

# Lion wrestlers place 14th at nationals

By LEE DeORIO  
Collegian Sports Writer

Things just weren't quite the same for the wrestling team at this year's NCAA championships, held Thursday through Saturday in Ames, Iowa.

Last year at Princeton, N.J., the Lions shocked the wrestling world by placing sixth — their highest finish since 1971. With two All-Americans returning, the Lions were hopeful of a similar type of performance at Ames.

However, Penn State came up a bit short of its goal of finishing in the top 10. The Lions placed 14th with 204 points. Iowa set a NCAA record by amassing 123 1/2 points en route to its fifth straight national championship.

dominating the entire match on his way to an 8-3 decision. DeStefanis was then eliminated in the consolation round by Tennessee-Chattanooga's Tony Beard, 15-10.

DeStefanis fell behind 10-1 after one period, and simply did not have enough time to come back. It was obvious the loss to McFarland had taken its toll on DeStefanis' psyche.

"Carl was really depressed and down from losing," Lorenzo said. "It's another reason to reach the quarterfinals, but Carl had his goals set on going to the finals. A year's time has to learn to rebound for the next match."



Photo by Steve Burger

This Penn State team probably had more talent than last year's did, but ability is not the only ingredient in the place among the 10 best teams in the nation.

"We didn't catch too many breaks in the tournament," Penn State head coach Rich Lorenzo said. "Last year, we got breaks. You've got to make your own, but you need a little luck."

Despite the absence of any good fortune, John Hanrahan, at 157, and Scott Lynch, at 126, turned in All-America performances, finishing fifth and sixth, respectively. But with a little luck the Lions could have had a couple more All-Americans, and Hanrahan and Lynch could have placed even higher.

Lynch lost to Iowa State's Joe Gibbons for the second time this season, but it was by no means a cut-and-dry decision. The match was deadlocked at 3-3 at the end of regulation and at 6-6 after overtime.

Gibbons advanced on the basis of scoring the match's only reversal.

The match's controversy stemmed from a stalling point awarded to Gibbons on the basis of the referee's call. It appeared Gibbons had pushed Lynch out of bounds, but after a lot of hollering from the home crowd and the Iowa State bench, the referee awarded Gibbons a point.

Lynch showed his character by coming back in the consolation to edge Kent State's Doug Brawley, 11-10, and Eastern Illinois' Derrick Porter, 9-8. But two straight matches without any back luck just with Penn State's limit.

With 20 seconds left in the match, he was just with San Jose State's Wayne Jones and was forced to default. The injury also forced Lynch to default his next bout, and he had to settle for sixth.

# Lion spikers flounder at Volleycard Classic

By TONY SMITH  
Collegian Sports Writer

The men's volleyball team is known for very strong hitting, setting and blocking and a strong starting lineup. It is not known, however, for its depth.

Any injuries to key players during a match can be costly to a team.

To be faced with this type of predicament during a match against the No. 10 team in the country — even if that team is the underdog — is far from a desirable situation. Yet it happened Saturday in Muncie, Ind., at the four-team Volleycard Classic while the Lions were playing Ohio State.

An injury to Ken Kraft during a victory over host team Ball State on Friday made him unavailable to participate against the Buckeyes. Couple this with the absence of Jeff Johnson, who didn't make the trip because of knee troubles and also for academic reasons, and the result is a lack of bench strength.

Consequently, the Lions floundered, and the Buckeyes, who wound up winning the meet for the second year in a row, upended No. 4 Penn State, 15-9, 15-11, 15-17.

The Lions, who came in looking to avenge last year's third-place finish at Muncie, had to settle for second place this time around because of the loss to the Buckeyes.

But it wasn't just the lack of depth that was a factor in the loss. "Our blocking was really erratic," Penn State head coach Tom Tait said, "and we had passing at times; it was a combination of the two. Largely because of our bad blocking, Ohio State was able to run their offense the way they wanted to."

The Buckeyes were impressive throughout the meet, defeating both Ball State and NAIA competitor Graceland College with virtually no trouble at all. In fact, the 15-1 loss to Penn State was the only game Ohio State lost all weekend.

Penn State earned second place by defeating the Cardinals of Ball State in a thriller Friday night, 15-12, 5-15, 15-9, 11-15, 15-12, and Graceland Saturday night, 15-7, 15-10, 15-17, 15-9.

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# Stanley nears perfection as Lion gymmen romp to win

By MARIA MARTINO  
Collegian Sports Writer

If it had been international competition, pommel horse ace Bill Stanley would have scored the only "perfect 10" in an American event earned in Rice Hall.

But when the men's gymnastics team soundly downed the University of Illinois-Chicago Circle Saturday night, 279.40-272.95 Saturday night, Stanley's scores — a pair of 10s and another pair of 9.85s — added up to a resounding 9.85.

"I let out one pommel circle but I guess I covered it up OK," an ecstatic Stanley said. "It was the best routine I ever did."

Stanley won the Gene Westlake award, given to the meet's finest gymnast, for that flawless performance.

The sophomore from Butler was phenomenal as usual as he mastered an extremely difficult routine effortlessly.

"He even had a new dismount," Lion coach Karl Schwenzfelder said, "and he handled it like a trooper."

After Stanley gracefully pulled through one oh-so-smooth move after another, the crowd roared its approval. He said he thought his dismount was a little bit low. But if he had done anything wrong, the judges certainly didn't spot it. In the last home meet of the season, the home crowd had finally seen its 10.

As a freshman, Stanley was ranked fourth on the pommel horse at the national championships last year — but the All-American still has trouble believing he was in the fast company of Bart Conner, Peter Vidmar and Phil Caboy.

His performance Saturday should convince him for good that he can swing with the best in the world.

"I was really nervous in warm-ups and as I stepped up to the horse," Stanley said. "IUC has two good pommel horse specialists, and I thought I was going to be in trouble. But I just said, 'This is it, and went to it.'"

Like a diamond among the lesser gems, he outsparked everyone.

Everyone but teammate and roommate Tom Ladman, that is.

Ladman, a junior transfer from the University of Arizona, preceded Stanley to the horse and chalked up three 9.80s and a 9.85 for a superb 9.80 overall.

He unobtrusively blended his three signature moves into his fast, unbroken routine. And when he spun around with his hand hops on the pommel, the crowd roared.

"I took out one move so I would have more energy for the dismount," he said. "I'm very happy I hit it. I'm coming for some time now and that's one event I always blow."

"When I mounted, I felt a little shaky. It's funny but I thought the original cause of (my hand problems) was the hand hops, because they started about a week after I put the trick in. But it was sheer coincidence."

It wasn't sheer coincidence though that the Lions racked up their highest score of the season — 279.40 — while getting incredible performances from both their pommel horse men and parallel bars specialists — Penn State's highest nationally-ranked events. (The Lions are second on pommel horse and fifth on parallel bars.)



Photo by Brian Gammeter

Not to be judged, senior parallel bars specialist Tim Darling ended his final Rice Hall appearance with a perfect dismount, capping off an exceptionally difficult 9.75 routine.

That was his personal high to add to his already lofty scores of 9.60 and 9.65.

"It was my best meet of all," said Darling, a transfer from the University of Oregon. "Before I came (to Penn State), I heard about the crowd and all backing us. Well, now I'm a believer. This is the greatest."

Forearm splints and a sore throat hindered Darling all week in practice, but that wasn't evident during the meet.

"I'm really glad to do (so well) here," he said. "The crowd always gets me going so I just tried to get them going. We just selected Bars 238-2322."

Schwenzfelder said he saw "a lot of nice things" Saturday, including 28 of 30 routines scoring a 9.00 or better.

He also saw all three of his all-arounders come back from a "very, very hard week of workouts" when they started preparing for nationals to place one, two, three.

"All of us scored 55%," said all-arounder Gregg Simon who placed second with 55.65. "It was the best day of my life."

Simon added a half-in-half-out dismount to his solid ring routine that earned him a strong 9.45.

"I took out one move so I would have more energy for the dismount," he said. "I'm very happy I hit it. I'm coming for some time now and that's one event I always blow."

Greg Simon earned a 9.45 for his strong performance on the still rings to help lift the men's gymnastic team to 279.40-272.95 victory over University of Illinois-Chicago Circle Saturday night at Rice Hall.

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