

# Sports Thru The Lion's Eye

By JAKE HIGHTON  
Collegian Sports Editor

Kentucky's Adolph Rupp, coach of one of the nation's best basketball teams—currently beaten only by the NCAA, supposedly has the door to his Bluegrass University office trimmed to a neat 6-1½-inch height. This arithmetic exactness is not madness, but merely a Rupp method expressed thusly: "If a boy doesn't bump his head on the door, I don't shake hands with him."

It isn't exactly the custom to criticize the coaching methods of a man who has monopolized the Southeastern Conference basketball titles for the last nine years. However, it would be a shameful oversight on Rupp's part if he were not to shake hands with Hal Brown, Penn State freshman court sensation until his sudden and "mysterious" disappearance at mid-semester.

Brown's 5-10 stature left him 3½ inches shy of meriting a Rupp handshake. Nevertheless, the former York High School all-State star was so extraordinary that he surely could have made the first seven of Elmer Gross' varsity had frosh been eligible.

Brown was the type of ballplayer nobody would dare frown on because he was several inches shorter—he too easily made monkeys of foes. Brown had the attributes of ex-Nittany great, Joe Tocci, class of '50, who even in sneakers had 4½ feet between his head and the rim of the hoop. Like Tocci, Brown was an adroit ballhandler, hawking interceptor, playmaker, speedy trickster, fine shot, and a coolly poised spark plug. You know, the ballplayer's ballplayer. The kind the crowd loves because he is a basketball player, not a giraffe who has more height than skill.

The cynic will probably sneer, "If he was that good, why did he come to Penn State? Surely he had hundreds of lucrative scholarship offers." And indeed, a guy as good as Brown did have numerous scholarship offers far better than State could offer. But, as phony as it may sound in this bonus-crazy, what-will-you-give-me era, Brown came here because he honestly liked Penn State.

Then, unexpectedly several weeks ago, Brown silently folded his basketball logs—Penn State ones anyhow, since he's too good to be college—and slipped out of the Nittany Vale. It's more than probable that he still liked Penn State, but three major sorespots left Brown unhappy, if not dissatisfied.

To begin with, bustling Brown had somewhat of a struggle working—he had no fat scholarship. With too few hours in a day for working, basketballing, and studying, Brown flunked two courses (but not flunked out of school as a first semester frosh). Then thirdly, and possibly looming largest, Brown did not fit into the Gross machine which requires a tall, six-foot plus cog essential for good zone defense play.

The horse—Whirlaway or some other topflight thoroughbred would be a fitting comparison—has already escaped the barn. And it's a pity. In a game which has more and more become a big man's, a goon's, Lil' Hal Brown was refreshingly wonderful to watch—and he could have greatly aided future Penn State cage teams. He, again like Tocci, was "bigger" than his mere program measurements.

### ★ ★ ★ SPRING, SPEECHES, AND RESERVES: ★ ★ ★

Spring officially arrived in State College Monday afternoon. Joe Bedenk's varsity pitchers and catchers—still only "throwers and receivers" this early—threw out the first baseballs in the Florida-climated (use your imagination) training quarters underneath Beaver Field stands. . . . A guy used to feel sorry for Rip Engle's gray hairs and ulcers during the football season. But golly, with the mad whirl of banquets and speeches, the harried-looking Ripper probably years for the "peace and quiet" of the fall. . . . It was reserve night in Rec Hall Wednesday for both the cagers and wrestlers. Charlie Speidel could have wrestled his managers and licked the Charlie Ridenour Penns. Even a brushup lesson from his old boss probably won't help Ridenour (three-time Nittany EIWA champ) with his sub-par material. The Red & Blue could only get 13 points in eight bouts, two less than Bob Homan got by himself in one hassle. . . . Secondstringers romped for the basketball team too. However, Rec Hall still hasn't seen a topflight basketball team this season and probably won't until West Virginia hits town Feb. 25.

## LaStarza, 7-5, to Fight Layne Tonight

NEW YORK, (AP)—A lucrative title shot at the Rocky Marciano-Jersey Joe Walcott winner will be the prize tonight when cautious Roland LaStarza of New York collides head-on with aggressive Rex Layne in a Madison Square Garden 10-rounder.

The handsome, 25-year-old LaStarza is a 7 to 5 favorite to out-box the 24-year-old ex-GI from Lewiston, Utah, in a scrap which should provide plenty of blood and thunder.

Starting at 10 p.m. EST, the bout will be telecast by NBC into homes from coast to coast.

New York fight winners are determined by the number of rounds taken.

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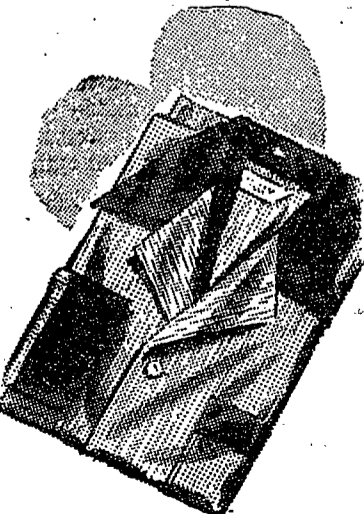
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# Gymnasts Navy-Bound For Tomorrow's Meet

By GEORGE BAIREY

Gymnastics Coach Gene Wettstone put his starting crew through its final paces yesterday in its last Rec Hall workout before embarking at 12:30 p.m. today for Annapolis and the Midshipmen of Navy.

"The Navy meet is the big one," Wettstone said yesterday, "and could very well decide Eastern supremacy this season." The Eastern team title goes to the team with the best won-lost dual meet seasonal record in EIGA competition, not in a post-season tournament, which is for individual crowns.

Army started winning the EIGA team title back in 1950 and has yet to relinquish it. The EIGA post-season tourney will be held March 14 at West Point this year for the individual titles.

At McDonough Gym tomorrow, the gymnasts' sophomore stylist, Jan Cronstedt, and Navy's number-one attraction, Hal Lewis, are expected to wage a terrific scoring duel on the horizontal bar, according to Wettstone, who saw Lewis perform against Temple last week.

Lewis, in 1951, won the Eastern title and also the National title on the horizontal bar, then broke his leg in the middle of last season. This year will be his last complete season of intercollegiate competition.

Another top duel will feature Dave Schultz and Middle Ray Crater in the rope climb. Both men are capable of turning in 4.0 efforts.

Baffa, Boudreau on Rope  
Wettstone said yesterday his lineup would remain the same as given after Wednesday's major workout. Wettstone's 14-man traveling squad will leave by car today.

Other starters for gym Lions will be Mario Todaro and Karl Schwenzfeier behind Cronstedt in the H-bar, and Johnny Baffa and Bob Boudreau behind Schultz in the rope climb.

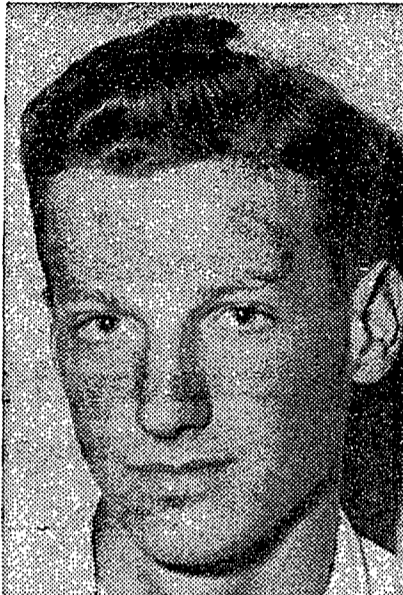
Cronstedt, the flying ace from Helsinki, Finland, will be in the Nittany number-one spot for his second event of the day on the parallel bars. Behind Cronstedt on the parallel bars will be Al Wick and Schwenzfeier.

The flying ring trio will find Jim Hazen, Tony Procopio, and Schwenzfeier, who will be working his third event. The tumbling threesome will be Captain Bob Kenyon, Bob Kreidler, and Bill Sopper.

Lions Won Last Year  
On the sidehorse will be Bobby Lawrence, Procopio, and Frank Wick.

Last season the Lions licked the Middies by 20 points, 58-38, at Rec Hall. Besides Cronstedt's double on the H-bar and parallel bars, Hazen and Schultz turned in wins on the rings and rope, respectively.

In 1951, Navy thumped Wettstone's charges, 56½-39½ at Navy. The Navy meet will be the Lions' third of four in a row on the road, to be followed by next Saturday's away EIGA meet with Syracuse. Then comes a two-week home stay with Eastern opponents Temple and Army to complete the dual meet season.



Jan Cronstedt  
(H-bar, P-bar Artist)

## McCoy Selected Video Consultant For District Two

Ernest B. McCoy, dean of the School of Physical Education and Athletics and Ralph Furey, Columbia University, have been named consultants to Robert J. Kane, Cornell University, who'll represent District Two on the newly-constituted television committee of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The two will consult with Kane on district policy.

Bob Rutherford, Jr., Penn State golf coach, has been appointed to the NCAA's tournament committee for the 1953 season. This committee will be in charge of the annual tourney at Colorado Springs, June 21-27.

### Favorite Sport

Wrestling currently is rated the favorite of Penn State's predominantly student sports public.

## WRA Results

(Wednesday)

### BOWLING

Beta Sigma Omicron over Alpha Gamma Delta.  
Little Lions forfeited to Chi Omega.

### BADMINTON

Alpha Chi Omega over Theta Phi Alpha.  
Zeta Tau Alpha over Delta Delta Delta.  
Alpha Xi Delta over Kappa Alpha Theta.

Phi Mu over Alpha Omicron Pi.  
Kappa Kappa Gamma over Delta Zeta.  
Gamma Phi Beta over Kappa Delta.

Phi Sigma Sigma over Alpha Epsilon Phi.

### BRIDGE

Winners North-South — Kappa Delta. East-West — Sigma Delta Tau.

(Thursday)

### VOLLEYBALL

Sigma Delta Tau over Gamma Phi Beta.

Mac Hall over Phi Mu.  
Kappa Kappa Gamma over Alpha Gamma Delta.  
Delta Zeta over McElwain-Simmons.

### BOWLING

Delta Gamma over Aye See.  
Alpha Gamma Delta over Zeta Tau Alpha.  
Co-Op over Alpha Omicron Pi.

### Lawrence New Star

Bob Lawrence, 20-year-old Penn State junior, established himself as a prospective National collegiate champion by besting the 1952 side horse titlist, Frank Bar, in a dual meet with the University of Illinois. Lawrence, crippled premed student, formerly competed for Lower Merion High School.

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