

# 1953 NCAA Wrestling Champions



—Photo by Rosenberg.

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S newly crowned champions who battled for honors Friday and Saturday in wrestling's climactic affair. Penn State became the nation's first winner from the East in 23 years by dethroning defending champion, Oklahoma. The Nittany Lions had 21 team points to the Sooners 15. Champions from (l. to r.) are: Hugh Peery (115), Pitt; Dick Mueller (123), Minnesota;

Navord Nalan (130), Michigan; Len DeAugustino (137), Lock Haven; Frank Bettucci (147), Cornell—most outstanding wrestler; Jim Harmon (157), Iowa State Teachers; Don Dickason (167), Cornell; Ned Blass (177), Oklahoma A&M; Hud Samson (191), Penn State; and Dan McNair, (Hwt.), Auburn. Samson is holding the team trophy.

## East Is Happy—It Finally Has Captured Its First NCAA Wrestling Championship

By SAM PROCOPIO

It's news each time the famous Oklahoma University wrestlers walk off with a National team title and is greater news when their rival—Oklahoma A&M—does the same. But when Coach Charlie Speidel's unbeaten grapplers took the title from the monopolizers Saturday, it's man bites dog.

The greatest victory of them all gives the East the prestige it richly deserves. It shows, too, that the wrestling-minded West will have to contend with the potential East whenever there is a battle for national honors. Not to go overlooked

**Bobbin' Along**  
with  
**BOB SCHOELLKOPF**  
Ass't. Sports Editor



Two days have passed since Penn State was blessed with two national titles, but people at the Nittany Vale are still shouting the praises toward the brand new NCAA champion wrestling and gymnastic teams.

Winning the 1953 national crown was no new thing for the gym team. Coach Gene Wettstone guided his 1948 team to a grand slam season, taking the Eastern, AAU, and NCAA gym titles in one big sweep.

Said the smiling Wettstone upon return from the nationals in Archbold Gymnasium at Syracuse, "It was all a team victory. We won mainly because of our team strength, not on individuals alone."

Philosophizing further, Wettstone said that this just goes to prove that an individual sport like gymnastics, which dotes primarily on single event winners, can develop into a real team game.

"We had a tremendous break during the first day when the preliminaries were held. Jan (Cronstedt) won the all-around event and put us up front with his marvelous performance," the Lion gym mentor said. The Flying Finn ran through this five-event routine, including calisthenics, flying rings, sidehorse, horizontal bar, and the parallel bars, with his usual "Finnished" form, amassing 1275 points—17 digits better than his closest competitor.

Coach Wettstone said that the Nittanians performed so well during the prelims that the outcome of the NCAA's was actually decided then. "We practically eliminated some of the top teams, like Florida State, Illinois, and UCLA, by preventing many of their top men from entering the finals on Saturday," Wettstone said.

"We should have done better in the finals than we did," he added. "One of the blows to our chances in the meet came when Captain Bob Kenyon wrenched his back during the prelims, and could hardly move the next day. Then, too, Bobby Lawrence had a bad break on his specialty, the sidehorse, after he had finished three-quarters of his routine. The same was true of Al Wick on the parallel bars. Al had a brilliant exercise, with good form and difficulty, until he lost his balance and a possible second place behind teammate Cronstedt."

In addition to his title in the all-around event, the flashy Cronstedt impressed the judges in the P-bars so well that he got a 288 for another first place. Jan almost had a third laurel to rest upon in the horizontal bar event, but was ten points behind his old nemesis, Hal Lewis of Navy, with a 276.

Karl Schwenzfeier, who is much smaller than his name implies, gave the Nittanians a shot in the arm with his quadruple success. Karl finished fourth in the free exercises and the parallel bars events, and secured fifths in the rings and in the all-around events. Jim "The Wedge" Hazen, king of flying ringdom in the East, would have had a good chance to annex the national title too, Wettstone said, if his poor dismount hadn't knocked too many points off his final score. As it is, Jim has become the nation's third-best ringman, which is nothing to be down in the dumps about, either.

According to Coach Wettstone, the best Lion performance was turned in by Cronstedt on the parallels. "Jan's work on the P-bars was the best he has done in his career up here, and a real thing of beauty," the mentor said.

Ah, but then that whole meet was a thing of beauty too, Gene!

in the East's grand finale are the South and mid-West teams which aided in dethroning the Sooners.

Still—like the Easterns—one question remains in the minds of the some 15,000 fans—a record for any national tournament—who witnessed the two-day affair. Does a defending champion deserve the winning verdict when he battles his foe to a draw?

This situation confronted two defending champions, Joe Lemyre of Penn State and Gene Nicks of Oklahoma A&M. Surprisingly enough both decisions went the other way. The more depressing reversal was Lemyre's, however.

**Dickason Proclaimed Winner**  
In Lemyre's case, not only was he defending champion but the barrel-chested 167-pounder had some odd 40 seconds riding time—not enough for time advantage—and had a questionable reversal and an escape while going off the edge of the mat. Dickason, at the disadvantage position, on the other hand, came close only to an escape.

Nevertheless, Referee Frankett came to the center of the mat to raise the arm of Don Dickason as winner.

**Dickason Jinx to Joe**  
A sidelight to the unfortunate decision, however, was the fact that Frankett was misled on who had the first takedown. It was reported he reversed his decision because Dickason had a take down to Lemyre's reverse. But the official scoring reads Joe Lemyre a take down and Dickason a reversal.

The oddity of this decision was that Lemyre was victimized twice to this same 167-pounder. The last time it occurred was at the Easterns when Referee DeBattista held up the arm of Dickason. It may be recalled that Lemyre defeated his Cornell foe, 6-2, in dual meet competition earlier in the season.

Coach Jim Miller of Cornell and

his three matmen were the surprise of the tournament. Although he was one of the few coaches with less than four entries, Miller's representatives came in a close third with a total of 13 team points and two individual champions. Frank "The Bull" Bettucci, 147-pounder, was the Ithacan's other crown-bearer.

Bettucci, the EIWA's most outstanding wrestler, added another laurel in taking the NCAA's outstanding wrestler trophy and became the East's only double winner in 23 years. In fact, he stands alone as far as the South and mid-West are concerned. Only a few matmen, if any, have accomplished this feat from the West.

Of the ten individual champions only three were not major conference titlists this past season. They are 157-pound Jim Harmon of Iowa State Teachers, 177-pound Ned Blass of Oklahoma A&M, and 191-pound Hud Samson of Penn State.

In handling the largest number of entries in any national tournament Penn State officials were complimented by many

### Five Teams Open Spring Seasons Following Vacation

Five inter-collegiate varsity sports—baseball, lacrosse, track, golf, and tennis—will open their seasons after the Easter vacation.

Joe Bedenk's baseball team will meet Lehigh April 10 on the Beaver Field diamond and then will take on Villanova the following day. The Lions will open the season as defending NCAA District 2 champions.

Here is the complete 21-game schedule:

April—		
10—Lehigh	home	
11—Villanova	home	
14—W. Maryland	home	
17—Lafayette	Easton	
18—Rutgers		
	New Brunswick, N.J.	
22—American	home	
23—Gettysburg	home	
23—Penn	Phila.	
29—Bucknell	home	
May—		
1—Georgetown	home	
2—Georgetown	home	
5—Navy	Annapolis	
8—Pittsburgh	home	
9—Pittsburgh	home	
12—Dickinson	home	
15—Colgate	N.Y.	
16—Syracuse (DH)	N.Y.	
20—West Virginia (DH)	West Virginia	
23—Temple	Phila.	

On April 10, Nick Thiel's lacrosse squad will also get its 1953 season under way. The stickmen are scheduled to meet Swarthmore at the Garnets' home field. They will play an eight-game schedule, four of them at home.

Chick Werner will take his outdoor track team to Philadelphia, April 24 and 25 to compete in the Penn Relays. The thinclads are booked for five dual meets following the relays and will end the season with the ICA championships in New York City, April 29 and 30.

Sherm Fogg's tennis squad is slated to get started April 21 against Bucknell at Lewisburg, while the golf team will begin its campaign, under Bob Rutherford, April 22, meeting Pitt on the Penn State links.

### Arnelle Tops in Fouls

Penn State's Jesse Arnelle, who had difficulty with his foul shooting last year, clicked on 34 of his first 40 attempts this season to land among the nation's leaders.

coaches and reporters for the orderly fashion in which the tournament was run.

Once again this scribe came in contact with the Bethlehem Globe-Times sports reporter who gave Speidel's three-time EIWA champs the finest compliment when he said at the Easterns: "Penn State is the only team that wrestles."

When questioned how he felt about the final NCAA results he replied: "I'm glad."

**HERE'S A GOOD CATCH!**

**ALL FISHING EQUIPMENT**

**10-30% Off**

Rods — Reels — Creels

**Everything!**

Tuesday — Wednesday  
MARCH 31 - APRIL 1

Open 9 - 5:30

**Sportsmen's Shack**

In the alley... behind the "SKELLER"

NEW  
**College Diner**

Sidewalk Counter Service  
for  
**FREEZER FRESH  
ICE CREAM**

Between The Movies