

# Gymnasts tumble to UMass

By Boston Neary

The UNH women's gymnastics team left the door wide open for the UMass Minutemen to walk away with Saturday's meet 134.6 to 131.15 at Amherst.

UNH coach Gail Goodspeed cited that her team was lacking their "normal depth" in the meet due to the loss of Josie Lemmi's services on the floor exercise and vault, (ankle injury) and the lack of solid performances from her other regulars.

UMass featured two elite gymnasts, Janice Baker (who did not compete in December's match due to an ankle injury) and Liz Marino who captured first and third places, with a 34.65 and 33.95, respectively.

Gail Sweeney, UNH's sunshine on a dismal afternoon, nailed a second place showing in all-around scoring with a 34.55. She hit on a sukhara vault (her second in intercollegiate competition) for a first place with a 9.0 and a first place on the uneven bars with an 8.5, while nailing a third place on the beam.

"She did great," added Edie Sutton, "I think we're all feeling the pressure of the high point of the season and she really came through."

Teammate Ellen Fahey landed a second on the uneven bars and a third on the floor.

"This loss hurts us for Regional seeding," said Goodspeed, "and it makes our chances awkward for making Nationals."

The Wildcats had their difficulties staying glued on the beam as only Sweeney and Edie Sutton managed to stick.

"The beam is the key to the meet," commented Goodspeed, "and UMass simply outclassed us."

Jackie Watskin was another highlight in the meet as she opened up in all events but the beam with solid performances.

The Wildcats have a chance to meet the Minutemen again next Sunday in the tri-state meet at the Field House.

## No. 12 Michigan St. challenges gymnasts

Twelveth ranked Michigan State invades Durham on Thursday night at 7 p.m. to give the UNH gymnasts one of their most intense challenges of the season.

"We've been looking forward to this meet all season," commented UNH Coach Gail Goodspeed, "and if we can hit 100% we've got a good chance of beating them."

The Wolverines sport an 8-3 record - losing only to the Nation's best; No. 1 Penn State, No. 4 Louisville and No. 13 University of Minnesota (by .1 point). Also to the Wolverines' credit is the capturing of the Big Ten title for the third straight year.

Michigan State Coach Mike Kasavana reports that his squad has been scoring in the 140 range, but Goodspeed remarked that the judging is somewhat different in the mid-west and the Wolverines' swing to New England (UNH and UMass) should prove to be a critical test for the highly rated team. The Wildcats' top score was a 133.9 last week against Cortland St.

The Wolverines feature a dynamite freshman in the likes of Bonnie Ellis. Kasavana said that his young gymnast is, "probably our top all-around girl," as she averages 35.85 per meet and set a school record of 36.5 against University of Florida.

Other standouts include all-arounders sophomore Colleen Smith and junior Mary Beth Eigel who consistently hit within the 34-35 point range. Kasavana's team is rounded out by three more all-around performers, and two specialists.

Long known as a gymnastic power, the Wolverines are completing their national tour with UNH's meet and Saturday's against the Minutemen.



Josie Lemmi performs a handstand on the balance beam in Saturday's meet against UMass. (Nancy Hobbs photo).

