Lions' long season comes to a close

Collegian Sports Writer

There was an air of futility surrounding the last three games, it was rather obvious the game would be the last of the Lions' season, period. And peoples' attention was turning to those temperature to bitterly cold. teams that would be playing past March 2. Most
Even pregame notes to the press made it seem other teams, particularly those in conferences, like that game should be forgotten, canceled or

Also listed was the playoff schedule for every under 10 points a game in the last 30 years." conference. Playoffs started that night in both the Item No. 2: "Unless Mike Lang scores 42 points

Eastern 8 and the Big Eight. People were also thinking about next year. points this season. The last time that happened Speculation found its way into print that said in the was in 1958. . next few weeks. Penn State would be asked to And just to confirm the fact that the game was rejoin the Eastern 8, this time along with two or more of afterthought than anything else, the Lions bership in the supposedly-stabilizing league to 10 "just didn't handle the ball well, we didn't shoot going nine of 16 from the field. teams (Pitt is leaving next year to join the Big it well, and we didn't really play good defense," East), and it would be renamed the Eastern Penn State coach Dick Harter said. "It looked like if it hadn't turned the ball over 12 times in the first

But on March 2. back in University Park, the Lions had to end it all against Cleveland State. It had been eight days since the Lions' last game, a Last Tuesday night, the men's basketball team 60-54 win over Westminster on the Monday before played its last game of the season. There's no need final exams. Now they were faced with playing to qualify that as regular season. With a 15-11 Cleveland State in Rec Hall, on a deserted camrecord as that day began and losses in two of their pus, and just to insure that the crowd would be small, about a foot of snow had fallen in the area, making the roads hazardous and lowering the

had finished their seasons over the weekend, and a ignored all together. Item No. 1: "Mike Lang major part of the scoreboard section of that needs 12 points tonight (or Mike Edelman 36 or Tuesday's Pittsburgh Post-Gazette was devoted to Rich Fetter 33) if Penn State is to have a player has not played a season with a leading scorer tonight, Penn State won't have anyone scoring 300

In front of 1,655 people, the Lions gave a perforthe floor in that half (seven of 23). mance that should be nominated for worst of the The Lions had their moments, some nice plays year in losing to Cleveland State, 66-61, to finish 15- that worked, but they were, as the song goes, 12. But it could be said Penn State's whole season precious and few. At the end of most of those plays was that game — it was the season in a nutshell, was Tom McCluskey, who hit shots both outside literally and figuratively. And it resulted in frus- and inside, for a team-high 15 points (seven of 13 tration that had Harter grabbing towels and from the field). And Mike Lang played his normal wringing them in his hands and that kept the consistent game — 14 points (to average 10.1 a heads down and still dressed in their uniforms. 15 double-double game of the year.

the early stages of the game, they were never closer than four points. They would be down by 10, 12 or 13 and come back to within four or five, but scored eight points (four of 10 from the floor). And then the offense would stall against Cleveland with his team down by eight points, he had to leave State's 1-3-1, 2-3, 1-2-2 and 2-2-1 floating, trapping concoctions of zone defenses.

And then Cleveland State would rebound and run-and-gun the ball down the court and either up with 16 points, or to guard Lee Reed, who would pull up and pop 20-to 25-foot jump shots that hit nothing but net. He had a game-high 18 points Penn State could have been in the game, though, my guys. But tonight wasn't our night."

Clemente Award

players sitting in front of their lockers, silent, game for the year) and 13 rebounds, his fifth In the end, though, everything somehow seemed The Lions never led Cleveland State. Except for to focus on Edelman, the senior guard. In the last

"It is tough, you know," Harter said. "It's been a tough, tough, tough battle. It seems like shovel it off the center Dave Youdath, who ended we deserve a little something better. But you get what you deserve. I guess

> Previous winners of the Clemente was) one we wanted to get, and we didn't get it. award are Willie Mays, Brooks Robinson. Al Kaline, Willie Stargell, Lou We're happy for the ones we got, and I'm proud of Brock, Pete Rose, Rod Carew, Greg Luzinski, Andre Thornton, Phil Niekro

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) - Out-

fielder Ken Singleton of the Baltimore

Orioles won the 12th annual Roberto

The award is presented each year by

the field and honors the memory of the

late Hall of Fame outfielder who died on

a mercy mission to aid flood victims in

Singleton was honored for his work

with various charities including the

Maryland Association of Sickle Cell Serv-

29, which benefits the senior citizens of

ices and Special Olympics and Project

Major League baseball to the player who

best exemplifies the game both on and off

Clemente Award vesterday.

Birds' Singleton Spikers volley back given baseball's with pair of wins annual Roberto

Collegian Sports Writer

burg on Tuesday.

losing to the Lions, 15-11, 15-12. the finest volleyball player ever to nals.

of four non-collegiate teams in the the round-robin matches. tournament. As anticipated, the final

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result of poor blocking." In the round-robin matches leading the unlucky bowler, they saw splits

They split with the other four team

- Otis, 9-15, 15-6, Pitt (the only other collegiate squad from Illinois) split ka (a team from the Washington with Penn State in round-robin com- D.C., area), 15-8, 8-15, and Baca. This petition and went to the finals before gave the Lions a 6-4 record, which was enough to earn them the No. 2 seed Ozcam is considered by many to be and the right to compete in the semifi-

> "We were only concerned with making the semifinals," Tait said. "We

a large part of our success, and our On Tuesday, the Lions had a conferpower side hitters (Mike Guyon and Jeff Johnson) carried a lot of the load and had less trouble than in the Meadfor us. Harpo (Guyon) and J.J. (John-ville Invitational, winning in a best three-out-of five match, 15-2, 15-5, 15-Along with amassing 15 kills in the 3. Needless to say, East Stroudsburg

were also impressive in their semifi- "We really put our serving game nal match against Baca, another tal- together," Tait said. "They couldn't ented non-collegiate squad. Despite a handle our serves or our blocking, and 15-8, 10-15 split in round-robin compe- we forced them into a lot of errors. tition, Penn State managed to embar- Offensively we were too big for them;

Lion gymmen maintain perfect record

By MARIA MARTINO

Collegian Sports Writer It was the kind of weekend that exemplified the way things have been going for the men's gymnastics team

Just when the Lions had run into adversity in every possible guise, they overcame it and emerged from their road trip with three more wins to bolster their

"These away meets have been kind of hard on us," junior Bobby Painton said. "There hasn't been much

competed in an overcrowded practice gym before a scant crowd Friday night in Terre Haute but still beat Indiana State, 266.75-263.75. "That was our nightmare meet of the season," Lion coach Karl Schwenzfeier said. "We blew an opportunity

on the road to get a high score. We had to increase an appreciable amount to get a proper score for the A team's five highest scores — three of which must be on the road — are averaged to determine which teams get invited to the national championships.

Then the Lions did an abrupt about-face and started marching to a different drummer.

They racked up 273.45 points to anihilate Southern Illinois (267.95) and Louisiana State (264.65) Sunday afternoon in a triangular meet in Carbondale, Ill. "We had a team meeting before that meet," Schwenz-

either of them. "I was extremely nervous. There was considerable talk from LSU that they could beat us, to put it nicely." LSU coach Armando Vega was Schwenzfeier's Penn State and 1956 Olympic teammate and fraternity broth-

Despite the animosity between LSU and Penn State, the Lions had their most difficult time at Indiana State. "It was a madhouse," Penn State's Jim Thompson said. "Their women's team was having a tri-meet while they had a dual meet with us. There were five teams on the floor and the gym was crappy.

"The judges left the meet without signing the scoresheet (to make the scores official), and Colonel Schwenzfeier) even had to figure out the scorecard. The judges were pretty incompetent." On one event, the Lion coach said they listed a 8.10 or 8.30 for top Lion all-arounder Steve Marino when he had

And when Penn State's still rings ace Randy Jepson did what Schwenzfeier called "the best or at least one of the best routines he's done all year," the judges gave him a 9.60, his lowest score of the season. Jepson is ranked first in the nation on rings with a 9.9, bettering Nebraska's Jim Hartung by a tenth of a point. "The judges had trouble recognizing good routines with good scores." Schwenzfeier said.

were injuries. They left pommel horse specialist Tom 55.45 against ISU and a 55.35 against SIU and LSU...F-Ladman (ranked fourth in the nation) home to heal the reshman Terry Bartlett, coming off a wrist injury,

Zeolla leads Lion lifters in Pa. championships

sprained elbow. Mickey Gonzalez competed in their place and fell of the horse several times and got a 5.15. "That was a major contributing factor," Thompson said. "We had to eat a five and a couple of eights on

rings that we shouldn't have had. I've been hitting 9.4s pretty consistently. If I wasn't injured, that could have raised the score to 270." But as the Lions gagged on their 266, they decided their next meet was do-or-die. "We had to lay it on the line." Painton said. "Either "We had to be prepared mentally more than physical ly for the injuries. Thompson was the most injured. He

'I'm going against SIU no matter what.' Even if he broke or fell off, he could still push us up to 274." Thompson worked a milked-down routine with on major break for an 8.00 score. "We all breathed a sigh of relief," Schwenzfeier said "And our five-meet average made a healthy jump to 272.54. We're 85-90 percent right now. That's good but we

But what hurt the Lions even more than the judges 9.70...Marino won the all-around at both meets, with a

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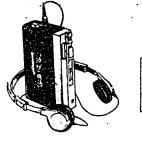




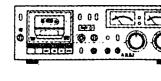
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Miller Special.





Tait stressed blocking as a main Shaking off the after effects of an factor in not only the match against unspectacular showing at the Golden Otis but in the rest of the matches as

Dome Classic two weeks ago, the well. men's volleyball team registered vic- "The games we won, we won on the tories at the Meadville Invitational strength of our blocking," Tait said. over term break and at East Strouds- "The games we lost, we lost as a

the fourth-ranked Lions had to over- up to the semifinal round, the Lions come an unusual obstacle - their defeated Meadville 15-4, 15-8, but, like assistant coach. Ahmet Ozcam, an All-American on the rest of the way. last year's Lion squad, competed against Penn State in the six-team tournament. His team (Otis, a non-

attend Penn State, and his presence And that, basically, was all that was welcomed by the Otis team, one Tait wanted his team to accomplish in

"It was a really good match," Penn played everybody on the team, and State head coach Tom Tait said. "The played around with different linestrength of our blocking accounted for

second game of the match, the Lions was never in the match. rass Baca in the semifinals, 15-4, 15- we had too much ball control."

championships at Lafayette College. Zeolla, who had already clinched a spot at nationals before the meet, was named Outstanding Lifter of the lightweight ess (425 pounds in the squat, 240 in the

ing champion Gary Zeolla led the Penn not fare as well as Zeolla, who took first Penn State's Bill Schmidt finished sec-State barbell club Feb. 20-21 at the Penn-place in his weight class. In the 132-pound sylvania Collegiate Powerlifting class, Lisa Miller took sixth place with 250 pounds in the squat, 105 in the benchpress, and 315 in the deadlift (670 total). Ralph Vanderbeek was fourth in the 148-pound division (415 squat, 255 bench,

classes (165 pounds and under), setting 485 dead, 1,155 total), while in the 165four state collegiate records in the procpound class, Dave Dwyer (470 squat, 290 respectively), Joe Braca of Montgomery Penn State finished in a tie for fourth bench, 435 dead, 1,195 total) Mark Lesney County Community College (148 pounds) with East Stroudsburg. bench-press, and 430 in the dead-lift, for a (430, 295, 465, 1,190 total) and Matt Br- and Brian Thompson of Temple (165). zycki (405, 260, 430, 1,095 total) finished

squat, 355 bench press and 575 deadlift for a 1,490 total. classes included John Padova and Dan

ond in the 198-pound class with a 560 Temple won at 220, Tony Green of Lafayette took 242, Ron Gumbarge of Temple won at 275 and Dave Detito, also

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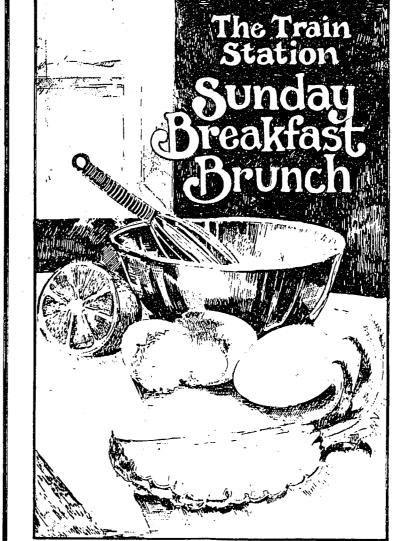
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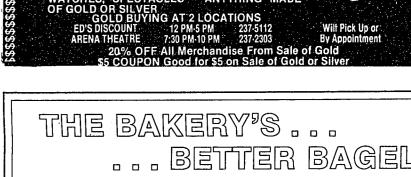


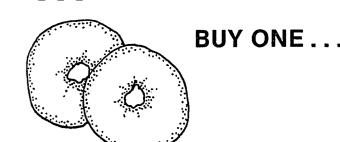
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