

Men gymnasts face three Big Ten teams

By **CHUCK RUSS**
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

It's time for the men's gymnastics team to come down from the clouds and back to reality. The crucial win over Indiana State is in the past. This weekend finds the Lions out in Big Ten country to take on its best: Minnesota, Ohio State, and Illinois.

"It would be foolish of me not to expect a letdown after last week (the Indiana State meet)," Penn State coach Karl Schwenzfeier said. "We have a possibility of losing everytime we compete, but I doubt that we will."

The Lions are due for a down meet and this may be the one. They have improved steadily every meet since the beginning of the year. The climax was the 221.15 against ISU. Schwenzfeier doesn't expect that to happen this week.

"I really don't expect us to be real high for this meet," Schwenzfeier said. "The team has been practicing well, but to be as high as we were for the Indiana State meet would be unrealistic."

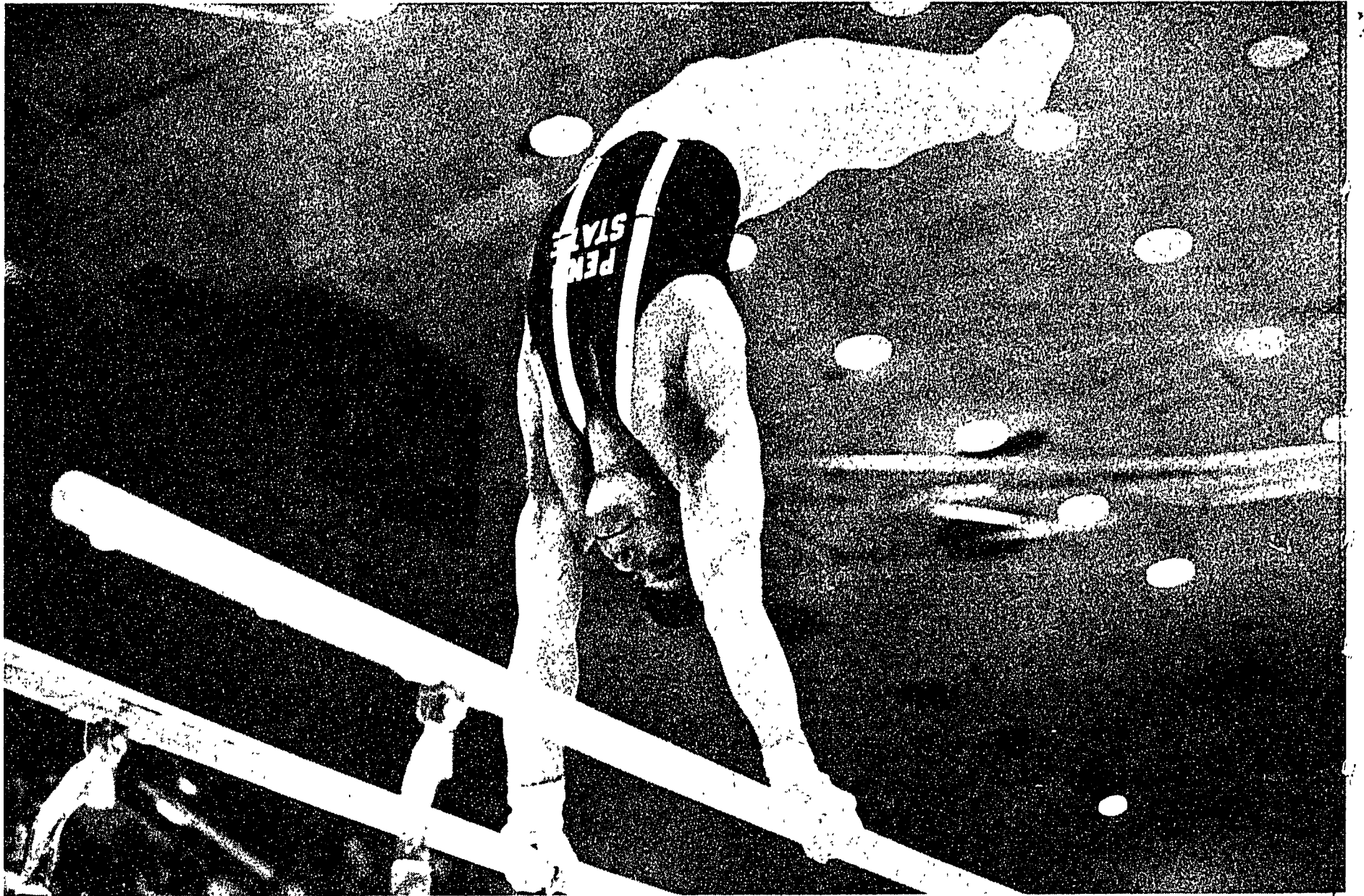
The competition has a lot to do with this. Although they are the top three in the Big Ten, their highest score to date between them is a 211.45, which is 9.7 points lower than Penn State has done in any meet this year.

Last year this might have been a different story. Minnesota finished seventh in the NCAA finals last year, just one place behind Penn State. However, the Gophers have lost their star performer and Niessen Award winner, Tim LaFleur, to graduation. The best that coach Fred Roethlisberger is left with is Reid Goldetsky, a 53.40 all-

arounder. Minnesota is still expected to win the Big Ten Title.

Penn State will probably make a few changes for this meet. Tom Gray, coming back after an injury, is expected to perform on both the floor and the vaulting horse replacing Tom Forster and Kurt Weissend, respectively. Weissend will replace Joe Fust on the high bar. Because of the twelve-man limit that the NCAA imposes on gymnastics teams Gray will, in effect, replace Fust. Other than that the lineup will remain the same including the all around quartette of Paul Simon, Bob and Dan Desiderio, and Pat Besong.

RINGERS: Originally Schwenzfeier had expected this to be a double dual meet between Penn State and Ohio State out in Columbus. At least that is what the contract said it was for. The meet between the Lions and the Buckeyes seemed to be a natural rivalry. Then came the problems. The OSU women's team had a previous engagement, a Big Ten tourney they had to attend. Scratch the double dual. Enter Minnesota. Coach Roethlisberger sent Schwenzfeier a flier that showed Penn State on their schedule in a meet with Ohio State. Schwenzfeier called OSU coach Mike Wilson to have this confirmed and it was. Angered, Schwenzfeier noticed that Illinois had also been invited to the meet. Wilson said that they had not committed themselves to Illinois, so Schwenzfeier said to drop them from the meet. Wilson agreed, but later called Schwenzfeier and told him that Illinois wanted to come very badly. Schwenzfeier relented grudgingly.



All-arounder Paul Simon and the men's gymnastics team take on Minnesota, Ohio State and Illinois, the three best teams in the Big Ten. The Lions turned in their best performance of the season against highly-touted Indiana State last

week and coach Karl Schwenzfeier "expects a letdown" since tomorrow's opponents do not compare to Indiana.

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