# 18-The Daily Collegian Tuesday, Aug. 30, 1983 Pitt's Cummings to start against Tennessee Saturday in tough grid assignment

## By ALAN ROBINSON AP Sports Writer

**PITTSBURGH** — He's thrown only two passes in college and nobody is comparing him to Dan Marino, but John Cummings will be the University of Pittsburgh's quarterback Saturday against Tennessee.

Pitt Coach Foge Fazio readily admits that playing in Knoxville, with its 92,000 screaming, orange-clad Volunteer fans, won't exactly be the easiest of opening day assignments for his junior guarterback. "Naturally, there are 100 better

places to go than the University of Tennessee," Fazio said. "However. that's the way the game falls on the schedule, so we'll go down there and play it.'

And they'll play it with Cummings, only a third teamer a season ago, at quarterback.

But while Cummings lacks experience and doesn't pack the rifle-like guy," but won't hestitate to "pass on right arm that Marino did, he doesn't a few words of wisdom in the huddle lack in confidence, a vital necessity every now and then," just as Marino for a player in his position.

"Nobody is considering me as one of the top quarterbacks," Cummings said. "But I want to get better and be one of the best all-around guarterbacks. The only thing I don't have is experience.

Last year, Fazio so lacked in confidence in his back-up quarterbacks that Marino played all but a few downs in a 9-3 season. Cummings tried only two passes all season. completing one for 13 yards.

pect, but I expect a good season," Pitt history. 

said the 6-2, 190-pound Cummings from Montclair, N.J. "I shouldn't be the quarterback if I'm not optimistic. And I'm very optimistic. I think we can have a heck of a season." The Associated Press pollsters

don't agree. The pre-season No. 1 choice last year, Pitt isn't even mentioned in this season's initial Top 20 Some publications have even

picked Pitt for its first losing season in a decade, and the lack of depth or experience at quarterback is one of the reasons why "But I don't think I have a lot of

faults," said Cummings, who played well in the Panthers' final two preseason scrimmages.

"I don't have a lot of experience. But I think I have a good arm, a little bit of speed and good knowledge of the game.

Cummings said he isn't ''a rah-rah

would Fazio said that if he didn't believe Cummings could do the job, he

wouldn't be starting. "I don't have a feel for this team yet," he said. "It's too early. But this team has a lot to prove. They're not

picking us for the Top 20, and now we have to go out and carry on Pitt's tradition. Cummings will be satisfied with carrying on the tradition of Marino, a

first round draft choice of the Miami "I'm not exactly sure what to ex- Dolphins and the leading passer in

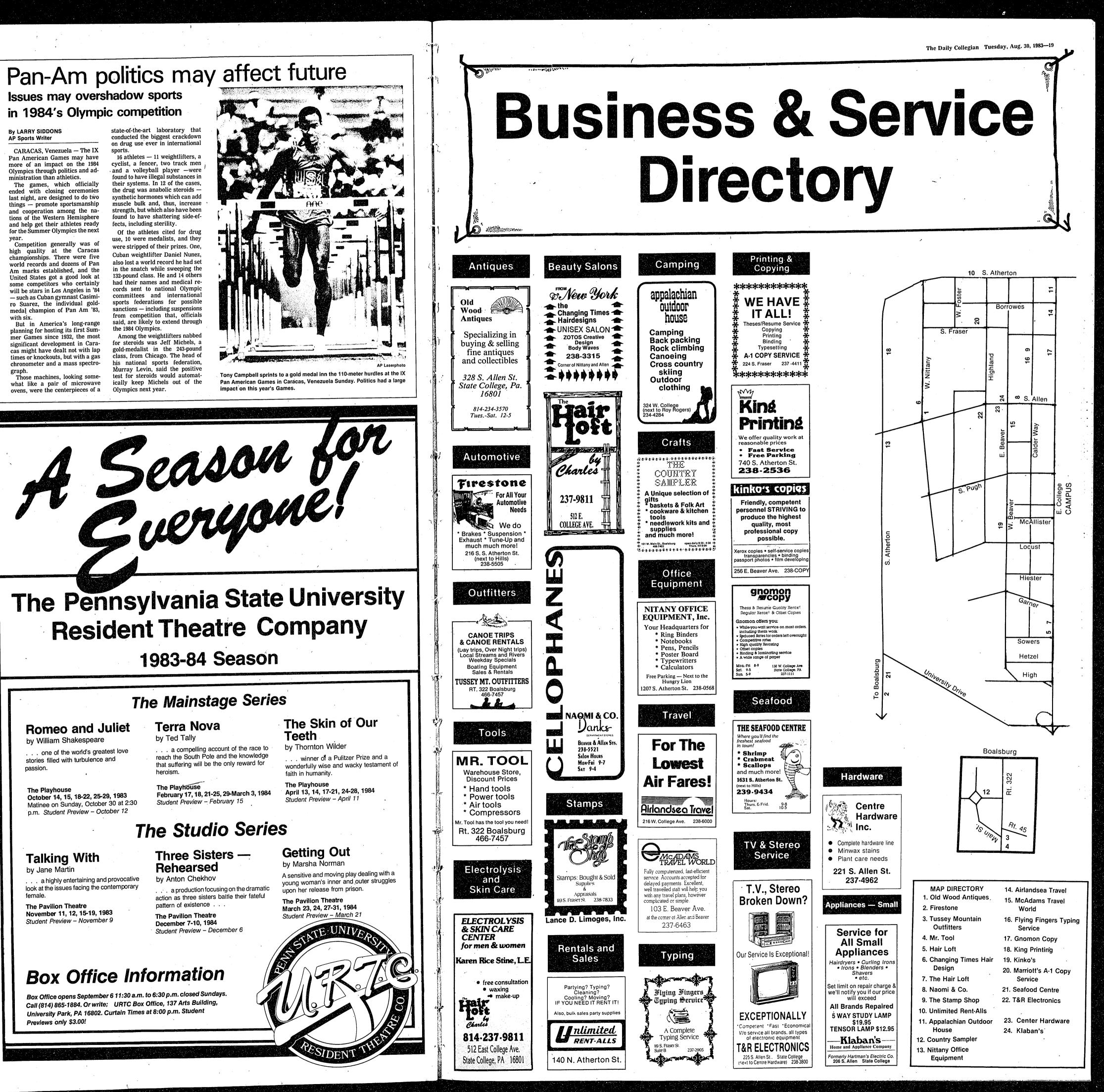
more of an impact on the 1984

tions of the Western Hemisphere

championships. There were five some competitors who certainly

Of the athletes cited for drug

• steroids was Jeff Michels, a





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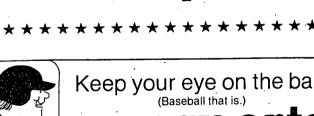
General Membership Meeting

Wed. Aug. 31

7:30 PM

Main Lobby of Ritenour Health Center

Audition in Room 112 Music Bldg. 9-4 Daily





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