

Olympic Gym Chatter

Second of a Series
By Tom Morgan

Saturday, May 1, is a red-letter gym date at Penn State. When local and national gymnastics fans flock to Rec Hall, it will mark the first time in Olympic history that final United States gymnastic tryouts have not been staged in New York City.

Pre-Olympic competition in conjunction with the 1948 renewal of the National Amateur Athletic Union championships in Rec Hall will draw the country's foremost gymnasts, both non-collegiate and collegiate; this will add a cubit to the already-prominent stature of the College in national gymnastics circles.

Cooperating in the Olympic spirit—fostering athletics on a truly non-professional basis—the College is charging the United States Olympic Committee nary a red penny for the use of its facilities when they play host to the country's top gymnasts and the fans who follow them.

Why? It's the Olympic spirit!

Lion Coach Gene Wettstone, secretary of the United States Gymnastics Olympics Committee, explained, "It takes about \$500,000 to send the American athletic contingent in all sports to the July Olympics in London. Since the Olympic Association wants to keep sports on a real amateur basis, it would rather have the money from the people, from those really interested in the sport and in amateur athletics in true form."

The Nittany coach, who won the Big Ten all-around title three years in a row, continued, "Penn State is much in keeping with this policy. The School of Physical Education has already made an outright \$1000 donation and is about to dig into its funds once more to make many small contributions needed to run the Olympic tryouts."

He added, "The College will turn over all the May 1 gate receipts and all revenue from the 25-cent programs to the Olympic Committee. No complimentary tickets are being issued. All officials and contestants—some from as far as the west coast—will receive no traveling expenses."

Again, it's the Olympic spirit!

All this goes to help the United States Olympic Gymnastics Committee reach its goal of \$18,000, to be raised through funds received from the tryouts and district championships, and sale of stamps and auto license shields, and through private contributions.

Coach Wettstone declared emphatically, "It's the hard way, but it's being done—to keep the sport on an amateur basis."

Olympic officials' vigorous desire to keep the sport non-professional prompted them to turn down offers from two major tobacco companies to foot the \$500,000 bill to send American athletes to London. In return these companies would have advertised nationally something like this—"Joe Doak, national gym champ, smokes LaFumes."

Olympic bigwigs also turned thumbs down on a proposal by the United States government to enact legislation to sponsor Uncle Sam's team at London.

That's not all. What little advertising the Medart Manufacturing Company in St. Louis derives from donating all the gym equipment for the tryouts and London Olympics will not compensate for its expense in doing so.

What probably demonstrates to an exceptional degree the interest gymnastic people have in the sport is a recent letter from one of the judges who'll officiate May 1. He wrote that he looked forward to coming to State College and was enclosing enough money to cover the price of his admission ticket.

Coach Wettstone returned the money and thanked him. He thought that at least the judges should get in free. Yes, it's the Olympic spirit!

Hemlocks Win Title In Volleyball Loop

The Hemlocks clinched the league title of the independent section of the IM volleyball tournament by virtue of their forfeit victory over Dorm 35 Monday night. This victory ran their record to four wins and no losses.

The Steelers, league 2 champs, sporting another 4-0 slate will meet the Hemlocks Thursday night at 9 o'clock in the first of the elimination playoffs of the tourney.

Beta Theta Pi-A are league 1 champs and Phi Kappa Psi-B swept league 13 of the fraternity section; both teams boast four victories and no defeats. Other fraternity champs will be decided Thursday night and playoffs of fraternity entries will begin Monday night.

Illness Slows Thielmen

With letterman Rog Nestor out with a broken leg, and Captain "Wild Bill" Hollenbach ill, Coach Nick Thiel's stick forces are short handedly preparing for a two-game trip to Philadelphia on Friday and Saturday.

Hollenbach, star defensive performer in the goal, has missed practice for the past ten days, but is expected to be ready by game-time on Friday, when the Lions tangle with Drexel Tech. On Saturday, the Blue and White lacrosse men challenge Penn.

"I'm still undecided about our team," Coach Thiel said. "We should have a good squad, but it isn't showing up in practice. It may be that we're too evenly matched, but what we need is some game experience."

Nick Thiel, lacrosse coach, edits a monthly newsletter which goes to more than 700 lacrosse enthusiasts.

Weight Lifters

An informal meeting will be held in Rec Hall at 7:30 o'clock tomorrow morning to organize a weight lifting club among the College students.

Two Penn State students, George Heller and Joe Errigo, will conduct the meeting and will also give instruction to prospective weight lifters.

Weather Hampers Tennis Playoffs

Cold weather, sweeping winds, and rain combined last week to hamper tennis elimination tournaments to decide the varsity and junior varsity teams.

Although held back by the elements, three players show improvement over last year's performances, said lanky Sherman Fogg, tennis coach. These players are George Kline, Ralph Peters, and Al Sopp, who were on the 1947 squad, but did not play any matches.

Coach Fogg points out that tennis players must get into physical shape the same as any other athlete. He must stop eating starches, sleep regularly each night, and improve his wind. In fact, Fogg said, some tennis players run around the track and play handball to make breathing easier during long matches.

Because of the bad weather the players have not been able to round into condition. Herb Beckhard, beginning his third season on the Lion court team, normally weighs 190, but has to lose 15 pounds before the season starts. Since Beckhard can't work out every day he finds this task difficult.

Ridenour Wins In Olympic Trials

Charlie Ridenour, ex-Lion mat great and now coach of the jay-vee grapplers, copped the 124.5-pound class championship in the District Olympic wrestling tryouts at New Brunswick, N. J., on Friday and Saturday.

Ridenour, who represented the New York AC, pinned arch-rival Eddie Collins, also of the New York AC, in the finals. The time of the fall was 4:28. Ridenour thus qualified for the Olympic finals, scheduled at Ames, Iowa, April 29 and 30, and May 1.

Ridenour won each of his five bouts in the tournament by fall. Bob Morgan, another former Nittany matman, was eliminated from the tournament on Saturday afternoon. However, Morgan won the consolation heavyweight match by throwing Richard Read, Valley Forge Military Academy, in 11:08.

26 Intramural Games Open Handball, Badminton Sets

Five handball doubles contests and 12 badminton matches marked the opening of two new intramural elimination contests.

Only two matches were won by forfeit in the badminton games while only two of the five handball sets were contested.

In badminton Monday night Hallman, Sigma Phi, won by forfeit over Krusen, Alpha Chi Sigma; Markowitz, Phi Sigma Delta, won over Peters, Lambda Chi Alpha, 15-0, 15-11; Fox, Phi Epsilon Pi, won over McKean, Phi Gamma Delta, 15-10, 15-6; Arnold, Phi Kappa Sigma, won over Horen, Theta Chi, 15-3, 15-2.

Carroll, Phi Kappa, won over Hollowell, A.G.R., 15-9, 15-7; Hoover, Theta Xi, won over Peetry, Pi Kappa Phi, 15-7, 15-14; Saling, Delta Tau Delta, won over Parker, Phi Delta Theta, 15-8, 15-6; Meury, Sigma Alpha, won by forfeit over Hyser, Alpha Zeta; Klotz, Sigma Phi Epsilon, won over West, Sigma Pi, 15-2, 15-12. Cyphers, Pi K.A., won over Besser, Z.B.T., 15-6, 15-8; So-wash, Lambda Chi Alpha, won over Carothers, Triangle, 15-1, 15-2; Rosborough, Chi Phi, won over Norton, Phi Gamma Delta, 15-5, 7-15, 15-12.

In Monday's handball games, Jaffurs and Fessler, Alpha Chi Sigma, defeated Mullen and McHugh, Phi Kappa Sigma, 21-5, 21-10; Levy and Krane, Z.B.T., defeated Abernethy and Bragg, Pi K.A., 21-18, 18-21, 21-9; Luther and Hagerman, Phi Delta Theta, defeated Dieruff and Strunk, Acacia, forfeit; Kline and Murray, SAE, defeated Firestone and Berg, Beta Sigma Rho, forfeit; and Colone and Sulik, Sigma Nu, defeated Vitabile and Wilkie, Theta Xi, forfeit.

Natalors Name 1949 Tank Captain

Bill Schildmacher, a sixth semester forestry student from Erie, was named captain of the 1948 Nittany Lion swimming team at a banquet given for the squad in the State College Hotel recently.

Schildmacher, who competed chiefly in the 50 and 100 yard free style events last season, replaces Don Peck, last year's captain, who graduates this June.

Announcement of Bob Bench as head manager and naming of three first and two alternate tank managers also highlighted the annual dinner.

Charles Annual Clearance Sale

Starts Thursday
April 15, 1948

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ONE RACK OF DRESSES
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