessary points. Three freshman swimmers: Mary Ellen Wydan, Sue Cosgarea and Deb Keyser are High School All-Americans. Cathy Lower may be the one to watch of all the rookies.

"Cathy is the strongest overall," Perry said. "She has the most potential. But the first year is a learning year for freshmen."

In diving, Penn State also has a young and talented quartet of competitors. Coach Bob Goldberg's divers opened their season early in November by taking the team honors at the Penn State Invitational Springboard Diving Championships. Becky Binny, a sophomore, is the defending Eastern Champion.

McNeill: Embarrassment is over

Future is 'greener' for swimmers

By KIM SMITH
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

This year marks the beginning of a new era in men's swimming at Penn State, according to coach Lou MacNeill.

The new era was brought about by recruiting funds which the team received last year for the first time. MacNeill said that in the past, the Lion tankers had lost to teams which never should have beat them — but that situation should change now.

"As a coach, I've been embarrassed and humiliated," MacNeill said. "Now the embarrassment is over because we've received a limited amount of money to recruit with."

The men's team, it seems, received the money because of the women's team. Women's sports teams are supposed to be treated the same as men's teams, MacNeill said. So the Lady Lion swimmers were receiving no financial aid for recruiting — just like the men.

But that made the swimwomen the only Lady Lion team which received no recruiting funds. The only way to give the women the much-needed funds and to

keep things equal would be to give funds to the men, too.

So last year, the men's swimming team received recruiting aid for the first time.

Although Penn State's swimming team still is not in the same league with Eastern heavies such as Pitt, Bucknell, West Virginia or Maryland, they shouldn't be embarrassed any more by losses to smaller teams, MacNeill said.

The new era opens this weekend with the Penn State Relays, probably the largest pre-season swimming event in the east.

The regular season opens Dec. 7 at home against St. Bonaventure, to be followed on Dec. 10 by a meet at Lehigh.

"Lehigh has beaten us the past two years," MacNeill said. "This year, if the team swims well and continues to work as hard as they have been, we should be able to win — we deserve to."

Along with his recruited-but-untested freshmen, MacNeill has several returning swimmers whom he expects to do well this season, including Bill Hieb, the team's captain, competing in the 100

and the 200-yard backstroke, Steve Rode, last year's winner of the 200-yard breaststroke in Easterns, freestylers Brian O'Shea, Jon Reitz and Doug King, and Lance Duffy, the 200 and 400-yard individual medley swimmer who is returning to the team after a year's absence.

The diving team, however, is young and inexperienced, with sophomore Pat McFadden as the only returnee. The team should be strengthened, under the coaching of Bob Goldberg, with the addition of several promising freshmen, including Craig Brown.

In addition to dual meets, Penn State's men's and women's teams have a double-dual meet scheduled with Rutgers' men's and women's teams.

The tankers will meet Villanova Jan. 18, but after that, the season's results are pretty well assured, according to MacNeill. And although Penn State still does not pose much of a threat to the Eastern powerhouses, MacNeill is satisfied to improve his team one step at a time.

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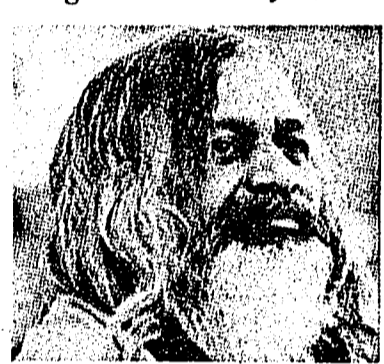
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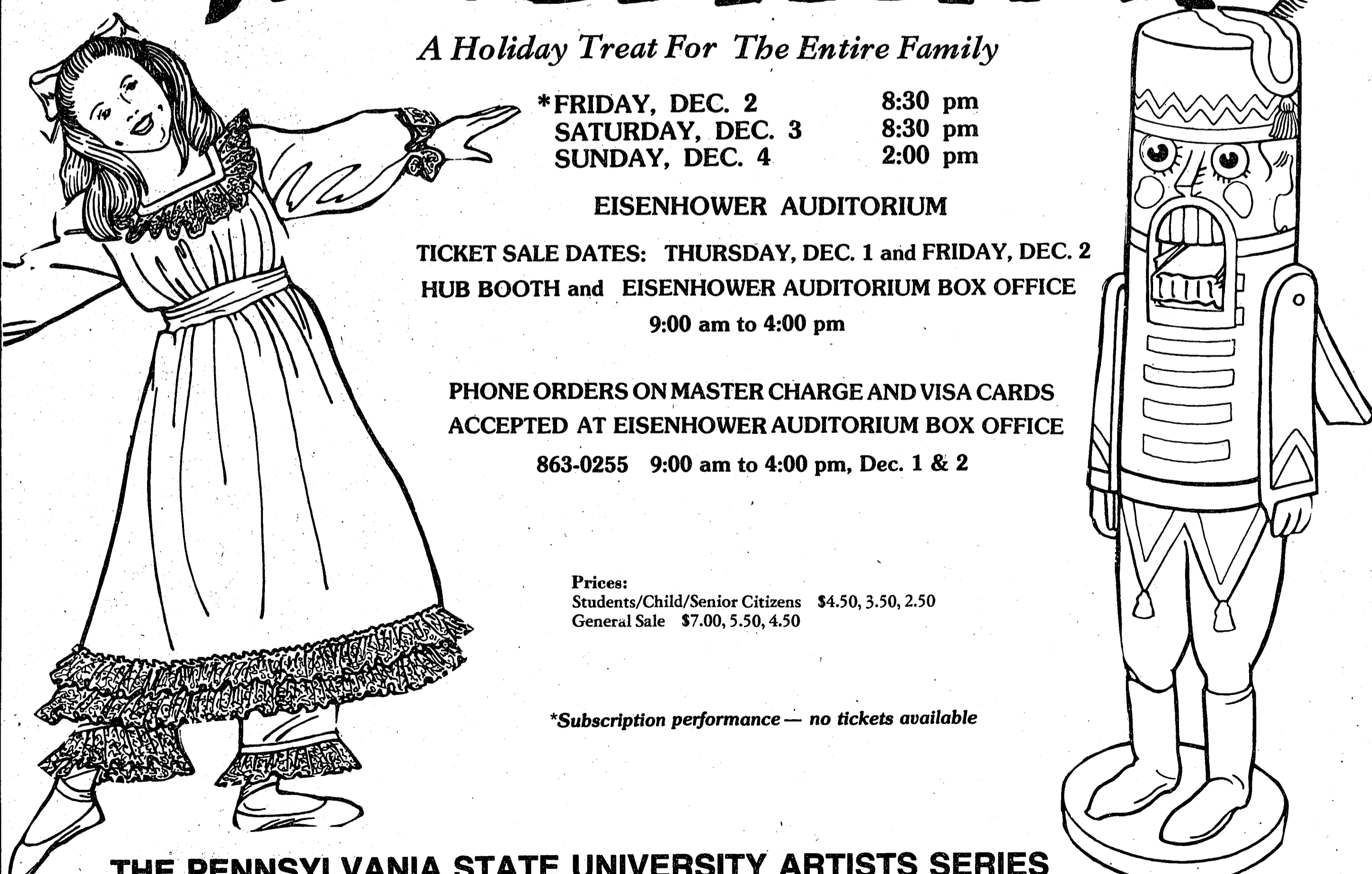
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