

Trackmen enjoy sun, wins at weekend competition

By STACEY JACOBSON
Collegian Sports Writer

The two sunny days that the men's track team spent this weekend at the Dogwood Relays in Knoxville, Tenn. weren't exactly a vacation, although the squad did come home with some souvenirs. No, the Lions didn't return with snapshots, postcards or t-shirts, but instead they got several top-place finishes against some of the best competition in the nation.

"It was our first big outdoor meet and anything you win is really good," tri-captain Chris Green said. Fortunately though, the Lions didn't have to settle for just anything, as they compiled a first place, three second place and two third place finishes.

On the first day, they captured their only first in a 4 x 800-meter relay. It was the third consecutive time Penn State has claimed that honor at the Dogwoods and according to Head Coach Harry Groves, his team leads the nation in that event.

The team of Steve Balkey, Mark Anderson, Chris Mills and Ray Levine sped to a 7:19.71 finish followed by Indiana at 7:20.75.

"I was the first runner and when I handed off we were barely in first," Balkey said. "I was just leaning on my hand and out-kicked him in the last couple of meters."

The Lions' next spot in the winner's bracket was a 57.99 second place finish in the 4 x 100 shuttle hurdle relay. Green, Mark Saunders, Sam Harris and Michael Timpony made the team that was surpassed only by Pitt (56.18). Still, losing to the Panthers is no disgrace.

"Pitt is extremely good in this event and even in getting beat we still ran a good time," Groves said.

Also on the first day, Lion C. J. Hunter registered a fourth place finish in the shot-put.

Events at the Dogwoods came in two categories: an

invitational, which featured mostly college athletes, and an open division. In the open 200-meter dash, Timpony placed second and qualified for the NCAA meet with a time of 20.66. Timpony crossed the tape a split second behind Albert Robinson of the Indiana Track Club.

"Those two guys will probably be 1 and 2 in the nation," Groves said. "Michael ran an exceptional race, (Robinson) came on hard to nip him at the end. The difference in the finishes was a blink of an eye."

Timpony wasn't the only second place finisher of the day, as the 4 x 1,600-meter relay team of Tom Gough, Doug Walter, Dave McMillan and Eric Carter also snagged a runner-up position. They finished in 15:37.69 behind Indiana, which ran 15:34.41.

Later in the meet, Penn State placed third in the distance medley with a 9:41.51. Chris Mills ran the 1,200-meter leg, Dave Massey and Levine the 800-meter legs, and Balkey ran the 1,600-meters.

"The race was run at the time of day when the temperature is high and although it wasn't that fast time-wise, it was a competitive race," Groves said.

The final relay, the sprint medley relay, gave the Lions a third place to add to their collection. The team of Barney Barronero, Shaun King, Joel Coleman and Levine ran the race in 15:37.69.

"Since it was the final race the guys were beginning to slow, the wear of the meet was catching up to them," Groves said.

Also on Saturday, in the steeplechase, Brian Laird hurled to a seventh place finish for the Lions.

Overall, tri-captain Levine was pleased with his team's performance.

"Everybody is running really well and it's still early," he said. "They're all pretty much on top of it."

Penn State will host the Nittany Lion Relays this weekend.

Reds' talent leads to fast start

By TOM SALADINO
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA — Dave Parker looks at his Cincinnati teammates and sees a lot of young talent fighting for a spot on the field — "which is a great problem to have."

"These battles have propelled the Reds to a fast start and early talk of a division championship."

"We've got guys here sitting on the bench who could be starting somewhere else," Parker said. "But hopefully, we'll keep them here and win the West."

The Reds have won six of their first seven games, including last night's 6-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

The quick start is in contrast to a year ago, when Cincinnati opened with a 5-16 record and ended 10 games shy of Western Division champion Houston.

"We lost the little last year with the bad start," Parker said, "so we wanted to get off to a good start this year."

And the Reds have, keyed by the hitting of youngsters such as center fielder Eric Davis, left fielders Kal Daniels and Tracy Jones, shortstops Barry Larkin and Kurt Stillwell, and the timely hitting of veterans Parker, Buddy Bell, Bo Diaz, Terry Francona and Dave Concepcion.

Davis, the Reds' fleet center fielder, raised his average Monday from .440 to .447 with three hits and the game-winning RBI.

"Tracy got three hits and Kal has five extra-base hits in his first five games," Manager Pete Rose said.

"Terry and Davey have been doing a good job, and Larkin was hitting until he got hurt and Stillwell replaced him and got two," Rose said. "Bell has also been hitting well and Diaz is close to leading the league in RBIs."

"They're tough and they're deep," said Atlanta Manager Chuck Tanner, shaking his head in admiration. "But I look them about five years. We're going through that process right now. We've got some good ones in Triple A and Double-A. It won't be long until we've got them just like the Reds do now."

Rose thinks the Reds are ready to challenge for the National League title.

"We're a lot more grown up this year. We were ready in spring training," he said. "We were 14-3 in our first 17 spring games and we're not doing anything but now."



Cincinnati Reds manager Pete Rose has a hard time to smile about recently, as his Reds are off to a strong start in the National League West.

Daniels and Francona play against right-handed pitcher Jones and Concepcion watch. Larkin plays regularly, while Stillwell sits. And keeping the bench warm are youngsters Lloyd McClendon and Paul O'Neill.

"It doesn't matter to me who plays as long as we win. Whether it's Kal or Tracy, Stillwell or Larkin, Davey or Terry," Rose said.

"Everyone is starting to accept their role. I'm not playing favorites. I'm playing to win ball games. Some guys may not like it, but that's OK as long as they perform on the field," he said.

They have worked for the first week of the season.

Lady golfers take fourth place at warm weekend invitational

By ADAM T. GUSDORFF
Collegian Sports Writer

The weather was finally kind to the women's golf team. The invitational was held in the mid-70s and the wind was hardly a factor as the Lady Lions finished fourth in a 10-hole field at the Seahawk/Azalea Invitational in Wilmington, N.C., last weekend.

The squad, who was playing the course for the first time, got off to a slow start during the first round on Friday, shooting a 39. But it got a feel for the course and came on during the second and third days, shooting 35 and 32, respectively.

"The girls played well, improving each day," Head Coach Mary Kennedy said. "They had fun, and are beginning to feel as though they can win. They are approaching the next tournament with better self-confidence."

The tournament was won by host University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Longwood College placed second, and William & Mary, which will host the squad's next tournament, finished third.

"There's no difference between the top three teams and us," Kennedy said. "We've beaten all three before. We just got off to a slow start this weekend."

The Lady Lions were paced by Judy Harpster, who shot a 236 en route to placing seventh overall in individual competition, 12 strokes behind the winning 224 turned in by UNC-W's Paige Cribb.

For Penn State, Harpster was followed by Valerie Krick (246), Erin Rowland (248), and Susan Highchurch (252).

"I'm very proud of her," Kennedy said of Harpster. "She played excellent. The tournament was won by host University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Longwood College placed second, and William & Mary, which will host the squad's next tournament, finished third.

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