

Lawrence's Side Horse Routine Called 'Most Difficult' by Coach

By RON GATEHOUSE

"His routine not only encompasses more movements than most, but also embraces more difficult movements than any I have ever seen performed on the horse."

That's the way Lion gymnastic mentor, Gene Wettstone, sums up the ability of one of his finest performers, side horse artist Bob Lawrence. And Wettstone has seen more than his share of outstanding gymnasts in his 15 year reign as Nittany gym coach and as the coach for the U.S. entry in the 1948 Olympics. Wettstone claims Lawrence is the best he has ever tutored on the horse.

The crack horse artist has consistently loomed as one of the biggest factors in the Lions bringing uncountable gym laurels to the Nittany Vale.

Lawrence, who walked away with the individual honors at the EIGA tourney held at West Point last year, stands an excellent chance of retaining his Eastern crown this year. In addition, he is a serious contender for picking up top honors in the NCAA annual championships to be held at Champaign, Illinois, April 2-3.

The 135-pound, 5-10 standout, a victim of polio during his youth, hails from Ardmore, Pa., and is enjoying his eighth semester in the Nittany Vale.

In school work, as in gymnastics, Lawrence finds his handicap an inspiration, and "to help others like myself" is the way he explains his early-determined medical career.

The 22-year old senior has been adding to his routine since he won title honors while a high school student at Lower Merion, and now puts on a demonstration that sends coaches, competitors, and spectators into a state of awe. In each and every home gym



Bob Lawrence
Does it the hard way

upon the completion of his routine.

Thus far Bob has contributed 34 points to play a big part in enabling his Lion cohorts to roll up their 15-game intercollegiate winning streak.

He has failed to capture first place on his specialty only once this year. In the Navy meet he was forced to settle for second honors due to a break in his routine, but still managed to earn 260 out of a possible 300 points. Perhaps his most outstanding performances were offered against Syracuse and Temple, when he picked up 282 counters.

When the Nittanians met the National and Olympic champs of Sweden on January 16, Lawrence registered a fine 187 points out of a possible 200 to take first place, although the Swedes beat the Lions in the international duel by three points.

Eric Linden, in charge of the Swedish team, called Lawrence's routine the best he had ever seen anywhere. Linden for years has coached Sweden's Olympic entries.

"He looks upon the side horse," Wettstone explains, "much as he looks upon his studies. He knows he must concentrate in order to succeed and in so doing, he's rapidly approaching perfection."

encounter, if one were to close his eyes throughout the entire meet, he could tell instantly when it was time for Lawrence to exhibit his brilliant routine. Every time he took his place under the lights he was greeted with a thunder of applause—applause which was more than duplicated

Baseball Citrus Dope

SARASOTA, Fla., March 9 (AP)—Bonus baby Billy Console doubled home the tying and winning runs with two out in the last of the ninth today as the Boston Red Sox whipped the New York Yankees 6-5.

This was Boston's second one-run triumph over the world champions in two days. Boston won 2-1 at St. Petersburg yesterday.

The Yankees had exploded for four runs in the top of the ninth when a succession of pinch hitters produced four straight hits. This rally also came with two out and the Yanks trailing by a run.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 9 (AP)—Solly Hemus tripled with the bases filled in the 11th inning to give the St. Louis Cardinals a 10-9 victory over the Chicago White Sox today.

LAKELAND, Fla., March 9 (AP)—A triple by second baseman Harry Bright scored John Bucha from first base in the ninth inning today to give the Detroit Tigers a 6-5 victory over Philadelphia Phillies of the National League.

The Tigers' bonus player, Reno Bertoia from Windsor, Ont., homered over the fence in the sixth inning to tie the score 2-2. Ted Kazanski, the Phillies' bonus player from Detroit, put Philadelphia ahead again in the seventh with a homer.

MIAMI, March 9 (AP)—That Jackie Robinson, former All-Star

second baseman, would open the season in leftfield for Brooklyn was indicated by Manager Walter Alton today in announcing he would use his regular lineup for the first time against the Phillies tomorrow night.

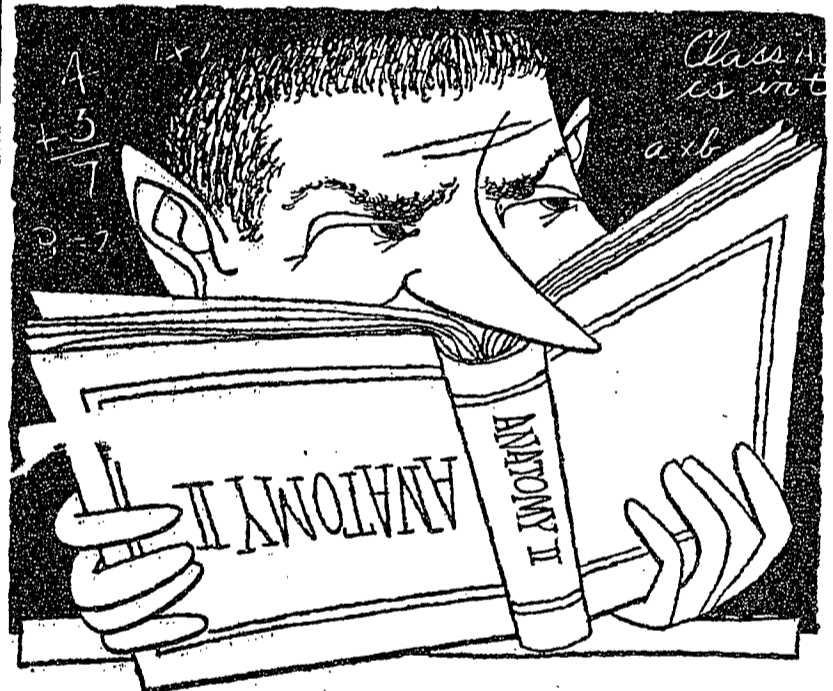
Turner to Risk Ring Status

PHILADELPHIA, March 9 (AP)—Gil Turner risks his fourth ranking middleweight status tomorrow night against unranked Bobby Jones, an aggressive journeyman puncher from Oakland, Calif.

The scheduled 10-round fight at the Arena will be televised nationally CBS, 10 p.m. EST with no blackout in the Philadelphia area. Turner, who beat Pierre Langlois last month, will be seeking his 43rd victory in 47 fights.

Jones, who has won 34, lost 19 and fought six draws, probably will enter the ring as a three-to-one underdog, but the Turner camp isn't selling the 29-year-old Californian short.

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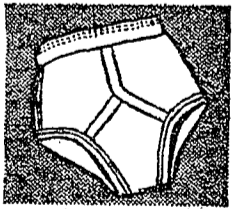
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Russian 'Amateurs' Doubted

STOCKHOLM, March 9 (AP)—A Swedish athletic official who is "noted for my neutrality," said today "some international body such as the Olympic Committee someday will have to decide something about Russia's state financed amateurs."

"As long as Russian athletes were not winning, Russia could get by with her strange notions of amateurism," the official said.

"But no longer, Russia is winning—winning practically everything entered—and it is a well known axiom that rules are more lax for losers than for winners."

Withhold Identity

The official asked that "my name be kept out of this. I want no part in an argument. My country is noted for its neutrality and I am noted for mine."

It is widely believed—and some Russians will confirm—that Soviet athletes often are cared for in vast training camps for months on end while they prepare for international competitions. The propaganda value of their victories is referred to as "tremendous" by western world officials.

Phenomenal Rise

It is inevitable that such a huge nation as Russia will win often in international competition, but the run Russia has had in the past 2½ years has been phenomenal.

In the 1952 Olympics at Helsinki, Russia all but overtook the United States in an unofficial system of awarding points for victories, second places, third places, etc.

This winter sports season Russian won the world speed skating championship at Sapporo, Japan; the world ice hockey championship in Stockholm last week; weightlifting; won three titles in the Nordic world ski championships, and both the European and world speed skating titles for women.

Penn State "S" Club
An organizational meeting of the Penn State "S" Club will be held at 8 tonight at Delta Upsilon. Penn State varsity letter winners may attend.

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