

Nittanies Enter NCAA Action

Seven Lions To Enter Mat Tourney

By ROY WILLIAMS

Penn State's eight-man team has been tinged with two unexpected changes on the eve of the 25th annual National Collegiate Athletic Association wrestling tournament which opens at 2 p.m. today at Cornell.

The first change revolves around Bill Oberly who will switch from the 191-pound division where he registered a third-place showing in the NCAA's last year to the heavyweight competition.

In the second change the Lions' eight-man team was cut to a seven-man entry when junior Ed Pasko did not make the trip to Cornell. The Lions left yesterday at noon. Without Pasko, who was expected to enter the 187-pound class, the Lions will have men competing in seven of the ten weight classes.

Finished 3rd in 1954

Last year Oberly finished behind Champion Pete Blair, Navy, and Joe Conly, Lehigh, in the 191-pound race. Blair, who returns to defend his title, has defeated Oberly four times. The East's other top 191-pound entry is expected to be Werner Seel, Lehigh, who also dropped Oberly this year.

Among the contenders in the heavyweight division, Wisconsin's Bob Konovsky will be one of the most outstanding. Konovsky was second last year in the NCAA tilt behind Champ Jean Hicks of Oklahoma A and M. Konovsky also won the individual crown in the Big Ten Conference where Wisconsin finished fourth this year.

Seven-Man Lineup

Penn State's seven-man lineup will include Sid Nodland (8-1-2) at 123; Captain Bob Homan (9-2) and runnerup in the Easterns at 130; Eastern champ Larry Fornicola (9-0) at 137 pounds; sophomore Dave Adams (6-3) at 147 pounds; Joe Humphries at 157 pounds; Joe Krufka, Eastern runnerup with a 8-3 card at 177 pounds, and Oberly (7-1-2) at heavyweight.

Fornicola and Homan—both seniors—will be the only Lions to close their collegiate mat careers at Cornell. Fornicola's career record is 15-2. Homan, who had a 20-3 dual meet record and a 6-4 tourney card for a total record at the end of the 1954 season of 26-7, failed in his bid for the 1955 Eastern Crown when he lost to Ed Peery of Pitt. Peery will enter the 123-pound division for the Nationals.

IM Badminton, Handball Entries Are Due April 1

All entries for the intramural badminton singles and handball doubles tournaments must be turned into the IM office, Rec Hall, by 4:30 p.m. April 1. Both tournaments will be run on a single elimination basis with official rules governing play. The tournaments will begin April 14 with contests played from 7 to 9 p.m. Organizations may enter two contestants for each tournament with independents entering as unattached individuals. There will be an entry fee of 25 cents a man.



Larry Fornicola



Bob Homan

Last Fling as Lion Matmen

From This Angle...

By DICK McDOWELL
Collegian Sports Editor



This is the time of the year when basketball coaches should be relaxing after a tough winter grind, but most of the nation's collegiate hoopster bosses are still up in the air about the new rule changes made by the NCAA rules committee.

The coaches made only one recommendation at the annual meeting at Kansas City last week. It was ignored by the NCAA and six others, two of them major changes, were adopted by the committee.

The coaches asked only for a change in the "bonus" foul rule, which stirred so much controversy during the past season. But that rule remains unchanged. Added to the coaches' woes, however, are two more which promise to cause as much discussion next year as the foul rule.

First, the foul lane will be widened to 12 feet. It was originally five. Secondly, a five-second control rule has been introduced. This ruling will require the offensive player to get rid of the ball within five seconds after he receives it.

Penn State coach John Egli, who attended the coaches convention in KC, says the wider foul lanes won't hurt the game too much although he feels that it will change it somewhat. The Lion coach does feel, however, that the five second ruling is a grave mistake.

"The rule makers have been gradually taking the game away from the players and giving it to the referees and this (the five second rule) is just another step in that direction," said Egli.

"It requires real skill for a boy to keep the ball from his opponent when he's being closely guarded; why legislate against that ability?"

Actually the rule is designed to kill the "freeze" used often to protect a slim lead near the end of a game, and Egli says that no one should have the right to stop it.

"A team that is freezing has worked hard to gain the lead. Part of the strategy of the game is to protect it. There is nothing wrong with using a freeze to do it," he said.

"Besides, the officials have enough on their hands during the game without being charged with a new job like this. Chances are that it won't be enforced correctly anyway. Take the three second rule in the pivot. You find that it is ignored for most of a game,

and suddenly called on a team when it really hurts." The same thing may happen with this rule.

While most coaches claim that the new foul line change will help the zone defense, Egli feels that it will benefit both styles of defensive play.

"It will definitely have an affect on the use of the pivot man, but I don't see how the zone will be helped anymore than the man-for-man. Offensively, those great big guys like San Francisco's Bill Russel are going to have a harder time under the basket. It will bring strategy back into the game."

Egli is only one among many who are opposed to the new rule changes. However, he knows that he will have to live with it for at least one season and then probably more changes will be made.

"These guys (the rule makers) remind me of the hydrogen bomb people," he said. "Someday, while they're experimenting, they're going to blow the world to pieces. The same thing might happen to basketball if they don't settle down."

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Lion Gymnasts to Seek Third Consecutive Title

A battery of over 180 gymnasts, representing every top college gym team in the nation, will collect at UCLA today and tomorrow to vie for the 13th NCAA gymnastic championship.

And all but eight of those standouts will be out to snap Penn State's two-year dominance of the annual gymnastic festival.

Led by Captain Karl Schwenzfeier, those eight Nittany Lion performers including Skeets Haag, Skip Heim, Bill Paxton, Leroy Fritch, Don Weissend, Don Rehm, and Chuck Fegley, will be putting forth their best to establish Penn State national gymnastic champions for the third straight year.

Gene Wettstone's eight-man Lion aggregation arrived in Los Angeles yesterday morning and went through light afternoon workouts preparing for today's preliminary action.

Today's afternoon session will include five events—horizontal bar, rope climb, side horse, calisthenics, and still rings. Tonight's action includes tumbling, flying rings, trampoline, parallel bars, and long horse vaulting.

The top ten in each of the preliminary events will automatically qualify for tomorrow night's final round.

All-around action, which finds two Nittany Lions included among a host of hopeful winners, includes six of the aforementioned events and will be concluded tonight.

The winner will be decided by totaling his performance in each of the six events, with 1800 the highest possible score.

Schwenzfeier and Weissend are the two Nittany hopefuls entered in the all-around, which includes a field of several previous Olympic and Pan-American perform-

ers. The all-around is often considered a major step in securing a berth on the U.S. Olympic team.

Tomorrow night's team action will be scored on a basis of 11 points for first place, nine for second, eight for third, seven for fourth, and so on with a single point going to the tenth place finisher.

Two all-around events, still rings and long horse, will be excluded from the finals, leaving competition for eight individual titles in tumbling, horizontal bar, callisthenics, flying rings, side horse, parallel bars, the rope climb, and trampoline.

The tourney will be the last Penn State performance for three Lion performers—Schwenzfeier, Haag, and Rehm.

Schwenzfeier is a veteran of two national meets, and Haag was a member of last year's 10-man Nittany squad who tallied an unprecedented 137 points, smashing their own record of the previous year, and winning their second consecutive NCAA crown.

In addition to the two previous titles, the 1948 Wettstone-coached team was national kingpin.

Soccer Candidates

Candidates for spring soccer practice are to report to coach Ken Hosterman in 202 Rec Hall to secure physical checkup cards.

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