

Tompkins paces swimwomen

By STEVE GRAHAM
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

It was one of those contests that was supposed to be close. Both sides had the talent to make it an exciting, classic confrontation. But when it was over, it all boiled down to which squad had the most depth as the women's swimming team triumphed Villanova, 94-66, Saturday at McCoy Natatorium.

Even before the meet began, it appeared the Wildcats would give the Lady Lions fits with a lineup featuring Jenny Franks, Rita Edge and freshman sensation Beth Metzger. But the Lady Lions proved to be prepared for the challenge as they left the opposition far behind in several events.

"I had anticipated from the times I had last year that Edge and (Penn State's Megan) Tompkins would go head-to-head in the 100-yard freestyle and it would anybody's race," Penn State coach Ellen Perry said.

As it turned out, the race belonged solely to Tompkins as she swam to a new school mark with a time of 53.01, besting Edge by more than two seconds. And her heroics for the day did not end there. She also swam the 50-yard freestyle in 25.09

to capture first place.

Perry projected that Villanova would keep the score reasonably close in this meet, which was shortened to include primarily sprinting events. But she said she didn't expect the lopsided score, and Tompkins agreed.

"We had figured that it would be a lot closer than that," Tompkins said.

Swimmen submarine Bonnies

By STEVE GRAHAM
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No coach likes to play games with the opposition — especially when it can mean the difference between a win and a loss. But when a victory is all but assured, as it was Saturday when the men's swimming team defeated St. Bonaventure, 74-39, a coach has considerable freedom to experiment.

And that's exactly what Penn State coach Lou MacNeill did when he created his own rendition of musical chairs by shuffling his swimmers around in different events. Not only did those substitutes fill in for the regulars, but

if it wasn't Tompkins winning the short distance events, it was people like Cindy Post, Sandy Bial, Katy McQuaid and Maureen Breckenridge carrying the load. Although Post didn't have her best outing of the season, she managed to capture first places in the 200- and 500-yard freestyle.

Breckenridge, however, did have her best performance of the season as she and teammate Patti Jones qualified for the national pre-qualifying meet.

"One of my goals was to qualify for the pre-qualifying meet," Breckenridge said.

The Lady Lions concluded the most successful season in Penn State women's volleyball history this weekend by winning one of their two final pool play matches at the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women championships at Santa Barbara, Calif.

Penn State gained its only victory of the tournament Friday against Colorado State (15-7, 15-8) before falling to San Diego State in two games, 5-15 and 11-15. The Lady Lions dropped both of their scheduled matches Thursday, losing to No. 1-ranked Southern California (5-15, 1-15) and Houston (10-15, 4-15).

Penn State thus finished the tournament with a 1-3 mark in pool play, which earned them a tie for 13th place with Kentucky, Southwest Missouri State and Portland State. The Lady Lions' finish was the highest among teams participating in the tournament for the first time.

"I'm pleased that we had the ability to come back and play good volleyball," Penn State coach Russell Rose said. "Everybody played and everybody gave 100 percent (Friday). They gave it their best shot."

"The fellows realize they have only fenced two top teams in Rutgers and George Mason."

However, Garrett was pleased with the performances over the weekend. The Lions defeated Pace, 24-3, and Brooklyn, 29-2, in a triangular meet on Saturday and Yeshiva, 27-0, yesterday.

"I must compliment the entire team," Garrett said. "It was a beautiful performance on everyone's part. We fenced magnificently."

"This is more of a fitting climax to the first period of competition prior to Christmas. It was much so what we expected."

Against Pace, the Lions swept foil as Stuart Rothenberg, Jeff Brown and Chris Balastracci were all 2-0. Don Lear (3-0) paced sabre, but the Lions lost three epee matches, even though Scott Hollenbeck was 3-0.

Against Brooklyn, Penn State swept epee (Hollenbeck, Todd Mason and Marty Simowitz were all 3-0) and lost only one match each in foil (Brown and Dave Schechter were 2-0) and sabre (Lear was 3-0).

Penn State shut out Yeshiva, getting 3-0 performances from Schechter in foil; from Hollenbeck, Mason and Simowitz in epee; and from George Vandemark in sabre.

The Lions now have off until Jan. 3, when they host Jersey City College. But Garrett said the difficult part of the schedule begins on Jan. 17, when the Lions fence North Carolina State, Duke, North Carolina and Clemson.

"We meet the heavies on the schedule starting Jan. 17," he said. "And we'll be meeting some of the top teams in the country — UNC-Chapel Hill and Penn in January; Illinois, Navy, Ohio State and the West coast champions in February."

— Jeff Schuler

Lady spikers finish 13th at nationals

By BOB GROVE
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Penn State is now the home of the 13th best women's volleyball team in the nation.

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Bowling teams easily beat Owls

By TONY SMITH
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

The men's and women's bowling teams apparently don't like close matches.

Against an opponent that was supposed to provide plenty of trouble, the Lions (9-0) and Lady Lions (8-0) had an easy time of it Saturday when they defeated the Temple Owls at Rec Hall by margins of 16-3 and 15-4, respectively.

Coach Don Ferrell was smiling from ear to ear as he praised the performance of his teams.

"The men seem to get the job done whenever the situation arises," Ferrell said. "They've showed more confidence and togetherness. They bowled really well as a team."

"(The women) have the makings of a very, very competitive women's collegiate team. They have shown the ability to rise to the occasion, and they have faith in one another."

The Lady Lions certainly displayed an ability to bowl well under pressure. They led Temple after the first game, 6-4, but the Owls put on a strong performance in the second game, tightening the match. Unfortunately for the Owls, two of the Lady Lions bowlers "struck out."

In baseball, striking out is bad news. Ask Mighty Casey. In bowling, however, striking out is quite desirable. Just ask April Long and Michele Citro.

Those two Lady Lion bowlers were in the unenviable position

of having to roll three consecutive strikes in the 10th frame in order to prevent Temple from scoring points. Forget it. No chance. Right?

Wrong. Both bowlers knocked down all 10 pins three straight times and gave new meaning to the phrase "coming through in the clutch."

"They had to strike out just to tie, and they did," Ferrell said. "As for Temple, it really took the wind out of their sails. We beat them psychologically and physically."

"It was exciting, we were able to pull it through," Citro said. "Things worked out well, although I shouldn't have got in that position in the first place."

The men's team also had a strong showing, winning all three games by 5-1 margins. Bowler Lennie Leon explained why he was pleased with the performance.

"We came and took five points in the first game," Leon said. "Sometimes a team will let down after getting a big lead, but we didn't. We took five points in the second game."

"But even though we had clinched it in the second game, we still didn't let down. Temple was starting to roll well in the third game, but we rose to the occasion, just out of sheer competitiveness."

During one stretch in the third game, the Lion bowlers managed to put together eight consecutive strikes. Pretty good, considering that they had already clinched the victory

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