

UNIVERSITY PARK, PENN STATE SPORTS REPORT

GYMNASTICS CROWN

University Park, Pa. — Perennial power Penn State will shoot for its ninth national gymnastics team title and Bob Emery will try to bring State its 12th all-around crown when the NCAA championships are held at Seattle.

The unbeaten Nittany Lions won their 14th Eastern team title this season and rank as one of the leading contenders for NCAA laurels. Other top entries appear to be Michigan, Colorado State, Iowa, Denver, Southern Illinois, California, Iowa State and host Washington.

The Lions' last team crown came in 1965. Should they win this time they'll take the lead from Illinois among all schools in number of team titles. Each has won eight.

"This is one of my best teams," says coach Gene Wettstone, now in his 31st year at State. "It compares favorably with our previous title teams and has good depth and balance. However, gymnastics competition around the country is better than it used to be, so winning a title will be difficult."

In the all-around competition, Mauno Nissinen of the hosting Huskies looms as the man to beat. But Emery, who this season brought State its 18th Eastern all-around crown, must be considered a top contender along with teammate Dick Swetman. State's last all-around winner was Steve Cohen in 1967.

Swetman and co-captain Emery are two of seven Lions who qualified for the nationals. The others are co-captain John Kindon on side horse, Paul Vexler on rings and long horse vault, Joe Litow on the high bar, Tom Clark in free exercise and Tom Dunn on parallel bars.

A Round Of Fun For P.S.U. Alumni

University Park, Pa. — Of the seven teams battling against Penn State for the NCAA gymnastics title this weekend at Seattle, three (Southern Illinois, California and Iowa) are coached by former Penn State gymnasts.

SIU's Bill Meade and California's Hal Frey already have won national titles while Iowa's Mike Jacobson will be trying for his first. Jacobson was a national all-around champion in 1965 when Penn State won its last team crown.

"They'll be out to get me," laughed Gene Wettstone, who has coached Penn State to eight national titles. "Meade and Frey already have gotten me in the past — now I suppose Jacobson feels it's his turn."



You may feel that this is not sports news from University Park. Well, you're right. It is not from U. P., but it is a sport from Highacres. Join the Collegian Staff and find out for yourself!

GRIDDERS ON BASEBALL SQUAD

University Park, Pa. — Three members of Penn State's unbeaten 1968 football squad — defensive backs Mike Smith and George Landis and defensive end Ed Stofko — will pass up grid drills to play baseball this spring.

Smith appears to have won a starting infield berth, either at shortstop or second base, while Stofko is battling for a first base berth and Landis is a catching candidate.

Football isn't the only other sport represented on the baseball squad. Mike Egleston, the No. 6 man in basketball this past season, is first baseman, while Tom Daley, a basketball regular, also is battling for a baseball job. Daley played tennis last spring.

Another gridder passing up football practice is All-East tackle Mike Reid. He's a shot-putter and discus man in track.

SHORTER SPORTS

Penn State will begin spring football practice on Saturday, April 12. Drills will end Saturday, May 17 with the annual Blue - White game in Beaver Stadium.

By placing third in the NCAA wrestling championships, Penn State's 145-pounder Clyde Frantz made the best showing of any Penn Stater in the nationals since 1964 when Mark Piven placed third at 130 pounds. Frantz finished his first season on the varsity with a 16-3-1 record.

The October 11 battle with old rival West Virginia has been designated as Penn State's Homecoming game for next fall. Band Day will be Sept. 27 when Colorado is the football opponent.

Next fall's Penn State - North Carolina State football game at Raleigh will be televised nationally by the American Broadcasting Company. Originally scheduled to be played Nov. 8, the game has been moved to Nov. 29 and will be part of a national double-header, with Army - Navy, on at 1:30 followed by Penn State-North Carolina State.

Rick Wright, a senior from Colingdale, is the first Penn Stater ever to be named to the All-America fencing team. He gained that honor by placing fourth in epee in the NCAA championships at Raleigh. In the team race, Penn State tied Princeton for 19th place (among 43 schools), the Lions' highest finish ever.

PUTTING WORDS INTO ACTIONS

University Park, Pa. — Putting their words into action, members of the journalism faculty at The Pennsylvania State University have pledged one per cent of their salaries over the next four years to help underwrite black students in the field of communications.

"No, we don't expect to whip the world with our little program, but it is a start," said H. Eugene Goodwin, director of the School of Journalism, in announcing the special project.

Goodwin also said he hopes to solicit funds from various other sources to sponsor additional black students.

"The sources we have already contacted have been favorably impressed by the commitment of our faculty," he reported. "But since we want to maintain personal responsibility for the students, the program will not be operated on a massive scale. At this stage we'll be happy if the faculty can raise funds to sponsor just four or five students."

The money will be used to recruit students and to finance their education costs. Tutoring will also be provided if necessary.

Final selections in the program will be made by a faculty committee.