

Gymnastics get by Nebraska

The women's gymnastics team survived its trip to the Midwest and added another win to its record after edging Nebraska by a score of 178.35-178.05 Tuesday night.

Penn State, 9-3, pulled off the victory after the beam competition. As the Lady Lions headed into the final rotation of the meet, they were only three-tenths of a point ahead of the Lady Cornhuskers. The pressure was on Penn State.

"We had to match their floor scores," Head Coach Judi Avenier said, "which is really hard to do. This is the third meet we've had to win on beam and we really pulled through."

Freshman Bernadette Robertson gave a stellar performance and

tallied a team high for the season on beam with a score of 9.45. Kathy Pomper followed Robertson with 9.10 for second place.

Sophomore Pam Loree was the only Lady Lion to place in the top three in the all-around, taking first place by a score of 36.40. Loree also took top honors on vault with a score of 9.45, on floor with 9.40, and took second on bars with 9.05.

Along with Loree's impressive performance, the Lady Lion freshmen also made a good showing against Nebraska.

In addition to winning the beam competition, Robertson tied for second on floor with a score of 9.20. Pomper, who placed above Loree in

USC, OSU haul in prep stars

By DOUG TUCKER
AP Sports Writer

Southern Cal. and Oklahoma hauled in some of the greatest prep football stars in the nation yesterday while Nebraska — possibly damaged by remarks made by Mike Rozier — saw many top recruits slip away.

Yesterday was the first day high school seniors could sign binding letters of intent with colleges and universities. Southern Cal gobbled up what many consider the No. 1 prospects at running back and quarterback.

Ohio State Coach Earl Bruce looked over his list of signees and declared it "a great day," while Oklahoma took home the top running back in Oklahoma and the top lineman in Arkansas.

Practically every school in the nation coveted running back Ryan Knight of Riverside, Calif., and quarterback-defensive back Willie Peete of Kansas City, who will both enroll at Southern Cal. Knight once gained 501 yards in a single game this year. Some coaches believe Peete, a gifted all-around athlete who will probably be a No. 1 draft choice in baseball's June free agent draft, could play wide receiver for the NFL right away.

Nebraska, which came within a 2-point conversion of beating Miami in the Orange Bowl and winning the

national championship, thought two weeks ago it was poised to collect one of its best freshmen classes ever. "But it's been very devastating. It's been very devastating to our recruiting," Osborne called off an afternoon news conference to discuss the Husker signees, which nevertheless included some blue chip prospects, including Omaha running back Keith Jones, who broke Gale Sayers' high school records.

Three national stars who had indicated they would sign with Nebraska but changed their minds were defensive back Dante Wiley of Jeanette, Pa., wingback Tim Brown of Dallas and lineman John Frumgromer of Tampa, Fla.

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Penn State gets top recruits

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — "If geography is any indication, then Penn State enjoyed a solid year of recruiting high school football players to join the Nittany Lions."

Penn State looked far from campus yesterday in a single game this year. Some coaches believe Peete, a gifted all-around athlete who will probably be a No. 1 draft choice in baseball's June free agent draft, could play wide receiver for the NFL right away.

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Loss good for DePaul, Meyer says

CHICAGO (AP) — After 17 straight victories and gaining the nation's No. 2 ranking, DePaul basketball Coach Ray Meyer finally got what he wanted — the kind of thrashing that will bring a young squad back to earth.

"When you play like we did, there's no question you deserve to get beat," Meyer said yesterday, back on the practice floor one day after a 58-45 loss to St. Joseph's, Pa.

"But I think it's a relief to get it out of the way. A lot of the pressure is off our backs now."

"I'm guessing my players will listen to me a little closer

now," he continued, "and lose some of that 'cool' attitude we've been slipping into. We've been complacent our last couple games, not diving after the loose ball. And because we don't have a superstar to turn to when things get tight, if we don't scratch and fight every game, we're not going to win."

The Blue Demons' loss left only top-ranked North Carolina unbeatn among Division I schools. DePaul led 12-0 early, and Meyer called for a stall minutes later with a 16-10 lead, hoping to draw the Hawks out of their sagging zone defense.



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XIV Olympic Games officially begin

By D. BYRON YAKE
AP Sports Editor

SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia — Swathed in splendor, the XIV Olympic Winter Games officially opened yesterday.

In a ode to color, culture and tradition, the opening ceremonies began when 1,900 athletes from 49 countries marched in a magnificent procession to the sounds of pop and disco, to Beethoven, Mozart and Bach.

"They ended with Yugoslav youths from Army cadet schools, folk groups, high schools and ballet troupes bunched in a massive circle, bowing and waving, paying homage to the Olympic torch as it was lit in a huge bowl high above Kosovo Stadium. It is a flame for all to see, for all to know that the Olympic spirit burns in this city, in this independent Communist country, and that the Winter Games have begun."

The first medals came today, in the men's downhill, women's cross country and women's speed skating. The first runs in men's and women's luge will be held plus more hockey.

Six hockey games were played Tuesday prior to the official opening of the Games. The Americans, who had hoped to rekindle the gold fever from their miracle run at Lake Placid in 1980, lost an important game to Canada, 4-2, and now must second-seeded Czechoslovakia, which easily handied Norway, 10-4.

Another loss for the U.S. team, and the dream of a medal will most certainly die.

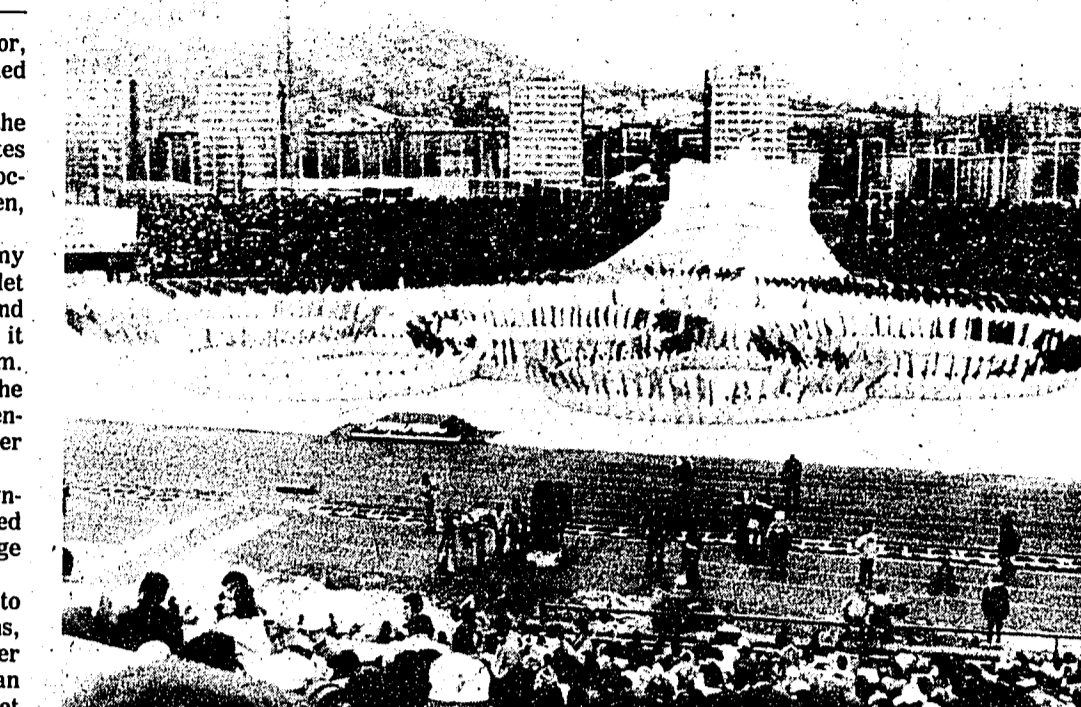
One of the Olympics' glamor events, the men's downhill, takes place at noon on the windy trails of Bjelasnica. It will bring the first gold medal to these Games.

Bill Johnson of Van Nuys, Calif., has been the surprise of the men's downhill trials and now has a chance for an even bigger prize.

Johnson won one trial and finished second twice, including the final trial yesterday. Swiss veteran Peter Mueller, who crashed here last season and suffered a neck and shoulder injury, does not appear quite the same, but he has won one training run and finished second in another and should give Johnson the most competition.

Others to watch include Pirmin Zurbriggen, a Swiss giant slalom expert who has never won a World Cup downhill but who has been consistently fast in training; Switzerland's Urs Raebler and Austria's Erwin Reesch, who rank 1-2 in this season's World Cup downhill standings, and the always-dangerous Franz Klammer of Austria, who won the gold medal in 1976. Klammer has had disappointing times in training, but he can never be counted out.

In yesterday's final men's training run, Anton Steiner clinched the fourth berth on the Austrian



Yugoslav dancers form the Olympic rings yesterday outside the Kosovo Stadium in Sarajevo during the opening ceremonies for the XIV Winter Olympic Games.

dowhill team with the day's fastest clocking — 1:49.16. Johnson was just two-hundredths of a second behind.

Third was Zurbriggen in 1:49.84, followed by Weirather in 1:50.17, Canada's Todd Brooker in 1:50.30 and Mueller in 1:50.34.

Steiner, 25, bested out Harti Weirather, the reigning World Cup downhill champion, for the final spot on the Austrian squad.

"I am sorry for Harti," Steiner said. "We're good friends, but that's the way it is in competition."

In the women's cross-country, Marja-Liisa Hamalainen of Finland, tops in her sport in the world last year, has the momentum to win three medals, in the 10-kilometer today, the 5-kilometer Sunday and the 20-kilometer, a new event, Feb. 18.

Only in the women's 4-by-5 kilometer relay next Wednesday does Hamalainen look to be in real trouble — and then only because her relay teammates don't figure to keep close enough to the Norwegians, Soviets and Czechs to allow her to use her devastating kick.

The United States, which is given virtually no chance of gaining a medal, will send out four runners — Patricia Ross, 24, of Cornwall, Vt., Sue

Speed skater Enke best bet Petreuska strong challenger

SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia (AP) — Karin Enke of East Germany is the favorite for the gold medal in the women's 1,500-meter speed skating race at the Winter Olympics today.

Enke, a 22-year-old from Dresden, holds the world record in the event at 2:03.0 seconds, more than half a second faster than the 2:04.04 by Soviet veteran Natalya Petreuska.

Petreuska, 29, the oldest of the top women competitors, is rated the strongest challenger to the 5-foot-9 East German, who turned to speed skating after she physically outgrew a figure skating career.

She won a gold medal in the 500-meter sprint at the Lake Placid Games four years ago but went for the longer distances in the meantime.

Behind these two, the bronze medal seems up for grabs between Olga Pechikova of the Soviet Union, Andrea Schoene of East Germany and Ria Visser of Holland, the top performer from any country outside the East bloc over this distance.

Visser's personal best are 2:07.06, with Schoene being on the books with 2:05.86 minutes and Pechikova with 2:04.98. Pechikova's time was achieved on the high-altitude rink at Alma Ata which is noted for its excellent conditions. Conditions at Sarajevo with its smoggy and moist air will most likely not allow for any World records.

The U.S. skaters are rated longshots. Mary Decker from Madison, Wisc., who placed 12th in the 1,500 meters at Lake Placid, has a best of 2:13.54, five-hundredths of a second better than Lydia Stephens of Northbrook, Ill., who comes to Sarajevo with a personal best of 2:13.59.

East Germans favored in luge

By ENRICO JACOMINI
AP Sports Writer

SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia — East German men and women were highly favored to take top honors in the Olympic luge competition, which starts at the Trebevic track outside Sarajevo today.

The East German women have dominated the trials every single day of the past week with Steffi Martin, Bettina Schmidt and Ute Weiss, showing tremendous consistency and depth.

The top Americans are Bonny Warner of Mount Baldy, Calif., and Frank Masley of Newark, Del. Neither is considered a top prospect for a medal.

Martin shattered the record for the women's course with a fantastic 40.66 seconds in the trials Tuesday and emerged as the No. 1 favorite for the gold medal. She has topped the trials every day since they started last week.

West Germans, Austrians and Russians were battling for positions behind the strong East German team, hoping to make their way to a medal.

Andrea Hattler of West Germany, whose best time trials was of 41.53, was the most consistent of the other competitors in the event.

Other leading medal prospects were Manfred Goehler of Austria, Monika Auer of Italy and the Russian trio of Ingera Amanotva, Natalya Lichitsa and defending Olympic champion Vera Zozoulyra.

The men's trials have been less lustrous, with Italians, Russians and Austrians fighting neck-and-neck with the East Germans.

Italian veteran Paul Hildgartner, a 31-year-old policeman who won the 1983 World Cup, has shattered the Trebevic track record on Monday with 45.68 seconds.

East Germany's Norbert Loch, however, has improved day after day and he led Tutaj's conclusive trials before the start of competition.

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