

## Gymmen win Open with record score

By MEGAN CULHANE  
Collegian Sports Writer

Relying on experience and high hopes for another chance at Nationals, the men's gymnastics team won the Farmingdale Open this weekend with a record-breaking combined score of 275.90.

Finishing behind Penn State were Temple and Southern Connecticut with scores of 238.40 and 238.65, respectively.

The team was led by Penn State's Karl Schier, who entered the meet with slight injuries to both his shoulder and ankle, won the all-around competition with a score of 108.60.

"I just tried to conserve my energy in warm-ups," Gonzalez said. "I was just basically feeling around to see what would hurt and what wouldn't."

"The team showed good confidence and with more practice we'll be looking really good. This meet was mainly to see what we could do."

Schier said that Gonzalez' outstanding score automatically qualifies him for the USA Championships in the summer.

Jon Shelley claimed the second place spot with a score of 107.80. The senior all-arounder said the team's desire for a national title is strong and the combination of experience and conditioning will determine the final outcome.

"I think these wins boosted our confidence because we've never been this good this early in the season," Shelley said. "Everyone is searching for Nationals. We are going to play it easy, but base ourselves on experience. Last year NCAAs were a big letdown. I think we are hungrier this year."

Schier said he was very pleased with the outcome of the meet.

## Swimwomen dominate, sweep Pitt Invite

By JOSEPH HAAS  
Collegian Sports Writer

The women's swimming and diving team completed a weekend sweep by winning the Pitt Invitational on Saturday.

With 846 points, the Lady Lions (5-0) had a comfortable margin of victory. Pitt finished second with 628 points, followed by Miami of Ohio (562), West Virginia (511), Virginia Tech (419) and St. Bonaventure (170).

The key to the Lady Lions' victory was depth. Although the team collected only five first place finishes, it placed at least four people in the scoring in each event.

The team was led by freshman Alisa Hess, who swam nine total events, winning two and placing second in three. She scored points in all nine races.

"Alisa Hess did an outstanding job," Head Coach Bob Krimmel said. "If you had to pick a workhorse for the team, it would be her. You could swim unlimited events and these were things she wanted to do."

Over the span of two busy days, Hess won the 1500-yard (one mile) freestyle in 17:07.72 and the 500-yard freestyle in 5:00.03. She also took second in the 200-yard backstroke, the 200-yard butterfly and 400-yard individual medley.

Another standout for Penn State was sophomore Kristen Elias. She won the 200-yard butterfly in 2:03.51 and joined Erin Dittmar, Kathy Zoranski and Denise Sonntag to win the 800-yard freestyle relay in 7:40.53. Elias also placed second in the 100-yard butterfly and third in the 200-yard individual medley.

Sonntag and Zoranski also distinguished themselves as usual. In addition to the 800-free relay, Sonntag, a freshman, won the 200-yard freestyle in 1:53.29, while Zoranski, a junior, took second in the 100-yard freestyle and the 200-yard individual medley and third in the 100-yard butterfly.

Freshman Christy Johnson, who is just returning to form after a shoulder injury, took second place in the 1500-free and first in the 500-free.

## Despite loss, swimmen pleased with effort

By DANA PENNETT  
Collegian Staff Writer

Sometimes a final score doesn't reflect how well a team really performs. Such was the case this weekend for the men's swimming team in its meet against Princeton.

The final tally showed Princeton the victor by a score of 76-37. However, Penn State Head Coach Peter Brown wasn't displeased with the Lions' performance, considering the calibre of Princeton's team.

"This is probably Princeton's best team ever," he said. "Last year they were ranked 20th in the nation, and this year's team is better than that team."

Moreover, Princeton's team is composed mostly of seniors, while Penn State's team is relatively young. Nonetheless, the Lions still put up a strong fight, Brown said.

"Overall I was pleased with our performance," he said. "We swam well, (but) they just swam exceptionally well."

Princeton also had a 20-game win streak to protect going into this meet, which turned the Tigers even more determined.

Three Penn State swimmers turned in extremely good times. Sophomore Mike Mikus won the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 46.8 and Eric Bescher was victorious in the 200-yard freestyle in 1:42.30. Another Lion with an great day was sophomore Dave Rafferty. Rafferty won the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 1:52.1 which, according to Brown, is one of the best times in the East.

Krimmel hopes this strong showing is an indication of what the future holds.

"It was her first big swimming performance," he said. "It was a big beginning for her."

One area where the Lady Lions were a little short-handed was in the breaststroke. The team's top breaststroke, Kathleen Dick, left Pittsburgh after Thursday's meet to participate in the U.S. Open in Florida. The responsibility for the Invitational was left to the quartet of Theresa Finn, Marianne Quinn, Nancy Foley and Mandy Thompson. They answered the challenge by scoring four places in both the 100 and 200-yard breaststrokes.

Finn, a senior co-captain, was especially successful. She finished second in the 200 and fourth in the 100 and added another second place in the 400-yard individual medley.

Now the team looks ahead to Princeton (at the Nat Dec. 13 at 1 p.m.) before finals and a well deserved Christmas vacation. Krimmel said the team will use this weekend as a springboard for continued success.

Brown said the meet would benefit the Lions for the remainder of the season.

"Since Princeton is such a good team it was good for us to get this kind of experience early in the season," he said. "It should help us to compete better with other teams. Also, we will meet Princeton again later this year, so we now know what to expect."

The squad's next meet isn't until January, so the Lions will concentrate for the moment on practicing hard. Although Brown feels that the team is right where it should be, he contends it has a lot of practice to do over the break.

"We will be traveling to Florida at the end of December for some heavy practicing," he says. "Hopefully, we'll be able to improve on our times, so that our second half of the season will be stronger."

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