

Postmaster general responds to critic

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Postmaster General Preston R. Tisch is taking Federal Trade Commission Chairman Daniel Oliver to task for criticizing the Postal Service.

Oliver wrote Tisch on May 15, contending that "postal service is bad and customers are unhappy" and urging an end to the Postal Service's monopoly.

Tisch responded in a letter Tuesday, telling Oliver that he "is flat out wrong" about the quality of service and the feelings of mailers.

The American public is receiving better mail service than ever before and "the gib reference to 'unhappy customers' is miles off the mark," Tisch said.

Oliver, an advocate of competition in most matters, believes that the American public would be better off if it had a choice of ways to get letters delivered.

In areas where competition is allowed, such as parcel post and overnight delivery, service has improved, Oliver said. He contended that "private companies have offered consistently better service to the American people."

So, he wrote, the public deserves the liberty to choose among competitive letter delivery services alike.

Tisch disagreed.

Several studies and polls have found the public to be satisfied with postal service, with between 74 percent and 86 percent of the public holding favorable views of his agency, the postmaster general wrote.

The laws giving the service a monopoly on letter delivery protect the agency's income, so that it can provide service in all areas — city and rural — without huge government subsidies, Tisch said.

While the laws do limit the choices of the public and business mailing letters, the benefits outweigh those costs, he added.

Spain's Socialists strong in polls

By FRANCISCO CONDE
Associated Press Writer

MADRID, Spain — The governing Socialists were winning about half the seats in Wednesday's elections for the European Parliament, but results came in slowly from the votes for city governments and regional legislatures.

Months of labor unrest over economic policy and rising unemployment were expected to hurt Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in the local and regional contests, but his Socialists were expected to remain the dominant party.

With more than two-thirds of the European Parliament vote counted, the prime minister's Socialists had 39.4 percent and had won 28 of the 60 seats.

Spain's second-largest party, the conservative Popular Alliance, had 24 percent and 17 seats; Deputy Prime Minister Alfonso Guerra told reporters at the Interior Ministry election center.

The Democratic Social Center of former Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez had won six seats and 9.7 percent of the vote. The Communist coalition United Left was expected to win three seats and the conservative Catalan nationalist coalition two.

Guerra said no significant results were in from balloting for 70,000 places in 3,000 municipal governments and 779 seats in 13 of the 17 regional legislatures.

The European Parliament elections were the first since Spain entered the European Economic Community Jan. 1, 1986.

Government officials in Madrid and Barcelona said voter turnout appeared greater than in the last local elections in May 1983, when an estimated 30 percent of eligible voters cast ballots.

The nation's 150,000 policemen were on alert and no major incidents were reported.

Opinion surveys published last week indicated the Socialists would remain Spain's dominant political force but could lose considerable support.

They control 11 of the 13 parliaments being elected Wednesday, one of the four others and 32 of Spain's 52 largest cities.

Among the first to vote Wednesday were Gonzalez, 45, and his wife, Carmen Romero, who cast their ballots at a primary school in Madrid.

Gonzalez would not respond to reporters' questions on published polls indicating his party could lose majorities in several large cities and regional parliaments.

In the 1983 elections, the Socialists won 43 percent of the vote.

Legislative elections in Andalusia, Catalonia, Galicia and the Basque Country are to be held over the next three years. The Socialists control the parliament of Andalusia, the prime minister's home region.

Recent polls indicate the largest opposition party, the conservative Popular Alliance, led by new party chief Antonio Hernandez Mancha, could fall below the 26 percent of the vote won in 1983, but would remain Spain's second-largest political party.

Polls also indicated the chief beneficiary of votes lost by both the Socialists and the conservatives would be the centrist Democratic Social Center led by Suarez, 54.

In 1983, Suarez's party got less than 2 percent of the vote. But the party was expected to win more than 12 percent Wednesday and become a power broker in many city halls and regional parliaments.

It was expected to become the third largest party, overtaking the communist United Left.

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Penn State's Chris Chase spikes a ball during a game against East Stroudsburg earlier this season.

Spikers place third at NCAAs

By ROBERT WILLIAMS
Collegian Sports Writer

The men's volleyball team was on a roll. The Lions had just dominated the University of Southern California, 15-5, in game three to take a two-games-to-one lead in their best-of-five semi-final match of the NCAA Tournament May 1.

But Penn State's road to a national championship came to a screeching halt that night in UCLA's Pauley Pavilion. USC stormed back to take games four and five, the match, and the Lions' dream of a title with a 15-12, 9-15, 5-15, 15-12, 15-9 come-from-behind victory.

"We had taken control of the match (in the third game)," Head Coach Tom Tait said. "I really think we should have won it, but in the fourth ball game we came out with a little less intensity than we had in the previous three games and allowed them to kind of work their way back into the flow."

USC never got into the flow in its Championship match with UCLA, though, as the Bruins swept the Trojans 15-12, 15-2, 16-14, to win their 12th NCAA title in 25 years.

Tait said that if his team had executed better in several crucial situations in games four and five of the semi-finals, it very easily could have been his squad that battled UCLA for the title.

"I think the thing that really hurt us badly in that match," Tait said, "was that there were a couple of critical times in both the fourth and fifth games when we really needed to win a critical point or a critical sidout with some aggressive play and we didn't get the aggressive play we needed."

"It certainly was within our reach and I think we should have gone out and taken it from them, but we didn't. We allowed them to get back into it, and once they got back into it, their outside hitters that we had controlled fairly well through the match really got hot and began to put some balls away on the outside."

Perhaps having learned a lesson about letting up, the Lions never let Ohio State into the third-place match, sweeping the Buckeyes 15-3, 15-6, 15-6. Tait said that his squad played excellent ball in the contest, and that defensively Penn State played better than it had in the second half of the semi-final match.

"I was very pleased with the way we came back," Tait said. "Obviously the whole team was extremely disappointed and very much down after the semi-final loss, but we focused in the locker room after that on the third-place match and the first step towards winning the national championship next year."

"And this business about a national championship is not just idle talk from Tait, who led his squad to its second-straight first-place finish in 1986 and fifth in seven years. Penn State will be without senior outside hitter Jose Rubayo next year, but he was the only starter the Lions lost to graduation.

Please see SPIKERS, Page 18.

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NHL awards Hextall and Poulin

TORONTO (AP) — Wayne Gretzky of the Edmonton Oilers won the Hart Trophy, given to the NHL's Most Valuable Player, for a record eighth consecutive time at the league's annual awards ceremony last night.

Gretzky's competition was defenseman Ray Bourque of the Boston Bruins and goaltender Mike Liut of the Hartford Whalers.

Liut also a finalist in the race for the Vezina Trophy, given to the league's top goaltender, lost to Philadelphia's Ron Hextall, who won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the MVP of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Gretzky, who has won the award in each of his eight NHL seasons, led the league in scoring for the seventh consecutive time with 62 goals and 121 assists for 183 points. It marked the sixth consecutive season he has scored 150-or-more points.

Dave Poulin of the Flyers won the Selke Trophy as the NHL's best defenseman.

Poulin, who had 25 goals and 70 points in 75 games, beat center Guy Carbonneau of the Montreal Canadiens and Bobby Gould of the Capitals.

Gretzky also added his fifth Lester B. Pearson Award to his list of achievements earlier this week. The award is for the NHL's outstanding player as selected by members of the league's player association.

Bourque, who led the Bruins in scoring with 59 points, won the Norris Trophy as the NHL's top defenseman.

Bourque, the first Bruin to win the award since Bobby Orr in 1975, beat out Mark Howe of the Philadelphia Flyers and Larry Murphy of the Washington Capitals for the award. He also won the Calder Trophy as the NHL's top rookie in 1986.

Hextall, a rookie, led the NHL in minutes played, save percentage and wins while compiling a 3.00 goals-against average.

Edmonton's Grant Fuhr and Liut also were finalists for the Vezina, which was determined by a vote of the league's general managers.

Hextall lost out on a third award when Los Angeles Kings' forward Luc Robitaille won the Calder Trophy as the league's top rookie. Robitaille finished his first NHL season with 45 goals and 84 points. He beat out Hextall and teammate Jimmy Carson.

No. 1



Penn State's Anna Marie Vesco tries to gain possession of the ball in a game earlier this season against James Madison.

Lady laxers win national title

By DAVE SOTTILE
Collegian Sports Writer

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — When looking back at 1987, Penn State sports fans will have a lot to be proud of.

The school notched its first national championship of the year when the underdog football team completed its undefeated season with a 14-0 win over Miami in one of the most talked about games of the century.

But that wasn't enough.

While it didn't compete for the crown in front of an audience of over 70 million, the women's lacrosse team garnered an NCAA title of its own. The Lady Lions captured the championship with a hard-fought 7-6 win over previously undefeated and top-ranked Temple at the University of Maryland on May 16.

Both Stokes and Tami Worley pumped in three goals each, while defender Chris Vitale held Temple All-American Gail Cummings — who entered the game with 86 goals — to just two scores.

The championship was the first NCAA title for the Lady Lions, however, Penn State won three straight United States Women's Lacrosse Association titles from 1978 to 1980.

By winning the game at Byrd Stadium, the Lady Lions snapped a two-year jinx, in which they were twice knocked out of the tourney on the Terps' home field. In 1985 Maryland beat Penn State 12-11 in triple overtime in the semi-finals, and last year the Terps beat the Lady Lions 11-10 in the championship game.

After working through the regular season with a perfect 16-0 record, including a 10-7 win at Penn State on April 1, Temple just couldn't get possession of the ball late in the game, as the Lady Lions — who finished the season with a 17-2 mark — milked the clock with a slim one-goal lead.

Worley took a pass from former high school teammate Mary Ann Foley and beat Temple goalie Chrissy Muller with 15:39 left in the game to give Penn State a seemingly safe 7-3 lead. However, the Lady Owls' Aamina Thornton replied in kind 54 seconds later, blowing a shot past Penn State netminder Sue Sommers on a free position to cut the lead to three.

Please see LADY LAXERS, Page 24.

Trackmen first at IC4As

By STACEY JACOBSON
Collegian Sports Writer

In the sport of track, individual excellence is necessary for the team score. But which is more important, individual achievements or success for the team? Fortunately for the men's track team, it didn't have to be satisfied with one or the other. It got both — an ICA title and four All-Americans.

The accomplishments of Penn State's All-Americans — Steve Balkey, Eric Carter, Ray Levine and Dave Masagy, proved that they are among the best in the nation in their events. And when the Lions captured the ICA title, they placed the whole team in that elite category of champions.

"The ICA is far more important than the NCAA (meet) because you compete as a team. Winning the ICA is like in most sports winning the national championship," Head Coach Harry Groves said.

"You don't find many teams that are constant repeaters," Groves said. "The Lions ripped George Mason by a five-point margin with a score of 58. The rest of the places were earned by Pitt (51), Maryland (43), Villanova (37), Princeton (35), Manhattan (32), James Madison (28), Boston University (24) and St. John's (23)."

The three-day meet, which began Friday May 21, started on a high note for Penn State when Masagy, Barry Walsh and Chris Green placed first, second and fifth, respectively in the 1500-meter.

Sophomore Michael Timpon placed fourth in the 100 meters (10.55), an event which was won in a meet record time of 10.20 by Lee McCran of Pitt. Timpon injured himself at this meet and was unable to compete.

Please see TRACKMEN, Page 18.

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Lakers look to give Celtics knock-out punch tonight

By BILL BARNARD
AP Basketball Writer

BOSTON — The Los Angeles Lakers might be facing a tougher opponent than the Boston Celtics tonight.

"We have a cushion and as soon as you start thinking that way, you're going to lose," Lakers Coach Pat Riley said after practice yesterday. "We have to fight that feeling of security and fight it hard."

The Lakers lead the best-of-seven NBA championship series 3-1 thanks to Magic Johnson's hook shot with two seconds remaining that beat the Celtics 107-106 Tuesday night. Game 5 will be played in Boston tonight, but the sixth and seventh games, if necessary, would be at the ingwood Forum, where the Lakers easily won the first two games.

"We celebrated Tuesday night because we broke through at Boston Garden," Riley said, referring to the Celtics' third loss in 89 games there. "We took a second to savor what we had done, but now we have to realize we still haven't won it yet."

Riley said that when complacency threatens his team, "that's when I talk history with them. That's when I remind them that we won Game 1 of the finals in Boston in 1984 and got a false sense of security."

"We won Game 4 last night the way we lost the series in 1984," Riley said.

"The Lakers players are less concerned than Riley about a letdown."

"We were younger in '84 and made some mistakes after we won here," Johnson said. "We haven't accomplished what we want yet. It will help that we've been in this position before."

"I think we're mentally tough enough to overcome those feelings of security," Lakers sixth man Michael Cooper said. "I think we'll play hard tonight). It would be nice to win it on the parquet floor."

"I hope they'll get complacent, but I'm not counting on it," Boston Coach R.C. Jones said. "I doubt it will be a problem for them. If it were them, I would rather take the title away from us on our own floor."

Please see LAKERS, Page 18.



The Lakers Magic Johnson knocks the ball away from Boston's Kevin McHale in Tuesday night's 107-106 Lakers win. Los Angeles will be looking to knock the Celtics out of the playoffs tonight at the Boston Garden.