

Gymnastics

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did it three times in 2003, including twice on vault.

For a second-straight week, Personett tied her career-high all-around score of 39.600. Personett won the floor exercise with a 9.900 and tied for first on beam with a 9.875.

She went 9.825 on bars to round out her score.

Personett set her all-around high last season in early March, which is when gymnasts begin to hit peak form with postseason meets later that month.

Through just six meets this

year, Personett said she feels she is already in postseason form.

"I started getting more confidence earlier in the season," she said. "It feels nice to be confident and know that I can hit for my team."

The Lions needed Personett to hit after they struggled through their first two road meets of the season, averaging just a 194.025. The Lions had to perform well away from Rec Hall with the rankings shifting from team average to regional qualifying score (RQS) Monday.

A team's RQS is comprised of its six highest scores of the season, three of which have to be away meets. The highest score is

then dropped and the remaining five are averaged.

After the meet at Pittsburgh, the Lions have only two road meets left — at Ohio State and at Utah — meaning they had no room for error Saturday if they were going to drop the sub-par road scores from earlier this season.

"It was a big confidence boost," coach Steve Shepard said of the team's performance. "Being at home for three-straight weeks, we got spoiled. They made the adjustments they needed to make and did it aggressively. They showed a lot of heart."

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Loss

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a team-high 24 points and adding six assists.

The 21-8 run Michigan State (20-6, 10-3) finished the game on propelled it over the upset-minded Lions.

Penn State led the game, 46-44, at the 12:24 mark after D.J. Jackson nailed a 3-pointer, jumping up and down as he released his shot, willing the ball into the hoop. The basket put the Lions in the lead, albeit for 30 seconds.

"We feel like we can beat anyone, we just hope," Battle said. "We actually have to stop hopping and start believing that we can win and close a game out."

Battle was held scoreless for a 10-minute span in the second half.

For the rest of the game, though, he was on fire, hitting 7-for-11 from 3-point range, some of which were launched from NBA range.

Battle's teammates did not answer the bell as much. Jackson was the only Lion in double digits with 10 points. Other than Jackson and Battle, the Lions mustered only five baskets.

"I think at this point in time maybe some of it is mental," DeChellis said. "They were fun to watch for a long time there and all of a sudden we just go

like we haven't ever done it before."

Frazier scored one point off the bench for the team's only bench point.

Out of 18 successful field goals, 11 of them came from 3-point range.

The Spartans' swarming defense held the Lions in check during Michigan State's crucial second half run.

Michigan State also dominated the rebounding battle, out-rebounding the Lions 38-24 and holding them to four offensive rebounds.

DeChellis called the lack of rebounds one of the biggest keys to the game.

But, as has been the case all season, the biggest factor in the losing effort was Penn State's inability to stop its opponent from going on a run.

Spartan coach Tom Izzo called the Lions "the best 0-12 team" he had seen in a "long, long time."

"When we get it close, whether it's 10 minutes or five minutes, or where we've got to make a play, we haven't been able to make a play, whether it's a defensive play or an offensive play," DeChellis said.

"That part is frustrating. I think we will win."

"I keep saying that and telling them that every day in practice. We just haven't."

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Travis

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surgery, which will likely occur in three weeks.

Defensive coach Travis Johnson said the tear occurred in the longpole's right knee.

"It's a huge loss," Johnson said. "He played very well defensively against guys in practice."

The loss comes in the wake of Earl Ross, another defensive starter, recovering from a fractured right hand. Ross has a doctor's appointment to evaluate the hand next Monday, but the senior said his goal is to be ready for the Ohio State game March 6. Johnson said Ross could play now,

but if he injured the hand again before it's fully healed, the senior could be out for the season.

Johnson said juniors Kevin Joyce and Greg Brown are the two defenders' replacements. The defensive coach has been pleased with their performances in stepping up thus far, and Travis knows the worth of his replacements.

"I have a lot of confidence in them, thinking that they'll [play] very well," Travis said.

Travis said his hunger to compete would only increase next year because he'll then know what it's like to sit out of competition.

Co-captain Joe Britt said Travis excelled at the wing position during face-offs, and goalie Dave Baker thought Travis had a knack

"I've never seen someone go into a pile and pick up a ball like he did."

Dave Baker
freshman goalie

for scooping up ground balls, which was an area of emphasis for Penn State after its Feb. 6 scrimmage with Hobart.

"He's one of the best people I've ever seen pick up a ground ball," Baker said. "I've never seen someone go into a pile and pick up a ball like he did."

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HOROSCOPES

By Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Feb. 15, 2010.

This year, be more aware of your finances. An additional source of money could appear through a pay raise, promotion or simply Lady Luck. You could experience some wild fiscal highs that need watching. Sometimes your vision is stalemated by an associate or a boss. If you are single, someone quite dynamic will be popping into your life this summer. Don't count on this bond as a forever bond. If you are attached, the two of you could be engaged in quite the tango this summer. Go with the winds of faith. PISCES helps make and spend your funds' Careful.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic, 4-Positive, 3-Average, 2-Sonno, 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
*** Move forward carefully. A brainstorming session could be inspiring. Try to help an associate or friend who can be a stick in the mud to open up. Use your instincts more often with an authority figure. Tonight, Take some much-needed personal time.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
***** Zero in on what is really important. How you deal with someone could change radically because of your perspective. Someone makes it clear how he or she feels about you and your ideas. Stay on top of your game. Tonight: Where people are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
***** Stay on top of your work. You understand what is going on with a boss, but you also wonder about an associate who could be causing more of a problem than he or she realizes. Tonight: A must

appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***** You want to reach out to someone at a distance. Evaluate what is happening behind the scenes. You could be tired and fed up with a partner's actions. Use wisdom with spending. Could buying things be a way of releasing anger? Tonight: New insights.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** Work with others, even if it means letting go of some of your ideas. Your perspective might not always be as workable as you might like. Get past limitations and be willing to work earnestly with others. Tonight: Rethink a project.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
***** Defer to others; you need to find another solution. Be careful with spending, as you might be discharging your anger by overspending. Do you really want to do this? Think again. Your creativity is high, as well as the need to take risks. Tonight: Go with another person's suggestion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
***** Your mood could be flat and a problem for someone you really care about. Evaluate a choice with care, especially as it could impact you in a far larger way than you originally thought. A male or assertive friend pushes you hard. Tonight: Put your feet up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
***** You might wonder what is happening behind the scenes. Don't spend too much time pondering this issue, as creativity could help you bypass the issue and create a better set of realities. Ask questions, though willingly try another approach if you are not getting the answers you desire. Tonight: So what if it is Monday?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
***** Pressure builds. To discharge some of the steam, be willing to approach a financial question differently. You might not be comfortable with what emerges. An older friend or associate cannot resist putting in his or her two cents. Tonight: Happily head home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
***** Your willingness to gather information and revise your thinking can only be a strength. Realize your limits, but also be ready to break past barriers. You express the true dynamic nature of your thinking and being. Be willing to transform a situation as well. Tonight: Hang out with a pal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
***** Your perspective could be changing without you even realizing it, though others dealing with you will note the changes. You might have difficulties. Your ability to understand what someone else needs to emerge. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
***** You are on top of your game, others sense that energy. Be willing to change gears. Stop and rethink your actions and goals. As you transform, expect to see your goals transform as well. Be open to a partner who can be shy or reticent. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

BORN TODAY
Comedian Chris Farley (1964), actor John Barrymore (1882), actress Jane Seymour (1951)

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