

BETWEEN THE LIONS

Bob Wilson

Gymnasts are the craziest people. They cut their arms off the rings with their legs. They fly away. They execute butterflies. They make iron crosses. And they ride the funniest horses.

I can't understand it. A layout roll is not the tempting tidbit of pastry it's cracked up to be; nor is a "Baroni" anymore like a popular Italian cocktail than beige water.

What a screwy bunch! Even as this is written, Gene Wettstone and his varsity gymnasts are coming new words and phrases that will confound linguists and double talkers alike.

Their language just doesn't make sense. Proof: This typical conversation between Captain Merrill Beck and ringman Elmer Weaver.

Beck: "What exercise are you going to use on the rings this season, Elmer?" Weaver: "Well, I'm gonna 'shoot' at a figure with more continuity and fewer 'breaks.' I'll probably mount with a back kip to a handstand, then lower into a planche. I'll follow up with an inverted crucifix, layout rolls and shoulder dislocates. If I'm lucky I'll dismount by cutting off both arms with my legs, backwards."

Beck: "Then you don't plan to include an iron cross and hammerlock?" Weaver: "That's right."

Imagine a guy wanting fewer breaks, cutting off his arms and dislocating his shoulders just for the glory of old State and a few additional points. I tell you, they're all crazy up there!

Gene Wettstone explains that the nomenclature used by gymnasts is taken from German, Swiss, Swedish and English. Penn State gymnasts use English Y.M.C.A. nomenclature with a few Swiss terms interspersed.

Many gymnastic tricks are defined in dictionaries, but those not defined are usually named for some person or subject. For example, the iron cross on the flying rings is executed by holding the body vertical, extending the arms away from the body horizontally to both sides, thus forming a cross. Since the trick is so hard to accomplish, it has been named the "iron" (hard, iron, get it?) cross.

New skills which are more or less a sensation in themselves are often named for the gymnast who originated them. A "Moore" for example, is a beautiful skill on the side horse involving free leg circles, rotating the body one pommel. Roy Moore, now chairman of the A. A. U., introduced it.

Some other good tricks named after the men who invented them are "The Cominsky," "The Jockim" and "Wheeler's."

Roman Pieo, Penn State's record-holding rope climber, has perfected a new trick which the Lion gymnasts now call the "Pieo." It is a back pivot to a front support on the parallel bars.

After seeing Roman and the rest of the Wettstone company perform, I have decided to stick to playing bridge, making fudge and talking with eighth-graders.

Post Mortem Questionnaire
In no other field is fame so fleeting nor facts more easily forgotten as in the field of sports. If you don't believe it, take a crack at this questionnaire. It embodies questions from headlines that made Collegian news during 1939. See page four (4) for answers.

- Where did Barney Ewell finish in the 60-yard dash event at the Millrose games last February?
- Who captained Penn State last year in swimming? In gym? In lacrosse? In baseball? In tennis? In track? In golf? In cross-country? In fencing? In soccer? In basketball?
- How many State athletes placed in the Penn A C indoor track meet last year? Who were they? Were any records broken?
- What State athlete was chosen Most Outstanding Senior by the Collegian last year?
- How many Eastern intercollegiate boxing and wrestling champs did State have last year?
- What Lion wrestler placed second in the National Collegiate at Lancaster last year?
- Who was Busby Butterfinger?
- What Lion basketball player was named on the Associated Press All-Eastern Conference team?
- Which varsity sport had a new coach? Who was he?
- Who was named Outstanding Senior Athlete by the Lion varsity coaches last year?
- Who won the first Frankie Goodman boxing trophy?
- What fraternity won the 1939 Intramural Athletic Trophy?
- Who scored State's lone touchdown against Pitt?
- What two Penn State athletes won John W. White scholarships last year?
- Who took scoring honors for the Lions in soccer? In football? In cross-country?
- What three Lion gridderes were named on the first All-Collegian team?
- Who wore the Nittany Lion skin at its first and only appearance in 1939?
- What fraternity swept both intramural championships in volleyball and table tennis?
- Who kicked the field goals that helped beat both Penn and Pitt?
- What was the score of the Bucknell-State football game? The Lehigh-State game?

Lion Cagers To Face Hoyas Tomorrow

State Drops Close Battle To Pitt, 31-28

Nittany Cagers Trounce Mount Union, Kent, and Akron on New Year's Trip

By BILL FOWLER
Their three game, New Year's victory spree in Ohio slightly clouded by a hangover in the smoky city—a 31-28 setback by Pitt—Saturday night, Penn State's unpredictable cage quintet will tangle with Georgetown in Rec Hall at 8 p. m. tomorrow.

Hardly in the nature of an aspirin tablet for the Nittanymen will be the Hoyas, who last year jettied the lions twice, '32 and '33 and '34. However, they looked none too impressive in losing to Temple by a 10 point margin last week, while John Lawther, protegee will try hard for a successful 1940 debut on home soil.

A bitter pill for the Lions to swallow was the first point spurt which carried the Panthers to victory in the last two minutes of play Saturday. Nemesis of the Nittanymen was a fed-headed junior center, Melvin Port, who dipped in two field goals and a foul to furnish the victory margin in a Frank Merrillville finish.

No less than nine times during the contest was the score deadlocked as the two teams fought down the stretch in an extra-tight defensive battle. The quarter court was 7-7 the halfway score 11-11, and the Lions went into the final stanza boasting a one point margin.

Beautiful work at the foul line kept the Nittany tossers in the game, their 14 tallies out of 20 attempts exactly doubling the Pitt total. A 12 to 7 margin in field goals went to the Panthers. Eddie Stralowski of Pitt walked off with scoring honors for the evening with 11 markers, while Norm Racusin paced the Lions with seven.

Win 3 on Trip
A lightning three-day invasion of Ohio had earlier been completed by a squad of 11 Nittany floor warriors. Their campaign in brief:
A second-half ambush of Mt. Union, 31-24.
A bloody massacre of Akron 55-20.
A marksmanship exhibition to scuttle Kent 36-21.

Boxing Team Outlook Good
Western Maryland Bout Opens Season January 20
By BUD SMYSER
A team as good or better than last year's is beginning to shape up through the clouds that always surround the usual pre-season battle on Penn State's varsity boxing team.

'39 TEAMS SET SPORTS RECORD

Penn State's 14 varsity sports teams reached a new high during 1939 when they attained a record of 84 triumphs against 41 losses and five ties for a victory average of 672 to better their 1938 percentage.

With four freshman teams achieving perfect records, the yearling sports record for the year was 606 with 20 victories against 13 defeats and one deadlock.

The complete records of both varsity and freshman teams:

Varsity	W L T			Totals
	W	L	T	
Soccer	7	0	1	8
Baseball	15	4	0	19
Fencing	6	1	0	7
Football	5	1	2	8
Golf	7	2	0	9
Tennis	7	3	0	10
Wrestling	5	2	1	8
Track	3	1	0	4
Boxing	4	2	1	7
Swimming	5	4	0	9
Basketball	13	10	0	23
Lacrosse	4	5	0	9
Gymnastics	1	3	0	4

Freshman				
W	L	T	Pct	
Baseball	4	0	0	100
Wrestling	2	0	0	100
Tennis	1	0	0	100
Soccer	2	0	1	66.7
Basketball	5	2	0	71.4
Lacrosse	1	1	0	50
Golf	1	1	0	50
Track	1	1	0	50
Boxing	1	1	0	50
Football	2	3	0	40
Swimming	0	2	0	0
Swimming	0	2	0	0
Total	20	13	1	606
Totals	104	56	6	658

Grapplers Show Promise In Interclass Wrestling

Seniors Win With 33 Point Total; Team Will Open Campaign At Cornell Saturday

By BOB LANE
With the completion of the interclass wrestling bouts Saturday afternoon when the grapplers received their first real taste of mat competition it appeared that Penn State, like in the past, would have a wrestling team this year.

What kind of a team it will be may be answered this Saturday when Coach Charley Speidel's proteges travel to Ithaca to open their mat campaign against Cornell.

In the inter-squad competition Saturday the seniors won the meet with a total score of 33 points, the juniors placed second with 26, the sophomores took third with 9, and the frosh were last with a total of 8 points.

Nittany Fencers Will Battle Penn And Lehigh Away
Considerably weaker this year due to the loss of four regulars from last year's squad, Penn State's fencing team leaves Friday for meets with Lehigh and Penn in Bethlehem and Philadelphia, respectively.

Gym Cub Opens Here Saturday
Williamsport Club First Pore; Navy, Temple Next
By DICK PETERS
Representing Penn State for the first time in intercollegiate competition, Gene Wettstone's freshman gymnasts will tackle the Williamsport Gym Club in a practice meet Saturday afternoon in Rec Hall. The Lion Cub acrobats have two other meets slated with the Navy Plebes and the Temple freshmen.

Sports Menu
Tomorrow
Basketball—Georgetown 8 p m
Friday
Fencing—Lehigh, Awa
Saturday
Wrestling—Cornell, Awa
Fr Wrestling—Cornell, Awa
Fencing—Penn, Awa
Basketball—Carnegie T, Awa

Lion Mermen Lose First Tilt To Penn, 40-35

Kirkpatrick Sets Pace In Two Freestyle Events; Squad Weak In Distances

By BAYARD BLOOM
"Next year is the year."
So predicted Lion swimming mentor Bob Galbraith after his varsity mermen lost their opening tilt to a strong tank team in Philadelphia Saturday by the close score of 40-35. Sparked by super sprinter Bill Kirkpatrick who egg beaters his way to first places in both the 50 and 100-yard freestyle races, as well as anchoring the victorious 100 yard relay team.

Coach Galbraith based his prophecy on solid logic by pointing out that in the five years which Lion swimming teams have met the Quakers, the Lions have bettered their score by five points each year. The first meet five years ago went to Penn by the one sided score of 55-20.

McLaughlin Looks Good
State showed up weak in the distance breaststroke, and back stroke against Penn, while the divers and sprinters lived up to and exceeded expectations. Co-captain Guy McLaughlin and Al Price placed one two respectively in the fancy diving competition, with McLaughlin looking exceptionally good.

Surprise stars of the meet for the Nittany men were Elmer Webb, Don DelManzo, and Warren Raab, all sprinters, who with Bill Kirkpatrick as anchor copped the 100 yard freestyle relay for State.

SPORTS BRIEFS
Smith Beaten
Billy Smith, Lion cross-country captain and former ICA-A champion, took second place in the annual Middle Atlantic District A U senior championship cross-country run over a six and a quarter mile course (10,000 meters) in Philadelphia on December 24. The meet was won by Henry Hart McCurry, a C speedster.

Soose Seventh
The world's seventh best middleweight in the quarterly ranking of the National Boxing Association Penn State's former intercollegiate champion, Bill Soose, now has plans to avenge the only defeat of his comeback campaign by facing 12 Soose won the right to the George Abrams (eighth in the NBA ranking) again on February re-match with a five-round knockout of Jimmy Jones in Philadelphia on December 19. Jones holds a kayo over Abrams.

Skiers Tenth
Penn State's skiers took tenth place among 12 teams entered in the annual ski meet at the Lake Placid Club Sno Birds Held December 30 and 31 and January 1. Middlebury was first with Harvard and Yale second and third. The Lion skiers entered the cross-country, slalom, and downhill races jump but did not take part in the ski jump. The skiers will compete at Cornell this week end.

AAU Rejects Ewell's 50-Yard Dash Mark
A world's record for the 50-yard dash established by Barney Ewell, Penn State star, was rejected at a recent meeting of the record committee of the National Amateur Athletic Union.

Ice Hockey
Penn State's informal ice hockey team will make its second appearance in the newly formed Hershey Intercollegiate league when the Lions face the Hershey Cubs there Friday night. They lost their first encounter to Penn, 4-1. Practices have been held at Metzger's Dam since vacation ended.

Hoffman Referees Meet meet between Clearfield and Bosc College Registrar William S well High Schools last Friday Hoffman refereed the wrestling night at Clearfield

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