

# From This Angle...

By DICK McDOWELL  
Collegian Sports Editor



Gene Wettstone has become a widely recognized gymnastic coach. His reputation for developing outstanding gymnastics teams is probably surpassed by none within the United States.

But had the energetic coach lived 100 years ago, he might have put the fabulous P. T. Barnam to shame. For Wettstone is not only an outstanding coach, he's a showman supreme, and a pretty good diplomat to boot.

Last year he was the man behind a nation-wide tour of Swedish gymnasts in the United States. The Swedish team, composed of the finest gymnasts in the world, made 34 stops in their trip across the country and were enthusiastically received at every turn.

At Penn State, where they entered one of four competitive matches, more than 6000 spectators turned out in a hall built to seat 5000.

Then Wettstone returned the visit this summer at the invitation of the Swedish government to serve as a consultant at a gymnastics training camp. He lectured on American gymnastics, exchanged theories with the many he met on common ground, and became a little more popular than he already was with a nation that is an important friend to the United States.

When he returned to this country he announced plans for another Swedish tour. Only this time, it's going to be much bigger and without doubt, much more spectacular.

As any good showman would, Wettstone made the logical move. He added women to the program. So impressed with the performances of the graceful Swedish fair sex, he arranged to include 11 of them on this year's tour.

That was only the beginning. Since his return from Sweden Wettstone has been swamped with enough work for 10 men and has been adding new ideas almost daily.

He has set up a 32 stop itinerary, planned receptions, programs, guided tours, made ticket arrangements, designed and written promotion material, written hundreds of letters, kept telephone operators busy with calls coming and going to every corner of the nation, stayed in constant contact with Sweden, advising them of progress on the program here and hasn't sacrificed a minute of his coaching duties.

And while he keeps himself busy with the complete tour, he's right in the thick of the program planning for the Penn State stop on Jan. 15.

Ticket sales were a smashing success. Every available seat in Rec Hall has been sold and plans are under way for the sale of 1000 standing room spaces.

Decorations must be planned for the event, parties and receptions will be included in the program, housing facilities must be made available, equipment must be readied for the exhibition, and the Penn State Blue Band is preparing a number of Swedish songs for the event.

Once again Swedish diplomats will accompany the team, and several American government officials are expected to take part in the various programs around the country.

Notwithstanding his natural love for good gymnastics—which the Swedes will bring in quantity—the Lions coach has one big reason behind all his work toward the tour.

He realizes full well the importance of our international relations with Sweden and sincerely wants to help better them however possible. In a brochure released this week he made it evident.

"The need for solidifying friendly relations with this great Scandinavian country can be partly accomplished by this great gymnastics display," he wrote, "and by the friendly reception of the hosts."

And with this sincere desire to help promote good-will between the two countries, a touch of colorful Wettstone showmanship shows the fire of success. He probably would have given P.T. a run for his money.



Gene Wettstone

## Campy, Rookie Spooner Sign With Dodgers

BROOKLYN, Dec. 10 (AP)—Catcher Roy Campanella and rookie pitcher Karl Spooner today became the first Brooklyn Dodgers to sign their 1955 contracts.

Campanella, handicapped all during the 1954 season by an injury to his left hand that required two operations, reportedly will receive the same \$35,000 pay next year. Campanella, 33, dropped 105 points off his 1953 batting average to finish with .207. He missed a month of the season after a May 4 operation and underwent surgery again Oct. 20.

Spooner, just out of the hospital after an operation for removal of a cartilage from his right knee, broke in sensationally in September with two straight shutouts and 27 strikeouts for a new National League rookie record. The 23-year-old lefthander, who had a 21-9 record at Fort Worth and struck out 262 batters before he moved up, fanned 15 New York Giants in his first game and then struck out 12 Pittsburgh pirates in his next effort on closing day.

Both Campanella and Spooner were present when the signings were announced. Both were confident of complete recovery before spring training time.

For the first time in 37 years, Penn State will not field an intercollegiate boxing team in 1955.

## Pre-Season Look

# 75 Mat Candidates Fighting for Berths

The Nittany grapplers will take a two-day rest until Monday when they'll return to the mats to resume the inter-squad bouts that kept most of them busy during the past week.

Wrestling pilot Charlie Speidel, with the opening date for the 1955 season rapidly closing in on him and his wealth of wrestling material, has been guiding his group of more than 75 candidates through an intensive series of duel battles for several weeks.

Speidel, however, initiated the inter-squad workouts after his prospective varsity material put themselves through several weeks of feverish conditioning activity to tone their muscles and lose excess weight.

**147, 157-Pound Classes**  
The 147-pound and 157-pound weights seem to be attracting larger groups of candidates than the other six weight classes. In the middle weight berths Speidel has almost 25 men competing for two varsity positions.

In the 130-pound class Chuck Knepper, a freshman, has been storming through his opposition by defeating his classmates Don Dolecki and Dick Glosser. Glosser earned his bout with Knepper by beating sophomore Rowland Wilkinson.

Larry Fornicola, mat veteran for the past two years who also

appeared in the varsity boxing scene last winter, has moved into the spotlight in the 137-pound class along with sophomore John Pepe.

**Shawley Moves Up**  
Another veteran, Bill Shawley, has moved out front with two wins but is being nudged by Lin McNeal, a senior, and junior Sam Barone at 157 pounds. Barone dropped frosh Fred Keck while McNeal defeated sophomore Chuck Davenport. Speidel will have to keep a close watch on this weight, however, as he has several men who still have not wrestled.

At 147 pounds several sophomores and freshmen are providing most of the action. Sophomore Dave Adams has defeated frosh Bill England and Ted Mergott while his classmate Chuck Palmer and frosh John Frey and Barry Hough have moved up with victories.



WOMAN GYMNASTIC COACH, Carin Delden (second from left) rests with four of Sweden's top female gymnasts following a synchronized calisthenics routine. Miss Delden will tutor the 10 women who will accompany the Swedish

men's team in their North American tour beginning next month. She has been Sweden's national women's team coach since 1949. She led her team to the world's gymnastics championship in 1950.

## 18 Teams Win --

(Continued from page six)  
victory against the Trompers. The Greensmokers walloped the Eagles, 32-14. John Wagner of the winners and the Eagles' Tom Smith each netted 10 counters. In a crisp, well-played contest, the Turks jumped ahead of the Punchy Five, 15-12, at the end of

the first half. The Turks, guarding their three-point advantage, played more cautiously in the latter stages and went on to win a 25-20 decision.

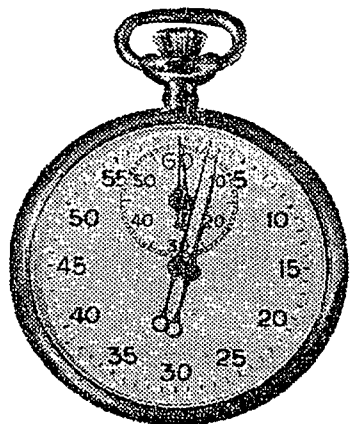
In other games, Dorm 11 defeated Dorm 31, 34-20; Dorm 24 outpointed Baloks Bombers, 24-17; The Toppers overwhelmed the Asps, 30-15; Dorm 22 outscored the 36 Vets, 31-26; Pi Kappa Al-

pha's defense held Delta Theta Sigma, 21-9; Phi Kappa Psi outscored Phi Mu Delta, 23-19; Sigma Nu smashed Alpha Gamma Rho, 28-15; Phi Epsilon Pi waltzed away with a 33-19 decision from the Triangle; Alpha Zeta defeated Kappa Alpha Psi, 26-20; and Sigma Alpha Epsilon received a forfeit win from Alpha Phi Delta.

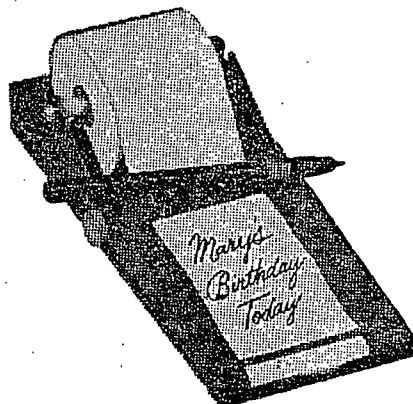
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