

# West, Midwest Pose Threat to Gymnasts

## Aggies Lose Champ For Mat Tourney

A quick glance at the list of gym teams collecting in Los Angeles Friday and Saturday would be the surest way of disproving any beliefs that Penn State's NCAA title-defending gymnasts will have an easy time of it when they undertake the weekend task of winning successive title number three.

Gene Wettstone's Eastern champions will leave campus late tonight en route to Pittsburgh, where they will take a midnight plane for the journey to California.

Tomorrow afternoon they will go through light workouts in preparations for preliminary action slated to get under way at 2:30 p.m. Friday.

Such perennial gymnastic powerhouses as UCLA, the host team, Illinois, Florida State, Michigan State, Iowa, Southern California, Louisiana State, Texas, and California will be at full strength in an attempt to disrupt the NCAA crown's two-year stay in the Centre County hills.

### West's Entries Heavy

Due to the traveling element, the West Coast will have the heaviest concentration of representatives at UCLA, but the Midwest, which contributed a host of runners-up in last year's tourney, will once again be a strong regional contender.

And representing the East—Penn State. Although several Eastern standouts such as Syracuse's Corky Sebbo and Milan Trnka, Navy's Larry White and Steve Arnold, and Army's John Funkhouser, will make the cross-country journey, the Lions will be the only Eastern team invading Los Angeles with a full squad.

### Biggest Threats

UCLA, Illinois, Florida State, and Michigan State appear to be the Nittanians' biggest threats in keeping the Lions from a repeat-win.

Coach Ralph Borelli's Bruins, who own a decided advantage with the tourney right in their own back yard, sport no less than four performers who could go all the way in their respective events.

Russ Alee will be Nittany captain Karl Schwenzfeier's strongest UCLA hurdle to clear in all-around competition. Alee, versatile Bruin who does his best on the side horse, will be backed by Bob Hammond, the nation's fastest collegiate rope climber, Don Faber, fine calisthenics man, and Mel Robin on the flying rings.

Hammond scales the 20-foot hemp in 3.2 seconds.

The Illini are expected to field a stronger team than last year when they took runner-up honors, and Florida State is probably in its best form since capturing the national title three years ago.

Jeff Austin on the mats and the trampoline and Tom Gardner on the side horse will be the top Illini entries. Gardner is also in contention for all-around honors.

Florida State will offer Don Holder and Raefael Lecuona, two top all-around contenders, and Jim Fadigan on the trampoline.

# Fornicola Eyes NCAA Mat Crown

By ROY WILLIAMS

On Friday Penn State's wrestling team will enter the 25th National Collegiate Athletic Association tourney at Cornell. But the Lions will have only one man on that eight-man squad who has laid claim to a 1955 Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association title.

That one man is Larry Fornicola—the Lions' scrappy 137-pound regular who finally topped the pinnacle of a four-year wrestling career by copping the EIWA crown although he was the tourney's second-seeded 137-pounder.

Fornicola had no easy task before him when he walked onto the practice mats in making a bid for a spot on one of Speidel's teams.

### Worked in Lemyre's Shadow

For three years Fornicola was forced to work under the shadow of one of the Lions' all-time greats—Dick Lemyre, a three-time Eastern champ.

Fornicola not only had stiff competition in Lemyre, but he also had a double-duty task stacked on top of this first problem. The Bellefonte senior held a job—and still does—that has kept him moving at a fast pace when coupled with his studies and his wrestling interests.

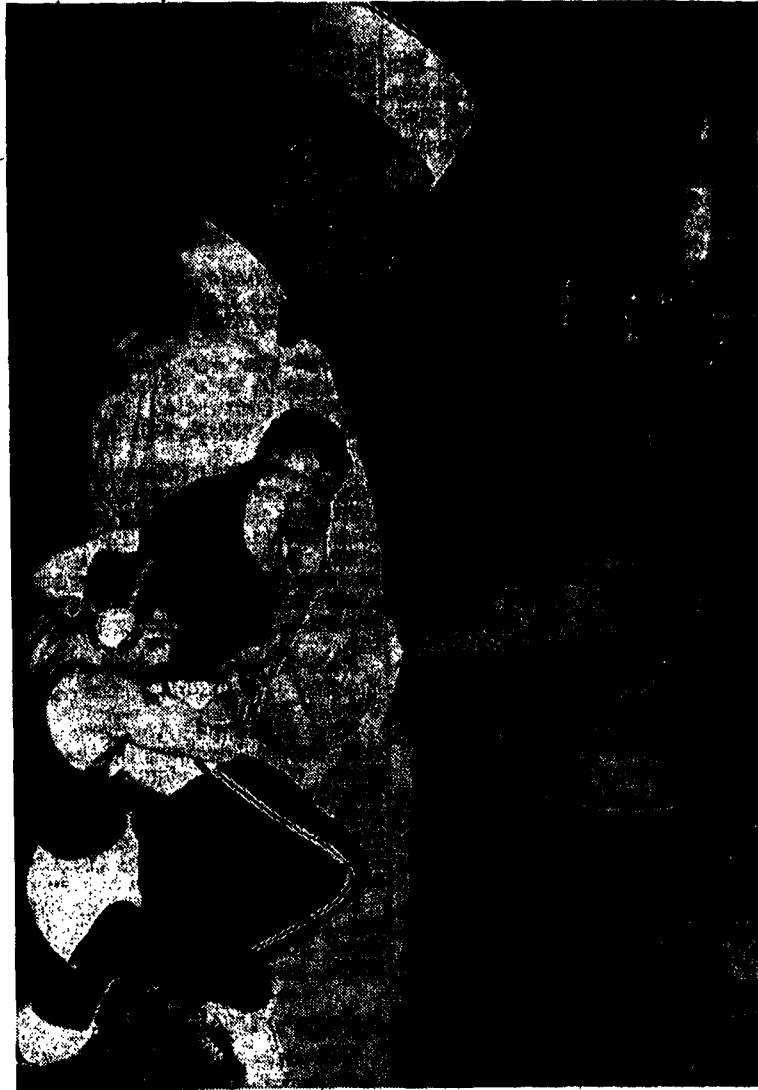
In 1954 he shared the wrestling chores with Lemyre and scored three victories. In 1952 he staged a scoreless battle with Lehigh's crack Ken Faust and later defeated George Matthews of Pitt, 7-5.

Fornicola has proven his versatility as an athlete in showing his keen interest for competition and a spirited appetite for staying in first-rate physical condition.

### Switch to Ring

Last year he made an unprecedented switch from the wrestling mats to the boxing ring. The wrestling team was competing in the NCAA's at Norman, Oklahoma, with Fornicola's weight nailed shut by Lemyre.

Instead of sitting back to rest after a grueling mat campaign, Fornicola stepped into the ring at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to face



Larry Fornicola  
From Coffee Urn to Wrestling Mat

two-time Southern Conference champ Bob Jackson—a four-year veteran of boxing-minded Louisiana State University.

Fornicola dropped his ring encounter by three points—losing each round to the champ by only a slim one-point margin. But Fornicola has thrived on rugged

Oklahoma A and M will enter six crack matmen in the 25th National Collegiate Athletic Association wrestling tourney in an effort to defend its 1954 crown. But the Aggies have suffered a severe blow that may cut heavily into its claim to retain a title that it has copped 16 times.

Ned Blass, the Aggie's 177-pound champ for two years, has suffered a shoulder injury that will put him on the sidelines for the NCAA tilt. The tourney opens Friday afternoon at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

But Aggie mat coach, Art Griffith, will have a well padded lineup that will include defending 137-pound champ Myron Roderick plus Dave Bowlin, 115; Jerry Billings, 123; Dave Simmons, 130; Doug Blubaugh, 157; and Fred Davis, 167. Davis was fourth last year.

### Won Big Ten Title

Michigan's Wolverines, fresh from gaining top honors in the Big Ten race, will make their bid for the team title with a four-man group of Big Ten champs including Max Pearson, 130; Andy Kaul, 137; Don Haney, 147; and Mike Rodriguez, 157; Kaul earned a fourth-place berth in 1954.

The Wolverines defeated Pitt, but lost to Iowa and Illinois—who finished in that order in the conference battle. Iowa enters one defending champ at 123 in Dick Govig. Terry McCann will wrestle at 115 although he won the conference title at 123. John Winder, a 177 Big Ten champ, will slide into the 157-pound weight. Jerry Salmon, 147; Hattian Jenkinson, 167, and Ken Lauer, 191, will round out the Hawkeye's entry card.

### One Conference Champ

Illinois will have one conference champ with Larry TenPas at 167 pounds plus Frank Kastor at 157, Ed Jackson at 147, John Ontiveros, 123, and Dick Meeks at 115.

Oklahoma—another Southwest school that thrives on wrestling—enters the NCAA tourney with four Big Seven individual champs. Headed by National AAU champ Dan Hodge at 177 pounds they are Bobby Lyons, 130; Don Hart, 137; and Lee Young at 147.

Iowa State Teachers College—a little school that has proven its capabilities of maintaining high ideas about wrestling—may give the "bigger" schools some trouble with Bill Weick, 157-pound champ in 1952 before he entered army service. The Teachers—who won the tournament in 1950 and were second in 1952—also will enter Ed Masteller, 123; Dick Formanek, 167; and Gus Gatto, 191, with hopes of figuring in the final tabulations.

### Soccer Candidates

Candidates for spring soccer practice are to report to coach Ken Hosterman in 110 Rec Hall to secure physical checkup cards.

# 10 Win Handball Matches

Nine fraternity men and one independent emerged victorious from intramural handball singles play Monday night at Rec Hall.

In the fraternity contests, Dave Adams, Delta Upsilon, stopped Don McKittrick, Delta Sigma Phi, 21-12, 21-9; Sheldon Amsel, Beta Sigma Rho, trounced Doug Henderson, Phi Gamma Delta, 21-6, 21-5; Jim Caldwell, Theta Chi, took two consecutive games from Charles Darragh, Acacia, 21-10, 21-11; Paul Dierks, Phi Delta Theta, humbled Harry Holm, Pi Kappa Phi, 21-3, 21-6; Bill Taber, Sigma Pi, defeated Walt Stevenson, Phi Sigma Kappa, by identical scores of 21-6, 21-6.

Lou Adler, Beta Sigma Rho, easily defeated Dick Wagner, Phi Kappa Tau, 21-4, 21-12; John Albarano, Theta Kappa Phi, eliminated George Canaga, Sigma Chi, 21-13, 21-7; Mike Meckley, Theta Xi, swamped Ken Fry, Chi Phi, 21-3, 21-3; and Bill Frengel, Lambda Chi Alpha, rallied strongly to take two of three games from Jack Morrison, Phi Sigma Delta, 12-21, 21-19; 21-0.

Independent action saw Harry Richman win over George Schimmel by scores of 21-11, 21-2. One other independent contest between Joe McHugh and Franklin Trengre resulted in a double forfeit when neither contestant showed up for the match.

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