Lions 6th, Stanley All-American at NCAA finals

By RON GARDNER
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Inexperience proved to be a mixed blessing for the men's gymnastics team this weekend at the 39th NCAA men's gymnastics championships held in Lincoln, Neb.

Penn State struggled to a sixth-place finish in the team standings after a case of opening-day jitters dropped them to a 262.35 compulsory score and well out of contention for a berth in the three-team playoff for the national championship.

But for freshman pommel horse specialist Bill Stanley, not knowing who he was competing against proved to be one of his biggest assets as he beat the odds and some of the toughest competition in the country and tied for fourth place to gain All-American honors in the individual finals Saturday night.

Stanley, a two-time Pennsylvania state high school champion in pommel horse, recorded a 9.75 in compulsories and a 9.65 in his optional routine, before scoring a 9.65 in the event finals Saturday night to place ahead of several world-class gymnasts, including Oklahoma's Bart Connor and UCLA's Peter Vidmar.

"When I was warming up for the finals, I felt like I didn't belong there with Connor, (Nebraska's Jim) Hartung, Vidmar. . .these kids are too good for me," Stanley said. "So then I go out and beat them. I can't believe it now.

"It felt weird. It felt like I didn't really belong there; just looking around and seeing them competing and saying 'I don't belong here.' But I guess I did."

Stanley tied for fourth with Iowa State's Bob Krause after making a strong recovery when the Penn Stater made a mistake on his mount onto the horse.

"He handled it like it was nothing, it was unbelievable," Penn State coach Karl Schwenzfeier said. "Then he went on with the rest of the routine and it was absolutely beautiful despite the fact that he should have suffered a tremendously awkward situation.

"He showed extreme poise all the way through the championships. It's always a pleasant thing when it happens like this. Earlier this season even, I was saying this guy could go right in and right up to the top even in his first year. He will probably be the best pommel horse man Penn State has ever had."

For Stanley, who had set a personal goal of scoring above 9.50 in both the compulsory and optional routines before the trip to Lincoln, his finish was the culmination of a dream.

"My optional had me scared because I didn't know whether I'd make it to finals or not," he said. "After I got my 9.75 on compulsory, I thought that as long as I got a 9.50 or better, I should make it. Everything turned out good."

Everything turned out well for the rest of the team too. Even though the Lions failed to reach the team finals, they did manage to successfully hold their position as the country's sixth-best team and were able to get a year of valuable NCAA-tourney experience under their belts.

"We went in sixth and we came out sixth," Schwenzfeier said. "You'd like to have more but you can't expect more necessarily. That's what we were ranked all year and that's what we produced. At least we're not in any way ashamed of anything.

"We looked a little rough the first day. We have a team of mostly sophomores and freshmen and their experience at NCAAs is very limited. That's (learning for the future) the main emphasis we were pushing here coaching-wise. It's a growing situation."

After a disheartening performance in the compulsories Thursday, Penn State rebounded strongly to post a 271.55 team optional score Friday, which is slightly higher than its dual meet average of 270.49.

Nebraska succesfully defended its 1980 team championship, scoring 284.60 to best Oklahoma (281.95) and UCLA (280.50) in the team finals. Iowa State was fourth, followed by Oregon and nine-time NCAA champion Penn State.

Rounding out the top 10 were Arizona State in seventh, Illinois, Ohio State and Cal State-Fullerton.

"The team did a good job actually," Schwenzfeier said. "It (271.55 optional score) runs true with our average for the year. We would have had to have been, the way things came out, extremely above expected even to move one place. We would have had to have been close to perfect."

Sophomore Steve Marino was the Lions' most consistent performer throughout the championships, scoring a 53.50 compulsory and 54.70 optional to place 21st among the all-arounders, despite serious problems with an elbow injury.

Penn State team captain Tom Forster, fourth in vault last year at NCAAs, performed well, but a depressed score of 9.20 in an early round of compulsory vaulting and a 9.50 optional were only good enough for 17th place.

Forster also had a very solid performance in the optional all-arounds, scoring 54.85 to go along with his 52.15 in the compulsories.

Sophomore Gregg Simon (52.65 compulsories, 52.35 optionals) also performed solidly and senior Pat Besong come back strongly to tally a 54.35 optional score after a disastrous 50.00 in compulsories Thursday night.

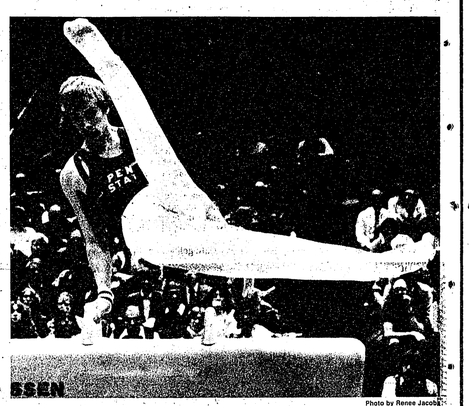


Photo by Renee Jacobs

Penn State's freshman Bill Stanley, shown in regular season action, tied for fourth in pommel horse this weekend at the NCAA men's gymnastics championships in Lincoln, Neb.

Sixers win, Lakers bow out

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Julius "Doctor J" Erving scored 38 points, including a pair of game-winning free throws with 38 seconds remaining, as the Philadelphia 76ers defeated the Milwaukee Bucks 125-122 yesterday in the first of their best-of-seven National Basketball Association Eastern Conference semifinal playoff.

The Bucks, Central Division champions, led 122-121 with 53 seconds remaining on a field goal by Sidney Moncrief.

Milwaukee's Quinn Buckner, however, then fouled Erving, who went to the line with an opportunity to make two-of-three free throw attempts in the penalty situation. He made the first to tie the game at 122-122, missed the second and then dropped in the penalty shot to send Philadelphia ahead.

The 76ers' final two points came on a pair of free throws by Lionel Hollins, who was deliberately fouled with 11 seconds remaining as the Bucks desperately tried to get the ball back.

The second game of the series will be played here tomorrow night. It then goes to Milwaukee for games Friday and Sunday.

Junior Bridgeman led the Bucks with 32 points, while Marques Johnson added 27 and Bob Lanier had 19.

Guard Maurice Cheeks had 22 points and substitute Bobby Jones added 21 points for the winning 76ers.

The 76ers led 93-90 after three quarters, but Milwaukee tied the game with 4:50 remaining at 112-112 on a field goal by Bridgeman. The game was deadlocked at 114 and 116 before Jones followed a missed shot that gave Philadelphia a 118-116 lead.

Erving, who scored 18 of his points in the final period, later connected as Philadelphia took a 121-118 lead at the 1:26 mark. Lanier converted a free throw and then Moncrief put Milwaukee ahead 122-121 to set up Erving's game-winning free throws.

Philadelphia had 20 blocked shots, with every player except Steve Mix contributing at least one.

Philadelphia coach Billy Cunningham described it as a transition game.

"I didn't think that they would come at us like they did. They played exceptionally well. They hurt us inside in the first half, then in the second half, they shot the lights out taking shots we wanted them to take," Cunningham said.

The incomparable Erving said, "the war has already started. It's only the beginning. They shot an exceptional percentage. They anticipated our plays and had us scattered very well."

The 76ers beat the Pacers two straight in the scheduled three-game series. Milwaukee, as a division champion, drew a bye.

Houston 89, Los Angeles 86

In Los Angeles, the Houston Rockets upset defending National Basketball Association champion Los Angeles 89-86 yesterday to win their opening playoff series two games to one, holding last year's hero, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, to just 10 points.

Johnson scored only two field goals and six free throws, and it was his miss with five seconds left that preserved victory for the Rockets.

Moses Malone scored 23 points for the winners, while Kareem Abdul-Jabbar topped Los Angeles with 32.

The Rockets went into the playoffs with only a 40-42 regular-season record while the Lakers were 54-28.

The Rockets now play at San Antonio tomorrow and Wednesday nights in the opener of the Western Conference semifinals, a best-of-seven series.

Houston led at the end of each period, although the fourth stanza the lead surged back and forth.

After being tied at 85-85, the Lakers went ahead on a Johnson free throw, but he missed two of them.

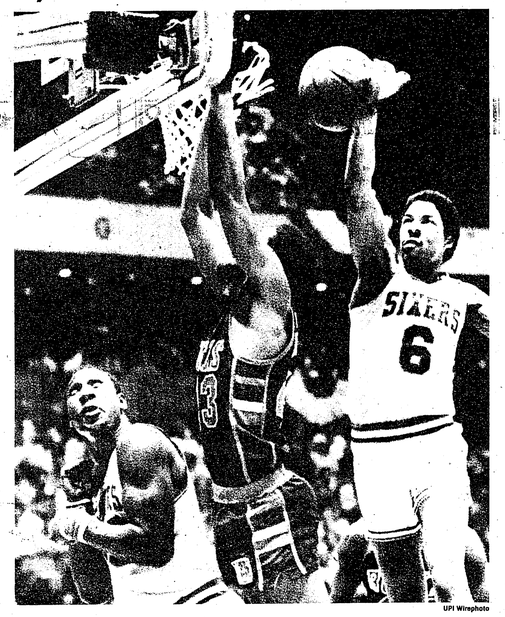
Mike Dunleavy threw in an 18-footer, sending the Rockets ahead 87-86 with 15 seconds left. Johnson dribbled up court, kept the ball and then badly missed a 10-foot jumper.

Johnson, the Most Valuable Player of last year's Laker triumph, missed a dozen of his 14 field goal attempts and five of his 11 tries from the free throw line.

Malone, the star of the opening game, scored 21 points in the first three quarters but was held to a pair of free throws, the final points of the game, when reserve Mark Landsberger entered the game for the final stanza and kept the Houston star off balance.

Kansas City 104, Portland 96

In Portland, Forward Reggie King scored 20 points in the second half and dominated play inside as the Kansas City Kings downed Portland 104-96 yesterday and eliminated the Trail Blazers from the National Basketball Association playoffs.



UPI Wirephoto

Philadelphia's Julius Erving (right) blocks a shot by Milwaukee's Mickey Johnson (center) during the Sixers' 125-122 NBA playoff win yesterday at the Spectrum. Darryl Dawkins looks on. Erving scored 38 points to pace the Sixer attack.

The Kings beat the Blazers twice in Portland to win the best-of-three miniseries 2-1. The Kings meet the Phoenix Suns in the semifinals of the Western Conference playoffs.

The series starts tommorrow night in Phoenix. It was the first time the Kings have won a playoff series since the franchise moved from Cincinnati in 1972.

Kansas City led by as many as 12 points in the fourth quarter before the Blazers made a final run.

Portland sliced the lead to three, 96-93, on a driving basket by Kelvin Ransey with 1:34 to play. But Sam Lacey hit a 10-foot bank shot and King scored on an offensive rebound to put the game out of reach.

The Blazers, who haven't won a playoff series since 1977, shot out to a 15-point lead, 41-26, early in the second quarter. Kansas City, however, outscored Portland 23-7 over the last eight minutes of the first half to take a 49-48 lead at intermission.

King led Kansas City with 28 points and grabbed 15 rebounds. Otis Birdsong added 22, while Scott Wedman scored 19 for the Kings.

Portland's Billy Ray Bates led all scorers with 34 points, 22 in the second half. Mychal Thompson added 17 for the Blazers.

Boston 121, Chicago 109

Larry Bird and Kevin McHale ignited a third-quarter burst that broke open a tight game and propelled the Boston Celtics to a 121-109 victory over the Chicago Bulls in the opening game of their Eastern Conference National Basketball Association semifinal playoff series played yesterday in Boston.

The lead had changed hands nine times in the third quarter before Bird hit two free throws, giving Boston the lead for good at 78-77 with 3:44 left in the period.

That launched an 18-4 surge that saw the third quarter end with the Celtics leading 94-81. The lead never dipped below nine points the rest of the way.

Bird scored 13 of his game-high 23 points in the third quarter when Boston outscored Chicago 40-29.

Bird followed his free throws with an 18-foot jumper.

McHale, who came off the bench to score 21 points and block five shots, then sandwiched a pair of three-point plays around a basket by Chicago's Larry Kenon. That left the Celtics ahead 86-81 with 2:03 remaining in the third quarter.

Boston led most of the first half, twice going up by 11 points, before Reggie Theus scored on a driving layup to tie the score 50-50 with 1:09 left before intermission. However, McHale scored Boston's last four points of the half, sending the Celtics into a 54-52 lead after two periods.

Cedric Maxwell added 21 points for Boston, while Chicago was led by Dwight Jones with 19 points and Artis Gilmore with 18.

Lady Lion fencers, Angelakis No. 1

By LAURIE JACOBS
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

"I feel great," were the words that came from every member of the women's fencing team after they captured their second NAIAW national championship Friday in South Bend, Indiana.

The Lady Lions have every right to feel great. They came home not only with their second national title, but also with two new All Americans in Jana Angelakis, who won the individual title, and Hanne Skattebol, who placed fifth in Saturday's individual competition.

The Lady Lions breezed through the first and second rounds of the championships and were the top seed throughout the tournament.

But victory did not come easily in the semifinals Friday as the Lady Lions had to battle it out with San Jose, who was seeded sixth.

"We were slow Friday morning," Penn State coach Beth Alphin said. "We weren't overconfident; I think we were too nervous. We knew if we lost to San Jose, the best we could do would be to place fourth.

"We were really down to the wire. Jana had lost a bout, and the score was tied at 6-6, with four bouts to go. Then Cathy (McClellan) defeated San Jose's Joy Ellingson 4-5, and Hanne defeated Sue Hoesman 2-5. Jana won the last bout against Laurie Clark, to give us the match 9-6."

Penn State went into the final round still seeded first, with Temple second and Penn third. The Lady Lions again had trouble, and barely scraped by Penn 7-6.

"At this point in the final round we realized we had to get our act together," Alphin said.

The Lady Lions did just that during a two-hour wait while Temple fenced Penn.

"During that break, we just got away from that gym," Alphin said. "We relaxed; some people went for a walk to clear their heads. Then we went back and warmed up. I told the girls exactly what I wanted them to do — to practice hard and to hit Temple with everything they had."

Temple and Penn tied, 8-8, but Temple won by one touch. Then the Lady Lions took over, and defended their title, easily beating Temple 9-1.

"The team feels great," Alphin said. "It was a long, hard day, and they didn't fence like Penn State Friday morning. But they came back with everything they had against Temple.

Sports Information photo

Jana Angelakis

"We were all tense. I was really nervous. I felt like I fenced every bout with them. I couldn't have asked for a better comeback. We were terrific in the finals — we were a solid team who knew we should be No.1."

This was the second championship for senior Phyllis Wert, who said the team stayed together when the going got rough.

"The tournament was excellent," she said. "It was definitely a team effort. The team stuck together when there was a lot of tension, and we knew we were going to win it."

It was the first team title for sophomore Skattebol, a Wayne State transfer. She said she enjoyed the new experience of a national championship, but that the tension that goes along with it can be hard to take.

"This was the first nationals for me," she said. "Cathy, Nancy (Anderson) and Phyllis were in the championships last year, so they've already been through it once, but it was a new experience for me.

"I was really scared there for a while. I was afraid we might not pull it out."

Freshman Angelakis who now has two more titles to add to her long, long list of achievements said she was also very impressed with the team's cohesiveness.

"Everyone pulled together," she said. "We did it as a team, not individuals, and we had some very tough victories. To win was very nice, but it was even better for me because we did it as a team."

Dauer's hits down Phillies

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — Rich Dauer, who doubled home the game's first run, singled to drive in the winning run in the 10th inning yesterday as the Baltimore Orioles defeated the Philadelphia Phillies 4-3 in exhibition baseball.

Dauer's single to center off loser Mike Proly followed a leadoff hit by rookie shortstop Bob Bonner and a sacrifice.

The Orioles had taken a 3-2 lead in the eighth on Ken Singleton's double, but the Phillies tied it in their half of the inning on a walk, sacrifice and Dick Davis' single.

Dauer staked the Orioles to a 1-0 lead in the first inning by singling in Al Bumbry, who led off with a double.

Philadelphia took a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the inning on an error and singles by Mike Schmidt, Gary Matthews and Garry Maddox.

Baltimore tied it in the fourth off Philadelphia starter Larry Christenson on Singleton's single, Eddie Murray's double and a sacrifice fly by Don Grahamm.

Winning pitcher Tim Stoddard pitched the final 2 2/3 innings in relief.

Laxers slosh to easy win at Ohio State

By DAVE PACCHIOLI
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

While Happy Valley basked in its first real taste of spring weather Saturday, the men's lacrosse team broke out the snorkels in Columbus, Ohio, and swamped the Buckeyes of Ohio State, 15-5.

The game was played in a steady downpour, but the rain didn't dampen the Lions' enthusiasm as they exploded for seven third-quarter goals to salt away the win.

"It was a pretty unpleasant day to play," Penn State coach Glenn Thiel said, "but we came ready to play, and we were pleased with the game."

Attackman Jay Starapoli scored four goals for the Lions (2-1), freshman Tom Lion had three and middie Kevin Curran added a pair to pace a balanced offensive effort. Another Lion freshman, Gary Martin, racked up a goal and four more assists to retain the team lead in the latter category.

Thiel shuffled his personnel somewhat to add more scoring punch, using a system of offensive and defensive midfielders in specific situations. And although the slick turf slowed the game down somewhat, he was happy with the results of the new combinations.

"(Midfielders Kevin) Curran and (Tim) Flanagan played their best games in quite a while," Thiel said, "and that really helped us out. We could easily have scored 20 but their goalie was excellent."

Flanagan, who had a goal and two assists, said the game, like the weather, was a little sloppy.

"We didn't do quite as well as expected — I think we came down to their level a little bit," Flanagan said, "but we were able to grind out a win.

"The offense looked good; we controlled the ball, which is something we will have to do against a good running team like Towson (the Lions' next opponent)."

Penn State goalie Joe Guterding had a good workout, making 14 first half saves before giving way to teammate Eph Humphreys for the third and fourth quarters.

"They surprised us a little; they got a lot of good shots off early," Thiel said, "but our defense and both goalies played well."

Flanagan also had praise for Guterding's work in the cage.

"Joe played really well — that's his third solid performance in three games," the senior co-captain said. "I hope he can keep it up — and I think he can."

Thiel said Saturday's win should prove a good tune-up for games at Towson on Wednesday and home with Drexel Saturday.

"It was a rough physical game; they (Ohio State) did a lot of hitting," Thiel said. "I think the big thing is we're ready to play Towson and Drexel, which will be our first real chance to knock somebody off."

Keglers win ACU-I sectional roll-offs

By TONY SMITH
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

The men's and women's bowling teams earned the right to compete in the National Collegiate Championships in May by winning the Association of College Unions-International sectional roll-offs this weekend in Bellaire, Md.

In a 15-team field, the men's team finished 200 pins ahead of second-place Robert Morris, while the women finished almost 150 pins in front of Temple University.

Both the Lions and Lady Lions were favored to win, and the top-ranked Lady Lions were not in any serious trouble throughout the match. However, the same cannot be said of the men's team.

"At the end of eight games, we were in second place; Robert Morris was ahead by 21 pins," the Lions' Rick Peters said. "At the end of 10 games, Robert Morris was leading by 101 pins.

"There were only two games left, and it was then that we proceeded to kick their butts."

And that they did, taking the last two games by a total of over 300 pins. In those two games, eight of the 10 Lion scores were above 200. Team captains Dwayne Fry and Jay Jacobson led the way, with Fry rolling a 244 and a 245 while Jacobson rolled a 247 and a 203.

Fry's performance was rather outstanding, considering the circumstances. On Friday morning, tournament officials checked the bowling balls of each participant and decided that Fry's bowling ball too light. Consequently, Fry was not permitted to use his favorite bowling and he had to use another one.

"Fry wasn't quite comfortable with it; he had trouble hitting the pocket," Peters said. "But he did well. As a matter of fact, he had one of the best tournaments he's had so far. I'd say it was one of our best performances as a team so far this season."

The men's team scores in the last two games — 1,053 and 1,063 — were the highest team scores in the tournament, Peters said.

Robert Morris could only muster a 935 and an 865 — not bad, but not good enough to overcome Penn State.

While the Lions did their impersonation of the Kardiac Kids, the Lady Lions won without much of a fight, although after five games, they were only ahead of second-place Temple by about 10 pins. After eight games, however, they were ahead of Temple by 110 pins. From then on, the match was never in doubt.

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