

Track Lions Permitted To Retain IC4-A Title

EIWA 'Veteran 6' Coach 158 Years

Owning service records that make Roosevelt's three terms look like temporary employment, six of the EIWA coaches now hovering around Rec Hall are outstanding veterans of the mat-mentoring game.

The Veteran Six have been coaching collegiate wrestlers for a total of 158 years—more than a century and a half. Three of the "boys" have brought teams to this annual tournament for more than 30 years each.

Dean of the coaches is Walter C. O'Connell of Cornell, who began his coaching career at Ithaca in 1908 and has coached Big Red grapplers every year since, except for two seasons during the first World War. Other mat mentors have been trying for the last 10 years to equal O'Connell's record for individual champions.

Just behind O'Connell in years of service is Billy Sheridan, of Lehigh, who started coaching the Engineers in 1912. At 17, 7 years before he first saw America, the popular Scotchman was feather-weight champion of the British Isles. For the past 15 years Billy's Lehigh teams have dominated the EIWA, winning the championship with monotonous regularity all but a few times in the last decade.

Coaches 30 Years

Gus Peterson, Columbia's mat mentor, has clicked off an even thirty years at coaching wrestlers; the first two at Princeton between 1913 and 1915. He is the only EIWA coach who has served at more than one college in the Association.

William "Prof" Davison has served Syracuse ever since the Orangemen joined the Association in 1923. Annual setbacks in the tournament have never dimmed Prof's enthusiasm for the mat game, and an occasional champion keeps him looking ahead with optimism.

The striplings of the Veteran Six are Eddie O'Donnell of Yale and Penn State's own Charlie Speidel, both of whom settled down to their present posts in 1927. O'Donnell's boys celebrated his first year as Eli coach by tying Lehigh for the EIWA championship. Last year history did an encore when Yale tied Princeton for the title.

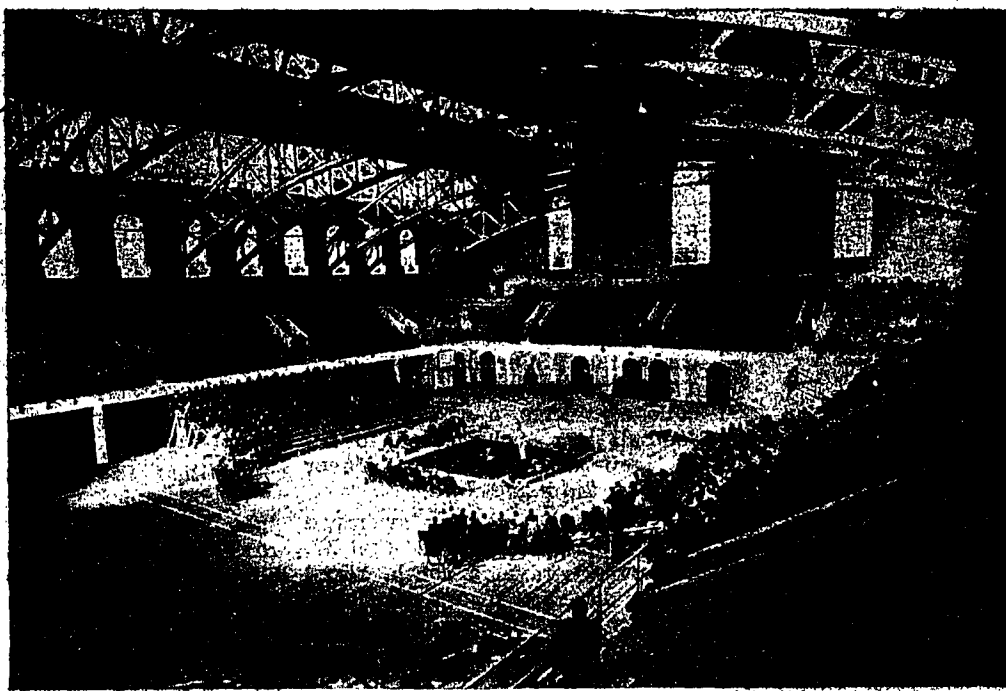
The dual-meet record compiled by Speidel is probably unsurpassed by any coach in the Association. Charlie's boys have lost only 18 meets in 16 seasons, tying 2, and winning 85, for a victory percentage of .825. Under Speidel, the Nittany wrestlers broke Lehigh's monopoly of the championship meet in 1936 and 1937, and have rarely finished below third in the EIWA contests.

Four Newcomers

The four other Association coaches are comparative newcomers in the grunt and groan game; each has been on the job for five years or less. Austin Bishop, who took over at Penn just five years ago, rushed the Quakers to the top in short order. The F and M graduate's squad is, in fact, highly favored to win in this year's tourney.

Lloyd Appleton, with even less experience behind him, seems to be copying Bishop's victory campaign in his efforts toward entrenching Army in the wrestling front lines. Jimmy Reed, although a newcomer at Princeton, was one of Lehigh's many eastern champions, and a member of the American Olympic wrestling squad in 1928.

Ray Swartz, Navy's mat mastermind, was Ed Gallagher's right-hand man at Oklahoma for several seasons before taking the reins at Annapolis.



History Repeats Itself—The above scene from the 1934 Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association championship tournament was duplicated in Rec Hall last night as 1,300 people witnessed the quarter round bouts in the annual title-fight. Since the site of the yearly competition revolves among the eleven member schools, the same picture will probably be repeated in 1953. The University of Pennsylvania has been chosen as the host college for the 39th Annual EIWA tourney next year.

Eastern Mat Intercollegiates Started In 1904; Among Country's Oldest College Conferences

Believed to be the oldest athletic conference in the country, the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association has been operating continuously since 1904 when it was conceived by two undergraduates at the University of Pennsylvania and their wrestling coach, J. Leonard Mason.

Composed of Penn, Yale, Princeton and Columbia as charter members, the first intercollegiate tourney was held in Pennsylvania's Weightman Hall on April 5, 1905, with Yale winning the initial honors. For the next four years the Bulldogs retained their hold on the top spot, and then dropped out of the Association until 1920.

With wrestling in 7 divisions, 115, 125, 135, 145, 150, 175 and heavyweight, the bouts were 9 minute preliminary and 15-minute final matches. The referee was the sole judge.

Taking Yale's place in the league, Cornell was admitted in 1908 and immediately took over the monopolization of championship titles. With the exception of a single championship won by Princeton in 1911, the Ithacans gained the title every year from 1910 to 1917.

Penn State's first intercollegiate wrestling match was with Cornell at Ithaca in 1909. The Lions bowed to the Big Red, 6 to 1. Previous to this meet, State's only wrestling experience had been in inter-class bouts.

After that beginning, the Nittany Lions petitioned the Association for membership in the winter of 1910 but was refused admission. Refused again in 1911, the Lions were finally admitted as a member in the Intercollegiate Wrestling Association on 16, 1917, almost 25 years to the day of the present tournament.

Princeton dropped out during the war years, Lehigh was added along with State, and then in 1920 both Yale and the Princeton Tigers came back into the fold. The league now boasted seven members.

Syracuse became the eighth member in 1925, and the association became a powerful force in college athletics. Cornell won again in 1926, and the following year Yale and Lehigh tied for the title. With this, the Engineers of Lehigh began their long reign, winning seven out of eight years, until Cornell broke it up

in 1930.

Harvard was admitted to the Association in 1934 as the ninth member; and Penn State, now under Charlie Speidel's tutelage, kept Lehigh from duplicating Cornell's early achievement of winning six straight by nosing out the Engineers in 1936, 31 to 30. This championship was not decided until the final third place bout had been contested.

Winning again the following year, the Lions walked away with five individual titles and 35 points for a team total. This represents the largest team score in the history of the Association. In 1938, 1939, and 1940, Lehigh again took over, but last year Yale and Princeton—neither having been considered in the running when the tournament started—tied for the title at Columbia.

Last year marked the entrance of both Army and Navy into the Association, bringing it up to its present total of eleven colleges. With 25 years of activity behind it, the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association is claimed to be one of the most colorful organizations in the American sporting scene.

He wrestled in his senior year in both 155 and 165-pound weights.

Gordon's Eligibility Okayed By Committee

After a week of wrangling and speculation Penn State will be permitted to keep the IC4-A championship it won in New York, Saturday. The Lion title was questioned concerning Norm Gordon's eligibility to participate.

Decision on the problem was announced here last night in a telegram from Asa S. Bushnell, executive director of the Eastern Intercollegiate Athletic Association and director of the games, to Dr. Carl P. Schott, dean of the School of Physical Education.

The telegram stated "Executive committee's action validates Gordon's performances. Leaves results and championship unchanged."

The Lion trackmen went to New York with an outside chance, according to experts, of winning the meet over Fordham, the favorites. They won, beating the Rams by a score of 21 7-10 to 20 1/2.

Then like a bombshell, from a New York sports writer their burst the flood of protest which led to a week of investigation by the IC4-A executive committee. Result of the investigation is shown in last night's telegram.

Gordon, the Lion's individual hero of the meet, was a decisive factor in the win by his four points in the 1,000-yard event and his pacing of the two-mile relay team to a surprising second place.

According to Dean Schott, the rule, which states that athletes are eligible for competition only four years after matriculation, is a protest against "tramp" athletes but is usually not considered applicable to students who have had to leave college. This was the case with Gordon.

Protest of eligibility, he said, must be made before meets. He explained the Penn State stand to Bushnell in a letter, Tuesday, stressing the fact that no statement was made until a Monday morning newspaper pointed out the irregularity.

Dean Schott's comment on the committee's report was, "I'm very happy that this turned out as it did. I feel that it was a very sensible decision."

'45 Swimmers In Tourney

Represented by four sprint stars, the '45 swim squad will compete in the Eastern Intercollegiate Championships at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., today. A 400-yard free-style relay team composed of Capt. Clyde Bell, Herb Hirschfield, Dick Wesner and Bob Storb is entered in the tourney. The varsity will not enter the Intercollegiate this year.

BUY DEFENSE STAMPS AND BONDS

4 Mat Mentors Referee All Bouts

Refereeing the EIWA championship matches are four of the outstanding wrestling officials in the country. All four are grappling coaches, three on college and one on a high school team, but none of their teams are entered in the tournament.

Richard K. Cole, Providence, R. I., head wrestling coach at Brown University, will be one of the officials, aided by Clifford J. Gallagher, Easton, Pa., mat coach of Lafayette University. Gallagher is the brother of the late famous Ed Gallagher, formerly coach at Oklahoma A. and M.

The other two referees are Bliss P. Sargeant, Springfield, Mass., coach at Springfield College, and a former Lafayette wrestler, and Wilbur B. Lehman, Philadelphia, Pa., coach at Cheltenham High School in Philadelphia.

Johnston '35 Lone Lion National Champ

In the history of wrestling at Penn State, there appears the name of one national champion. He was Howard K. "Red" Johnston '35 who won the title by decisively Robertson of Oklahoma University, Big Six champion, in the tournament at Lehigh in 1935.

Other teams which led State in the meet were Oklahoma U., Illinois, and Indiana. The other two Lion entries, Cramer and Yoder, failed to win their bouts. Johnston's win came in the second extra period.

The Nittany champion was the only Eastern entry to get into the final round and according to Charles M. Schwartz, Penn State Collegian staff writer in 1936, his semi-final bout with Earle Kiel—then the final struggle.

His career as a Lion wrestler included earning his letter in his sophomore year, winning in the 165-pound division in the EIWA meet in 1934 and 1935, and his

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