

### Lady harriers finish third

By JIM SAUNDERS  
Collegian Sports Writer

Encountering what will probably be its toughest competition of the regular season, the women's cross-country team again established itself as a national contender Saturday.

Freshman Stacy Prey, finishing sixth in a personal best 16:49, led the Lady Lions (67 points) to an impressive third-place finish on a sloppy course at the Annual Rutgers Invitational.

"I was pleased with (the time)," said Prey. "I run better in the rain sometimes."

Prey, who held the lead until about the halfway point, impressed Head Coach Teri Jordan.

"Stacy ran a brave race," Jordan said. "She was running against the best in the nation and she wasn't scared of anyone."

Ten 1984 All-Americans were featured in the meet, including runners from last season's national champions, Wisconsin, and North Carolina State, ranked fourth and fifth, respectively. Carolina State (29 points) won the meet and Wisconsin (33 points) finished second.

Also competing were teams from Maryland (157 points), University of Pennsylvania (168), Rutgers (169), New Hampshire (170), Princeton (212), Massachusetts (240), Fordham (281), Rhode Island (287), and Syracuse (359).

Other Lady Lions recording personal bests were Junior Lisa Ross (11th place; 17:32.3), freshman Amy Aston (13th place; 17:38.6), freshman Kathy Pitcher (17th place; 17:43.3), senior Kathy Kahn (19th place; 17:49.1), and Junior Holly Licht (23 place; 17:53.3).

Junior Anne Shafer (18:04) finished 24th in the field of 94 runners.

"I see this team as a 'top ten' nationally," said Jordan, whose 1984 squad finished No. 14 in the country.

Prey, who set a Penn State course record in her first collegiate meet and approached course records at Western Ontario and Rutgers, also feels that the team has potential.

"I think that we have a pretty good chance (at the top ten)," she said. "The team has all pulled together to help each other along."

Ross, who edged out the 1984 Eastern champion, Rutgers' Desiree Scott to capture 11th place, attributes much of the team's performance to morale.

"She (Jordan) got us really excited about this meet," she said.

The talent of the Lady Lions is not limited to seven runners. Penn State's "B-Team" shut out the competition with a perfect score of 25 in the Junior Varsity meet.

### Sponaugle, Steinberg pace netmen

By MIKE HOOVER  
Collegian Sports Writer

The men's tennis team used a combination of consistent doubles play and stellar singles performances by Lee Sponaugle and Adam Steinberg to capture two of three matches in Virginia this weekend.

Sponaugle and Steinberg completely dominated singles play by winning the 12 sets they played. Sponaugle and Steinberg had a composite score of 73-30 in set play.

The doubles squad assisted the Lions' by a solid performance throughout the weekend. Down 4-2 after singles play in the head competition with James Madison, the doubles swept the opposition to carry the team to a 5-4 victory.

"We can play the best doubles of any team in the country," Head Coach Holmes Cathrall said. "The kids did well. They hung together. I have a lot of confidence in them."

Traditional Penn State tennis nemesis West Virginia continued to pose some difficulties for the Lions. The Mountaineers led the squad 4-2 after singles competition. But the doubles squad made the opposition earn a team victory by engaging in fierce confrontation with all three matches going three sets. We can beat them just as easily as they can beat us," Cathrall said.

At the No. 1 doubles seed, Sponaugle and Oliver

Sebastian lost an all-out war with Gary Fry and John Moore 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (97 tiebreaker).

Marc Verebey and Dwayne Hultquist captured a victory at the No. 2 spot 7-6, 6-4, 6-2.

"We know what we have to do," Verebey said. "It is just a matter of executing our play. There are going to be times when I am down and Dwayne will pull me up and vice-versa. This is when we get rolling."

The No. 3 doubles match was characteristic of the tennis rivalry between the two schools as Scott Grebe and Bill Dollard lost 1-6, 7-6, 7-5 to Martin Unbeck and Ray Kurey of the Mountaineers.

The Lions' dominated singles play in the match with Virginia Commonwealth as they swept the opposition 7-0.

Sponaugle and Steinberg were impressive in singles play as they left Virginia 3-0 against the opposition.

Sponaugle easily defeated Rob Sheeks of West Virginia 6-4, 6-1; Gary Shendell of James Madison 6-1, 6-4; and Jan Herron of Virginia Commonwealth 7-5, 6-1.

"Lee was serving well," No. 2 doubles player Dwayne Hultquist said. "He controlled his matches with his serve. When he is serving well he is going to win."

Steinberg stymied the competition by allowing his opponents to win only 14 game victories out of the 36 he played.

"Adam and Lee got into their matches and did not let me bother them," Cathrall said. "I can't ask for any better from them. They did what they had to do."

### Netwomen remain undefeated

By MARY DEWEES  
Collegian Sports Writer

The women's tennis team (3-0) continued its domination as it returned from Lehigh University last Thursday with an 8-1 win.

The loss of the singles match was the Lady Lions' first in dual competition since they began their season on Sept. 20. After sweeping in the first set, No. 2 Tomi Walker lost in a three-

setter to Lehigh's Chris Yuraco, 6-0, 2-6, 6-7.

The remaining five singles players won in straight sets, making it difficult for Coach Jan Bortner to point to a single match as outstanding, although he said two victories in particular stood out from the rest.

"The most impressive winners were Pam Trafford and Amy Robinson," Bortner said.

No. 1 Trafford defeated Beth Dale, 6-1, 6-4, while No. 5 Robinson allowed her opponent only four games.

Freshman Darrell Adams made a successful debut at No. 3 singles, overcoming Lehigh's Donna Armenio, 6-2, 7-6.

At the other two singles positions, No. 4 Kelly Nelson cruised by Gail Brennan, 6-4, 6-2, and No. 6 Janet Whiteside followed suit.

The team will be in competition again tomorrow as it visits Swarthmore.

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### Niekro defeats Jays for 300th victory

By CHARLES CAMPBELL  
Associated Press Writer

TORONTO — Phil Niekro, whose fluttering knuckleball brought his first 299 major league wins and the nickname "Knuckie," put his bread-and-butter pitch aside to go for his landmark 300th victory yesterday on the last day of the 1985 season.

So it was with an assortment of screwballs, "dead-fish" fastballs, slip-pitches, curves and the occasional fastball away that Niekro led the New York Yankees to an 8-0 pasting of the American League East champion Toronto Blue Jays.

It was only with two out in the ninth inning, a runner on second and slugger Jeff Burroughs at the plate that Niekro went back to three straight knucklers and struck his former teammate out swinging to end the game.

Niekro's Yankee mates — led by his brother Joe, also a knuckleball pitcher, rushed to the mound to congratulate him, as a Toronto crowd of more than 44,000 rose with a warm ovation.

"I always wanted to pitch a game without throwing a knuckleball," said Niekro, who finished the season with a 16-12 record. "A lot of people thought I couldn't get people out without the knuckleball."

He certainly proved that he could, in the process becoming at it the oldest player to pitch a major league shutout.

Niekro gave up just four hits and three walks, along with four strikeouts to move past Ferguson Jenkins



Phil Niekro, second from left, is congratulated by his teammates after beating the Toronto Blue Jays 8-0 for his 300th career victory. The 46-year-old Niekro became the oldest player to win his 300th game and pitch a shutout.

into seventh place on the all-time strikeout list with 3,195.

Niekro said the highlight of his day wasn't the baseball game, but when Joe gave him good news about their 72-year-old father, Phil Niekro Sr., who is severely ill in a hospital in Wheeling, W.Va., with internal bleeding.

"The nicest feeling of the whole day is when Joe told me right after I came off the mound that they took my father out of intensive care this morning," Niekro said.

"I'm going to take him my hat and give him the baseball," Phil said.

Joe Niekro also stepped in as warm-up catcher before the ninth

inning, and visited the mound when Burroughs was batting to see if his brother wanted to consider an intentional walk. Joe also had planned to pitch in relief, if Phil had not been going for the shutout.

"I just wanted to be a part of it," the younger Niekro said.

After clinching the division championship with a victory over the Yankees on Saturday, the Blue Jays rested all their regulars except second-baseman Damaso Garcia, playing a line-up of second-stringers.

"I don't feel bad about that. Those guys are professional ballplayers," Niekro said. But he said he would have gladly "traded it in

for a game that meant something for the pennant race."

Both Joe and Phil become free agents this winter, and speculation has both possibly heading back to Atlanta, with Phil perhaps managing the Braves as well as pitching.

"I'm a free agent, Joe's a free agent, there's 26 teams out there," Phil Niekro said, refusing to speculate about where they would end up. But he said he is not ready to hang up his glove and spikes.

"I don't see any reason I can't pitch next year," Niekro said. "I win 16 ball games, it's tough to say you're done, you're through. Mentally I feel fine, physically I feel fine."

### Tanner's future up in air

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Manager Chuck Tanner's future with the Pittsburgh Pirates apparently will be decided in meetings today and tomorrow, Pirates interim General Manager Joe L. Brown said yesterday.

Brown, on his weekly KDKA radio show, said the Pirates' new ownership cannot wait until a new general manager is hired before deciding Tanner's fate.

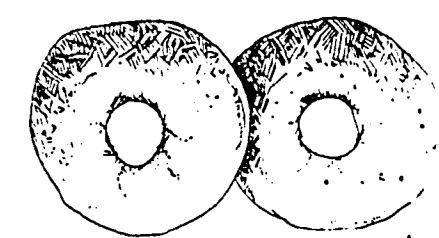
"I think Chuck thought he was out, but (Pirates incoming President Malcolm) 'Mac' Prime told him (Saturday) that nothing was final until

Chuck heard it from him," Brown said.

Prime, the chairman of Ryan Homes Inc., was introduced at a news conference last week as the Pirates' new president and chief executive officer, pending the sale of the team to a public-private partnership called Pittsburgh Baseball Inc. for \$22 million.

Prime said at the news conference that it would be up to the new general manager to choose the manager and that it could take up to several months for a new general manager to be hired.

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