



Senior captain Pat Spisak will lead the women's gymnastics team this season when it encounters such top competition as No. 1-ranked Utah and the national team from Great Britain.

Lady gymnasts face nation's best

Editor's note: This is the last of a two-part series previewing the 1980-81 women's gymnastics team.

By SHARON FINK
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Seven of the preseason's Top 20 teams in the country are on the Lady Lions' 11-meet schedule, plus an international meet against the top women's gymnastics team in Western Europe. Therefore, it's not surprising to hear that Penn State is facing possibly its most difficult schedule ever.

"There are a lot of challenges there — a lot of challenges," Marcy Levine said, "especially as we get more into the season and our harder meets."

"It builds up. It gets a little more exciting as the season goes on. And if we can't win, at least we can learn from the meets we go through."

The traditional rivals are still there — former national powers Clarion and Massachusetts, along with Rutgers and Pitt — but the rest of the schedule is packed with nationally-ranked teams with top-caliber performers, including an Olympian, World Games participants and the defending national champion in the all-around and the four individual events.

In their home opener on Jan. 9, the Lady Lions face the first of the top teams — the University of Southern California.

"(This) will be very interesting," Marshall said, "because they have a very good freshman in the name of Stacy Kellems, who was on the United States team to the world championships in 1979."

"I'm sure a couple of our girls wouldn't like to see."

In the preseason poll, Kellems is ranked second nationally in the all-around. But ranked third in Penn State's Heidi Anderson, while Levine is fifth, Margie Foster seventh, Linda Tardiff 11th and Lisa Ingelbrecht 19th.

February could be the toughest month for the Lady Lions. The first two meets are against No. 17 Michigan State and No. 14 Utah State. More importantly, they are followed by No. 4 UCLA and, on Feb. 15, Great Britain's national team.

It has been six years since Penn State has hosted an international gymnastics competition. Between 1954 and 1975, the Lady Lions hosted 12 international meets. Marshall said he and head coach Judi Avenner have wanted to revive international competition at the school since taking over the women's program, but first they wanted to establish a strong base for Penn State gymnastics. And now that they have, they think it's time for international competition.

"(The international) aspect of our schedule makes Penn State gymnastics somewhat special," Marshall said. "And we really enjoy it. It gives the girls a marvelous opportunity."

"I guess the overriding lure of international competition is to provide the Penn State gymnastics audience, which we have a great deal of respect for, with interesting, innovative and enjoyable competition. We think this will be that."

And it will be Penn State against a whole country, Marshall said.

"That will be the next real tough meet. They're sending some of their real top girls," he said. "An awfully tough one to win — we'll see — but one we're looking forward to."

Once again UCLA should provide quite a challenge for the Lady Lions. The Bruins finished fifth at the final championships last year and are ranked fourth in the current poll. But the coach of the No. 1-ranked team in the country, the University of Utah's Greg Marsden, said UCLA could and deserve to be higher.

"I know they're only fourth," he said, "and a lot of people are overlooking them. But I think they'll really be in there. They should be up there even higher."

The Bruins' best asset is the woman Marshall said is the single most successful female athlete in college history — Sharon Shapiro. Shapiro won the all-around title and the four individual events at last year's national championships. In addition to Shapiro, UCLA has a good crop of freshmen.

"They recruited some very potent young ladies behind Shapiro," Marshall said. "And they're gonna give us a strong threat. We could lose that meet. That'll be very tough competition for us."

During Winter Term break, Penn State makes a Southern road trip, taking on sixth-ranked Louisiana State and 11th-ranked University of Florida. LSU

finished sixth in the national championships last year, but Marshall said LSU should have been around third or fourth if it hadn't been for an injury.

One of the Tigers' key all-arounders was injured in the team finals of the national competition, which hurt them enough to drop them to sixth.

Florida, a rising power, is in its second year under former Clarion coach Ernesine Weaver. While at Clarion, Weaver coached two separate squads into consecutive national championship appearances.

When Weaver left Clarion after the 1979 season, she took Clarion's top all-arounder, Ann Woods. Now a junior, Woods finished fourth in the all-around as a freshman at the 1979 national tournament and in the top six in three of the four individual events.

The meet of the season could be on March 11 against Utah, currently ranked No. 1. The Utes return everyone from last year's team, which was second at nationals — 14 points behind Penn State. Utah starts this year with a talented group of freshmen and six all-arounders ranked among the top 20.

"Of course, it's the toughest meet of the season, the epitome of tough competition," Marshall said. "They recruited two very top people in freshman Linda Kardos, a 1979 World Games team member, and freshman Christa Canary, who was on this past Olympic team."

Utah coach Greg Marsden laughed when asked about meeting the Lady Lions and said he still doesn't know whether he's excited or disappointed about the prospect. But he does know the Utes are looking forward to performing in front of a Rec Hall crowd.

"It's exciting any time you can pack the house," he said. "And no doubt that'll give a definite home advantage to Penn State. The fans will probably be very vocal in their support. We were there for nationals two years ago, and that's the thing that we talked about the most."

For Penn State this year, all the opposition is tough; but the Lady Lions are still the defending national champions. And Judi pinned down the position they're in.

"Of course, everybody's out to get us," she said. "You know we're the toughest meet on everyone's schedule. Everybody wants to beat us. So we gotta watch. There's so many challenges."

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Dave Bristol

Baseball meetings:

Blyleven, Sanguillen traded to Indians...

DALLAS (AP) — The Cleveland Indians acquired veteran right-hander Bert Blyleven and catcher Manny Sanguillen from the Pittsburgh Pirates last night in a six-player trade completed at baseball's winter meetings.

Moving to the Pirates are pitchers Victor Cruz, Bob Ovwchinko and Rafael Vasquez and catcher Gary Alexander.

The Pirates came to these meetings determined to trade Blyleven, an 11-year major league veteran who was 8-13 with a 3.82 earned run average last season.

Blyleven, a curveball specialist, had left the team for about two weeks early in the season, complaining of the way he was being used by Pittsburgh Manager Chuck Tanner.

The trade returned the 29-year-old right-hander to the American League after two seasons with the Pirates. He pitched for nine years with Minnesota and Texas, compiling a 122-133 career record and a 2.97 ERA.

Sanguillen, 36, was a rarely used third-string catcher for the Pirates last season, batting .220 in 47 games. He collected his 1,500th career hit during the 1980 season.

Cruz, a right-handed bullpen specialist, was 6-7 with a 2.45 ERA and 12 saves for Cleveland last season. He had

been acquired by the Indians from Toronto in a trade at the winter meetings in 1978.

Ovwchinko was 2-9 with a 5.27 ERA for the Indians, who obtained him from San Diego following the 1979 season.

Vasquez was 8-10 with a 5.97 ERA at Tacoma of the Pacific Coast League last

season, and Alexander batted .225 with five home runs and 31 runs batted in 76 games for the Indians.

"Blyleven has one of the best curveballs in either league," said Gabe Paul, president of the Indians. "I consider him one of the best pitchers in either league."

Paul said the Indians and Pirates had been working on this deal for two months and had discussed it five times this week before ironing out the details.

"We felt we needed more pitching," said Dave Garcia, manager of the Indians. "Blyleven was the best available pitcher."

...while Giants fire Bristol, Cardinals get Sutter



Bruce Sutter

DALLAS (AP) — Dave Bristol was fired as manager of the San Francisco Giants yesterday and Whitey Herzog finished collecting quality relief pitchers for the St. Louis Cardinals at baseball's winter meetings.

Herzog, still doing business at a brisk pace, obtained bullpen ace Bruce Sutter from the Chicago Cubs in exchange for third baseman Ken Reitz, outfielder Leon Durham and a player to be named later.

The trade came one day after Herzog assembled an 11-player deal with San Diego which delivered reliever Rolie Fingers to the Cardinals.

Bristol's firing jolted the annual luncheon gathering of major league managers. It developed out of a two-hour meeting yesterday between Bristol and Giants' owner Bob Lurie.

"I made up my mind today," said

Lurie, citing "philosophical differences of opinion," with Bristol, who had piloted the Giants to a disappointing fifth-place finish this year.

"I was surprised. I had no idea it was going to happen," said Bristol, who had previously managed at Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Atlanta. "It was just philosophy."

Lurie had become angry with Bristol during the World Series when the manager called first baseman Mike Ivie "a cancer on the club." Ivie left the team for about two weeks last summer and walked out three days before the end of the season, without any word to Bristol.

"I'm not bitter. I won't burn any bridges," Bristol said. "Only Dave Bristol got Dave Bristol fired."

Bristol had been named manager of the Giants in September 1979 and spent a stormy year on the club.

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