

Fencers successful at Open

By DON WAGNER
Collegian Sports Writer

After the Penn State fencing team hosted the Maxwell Garret Penn State Open this weekend, one thing should be abundantly clear to opposing coaches, the Lions haven't missed a beat in preparing to defend their NCAA team title.

Behind first place finishes from Olga Kalinovskaya and Serge Lilov, the Lions showed they are ready for the regular season to begin.

"We are on the right track," said Lion Coach Emmanuil Kaidanov. "I think we will be in quite good shape by our first meet where we will meet some very strong opponents such as Rutgers, NYU and University of North Carolina."

Lilov's first place finish came in the men's sabre division where he had to defeat teammate Brian Walther to earn the gold. Other Lion fencers finishing behind Walther were Jason Levin in fourth, Scott Howard in 12th, Rafael Kim in 15th and James Mahen in 17th.

For Kalinovskaya, the road to the gold came by the same means when she had to beat teammate Sibyl Goldstein in her final bout to take home first place. Other Penn State fencers were Carin Wolf in fourth, Keysa Ortiz in 13th, Claire Jackson in

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— Emmanuil Kaidanov
Penn State fencing coach

18th and Colleen Bruen in 25th.

The performances of Kalinovskaya and Levin are exactly what Kaidanov expected from his veterans at this tournament. "I expected strength from our leaders, which they did show," he said. "Of course class and level were also shown by Olga and Serge."

Kaidanov was also quick to point to the performances by Jeff Feinblatt, Jon Walheim and Dean Jacobberger as other good outings from his veterans. The trio finished fourth, sixth and ninth respectively in men's epee.

In women's epee Polo Wagner finished fourth after losing a 15-14 heartbreaker to New York University's Christy Beckert. Wagner was a little disappointed after losing such a close one but knew her coach was pleased.

"I guess coach was kind of happy," she said. "I wasn't supposed to fence and I did it last minute so I guess he was kind of happy with it."

Kaidanov had nothing but praise for Wagner. "Polo Wagner

handed in some great, quality matches," he said.

Finishing behind Wagner were Gena Henderson in ninth, Carina Winter in 13th, Kim Allen in 14th and Carol Klein in 15th.

In men's foil the performances of freshman Don McGill and Dave Lidow served to contrast the output from the veterans. McGill was the top Penn State finisher in men's foil in third place followed directly by Lidow in fourth. In fifth was Tobias Darnstadt and in seventh was Nik Lezhava.

The performances of his freshmen particularly impressed Kaidanov. "Our freshman did a superb job, especially McGill, Walther and Lidow," he said.

Looking to the upcoming season Kaidanov said from what he saw this weekend the Lions road to a second straight title won't be easy. With Princeton getting more powerful, Columbia on the way back up, Wayne State on the rise and St. John's always strong, the Lions will face a lot of tough opposition, Kaidanov said.

Former Lion fencer comes home

By AARON BASTIDE
Collegian Sports Writer

Former Penn State fencer Greg Gregor returned to University Park this weekend to compete in the Maxwell Garret Penn State Open. The return came after last season when he helped the Nittany Lions capture an NCAA national championship.

This weekend he competed against several former teammates after he transferred to St. John's in Jamaica, N.Y. Gregor said fencing for the Redmen has both advantages and disadvantages.

"One of the greatest advantages to fencing for St. John's is that I have access to New York City

where I can compete against Olympic-caliber competition," Gregor said.

Gregor admits he misses competing for the Lions. "I am sorry I had to leave Penn State. I miss my old teammates as well as my former coaches," Gregor said. "I think that Penn State has one of the closest teams that I've seen, and this closeness brings out a winning attitude."

It is no surprise then that Gregor jumped at the chance to return to Penn State. Besides being able to compete in a tournament that many fencers consider the best showing of collegiate talent until the NCAA tournament, Gregor was able to face his former team for the first time. His old teammates had mixed

opinions about seeing him fence for another team.

Wes Waldron, one of Gregor's close friends, said, "It's good having Greg back, but it's weird seeing him fence for someone else."

Jeff Feinblatt has competed against Gregor.

"It's good seeing Greg again," Feinblatt said. "It's interesting to fence against him because he's such a tough competitor."

Despite the discomfort, Gregor insists returning to Penn State was a positive experience. "Coming back has been great. Even though I enjoy fencing for St. John's I really miss competing for Penn State because it has such a quality program. It feels good to be back."

Lion spikers roll in preseason, defeating Trojans

By CHAD WASHINGTON
Collegian Sports Writer

Even though the men's volleyball season is less than two months away, Penn State continues to prove they are in mid-season form.

The Penn State men's volleyball team ended their preseason by taking three straight games from the Southern California Trojans in preseason action, after the Nittany Lions dropped the first game.

"We didn't play sharp all the time, but when it came down to the end of the game, we found ways to win it," Lion Coach Mark Pavlik said. "It was kind of like a pitcher not having his best stuff and still winning the game."

The Lions started off slow, dropping the first game to the Trojans 15-10. Middle blocker Ivan Contreras felt the slow start was the result of a lack of preseason opponents. "We started slow because we didn't play for two weeks," Contreras said.

The junior led the Lions with 28 kills, four blocks,

and 15 digs. "We picked up momentum later."

Penn State then went on a roll. The Lions took the next three games, 15-10, 15-12, and 15-13 to get their second win of the preseason. "We had some timely kills and a great team effort," Pavlik said.

"They gave us real easy points," Contreras said. Also leading the Lions' attack was senior middle blocker Kevin Hourican. He racked up 26 kills, six blocks, and two aces. Senior outside hitter Jason Kepner had 15 kills, 15 digs, and two aces.

The Lions will begin their regular season in January with a second trip to Canada for the York University Excalibur Tournament. Coach Pavlik says he likes what he has seen in the preseason.

"We have made pretty good strides in the preseason," Pavlik said. "I think that we have the ability to score points in bunches."

The successful preseason also has Contreras excited for the beginning another season for the Nittany Lions. "I'm looking forward to playing every weekend," Contreras said.

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Wanted

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