

the daily sports

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Gymnawomen seek another Eastern title

By JUSTIN CATANOSO
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Last season the women's gymnastics team—ravaged by injuries to key performers—repeated as Eastern Region champions by sneaking by (Clarion State (0.10 points) on a wing and a prayer.

This season, with an avalanche of advantages rolling Penn State's way, the best teams of the East may be left on their knees, as the top-seeded Lady Lions (12-2), ranked No. 2 nationally, host the Eastern Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women championships at Rec Hall today and tomorrow night.

Not only will Penn State reap the moral benefits of performing before a large and partisan home crowd, but it also is the two-time defending regional champion, owns three of the top four team scores attained in the nation this season, boasts the nation's top ranked all-arounder in senior Ann Carr, has remarkable depth throughout the squad and is injury-free down to the last performer. All that adds up to a well-deserved No. 1 seeding.

"Being seeded first tends to excite a team," Lady Lion coach Judi Avenier said. "But we're going to have to perform well for our own personal satisfaction, rather than just winning the meet."

None of the other seven Division I Eastern seeds are ranked in the top 10 nationally. Avenier said she expects her team's toughest competition to come from second- and third-seeded West Virginia and Massachusetts. Posing minimal threat to Penn State this weekend are, in order of their seedings: New Hampshire, Pittsburgh, Yale, Cornell and Rutgers.

"From the scores I've seen of other teams, it doesn't look like we're going to get any major competition," Avenier said. "But we're going to have to perform well for our own personal satisfaction, rather than just winning the meet."



Margie Foster will compete in all-around when the women's gymnastics team shoots for its third consecutive regional championship at 7:30 tonight in Rec Hall. The Lady Lions, ranked No. 2 in the nation, are seeded No. 1 in the tournament. Individual competition will be at 7:30 tomorrow night.

There is, however, another incentive for the Lady Lions to do as well as possible in tonight's team competition. Their team score will count two-thirds towards the team seedings in the national championships on April 4-5 in Baton Rouge, La. The remaining third is

considered from a team's top dual meet scores and from that standpoint, Penn State has little to worry about. As far as regional competition is concerned, senior specialist Jan Anthony said, "We finally can do something about what our season is all

about. Getting the No. 1 seed in nationals will be like taking the first steps toward winning the national title." To be more specific, Penn State took its first steps toward Baton Rouge when last year's injury-ridden team, and husband Marshall Avenier, decided to

extend preseason conditioning through the season. The results of that thorough and constant training have been clearly visible, especially in comparison with last year's injury-ridden team. "Last year," senior specialist Lynne Samuels said, "we had enough injuries to

labeled Penn State's most consistent gymnast. In four years of competition, Anthony has remained injury-free and completed in every Lady Lion meet scheduled. Her performance record for most consecutive meets can only be equalled, never broken. "I've loved performing in Rec Hall over the years," Anthony said. "It's a great feeling to know that so many people are behind you. For this meet, I just want to go out, do the best I can and enjoy myself. I'm sure I'll miss it."

Gymnastic trio bid Rec Hall adieu

By JUSTIN CATANOSO
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

When this weekend's regional gymnastic competition ends late tomorrow night, there's a good chance the Lady Lions will be ecstatic in celebrating their third consecutive Eastern crown.

However, when the final strains of ecstasy finally fanned out of Rec Hall, a saddening feeling of emptiness will blanket the gymnasium that has showcased so many spectacular gymnastic events. And for good reason. Three of its most spectacular performers will have completed their for the last time.

Deemed the "holy trinity" by Lady Lion assistant coach Marshall Avenier, seniors and tri-captains Ann Carr, Jan Anthony and Lynne Samuels will absorb their final round of Rec Hall ovations this weekend, as they near the end of their long, unique and illustrious gymnastic careers.

Those three girls made Penn State gymnastics what it is today," coach Judi Avenier said. "I don't know how I'll ever replace them."

Before the trio's arrival at Penn State, the Lady Lions were viewed as an up-and-coming squad that lacked the talent

and depth necessary to make them truly outstanding. It didn't take long for that view to change. With the addition of the highly-recruited tandem of Carr and Anthony, and the surprising emergence of walk-on Samuels in 1976, Penn State rose from fifth to third in nationals, with Carr winning the national all-around title.

Samuels is referred to as Penn State's most improved gymnast by her coaches. As an unheralded freshman, she was the only person who truly believed she could

to a collective end along roads that often rose to incredible peaks and sometimes often sunk into dreadful valleys, the trio takes a look back at what will be left behind.

Samuels is referred to as Penn State's most improved gymnast by her coaches. As an unheralded freshman, she was the only person who truly believed she could

not only make the team, but be a worthy and contributing member. Her belief has rung true for four full seasons.

"I'm glad my career will be ending in Rec Hall in a championship meet," Samuels said. "My goal this weekend is to hit clean in my routines and improve my (regional) placements over last season (third on vault, seventh on floor)."

In a sense, this meet is my primer for nationals, my final test. It's the final test for the team, too."

So if he is all three of those things, Looney was off base in designating him our acting saint.

From the turn Penn State football took this season, and the comments Paterno made in Sports Illustrated, it sounds as though Paterno is heading more in the direction of becoming the jacksack he thought his players were.

Denise Bachman is a ninth-term journalism major and sports editor of The Daily Collegian.

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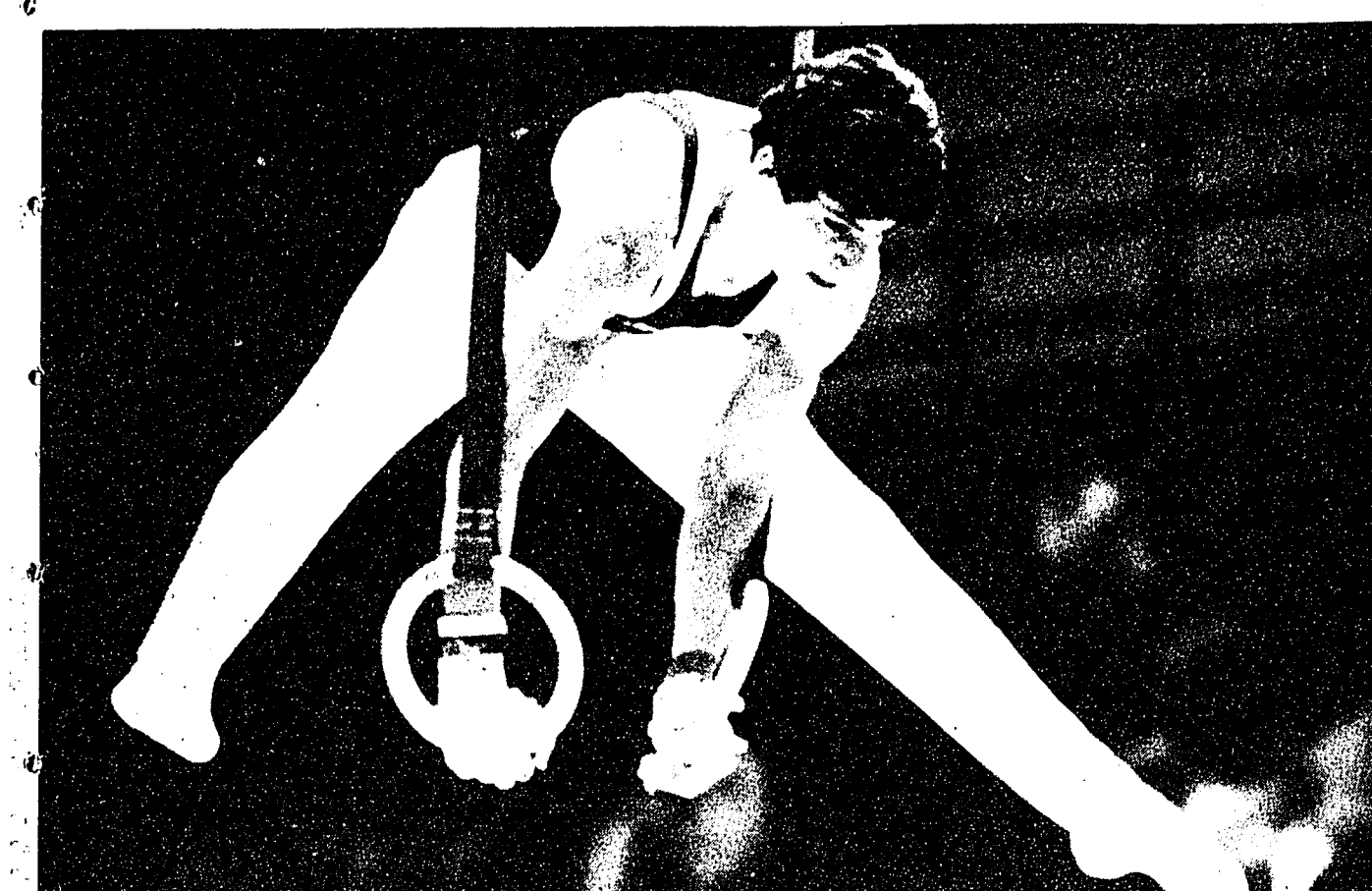
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Rapid improvement by freshmen like Steve Marino has played an integral part in the men's gymnastics team's successful 7-3 season.

Keglers shoot for crowns at tourney in Gettysburg

By JEFF SCHULER
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

The men's and women's bowling teams will attempt to add the Eastern Pennsylvania-Maryland Intercollegiate Bowling tournament title to their regular season winnings Sunday when they travel to Gettysburg for the league's post-season tournament.

Both the fifth-ranked Lions (11-1) and the top-ranked Lady Lions (6-0) have already clinched a berth in the sectional tournament next weekend in Baltimore. The winner of the sectional tournament will advance to the Pabst National Collegiate Bowling Championships in Milwaukee, Wis., May 1-3.

"We're looking at this weekend as a warm-up for the sectionals," Penn State coach Don Perrell said. "It will also help plan my strategy for the tournament."

Both teams are coming off strong performances in the AMI Intercollegiate Championship Tournament, an invitational held three weeks ago at Wallington, N.J.

"We sent two women's teams and two men's teams to the invitational," Perrell said. "The women placed one-two while one of the men's teams finished third."

"It was a normal performance for the men, but the women, especially the younger bowlers, showed me a lot of progress. I was pleased with the results of the tournament."

Penn State II, composed of Jill Cowdright, Michele Citro, Carolyn Longle and Chris Takacs, won the women's division at Wallington, while the team of Liz Baude, Val Bright, Audrey Hichar and April Long placed second.

Only Bloomsburg and Ramapo, N.Y., finished ahead of the Lions.

Freshman Hichar leads the Lady Lions with a 184 average, with senior Bright, the defending national singles champion, is close behind with a 170 average.

Juniors Terry Sanson (188) and Jacques Jacobson (186) are the Lions' top bowlers.

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Schwenzfeier a positive thinker

By JUSTIN CATANOSO
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Last year, the men's gymnastics coach took his team through the season with only one loss and then to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Eastern regional championship and a sixth-place finish in the national tournament.



Sharon Fink

But due to graduation this year, Schwenzfeier lost the top two all-arounders and the top specialists on three different events from that team. What he did have was a squad composed of six freshmen, four juniors and three seniors—a squad that was surrounded by more than a few questions about how the young and relatively inexperienced team would fare.

Yet Schwenzfeier maintained from the start of the season that this year his team would be going to the NCAAs. This is no rebuilding year; it's "just a fresh start."

"This year's team is totally new; none of them were from the Wettsone era at all," Schwenzfeier said. "None of them had him for a coach. All of these guys I've been involved with. It's all a fresh new start. And I look at this young, exciting team growing so fast every day and I get really excited, really high on this team."

There was no doubt this team had potential. The freshmen came in with a list of credentials that could plaster one of the gym walls in White Building—two state champions, two rated in the top three in New York, regional Junior Olympic qualifiers and a national Junior Olympic champion.

The upperclassmen formed a solid core of experience. The men in third and fourth all-around spots last year were back, as were several specialists and all-arounders who had seen action before.

It was just a matter of everything coming together. But Schwenzfeier said, Sharon Fink is a sixth-term journalism major and a sports writer for The Daily Collegian.

young, basically a freshmen team, but was improving rapidly, coming on every week, gaining experience with every meet and every practice.

"By the time the NCAAs roll around, we'll be there," he often said. "The freshmen will be almost sophomores, experience-wise, and that will be that much more of a plus for us."

The freshmen began to play integral and necessary parts as all-arounders and specialists. Team and individual scores began to improve steadily each week as routines became sharper and more refined. The team built its way to the 270s and the improving scores were many times career-high scores.

The Lions worked their way into one of the top 10 teams in the country and a 7-3 record slowly but surely. And on Monday they were unanimously selected the second-best team in the Eastern region by the region selection committee.

So, barring any disaster, natural or unnatural, this Monday the Lions should officially receive their NCAA bid from the national committee.

At least that's what Karl Schwenzfeier told me, and as of late, he's never wrong.

Sharon Fink is a sixth-term journalism major and a sports writer for The Daily Collegian.

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The truth about Joe: A saint he certainly ain't

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At least that's what Sports Illustrated's Douglas S. Looney said in his March 17 article on Penn State's uncharacteristic 1979 football season.

Well, Paterno deserves to be placed on such a pedestal just about as much as Richard Nixon does.

Paterno not only proved that during and after the '79 football campaign, but also in the Sports Illustrated story. Paterno claimed in the article that "I want things to be difficult. It's more fun to win with handicaps."

Last season was certainly difficult, although the types of difficulties he encountered probably weren't what he had in mind, but nevertheless, he couldn't handle that "wanted" difficulty.

He buckled under to the pressures, displaying rude and curt behavior with reporters whenever they asked in-depth questions in hopes of getting to the crux of matters.

that Paterno "doesn't care whose brother he is." Since Harris was a goof-off in high school, like Paterno said, how could he have been expected to maintain an academics-first attitude in college?



Denise Bachman

So, if Harris had attended another university, he probably would be lying back and waiting around to see which team will pick him up in the 1980 pro football draft.

Instead, Harris' future in the National Football League—where he deserves to be next season—is in jeopardy because Paterno is necessarily caught up in maintaining Penn State's "holier-than-thou" reputation.

Harris isn't the only player that has been subjected to Paterno philosophy. Paterno told Looney that in 1977 five black football players were admitted to Penn State without meeting the entrance requirements because Paterno was "fighting a lily-white look here."

Maybe he thought he was doing those guys a favor, but he didn't—neither by admitting to Sports Illustrated why they were recruited, nor by pulling the strings to admit them to Penn State.

"get all the tutoring they require."

If having the tutors trying everything in their power to keep the players eligible isn't enough, the professors are always there to fall back on.

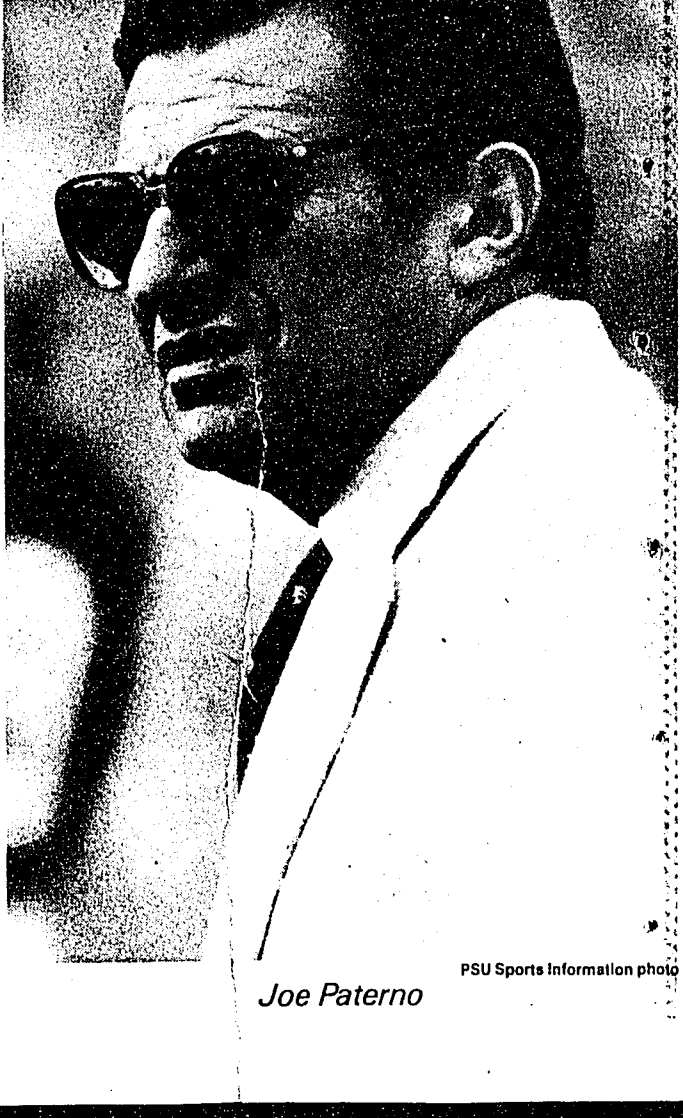
An instance was cited in the article in which a professor informed Paterno that one of his players had missed three classes. Now, if regular students miss three classes, do the professors go to their advisors?

Certainly not. As a matter of fact, the professor probably doesn't even doublecheck to make sure you're there. So it appears as though some of the professors here are also caught up in the Paterno syndrome. They are worried about protecting the image of the football program.

Regardless of how much the football program suffered last year because of the players' actions, it's going to suffer even more now that Paterno is the athletic director.

He pointed out in the article that the troubles the team encountered last year may have stemmed from the fact the players felt they couldn't talk to Paterno. They said he was always either "too busy, too abrupt, too abrasive or too unsympathetic."

They were probably right, because at one time Paterno thought the players were "a group of jacksacks."



Joe Paterno