

# Gymmen score season high 283.55, Sohn breaks routine

By JEFF PRATT  
Collegian Sports Writer

The men's gymnastics team needed a boost, a little push forward. Saturday night it got just that, a little boost beating Michigan State 283.55-274.80. Despite posting their season-high score, the Lions struggled through the final three events, leaving room for improvement.

"The first half of the meet we did fairly well," Coach Karl Schier said. "But once again, we are just not doing the job in the second half."

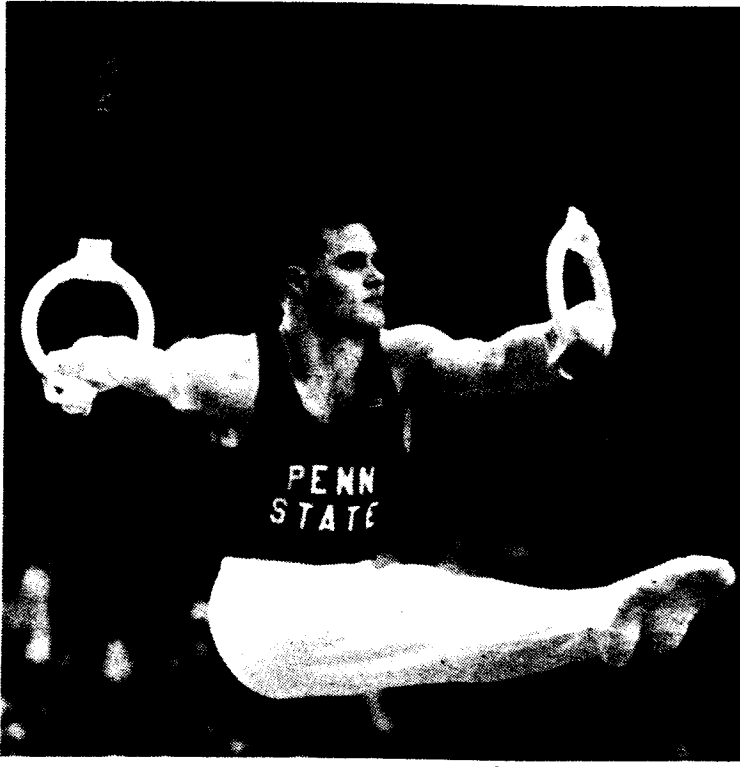
As NCAAs approach, the Lions continue to look for the perfect meet. Adam Carton began Saturday night on a strong note, scoring a 9.8 to tie for first on the floor exercise. Heading into the final performer on the next event, the pommel horse, the team was off to a strong pace. Then the unthinkable happened. Mark Sohn fell.

Sohn hasn't broken on a pommel horse routine since his freshman season. Throughout this season he has scored three 10s and averaged 9.90 on the event. Saturday night he proved he was human though when he broke halfway through his routine as the crowd watched in disbelief.

"That was a shocker huh?" Wayne Cowden said. "But at least he got it out of the way. He won't break again."

Sohn said he has had a wrist problem that may have caused him to lose focus in his practice routine. For him, this may prove a welcome wake-up call.

"I just didn't do the skill right, leaned back too far and lost my balance," Sohn said. "This could be a blessing in disguise though, because I would rather have it happen now than at the NCAAs. I can't guarantee anything, but I would put my money on it that it won't happen again."



Collegian Photo/Krista Lundquist

Penn State's Mike Reichenbach competes on rings Saturday night. The Lions scored a 283.55 in defeating Michigan and Michigan State.

The Lions' other returning NCAA champion, Cowden, turned in his best meet of the season, matching his career high with a 56.65 in the all-around. He again captured the rings with 9.85 and also placed first on the high bar with a 9.65.

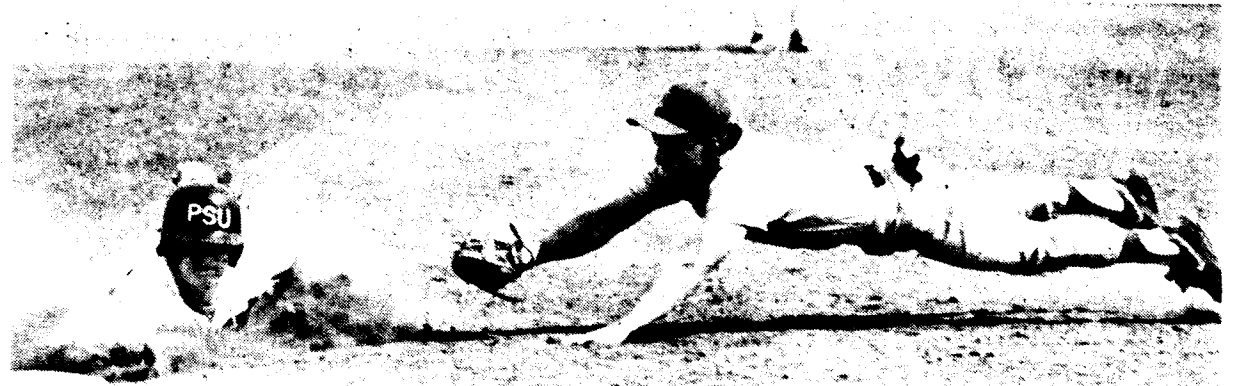
"I finally put a good all-around meet in but I can do better on my parallel bars and vault," Cowden said. "As a team, our score should have been higher and we can do better. We have to work on parallel bars."

Cowden was one of four Lions to place in the all-around. Carton (57.60) finished first, Cowden second, Mike

Masucci (56.55) third and Jamie Downer (56.45) fourth. For Carton it was a career-best and included a victory on the parallel bars.

Parallel bars posed the biggest problem for the Lions. While the vault has shown signs of improvement, the team now will work to build its P-bar routines in time for the nationals.

"We'll make some slight changes and work with the routines," assistant coach Randy Jepson said. "But basically we just have to bang out some solid routines in practice. It's no secret to the guys as to what they have to do."



Collegian File Photo

Penn State's Eric Gates (10) dives for first in a game last season. The Lions split a weekend clash with LaSalle, winning 8-7 and losing 4-3. Penn State is now 3-9 on the season.

# Baseball team splits two with LaSalle, pitching inconsistent; Lions now 3-9

By NICK GILL  
Collegian Sports Writer

The baseball team came out of Saturday's split with LaSalle with a 3-9 record, but Coach Joe Hindelang wasn't concerned.

"I don't care about the won-loss record," he said. "My whole thing is building on previous performances."

The Lions lost the first game, 4-3, but were able to come back to defeat the Explorers, 8-7, in game two. Hindelang said the team was even able to build within Saturday's double-header.

"There were a lot of positives on the day, that's what I look at," he said.

In the first game, Jeff Burris started for the Lions, pitched 5½ innings, gave up three runs on six hits, struck out five and walked four. John Maggiore took the loss for the Lions. He pitched two-thirds of an inning and walked two.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, with the score tied 3-3, freshman Dean Kearns walked LaSalle's John MaGee to force in Gary Roberts, who was put on base by Maggiore.

In the game, Penn State scored three runs on six hits with one error. The Explorers had four on seven to go along with three errors.

In the second game, Penn State exploded for 13 hits to nip the Explorers, 8-7.

"I'm OK with a split," Hindelang said. The pitching star of the game for the Lions was sophomore

Eric Fischer (1-1), who pitched 5½ innings of one-hit, one-run relief to earn the win.

"We felt we were going to score more runs, which we did, if he could only shut the door," Hindelang said.

Fischer worked his way out of a jam in the bottom of the eighth inning. With men on first and third, Fischer got the next batter to ground into a double play.

"Our middle infield got a great double play in a clutch situation," Fischer said.

"He (Fischer) did a wonderful job," Hindelang added.

Fischer, who had problems keeping his pitches down in the strike zone over spring break in Florida, got a ground ball in a key situation.

"I was thinking that the man on third really doesn't matter — that run didn't matter," he said. "I was just hoping for a ground ball that we could turn into a double play."

In the top of the eighth with the score tied 6-6, Scott Beisecker led off the inning for the Lions with a single and stole second. After an out, Kody Barto singled and then Chris Buzzi came through with an RBI single. Russ Mushinsky was intentionally walked to load the bases and Eric Gates hit a sacrifice fly to make the score 8-6.

Barto was the offensive star for the Lions, connecting for three hits in five trips to the plate. Gates added two RBI, and Beisecker went 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Dave Hall and Mushinsky each homered for the Lions.

Mike McRoberts started the game for Penn State, but he was roughed up for six runs (five earned) and eight hits in only two innings.

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