

Lightweight bouts propel Lions past Wisconsin

By Ryan Loy
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Two bouts provided a shift of momentum in the Penn State wrestling team's dual meet Sunday at Wisconsin.

Adam Lynch and Frank Molinaro erased an early deficit with victories in the 141 and 149-pound bouts that helped the Nittany Lions (10-5-1, 2-2 Big Ten) defeat the Badgers (5-8-1, 1-2 Big Ten).

Lynch secured his second career win of the weekend as he won a unanimous decision over No. 20 Colton Smith. The win was the Penn State wrestler's second decision of the weekend over a ranked opponent after he beat Iowa's No. 10 Daniel Marjon Friday.

Cael Sanderson said the results of Lynch's recent matches show his hard work is paying off.

"Lynch is doing a great job," Sanderson said in a Penn State media network. "He's soaking it up and getting better every match. His match was obviously a big win for the team today."

Lynch's win in the stakes for No. 5 Molinaro's matchup with No. 12 Matt Hines. The Lion 149-pounder used a counter take-down and near fall points to jump out to a 5-2 lead after the first period. Molinaro's lead was cut to 5-4, but he scored a takedown in the second period that proved the difference in the match for the Lion sophomore.



The Collegian wrestling reporters recap the Nittany Lions' matches this past weekend on the wrestling blog, Back Points: psucollegian.com

The win was Molinaro's first over a top-5 opponent and a big rebound after he was pinned Friday by No. 1 Brent Metcalf of Iowa.

"I think the main thought for me [after defeating Ruschell] was it felt good to erase as much of Friday as I could," Molinaro said. "I was pretty embarrassed after that. Fighting back from Friday and coming back to get that win was big."

The Lions got on top early when Brad Pataky used a takedown in the final minute of the 125-pound bout to win by major decision and put the Lions up 4-0.

Following the wins by Lynch and Molinaro, the Lions' lead was extended when Cyler Sanderson pinned Greg Burke at the 6:39 mark to rebound from an upset loss against Iowa.

Molinaro believed the points from Sanderson's pin was a key element to the Lions' success.

"He fought hard for those bonus points, which was good," Molinaro said. "We needed those to secure that win and take some of the pressure off the end of the match."

Andrew Howe, No. 1 at 165-pounds, got the Badgers close with a win over Dan Vallimont to cut the Lions' lead to 16-11.



Steph Witt Collegian

Penn State's Cyler Sanderson (right) wrestles against an Illinois grappler Jan. 22 at Rec Hall.

However, wins by 184-pounder David Erwin and heavy-weight Cameron Wade sealed the win for the Lions.

Cael Sanderson told the Penn State radio network he was pleased with the team's effort, and Molinaro believes the win was a glimpse of things to come for the Lions.

"We showed some good things this weekend," Molinaro said. "I think we're gonna improve. Everyone seems to be getting better every week."

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Penn State's Joe Sunder wrestles against Loyola-Chicago's Matt Johnson.

PSU drops second-straight to Loyola-Chicago

By Eric Book
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Mark Pavlik doesn't know if there is a better home court advantage than Alumni Gym in Chicago.

For the second-straight season, Loyola-Chicago used that advantage to knock off the No. 5 Penn State men's volleyball team, and the Penn State head coach continued to be impressed with Loyola's fans.

The Ramblers won the match 3-2 (30-26, 22-30, 24-30, 30-25, 15-7). The loss concluded the road trip for the Nittany Lions (0-2, 3-0 EIVA), after they knocked off Lewis 3-1 on Friday.

Despite being disappointed in the loss, the Lions took a lot of positives from Saturday's defeat, mainly the experience of playing in a competitive match in a hostile environment.

"It's such a small gym," Pavlik said. "It is such a great home atmosphere for Loyola

and such a hostile environment for anybody else coming in that you come out of there and play well, win or lose, you're getting better. I thought we did some things well."

Alumni Gym — smaller than the gym Penn State senior Will Price played in for his matches at Laytonsville High School — was overflowing with 2,035 loud, energized fans eager to propel their team to the upset.

Loyola forced the team to compete and face an environment no team in the EIVA can match. Penn State had played in only one fifth set this season, and it came out victorious against Hawaii of the more competitive MPSE.

"It was a competitive match. Any fifth game pretty much can go in almost any direction and can take on any shape," Price said. "Having a loss isn't that big of a deal for us right now. It's a much better experience to go into these situations and be tested in these environments than to simply go to a Springfield or a NJIT and sweep these teams in three."

Price and Joe Sunder led the team in kills with 22 and 19 respectively, but they were both held to a disappointing .220 hitting percentage. The Ramblers combined



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for 23 blocks against the Lions.

"You have to credit the Loyola defensive block," Pavlik said. "They did a real good job of getting in front of those two and slowing them down a bit. To have your two outside hitters go .220 and still go five with that environment, I thought was a real good testament of how we battled up until the beginning of game five."

Looking forward, the Lions see this experience as a positive and feel they played pretty well despite losing to a team they were favored to beat.

"It was a long battle," Penn State setter Edgardo Goas said. "The crowd was really into it. It was awful that we lost, but as a team we learned a lot. Every time you lose you definitely learn more because you're more aware of your mistakes. It's a tough loss, but we got a lot of positives out of it."

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Akron bests Penn State, 5-2

By Eric Book
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Amy Simidian's shots hit the top of the net twice in a five-point span.

On all five of those shots, Simidian was facing match point in a second set tiebreaker.

Down 0-1 in the tiebreaker, Simidian's tape, trickier over the net and quickly bounced over. Simidian managed to hit a score in the next point, Simidian hit the top of the net, but this time her shot went out.

The loss for Simidian was the visiting Akron Zips their fourth and match-clinching point, and Akron went on to beat Penn State, 5-2.

The Zips won all three doubles matches to take the 1-0 lead in the match, and they never looked back. No. 1 and 2 doubles were competitive, and the Nittany Lions thought they could've won those matches.

"I'm specifically disappointed with doubles," Penn State coach Dawna Prevette said. "We didn't compete at 3 and 1 and 2 we had our chances and didn't execute."

Seniors Sarah Latta and Lauren McCarthy teamed up in No. 1 doubles and jumped out to a 2-0 lead. In the third game, McCarthy hit an overhead shot long, bringing the Akron duo of Angelika Jogasuria and Prang Pantusart within 2-1. The Lion pair went on to lose the match, 3-5.

The No. 2 doubles match was tight throughout, with the Penn State pair of

Simidian and Maria Prishlyak losing 9-7.

Sarah Henderson and Michaela Stracar looked overmatched throughout their No. 3 doubles match as they fell 8-2.

In singles, Stracar and Prishlyak picked up points for Penn State.

Stracar, who knocked off Jeremie Benjamin 6-3, 7-5, was happy with the way she bounced back after her disappointing doubles performance.

Despite a losing effort, Simidian's play was a bright spot for Prevette. Monday's practice was the first time Simidian had played tennis in more than a month because she suffered from mononucleosis, and her determination sticks out for Prevette.

"She's a great competitor," Prevette said. "Unfortunately, her game is not where she wants it to be. She'll get back."

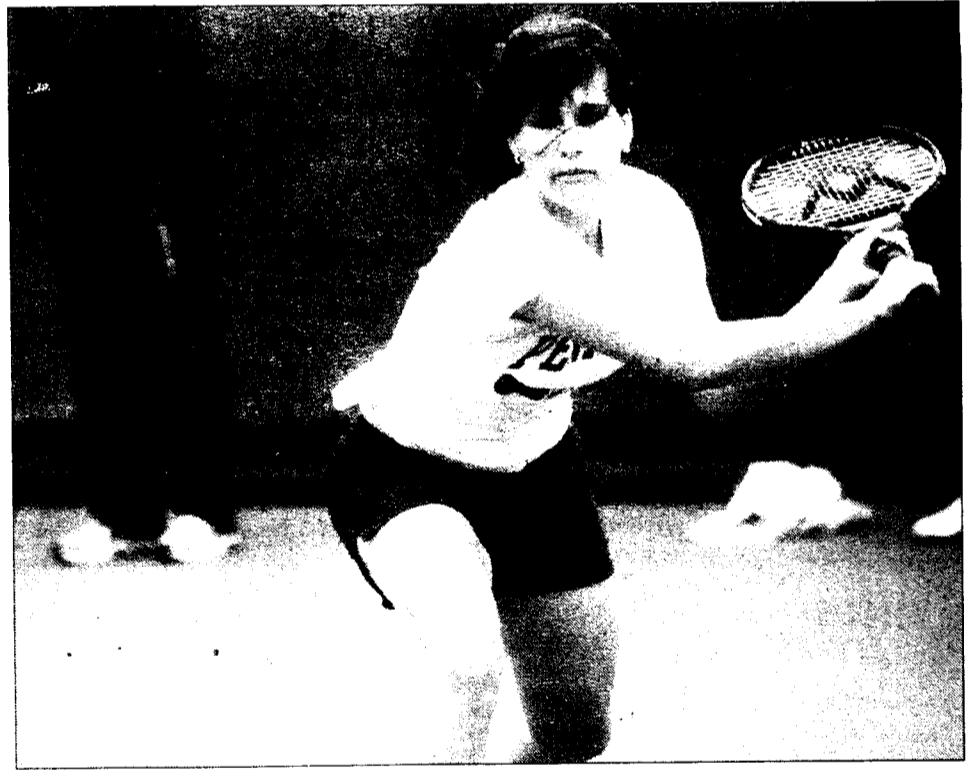
Simidian smiled ear-to-ear when asked how it felt to be back on the court.

"I was so excited to get back out here," she said. "Just watching from the benches, obviously you cheer for your team, but it's just not the same. I'm just happy to be out here competing."

Aside from a few positives, Prevette was not pleased with her team's performance, but she knows the season is young.

"I think we're not in panic mode," Prevette said. "I don't think you freak out after something like this. Akron is a legitimate team, and they came here and took care of business."

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Marissa Gutherz Collegian file photo

Penn State senior Lauren McCarthy prepares to hit a backhand in practice Sept. 29. The Nittany Lions lost over the weekend to Akron, 5-2.



Marissa Gutherz Collegian file photo

Freshman Petra Januskova returns a shot in practice Sept. 29.

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