

On the Sidelines

A brief look at the world of sports

Scores

NHL
 Toronto 3, Boston 0
 NY Islanders 3, Ottawa 3, tie
 Montreal 4, Winnipeg 2
 Tampa Bay 5, NY Rangers 2
 Detroit at Anaheim
Late score not included

NBA
 Philadelphia 99, Boston 94
 Orlando 115, Houston 100

In Brief

Former lady cager wins prestigious award

Vectors Pittsburgh is sponsoring the 54th Men and Women of the Year Dinner Saturday, Jan. 29 in honor of those who have made outstanding contributions in their fields in 1993.

Among the winners is Suzie McConnell-Serio, recipient of the Woman in Sports award. A former Penn State basketball standout, McConnell-Serio is the current girl's basketball coach at Oakland Catholic High School. She is a two-time Olympic medal winner.

Tests show no damage to Kerrigan's knee

BOSTON (AP) — Nancy Kerrigan could be skating again within a week.

Dr. Mahlon Bradley said yesterday a magnetic resonance imaging test showed no damage to her right kneecap and no injury to the ligaments.

"I am very excited," Kerrigan said. "I am looking forward to starting my rehabilitation ... so I can get back on the ice as soon as possible."

NCAA rejects proposal to restore scholarships

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Delegates at the NCAA convention rejected a proposal to restore the limit on men's basketball scholarships to 14, drawing bitter criticism yesterday from the Black Coaches Association.

The BCA had indicated it would consider protesting.

Dennis Coleman, general counsel for the BCA, said black students had the most to gain from an estimated 330 scholarships that would have been saved by the proposal.

SEC loses Palmer, Bostic to NFL Draft

Alabama receiver David Palmer said yesterday he would enter the NFL Draft.

Palmer's decision came hours after Auburn tailback James Bostic, the leading rusher in the SEC, announced that he was leaving school early.

Ryan will keep his opinions to himself

HOUSTON (AP) — Buddy Ryan, summoned by the front office for the second time, said yesterday that he will not offer any further public criticism of Oilers offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride.

"I am through discussing anything ... except ... my specific responsibilities as defensive coordinator," Ryan said.

Strawberry says he is ripe to play again

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Outfielder Darryl Strawberry attended the first winter workout of the Los Angeles Dodgers yesterday, and said his chronic bad back is now 100 percent.

Quote of the day

"The gap between the top teams in our conference and the University of Iowa is not a great one. We're not too far back."

Tom Davis
Iowa men's basketball coach

Compiled from Collegian staff and wire reports.

National coach of the year to guide lady booters

By MICHAEL SIGNORA
 Collegian Sports Writer

His seven-year record as coach of the Ithaca College women's soccer team was an astounding 110-23-23. He has won a pair of NCAA Division III National Championships, and his winning percentage as a collegiate coach is a Paterno-like 77.8 percent.

And now, Patrick Farmer will be attempting to continue his tradition of success as the coach of the women's soccer

team, which will begin its inaugural season as a varsity sport this fall.

"I am very pleased with the opportunity to initiate women's soccer at the varsity level at Penn State," Farmer said. "Penn State's athletic history, as well as a Big Ten Conference Championship in women's soccer in 1994, dictate that we develop a highly-competitive program. I think it will be an exciting time on campus and for women's soccer in Pennsylvania."

Farmer comes to Happy Valley as the recipient of several awards for coaching

excellence, including the 1989 National Coach of the Year, Empire Athletic Association Coach of the Year in 1989 and 1992 and New York State Collegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 1992.

"I think his background speaks for itself," fullback Julie Munch said. "It's going to be a fresh start for all of us, and hopefully everyone will make the most of it."

Former Coach Dirck Aumiller said he is uncertain if he will have any involvement with the team next season. If Aumiller is no longer involved with the program, mid-

fielder Bridget Brugger said she believes the Lady Lions will go through a period of adjustment, but noted that this was a normal occurrence.

Farmer was selected from hordes of applications, Aumiller's being one of them, and Penn State is as happy to have him as he is to be here.

"Obviously we're pleased to have Patrick join us," Associate Athletic Director Ellen Perry said. "Patrick brings a level of expertise that will start our program at a very high level."

Injuries plague gymmen

The floor exercise in recent weeks has proven to be hazardous to the team's health, causing several foot injuries to team members.

By SHANON LEVIN
 Collegian Sports Writer

The floor exercise routine has left the Penn State men's gymnastics team without two feet to stand on — literally. Two gymnasts within the past week have suffered foot injuries while completing tumbling passes.

The first of which occurred to sophomore Tony Pansy.

"I was just at practice tumbling on floor and I happened to roll my foot over," he said.

Due to this injury, Pansy was unable to make the trip to West Point last weekend.

Yesterday, Pansy said he would be able to compete on Saturday at Syracuse. He doubts he will be ready to tumble and vault, but his participation in the other four events looks promising.

"I went to the doctors and they said right now it's a stress fracture," he said. "I go to get more tests done the beginning of next week, but I've been landing on it, so I'll be able to compete."

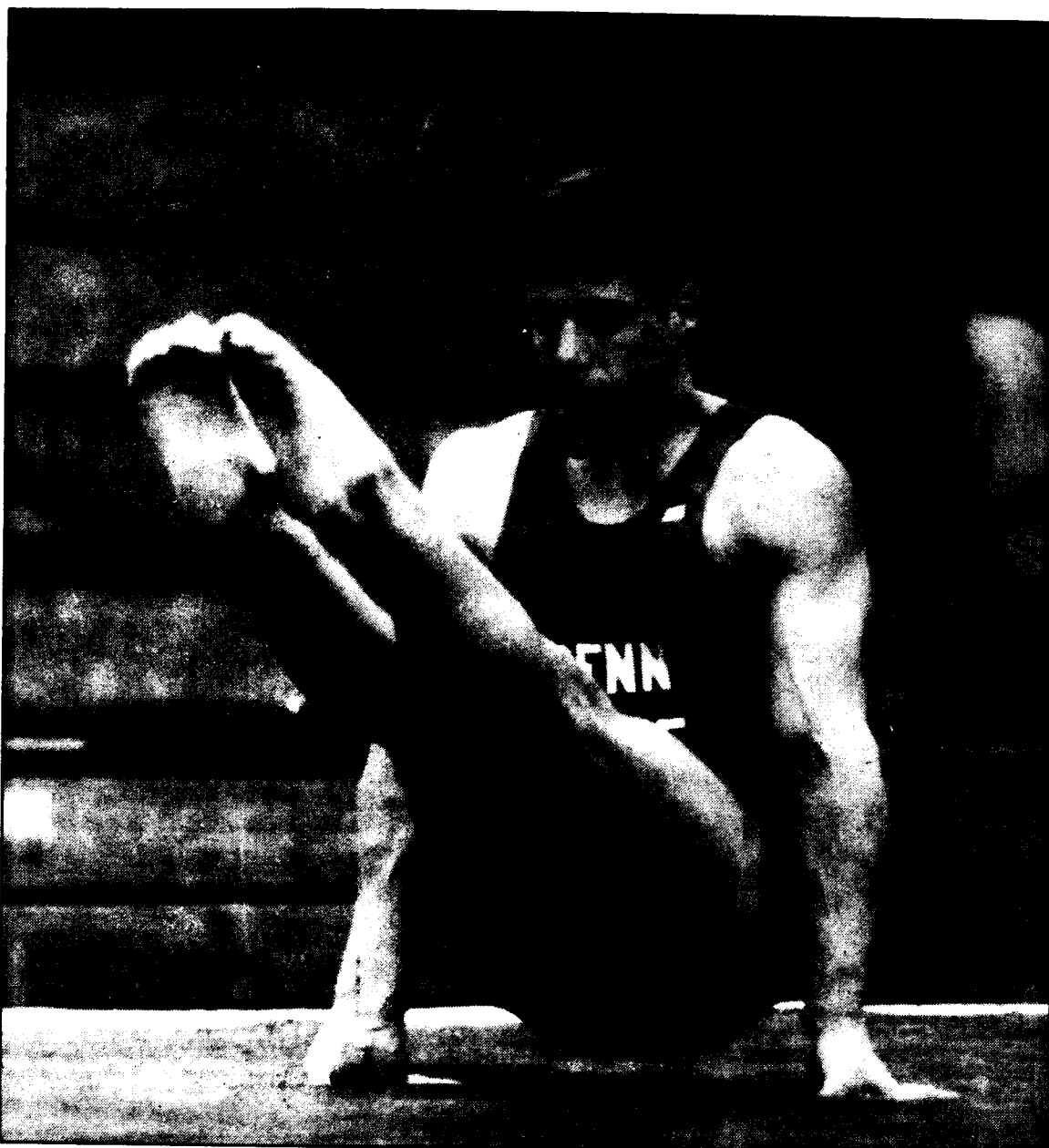
Although it is too early in the week to create a final lineup, Coach Randy Jepsen agrees that Pansy is making progress.

"Tony's coming along really well," he said. "The doctor seems to feel that it's a day-by-day thing and he can go as needed."

Pansy is still experiencing some pain, but it has become less intense. However, he is taking precautions to avoid reinjury.

"I tape it and I wear a pad on the bottom of my foot so it doesn't arch up as much," he said.

While Pansy was here recovering on Friday night, freshman



Collegian Photo/Angle Catalano

Tony Pansy performs in the floor exercise in a meet last month. He was injured recently doing his routine.

Jean-Marc Michel was at West Point in the midst of competition. Unfortunately, he too, was unable to finish the floor exercise healthy.

"It was my first pass and I

ended up stinging my left ankle pretty well," he said. "I did finish the rest of the meet. That was actually my last event."

Michel described the injury as "nothing serious" and doesn't

expect it to keep him from competing on Saturday.

"The injuries aren't season ending or anything," Jepsen said. "They're just things that are going to take a little time."

Icers deal with plenty of problems during break

By LEIGH ANNE RISKOSKY
 Collegian Sports Writer

From adjustments of travel plans to game plans, the Icers faced and overcame adversity on and off the ice during the semester break.

Snow Woes

Last week's snow provided perhaps the longest road trip in Icers' history.

The Icers departed from State College at noon last Wednesday for an early evening flight from Pittsburgh to Minneapolis with a connection to Arizona. Only one runway was open in Minneapolis so the Icers had to circle the airport for about an hour before

refueling in Michigan. As a result, the team missed the connection and turned the airport floor into a hotel.

Goaltender Dennis Magulick said the team reached its final destination at 2 p.m. Thursday.

"Everyone kind of responded differently," Magulick said of the whole ordeal. "Some people were most pissed off that we missed a full day in Arizona because when we got there, it was about 70 degrees without a cloud in a sky."

Changing Faces

Just one day before the Icers left Arizona, they found out that defenseman Larry O'Byrne may

miss the rest of the season with a recurring shoulder injury. Icer Coach Joe Battista said surgery is a must for the defenseman to continue playing.

Junior defenseman P.J. Amodeo, who reinjured his right knee just three games into last semester, had major reconstructive surgery over break and is doing well.

Senior forward Cliff Graziano sparked the Icers with three goals against Arizona last weekend after sitting out the first semester due to academic problems.

Who's In Net?

Before the semester break, the unstable goaltending situation worried Battista. However, that is

no longer the case now.

Sophomore Jeff Crispino was stunning in the Arizona series and has taken the No. 1 position among the four current netminders.

"He has shown us flashes of brilliance at times this year," Battista said, adding that he hopes Crispino can continue his strong play.

The backup position will be filled by either Magulick or junior Derek Lecours.

Power Outage

Special teams make or break games and that was no more evident than in the Arizona series.

The Icers went 2-for-14 on the power play in the series. Battista

said the main problems were the lack of preparation before traveling and the offensive zone. The team only practiced for three days after the month break, giving them no time to focus on the power play minus O'Byrne, the key contributor for special teams.

Also, Arizona's aggressive penalty killing broke down the Icers' efforts and created some short-handed scoring opportunities.

On a positive note, Penn State killed eight of nine penalties against Arizona.

"Most of our problems before the break were related to the fact that those guys were tired and needed a break," Battista said. "Maybe we don't need open heart surgery, we just needed cosmetic surgery."

Bob Knight: a man shrouded in mystery and success

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — That is all. The man with the red sweater has gone. Doesn't want to talk. Probably out ice fishing.

It is nothing new to expect disrespect from Robert Montgomery Knight. It is his style to play hide-and-go-seek with the media like some sort of whiny child. Even after victory, like the Hoosiers' 80-72 defeat of Penn State.

It is part of his legacy. Along with the slouched posture and the nasty scowl and the tenacious man-to-man defense. He is a great coach. He is a lousy dinner date.

Hidden among a facade of facetiousness is a brilliant, compassionate man. But we will never know the real Bob Knight, because he will never let us see.

The news that follows him is a trail of contradiction. One week, he is publicly berating a player. A few weeks later, he is the national coach of the year.

Once in a while, we catch a fleeting glimpse. Thirteen years ago, Sports

My Opinion

Michael Weinreb



Illustrated's Frank Deford dug through the rough surface to reveal a maelstrom of emotion (the article was reprinted this year in the Jan. 10 issue.) The portrait is inflammatory. The portrait is ingenuous. "All of us learn to write by the second grade, then most of us go on to other things," Knight once said. He is frustrated by these outsiders intruding on his game. He is disgusted by the way they distort the purity of his game.

So he turns his back, closes his ears, and does whatever the hell he wants to do. And he does it better than anyone. He is a great coach. He is a lousy diplomat.

Knight never made it to the media room of Assembly Hall on Saturday night. No one was surprised. The surprise is that the loss was all Knight's.

He missed Penn State's Bruce Parkhill, one of the nation's most underappreciated coaches, who spoke with dignity and pride in the face of another frustratingly agonizing defeat. Like he always does.

If Parkhill skipped a news conference, they would call him ungrateful.

Knight also missed his best and brightest, seniors Damon Bailey and Pat Graham, displaying quiet humility and respect, although they have had better nights.

If his players missed a press conference, Knight would boil over.

But the coach just wants to be left alone. Take the magnifying glass away from his program and point it someplace else. Until then, that chip will rest firmly on the

shoulder of that rolled sweater.

It is difficult to understand someone who respects the game of basketball more than the game of life.

There are things that we all hate. There are things we must do. These things overlap occasionally, and we suck in our guts and deal with them. Some call it maturity.

Somewhere in the bowels of Knight's own office hangs this ruthless quote from George Patton: "Your loyal friends (will do) their hypocritical Goddamndest to trip you, blacken you and break your spirit ..."

It is frightening to think that an attitude like that is molding minds. But somehow, he continues to do it successfully. Nearly 95 percent of his four-year players have graduated.

He is a great coach. He could be so much more.

Michael Weinreb is a senior majoring in journalism and a Collegian basketball writer.