

# Sophs May Dot Lion Mat Lineup

Although wrestling Coach Charlie Speidel will definitely be relying on three of his six lettermen to bolster the Lion mat hopes this season, he may find his opening-match lineup liberally sprinkled with several sophomores.

Speidel has lost the services of aces Dick Lemyre, Jerry Maurey, Doug Frey, and Bill Krebs who helped the Lions earn a third-place rating in the nationals last year.

Returning lettermen are Captain Bob Homan and Hal Byers at 130 pounds; Bill Shawley, 157; Joe Krufka, 177; and heavyweight Bill Oberly. Speidel's sixth letterman, Joe Humphreys (157), is ineligible to wrestle until next semester.

In the eight weight divisions, Speidel has five lettermen returning at four different weights. In the other four slots the sophomores dominate the picture.

At 123 pounds sophomores George Smith and Sid Nodland along with senior Bill Cramp are battling for the lightweight position. At 130 pounds are Byers and Homan—both lettermen and competent matmen.

Sophomores John Pepe and Rowland Wilkinson, along with the Nittanies' veteran matman and boxer last season, Larry Fornicola, will be holding most of the attention at the 137-pound spot.

Dave Adams, sophomore, former PIAA title holder from Bellefonte, and his senior teammate Walt Hough are contenders for the 147-pound position. At 157 pounds Shawley, a junior, faces senior Len McNeal and Bill Thomas for the 155-pound berth.

At the 167-pound opening Bob Snyder is holding most of the attention. Snyder, a senior from Bellmore, L.I., and a transfer from Franklin and Marshall College, will face junior Ed Pasko.

Sophomore Krufka and junior Oberly—both lettermen—are probable "sures" in the 177-pound and heavyweight positions.

Although Speidel has six sophomores vying for a position, five of them are distributed in the four lowest weight classes, with Krufka the only soph Lion in the heavier divisions.

The Lions open their Centennial year season Saturday at Grace Hall against the Big Red of Cornell. In preparation for their first match, the Lions will be competing in team elimination rounds with 16 of Speidel's top wrestlers grappling for team berths in the season opener.

Five of the 16 contenders are former local high school wrestlers. Each of the five will be vying in a different weight class. Former Little Lions Smith, 123 pounds, and Byers, 130 pounds, along with former Red Raiders Fornicola, 137 pounds, and Adams, 147 pounds, and another Little Lion Shawley, 157 pounds, will be vying this week for opening-day positions.

## Fornicola Captures Wrestling Crown

Penn State's Larry Fornicola—who first wrestled for the Lions last fall and then moved into the boxing ring during the final winter weeks—has reappeared in the college wrestling picture. Fornicola, wrestling unattached, won the 137-pound championship in the Wilkes College Wrestling tournament last week.

Fornicola was one of seven Lion matmen who entered the tournament unattached. Although Johnny Johnston, Bill Oberly, Bill Shawley, Joe Krufka, Jim Hazen, and Walt Hough entered the tour-



Larry Fornicola  
Wilkes-Barre Champ

ney, Fornicola was the only Lion matman who copped a title.

Krufka lost to Pitt's Joe Solomon, 4-0, in the finals; Johnston finished third.

Fornicola proceeded through five rounds, with two advancements coming by route of byes. After drawing a bye in the first round, he pinned Ray Evert, East Stroudsburg, in the second round

## Booters Earn Section Honors

Three Penn State soccer players were named to the first team on the All-Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware Soccer team. The players are Paul Dierks, left forward, Dick Packer, center forward, and Jack Pinezich, outside left.

Galen Robbins, Penn State's right forward, was given honorable mention.

The first team is as follows: Donald Clark, Pittsburgh, goalie

Robert Seimons, Allegheny, right fullback

Paul Dierks, Penn State, left fullback

Al Didrikson, Temple, right halfback

Sergio Rey, West Chester, center halfback

Len Oliver, Temple, left halfback

Constantine Inglessis, Swarthmore, outside right

Jack Dunn, Temple, inside right

Dick Packer, Penn State, center forward

Larry Zartman, Ursinus, inside left

Jack Pinezich, Penn State, outside left

in 1:32. In the third round Fornicola held a 4-0 lead over Harvard's Joe Moag, who pulled a shoulder and defaulted. Fornicola byed into the finals when Bill Cozy of Pitt defaulted.

Fornicola said, "my toughest bout was the final one." Fornicola defeated Michigan's Max Pearson, 6-3, for the 137-pound title.

## Cronstedt to Accompany Swedes on U.S. Tour

Rec Hall gymnastic fans will be presented with an added treat when the Swedish visitors make their exhibition appearance at Rec Hall Jan. 15.

Jan Cronstedt, star performer on last year's Nittany Lion team, will take time out from his medical studies at Karolinska Institute in Stockholm to accompany the Swedes on the first half of their

American tour. He will accompany them to Cleveland and then return to Stockholm.

Last year the junior gymnast spearheaded the Lions to their second undefeated season, and then was the big factor in bringing Eastern and National team honors to the Nittany vale.

The Finnish-born gymnast had one year of pre-med studies remaining at Penn State before he decided to enroll in the Swedish medical school following a visit to Europe this summer with Lion gym coach Gene Wettstone.

He was Wettstone's top performer throughout all of the 1954 campaign, but it was in the Nationals at the University of Illinois that Cronstedt gained the widest acclaim.

When the Lions' captured the national crown for the second straight year it was a real team victory, but the individual performance of the outstanding gymnast could not go without recognition.

In addition to capturing the coveted all-around title, he settled for no less than first place in each of the three individual events in which he was entered.

## AP Places Undefeated Wildcats 1st

By the Associated Press

Kentucky's mighty Wildcats, still unbeaten after a month of competition, easily retained their No. 1 ranking among the nation's major college basketball teams yesterday in the weekly Associated Press poll.

The defending Southeastern Conference champions headed 89 of the 116 ballots cast by sports writers and sportscasters throughout the nation to pile up 1090 points, nearly 200 more than their nearest pursuer. The Wildcats trounced St. Louis by 17 points and overwhelmed Temple by 31 points last week to run their unbeaten string to seven games this season and 32 over a two-year span.

Duquesne, winner of the Holiday Festival at Madison Square Garden, vaulted into second place with 869 points. The Dukes, who were in eighth place last week, drew 14 first place votes by virtue of their New Year's Eve triumph over LaSalle. Only a loss to George Washington in eight games mars Dukuesne's record.

LaSalle (9-3) dropped one notch to fourth place behind North Carolina State's Wolfpack which fell from second to third because of a surprising defeat at the hands of twice-beaten Villanova. LaSalle polled 630 points to 679 for the Wolfpack who also saw their 12-game winning streak go up in smoke.

San Francisco's Dons (8-1) remained in fifth place with 515 points but two other schools—Illinois and Niagara—dropped out of the top ten. Their places were taken by UCLA and Missouri.

## NCAA Probes Baseball 'Body'

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (AP)—One potentially explosive report on the composition of "official" big league baseballs was refused today, but a few other lively subjects turned up to keep the winter meetings of the National Collegiate A.A. and allied bodies from becoming abnormally peaceful.

The executive committee of the American Assn. of College Baseball Coaches decided to withhold publication of a year-long study of baseballs, pending further study.

It was understood that this study, made in the University of Wisconsin laboratories, would have shown great differences among the various makes of "official" baseballs.

## Q-Back Slot Remains Aim of Hoffman

Bobby Hoffman, an early season sensation in Penn State basketball, says a starting position on the football team still remains his No. 1 objective in 1955.

"Sure, I like basketball," the little fellow says, "but what I want more than anything else next fall is to play football."

Hoffman, who at 5 feet 10 and 170 pounds, is the smallest man on the Lion five, shared the quarterback slot last fall with Don Bailey and Milt Plum but is far from satisfied that his limited service entitled him to first team recognition.

"I want to go in there and stay," the Farrell man-in-motion explains. "I want to be the guy they use when the pressure's on."

While aware of Hoffman's football ambitions, basketball coach John Egli is content to sit back and watch the spunky junior spark his first varsity edition to new heights in scoring.

"He's an amazing kid," Egli said. "He comes up with the ball at the most unexpected times, and invariably converts it into a score by passing off to a teammate, or driving in to score himself."

It was largely Hoffman's ball-stealing tactics that enabled the Lion five, in its annual duel with Colgate three weeks ago, to roll up a record-breaking 110 points. The team's average for nine games is a robust 85.6 points—highest in Lion history.

Hoffman, who also is accurate from outside, plays the front court with co-captain Ronnie Weidenhammer and the two represent what Egli believes to be the "perfect pair" for this job.

"They know how to 'hound' the other fellow," Egli explains, "and

they come up with the ball unusually often."

"I've never known a more perfect pair for this particular job," he said.

Hoffman's emergence as a basketball standout in the current campaign comes as no surprise to those who knew him as an all-State schoolboy selection at Farrell, but to others his spirited play has been nothing short of sensational.

## Defending Champions . . .

# Gymnasts Prepare for 1955 Opener

With two consecutive NCAA triumphs under their belts and riding on the crest of a 15 dual meet winning streak, Gene Wettstone's newest version of Nittany Lion gymnasts are only four weeks away from their 1955 opener.

Last year on April 5 the Lions climaxed a great season with a tremendous finish that saw them emerge from the Nationals with an unprecedented team total of 137 points.

They competed against a field of over 250 gymnasts, representing 23 teams at the University of Illinois' Huff gymnasium.

In addition the Lions won the Eastern crown for the second straight year as a result of six victorious outings over the season, and completely dominated the Eastern meet at Temple University March 12-13.

Gone from last year's much-heralded aggregation are Jan Cronstedt, Co-captains Al and Frank Wick, Tony Procopio, Bob Lawrence, John Baffa and Dick Spiese. So Wettstone has a rebuilding job on his hands as he molds his 16th Penn State gymnast's team.

### 48 Victories

In that 16-year reign, the respected and capable Lion mentor has inscribed a remarkable total of 48 seasonal dual meet wins against 21 losses and one tie in the Penn State record book.

Captain Karl Schwenzfeier, Skeets Haag, Bill Paxton, Skip Heim, and Tony Cline, all veteran holdovers from last year's squad, will form the nucleus for this year's team, around whom Wettstone must form a unit that will

face a seven dual-meet schedule composed of the East's gymnastic best. Four meets will be at Rec Hall.

### This Year's 'Iron Man'

Schwenzfeier, last year's "mighty might," is destined to be Wettstone's "iron man" performer when the season opens. He is the only veteran returning on the horizontal bar, parallel bars, flying rings, and in free exercise.

Haag, Paxton, and Heim return as the top men on the rope, mats, and side horse respectively. Cline, with two varsity performances behind him on the horizontal bar, is expected to hold his own in that department.

Before reaching their opener Jan. 29, the Lions will give an exhibition performance along with the Swedish gymnasts when the

latter make their appearance at Rec Hall on Jan. 15. Well over 5000 tickets already have been sold for that event.

Then the Lions will get down to brass tacks with their sights set on another gymnastic winner for the Nittany vale.

The 1955 gymnastic schedule follows:

Jan. 15, Swedish exhibition, home

Jan. 29, West Virginia, home

Feb. 5, Illinois, home

Feb. 12, Navy, away

Feb. 19, Army, home

Feb. 23, Pitt, away

Feb. 26, Temple, home

March 5, Syracuse, away

March 12, Intercollegiate, Annapolis

March 25-26, NCAA, Los Angeles, Calif.

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