Sophomores try to prove abilities in competition

By Dan Norton FOR THE COLLEGIAN

built on youth this year, but that doesn't mean it lacks experience.

Last season, coach Randy Jepson brought in one of the largest freshman classes in recent memory. Eight gymnasts competed at the collegiate level for the first time, often negatively impacting Penn State on the score sheet.

"Last year we kind of crumbled as soon as one person started to fall apart," senior captain Matt Albrecht said.

In 2010, the Nittany Lions underachieved record in meets against one opponent. Three of their losses came to prominent Big Ten rivals - Ohio State, Illinois and Michigan. Furthermore, they placed third upcoming season. in the Big Ten championships and fourth in the NCAA qualifiers, failing to qualify for Nationals as a team for the second consec-

But despite its mediocre season, Penn

For freshmen entering NCAA training Penn State's men's gymnastics team is and competition for the first time, they must adapt to a completely different approach in training and competition, Albrecht said.

Many high schools do not fund a gymnastics program, so up until graduation, gym- Aronovich closely in the pommel horse, nastics is an individual sport. Gymnasts compete in the junior national program for

"College gymnastics is a whole different game," Albrecht said. "You're doing it for the team.

So while Penn State's freshmen competby their usual high standards, posting a 2-5 ed and adapted. other schools favored upperclassmen in their lineups, boding well for the Nittany Lions in the future.

And that future may be as soon as this

Jepson holds high expectations for his sophomores in 2010-11, knowing full well their performance could make or break the Nittany Lions' season.

"This year, they're thrown into the fire," State had a lot to look forward to, with three he said. "They've made big improvements, to 16 freshmen and sophomores.

times as many underclassmen as upper- but they still have to prove themselves on the competitive floor.'

Sophomore Felix Aronovich was one of the best overall gymnasts for Penn State last year as a freshman. He had team-highs in the pommel horse, the parallel bars, and the all-around.

Tony Beck followed Sophomore posting the team's third best score. Beck has spent a lot of time on the horse during practice, seeking to improve upon the team's numbers from last season.

"A lot of people didn't have a lot of confidence [on the horse] last year," he said. "A lot of guys are really stepping up and showing they are ready to go this year."

Beck added his elbow is bothering him, but he's hitting his routines in practice and is ready to go.

Including Aronovich and Beck, all eight of last year's freshmen are set to return this season with 12 events already under their belts. Jepson is looking for them to be big contributors this season with only five juniors and seniors on the roster compared

"Now they know what it's all about," Jepson said. "They're hungry and they're working very, very hard."



Felix Aronovich performs on the still rings against William & Mary at home last season.

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By Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Nov 16, 2010. This year, you deal with many change-

able people and circumstances. Tap into an innate creativity, and you will gain Your abilities to energize others and fun nel solutions also emerge. Spring could bring good news professionally. Curb a sweet tooth, if possible. If you are single. you could meet someone nearly any time this year who could be quite important to your life's history If you are attached, on act like new lovers. Many couples see new additions to their family ARIES can push your buttons

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have. 5-Dynamic: 4-13-Average, 2-So-so, 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

*** Count on coming out of a recent funk by late afternoon. Attempt to keep important decisions on the back burner until then. Unexpected developments could force you to take another look at business situation. Tonight Suddenly, a force to be dealt with.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Use the morning for meetings or making a cherished goal happen. You find those around you to be unusually generous. A kind remark comes back in multiples. Slow down midafternoon. Do dependent. Tonight: Take a much-needed

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) *** Good news certainly perks up your mood. In a positive frame of mind, on can make nearly anything happen

out as a stern conversation becomes a lot easier. Tonight. Time to wish upon a star CANCER (June 21-July 22) **** If you feel that you aren't get

ting acceptable answers, seek out an expert or get more information on your own. Avoid making an uninformed decision at all costs. Responsibilities tumble on you in the late p.m. Tonight. Count on a late night.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
**** Flex with your mood and energy. Success greets those who are skilled at reading people and also detach-ing sufficiently in order to see the path through a complex issue. Late afternoon, your mind wanders. Hop on the Net-

Tonight: Go for something imaginative VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** You could be taken aback by another person's resourcefulness. There always seem to be solutions when you listen to this person. See where his or her thinking varies from yours. You just might want to take a lesson. Tonight sit with a close friend

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ** You have a lot to do and accom able to do exactly what you want. Later on, squeeze in some time to network or just take off. You suddenly feel buoy Go off and enjoy yourself. Tonight: Just

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) *** Your creativity is a gift; it also can add to the quality of a relationship. A child adores your flights of fancy, and a loved one delights in your fun ideas. Focus some of this energy into the work-place or your daily life. Tonight: Let your

Don't take out your irritation on the eat, the dog or your roommate!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) *** Curb spending, if possible At times you have gone way overboard. A change might be needed. Surprises could happen when you least expect them. Schedule a meeting for late afternoon Clear out messages then, too. Tomght: Join a pal for dinner PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** You might be more direct and open than you realize. Others respond to you in odd ways, which could make you touch reactive. Maintain a sense of and you will have a lot to smile about. Tonight: Time for a treat.

*** Remain grounded, and you'll

come up with solutions that work. In the

atternoon, you discover the power of a

brainstorming session. Be careful how much money you commit in a discussion. You easily could change your mind later

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19)
**** Screen your calls if you're feeling overwhelmed by news or the amount

of calls. On some level, you might be hesitant to be unavailable, but staying

focused and on topic is more importan

Catch up on calls later today. Tonight

Tonight Let your hair down.

BORN TODAY Baseball pitcher Dwight Gooden (1964), actress Lisa Bonet (1967), voice actor Daws Butler (1916)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com. - 2010 by King Features Syndicate Inc



















