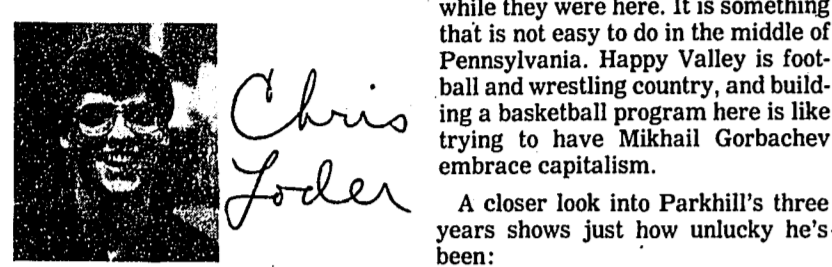


# Despite record, Parkhill a winner

Winning. It's one of the most powerful ingredients in our everyday diet. Everything we do revolves around who wins and who loses. It has become a national obsession.

When you think of winners, you think of Lee Iacocca, Dean Smith, the New York Yankees and the Boston Celtics.

When you think of losers, Walter Mondale, Northwestern football, the New Orleans Saints and Charlie Brown come to mind.



For some, winning is natural; it comes as easy as tying a shoe or riding a bicycle. For others, the ability to win becomes a constant battle of futility. No matter what they do, some people simply do not know how to win.

Losing is not fun. No one has ever gained anything from losing and contrary to popular belief, coaches and players do not accept "moral victories" as excuses for losing.

Losing, however, does not reflect the character of a man. Since he was named the head coach of the men's basketball team on April 10, 1983, Bruce Parkhill has had a tough time winning. In his three years at Happy Valley, Parkhill has posted a 21-51 record.

His record does not indicate his personality. After building a winning program at William and Mary, Park-

hill has tried to do the same with Penn State, but with no luck. He has faced circumstances out of his control, and while the final responsibility rests with him, Parkhill has shown grace, class and patience in the wake of adversity. He's the kind of leader a young, up-and-coming basketball program needs.

What he has tried to do is build a basketball program at Penn State, something current National Basketball Association coaches John Bach and Dick Harter had trouble doing while they were here. It is something that is not easy to do in the middle of Pennsylvania. Happy Valley is football and wrestling country, and building a basketball program here is like trying to have Mikhail Gorbachev embrace capitalism.

A closer look into Parkhill's three years shows just how unlucky he's been:

**Year 1 . . . 1983-84:** Penn State is coming off a 17-11 season that included a win over Maryland. The Lions go 5-6 to start the season and have a three-game winning streak when they travel to Rhode Island. The 94-98 loss to the Rams ignites a 17-game losing streak. Penn State lost one of its co-captains, Wally Chisholm, for most of February and finish with an abysmal 5-22 record.

**Year 2 . . . 1984-85:** Before the season begins, Parkhill loses a top player in Marshall Grier, who leaves State College and transfers to Rider. Penn State upsets Navy 66-63 and plays hard in a loss to DuPont before a packed Rec Hall. After the game, however, the team's leading scorer, Terry Graves, is ruled academically ineligible. Also, a top recruit, Troy Daniel of Philadelphia, leaves the team and heads back home. The Lions trail in the Atlantic 10 and finish 8-13.

**Year 3 . . . The Present:** After losing their two leading scorers (Craig Collins and Dwight Gibson) to graduation, the Lions begin the season with five freshmen, three walk-ons and no seniors. After a season-opening win over Lock Haven, the Lions suffer back-to-back losses to Navy and Oklahoma. Penn State rebounds, and buoyed by a win at Rutgers, bolts out to a 7-4 record. In a matter of eight days, the Lions lose four starting players: two to injuries, one to homesickness, and one to bad grades. The Lions lose six out of their next seven games and currently are 8-10 on the year.

Bruce Parkhill is a class individual. He is a widely respected coach and tactician who has gained the praise of many of his peers, most notably Jim O'Brien of St. Bonaventure, John Chaney of Temple and Gale Catlett of West Virginia. But as Chaney put it after his team wallowed Penn State 76-36 last week: "It doesn't matter how good a coach you are, you have to get players. Coaching ain't worth a damn without players. (Parkhill's) got to get some horses, that's all there's to it."

Chaney's right. Parkhill does believe a big-time basketball program can exist at Penn State, but he needs the thoroughbreds to do so. If Parkhill can turn it around, and he'll be capable of doing so, then he will be the biggest miracle worker since Annie Sullivan.

He's probably two years away. Chris Loder is a senior majoring in Journalism and a sports writer for The Daily Collegian.

# Mahoney answers swimmer

By MARY DEWEES  
Collegian Sports Writer

He's been described as level-headed but moody, but also excitable. He's a man who may be small in stature but can tip the scales when it comes to talent. Who is this enigma? — His name is Jay Mahoney.

The members of the men's swimming and diving team are very familiar with the riddle Mahoney poses. They have been trying to solve it since he came to the team four years ago. The thin senior also puzzles his opponents, with his on-again-off-again performances during the season and his sizzling end-of-season swims.

"You never can tell how Jay's going to swim at the end of the year during the season," said fellow senior Guy Del Franco. "You have no idea of how good he can do until the end of the season."

"I'm doing much better than I have in the past, but the freshman that are coming in are so much better than I've seen here in the past," he said. "The fact that there are people on the team who can go fast the whole year keeps me going. It keeps all of us on our toes."

"I never really thought about being captain at any point in time, I always looked up to them," he said. "It's a great honor. I don't feel like I'm overpowering, but in the same respect I think it's really neat that you have people all around you that you really like, and you really like to be around."

One reason for the liking and respect that seems to follow in Mahoney's footsteps is because his ears are always open to the younger swimmers, senior Joe Thier said.

"I think they look up to him," he said. "They feel they can come and talk to him about anything. He's very easy to talk to."

He may be easy to talk to, but one thing he doesn't like to talk about is his skill. Although he may not like to talk about it, his skill may very well carry him into the National Collegiate Athletic Association championships this April, Brown said.

"He's not a very big guy, but he's got a lot of talent," Brown said. "He probably has as good a chance as anybody to make it to NCAA's this year."

said Coach Peter Brown. "I think he's pretty pleased with where he's at right now."

Mahoney is pleased with his improvement over the past year, although he gives much of the credit for it to the competition in France. He feels the added competitiveness is the result of a very strong freshman class.

"The fact that there are people on the team who can go fast the whole year keeps me going. It keeps all of us on our toes."

— Jay Mahoney, Lion swimmer

**'You never can tell how Jay's going to swim at the end of the year during the season. You have no idea of how good he can do until the end of the season.'**

— Guy Del Franco, Lion swimmer

# Gymnasts seek potential; held back by injuries

By KELLY LANOUA  
Collegian Sports Writer

It is not a sport where a 250-pound linebacker throws his body on top of an opponent. It is not a sport where an opposing player checks the enemy into the boards to get to the puck. And it is not the kind of sport where there are 20 men on the field and someone is bound to trip over 40 other feet. Those are sports where injury is almost expected.

But gymnastics is not a dangerous contact sport. It is a graceful, artistic sport where no one is there to beat on the performer's body.

These are the thoughts of someone who had not taken a recent visit to White Building to watch the men's gymnastics team practice. On the 12-man team, there is not one gymnast who is suffering from at least one injury.

Many are the kind of injuries that are not extremely serious but can cause enormous amounts of pain and discomfort. They're the kind of injury that won't go away and the gymnast has to learn to overlook it and go on performing.

"You can imagine the beating their bodies take," Laurie Bittling, a student athletic trainer said. "They're doing some drastic things with their bodies. It's just that against the equipment and themselves. As far as non-contact sports go, gymnastics ranks as one of the highest with injuries."

"Most gymnastic injuries are from continuous stress," trainer Angela Carlson said. "They're a lot of chronic problems in areas such as the shoulders, forearms, shins, fingers and ankles. Most are caused by improper conditioning or improper mechanics."

Carlson said the men's gymnastics program has the coverage of a certi-



Penn State's Mario Gonzalez performs on the high bar during a dual meet with Japan last season in Rec Hall. Gonzalez is undergoing rehabilitation for the

knee he injured last year and is just one of the many injured members of the team.

ified athletic trainer and a student assistant trainer at every practice. It is considered a high-risk sport by the University and care is taken to provide the gymnasts with the best possible medical attention.

Cocaptain Mario Gonzalez has been under the care of the team physician and trainers since last March. He underwent knee surgery after suffering an injury in a meet with Iowa. An individualized rehabilitation program has been developed for Gonzalez and he works with the training staff on a daily basis.

"As soon as I had the cast on, I started working on tightening up my quads," Gonzalez said. "Every two weeks, the trainers added new exercises to my workout. I started off with leg lifts and range of motion exercises in up-and-down directions to keep my leg muscles from atrophying. Then as my knee became stronger, I started with the weights and the resistance machines."

While undergoing therapy, Gonzalez improved his cardiovascular fitness by developing a program individualized for Laux's injury.

Laux works on a fitness bike to maintain his cardio-vascular level while he is away from the equipment. He also uses manual resistance exercises for his upper arms, legs and ankles.

"It's been hard the last two weeks," Laux said, "Because my

arm has been so swollen. But I've been working on my stretching and flexibility because that's an area where I need work. And I have time to work on that now."

Carlson said that in addition to the cardio-vascular work and the resistance exercises, it is important to prevent the gymnast from gaining weight while he is unable to practice on a daily basis.

"I feel like I'm keeping up with myself regularly," he added. "I've had to watch what I eat because I'm not burning it off working out. I've been trying to keep up my physical strength while cutting my calories."

Laux said that the most difficult thing about being injured is the fact of the team competing. "It gets really frustrating," he said. "At first, you're real up to get better because you want to get back in there. But then you have to keep your head up and not get defeated. You feel like you're missing out on all of it."

"It makes me more hungry for this time off. 'I always have the routines in my head that I want to do when I get back in the gym. When the team competes, I feel the nerves when I watch. But until I can compete again, I do a lot of imagery.'"

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