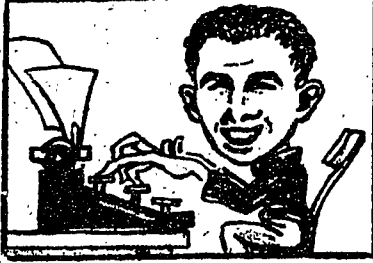


Bobbin' Along

with
BOB SCHOELLKOPF
Ass't. Sports Editor



Penn State's gymnastics team, which has bowled over everything in the way of competition that has crossed its path this season, might have a squeaker this afternoon in Army. The Cadets, defending Eastern gym champions, will bring a once-beaten, but powerful aggregation to Rec Hall at 2 p.m. today in the lidlifter of a triple-header bill at the Nittany circus grounds.

Coach Gene Wettstone's hustlers, who have been hotter than Uncle Joe Stalin's mustache of late, will be angling for their ninth consecutive dual meet win over a two-season spread. The Lion acrobats have hung five straight up on the hook this season, and are currently leading the pack for the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics Association title with their spotless slate.

Having observed the gym men in action this past week in their preparation for the Cadet meet, we can say that the Nittanians are as fiery with spirit and determination as they have been at any time this season. In short, they're anxious to get that EIGA title back on the Lion campus after a four-year lapse. And the Wettstone-men think that there's no better way to sew it up than against the Cadets, who have hogged the diadem for the past three years.

As chief of the Gym Wigwam at State, Wettstone assures that today's battle will be a royal one. He believes that the Nittanians will have a rough going with the Cadet tumbling and rope-climbing trios, which form the backbone of the Army threat.

The Cadets, however, have broken badly at times this year, and one time—against Syracuse—it cost them a defeat, their first since way back when. And Coach Wettstone believes that the team that breaks will be the loser this afternoon. The Lions have a decided advantage in that they are at home for the meet. Also, the pressure is on the invading 2d Louies from West Point—for it is they who need to win for at least a first-place tie in the EIGA, and not the Lions, who have already clinched a first-place tie.

An event-by-event account of what to expect in today's crucial meet is as follows:

TUMBLING. The Nittanians, weakened somewhat by the absence of second-seeded Bob Kreidler, who will not compete because of an injured wrist, will have a fight on their hands in this event. Wettstone, however, believes that his gym captain, Bob Kenyon, is capable of big things in his last meet in the garb of the Blue and White, which should give the Cadets something to think about. Bill Sopper, who will replace Kreidler, will get his first starting assignment of the year. Army Captain George Haas, third in Eastern tumbling last year, is the Cadet's top performer on the mats.

SIDEHORSE. One of the Lions top events. Bob Lawrence, Frank Wick, and Tony Procopio give the Lions good depth. Lawrence, who suffered a thumb injury the past week, has been closely pressed by Wick all year. Wettstone believes that Lawrence does a more difficult routine on the horse than even the Olympian gymnasts—including European gymnasts. To Wick goes the honor of being the most improved man on the team over last year. He has retained his excellent form, and added considerably to his difficulty in his sidehorse exercise. Jim Sibley, Army's top horseman, will push both top Lion performers in this event.

PARALLEL BARS. State may pick up a few needed points here with the Flying Finn, Jan Cronstedt, and Al Wick the top Lion threats. Although Cronstedt broke on the bars last week against Temple, he is a master craftsman in this event, and will be the man to beat. Army's Ray Colvin should provide adequate competition, however. Wettstone believes that this will be the closest event of the afternoon because all six competitors have outside chances of winning.

HORIZONTAL BAR. The graces of Finland should again fly through the air with the greatest of ease here—meaning that Cronstedt, with his superb giant turns, will be the king's choice to finish first. Mario Todaro, with his dynamic pike flyaway at the finish of his exercise, should be tough, too. Wettstone relates that Prince Mario copied his "suicidal-looking" flyaway from Japanese gymnasts in the Olympics.

ROPE CLIMB. Another strong Army event. Coach Wettstone, however, believes his ropemen might pull a pleasant surprise on the Cadet climbers. And by the way we've observed State's ropemen working out this week, we'd be inclined to agree heartily with the Lion gym mentor. Dave Shultz, who had a 3.8 last week, may even travel the 20-foot distance in less time against Army. Wettstone believes. Army's John Ballantyne has already been timed at 3.6 this year, and has two other good climbers behind him.

FLYING RINGS. Coach Wettstone believes this event may well determine the outcome of the meet. We thought the 255 total the judges gave the Lion's top ringman, Jim Hazen, last Saturday against Temple was pathetic. Hazen's difficult routine was performed flawlessly, yet good for only third place—a needless black mark on Jim's previously-excellent record. The short, stocky Hazen should spearhead the Lion attack here, with Procopio, who has racked up two first this year, closely behind. The former's smoothness and beautiful flyaway full twist, and the latter's high difficult swing are points to look for in this event.

Cagers Battle Owls In Season Finale

By TED SOENS

A win over the Temple Owls tonight would give the Lions their longest win streak of the season and would close the basketball lid on a successful note. The Staters now possess three straight victories in a row—over Syracuse, West Virginia, and Pittsburgh—the longest string they've been able to compile all season.

The Lions did manage to run up three in a row twice before but setbacks by Oklahoma A&M and Colgate broke the streaks. (Last year's squad ran up the longest skein in Penn State history with 15 straight.)

Jinx Cost 8 Losses

But the Lions will be hard pressed to get their fourth in a row, for not only will they be facing a tough Templar five, but also their old nemesis—the road jinx.

This jinx has cost the Staters all eight of their losses—these have been by Oklahoma A&M, Western Kentucky, Pittsburgh, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Navy, Rutgers, and Colgate. The Lions salvaged only four victories in their role as visitors. They were over Bowling Green, Carnegie Tech, Georgetown, and Syracuse.

Tricky Tactics

Already owners of four big upset wins, the Owls will also be trying to end their season with a victory. A lot of credit for the 15-10 record compiled by the Templars this year—they only had nine out of 24 last season—has been given to their Coach Harry Litwack, who is directing the squad for the first time.

His tactics of switching from a man-to-man to zone defense after each bucket is considered the reason why his team has been able to defeat NIT-bound Manhattan; DePaul University (only team to beat LaSalle); the Blue Devils of Duke; and Louisville.

Sledzik in Last Game

The Templars were considered for a bid to one of the post-season basketball tournaments, but officials finally decided to give the invitation to Lebanon Valley. Playing on last year's Owl team was the greatest basketball player in Temple history—Bill Milkvy. Even though he got off to a slow start he did manage to put in 418 points on an average of 17.4 a game and a three year total of 1529.

Wearing the Blue and White togs for their last game are Captain Herm Sledzik and Stu Phillips. The 6-4 Sledzik has dropped in 346 points this year on an average of 15 a game. Three year total is 687.

Other starters for the Lions besides Sledzik will be Jesse Arnelle, Ronnie Weidenhammer, Ed Haag, and Jack Sherry. Arnelle is the leading scorer with 390 points at a clip of 16.9 a game. His two year total is 882 points.

Probable Starting Lineup:

Penn State	Temple
Ed Haag	Harry Silcox
Ronnie Weidenhammer	Conrad Miller
Jesse Arnelle	John Kane
Herm Sledzik	Albert Didriksen
Jack Sherry	Samuel Sylvester

Sports Briefs

Free Throw Fate?

CHICAGO, March 6 (AP)—The fate of basketball's new free throw rules will be decided at a meeting called today for March 18-19 in Kansas City.

The meeting was called by the National Basketball committee of the United States and Canada. M. V. Porter, secretary, said the group includes representatives of the NCAA, the National High School Federation, the YMCA, AAU and Canadian groups.

50.1-Point Average

NEW YORK, March 6 (AP)—Clarence "Bevo" Francis of Rio Grande College in Ohio—aided by a light schedule—has wrapped up his first year of intercollegiate basketball with an unprecedented 50.1-point scoring average.

In 39 games for undefeated Rio Grande, he scored 1,954 points on 708 field goals and 538 free throws.

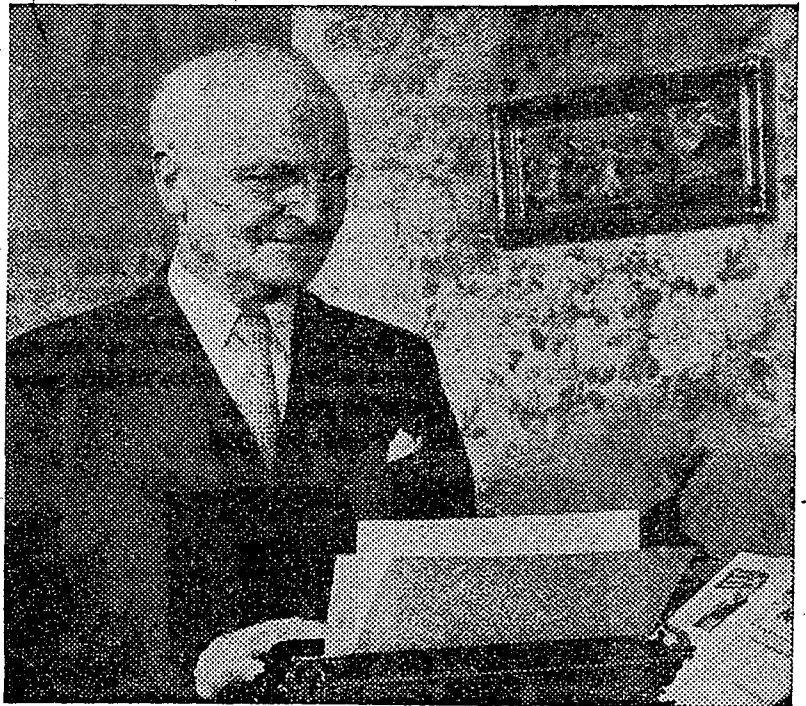
The new rule provides that on a common foul the victim gets one free throw, but if he misses this free throw he gets another. A common foul is one that is not committed in the act of shooting or is not part of a double foul.

During the last three minutes, under the new rule every common foul draws two free throws.

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In March Reader's Digest, you'll be interested in *The Earth Is Born*—latest scientific theories on how our earth began, how it will end; *We CAN Win the War in Korea*—William Bullitt's analysis of how we can end the bloody stalemate; *Fred Waller's Amazing Cinerama*—how a self-made scientist is bringing breathtaking realism to movies.

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NAVY BLUE Umbrella with colored border, cane handle—Osmond or Sparks on Friday. Contact 446 Simmons.