No. 5 gymmen wrap up dual-meet season

By JEFF PRATT Collegian Sports Writer

The perfect meet, 36 hits. That's the goal for the men's gymnastics team, to send out nine guys and hit all 36 routines in a meet. So far this goal has been far away for a team that in its best meet this year, had seven major breaks

The Lions, ranked fifth in the nation, close out their dual-meet season this weekend when they host Michigan State at 8 tomorrow night in Rec Hall. Coming off last weekend's visit with gymnastics powers Oklahoma, UCLA and Stanford, the team is ready for a little confidence boost.

"It would be a good mental boost if we could hit this weekend and I think its vital that we do that," team captain Jamie Downer said. "We have the hardware and we could be compared to any team in the country if we hit our routines.

Team practices have now switched from adding new moves to refining the routines. With nearly five weeks until the NCAAs, the team will now concentrate on getting rid of the falls and breaks that have been present all year.

Michigan State is currently ranked fourth in the Eastern region, which would be good enough to qualify them

"They are only two or three points behind us and it's possible that they could knock us off if we're not concentrating," Coach Karl Schier said. "So far, we haven't had anywhere near an excellent meet score.

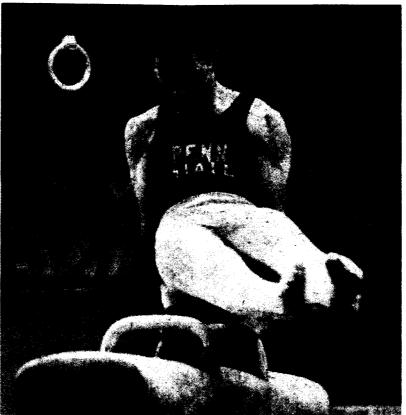
The Lions will be going for a nine-man lineup and hopefully their best score of the year. Mike Reichenbach is still suffering from a sprained ankle that will probably keep him from the floor and vault. Rich Briggs, a specialist on the rings, is also listed as doubtful because of a shoulder injury.

The spring break trip out West left the team a little worn out and with some little bumps and bruises. Despite this and the team's finish, it also provided some optimism

'This was the first time we got to view the top teams before nationals,' assistant coach Randy Jepson said. "It was disappointing that we didn't hit better, but encouraging that we can improve.

'This team is not too far from the top teams, and we know where are problems lie," Jepson said.

A strong performance tomorrow could be a key in the improvement of the team. Throughout the season individuals have stepped up to perform well at certain meets yet they have been unable to maintain consistency and hit



Collegian Photo/Jetf Farran

Jamie Downer performs his pommel horse routine against lowa. The Lions will face

No. 13 gymwomen host Rutgers, TU

By HOLLY HORN Collegian Sports Writer

The women's gymnastics team (14-3) will try to improve upon its home performances when it returns to Rec Hall at 8 tomorrow night to compete against Rutgers and Temple in its last home meet of the season.

Coach Judi Avener said the Lady Lions, ranked No. 13 nationally, have put a lot of pressure on themselves to do well.

"This is the last opportunity to score well at home," Avener said. "We're a threat to ourselves."

The team has been very inconsistent this season, scoring better on the road than at home. Avener said distractions at home like boyfriends, family, schoolwork and the gymnasts' own desires to do-well make them a little "fearful" so they lose concentration and mess up.

But the Lady Lions need to add a better home-meet score than the ones it has already achieved to improve its average and chances at NCAA Regionals and nationals. After the Atlantic 10 Championships (next weekend at George Washington) a team average is

two home meets, two away meets and any other meet.

We have to try to change the pattern of our home meets," Allison Barber said. "We want our score to be in the 190s

"If everyone improves their score by one-tenth of a point, we could improve our overall score by two whole points,' Kira Rohm said.

The Lady Lions will try not to focus on the competition but on their own performances. However, Rohm said they try not to take anyone for granted.

"On paper Rutgers and Temple don't pose a major threat," Avener said.

The Lady Lions defeated Rutgers 186.75-178.8 in the season opener, but have not faced Temple yet this season.

So far, the Lady Lions are undefeated against A-10 opponents, which include Rutgers and Temple.

Since spring break, the team has focused on routines, perfecting skills and form as well as concentration, intensity and consistency.

"We practiced a lot with a lineup like we would have in a regular meet," Barber said. "It really psyched us up, espe-



