

Mat, Gym Teams In NCAA's Today

Penn State's upset-minded wrestling team will try for the second time in the history of the NCAA tournament to break the Western dominance of the tourney this afternoon when it wrestles in the first round of action.

The Nittany Lions who won the national crown of 1953 are the only Eastern team to ever accomplish this feat in the 26-year history of the tournament.

In last year's tournament the Lions ended second to the Oklahoma Aggies with Pittsburgh in third place and Oklahoma in fourth. This year the same four teams are rated the favorites for the top four spots.

Aggies—Team to Beat
Pittsburgh, who won its third straight EIWA title two weeks ago, is rated an outside chance to cop the national title, with the Aggies given the 'team to beat' tag. Oklahoma—who tied the Aggies January 12 and then lost to them, 14-11, a month later—is considered the strongest threat to the Aggies title hopes.

Michigan and Iowa, Big Ten powerhouses, also rate big esteem in the pre-tourney reckoning.

The approximately 200 wrestlers who will vie for individual titles are up against probably the greatest mass of defending champions in the tournament's history.

Oberly to Defend Title
Seven of the 10 1955 champions will return plus many of the second and third-place finishers. Bill Oberly, last year's unlimited champ, is the only Lion who will be defending a title. Joe Krufka, runner-up last year at 177 pounds, will be confronted with his '55 conqueror, "Homicide" Danny Hodge, of Oklahoma. Hodge pinned Krufka in the finals last year after winning 11 regular season matches. Only a junior, Hodge is rated a strong favorite to repeat as champion.

Nodland-Peery May Meet
Sid Nodland, Johnny Johnston, John Pepe, and Dave Adams carry the Lions title hopes in the lower weights. Nodland's competitors are probably all overshadowed by last year's champion Ed Peery, of Pitt. Peery, although a perennial 130-pound powerhouse, has shifted to the 123 class to give the Panthers a stronger lower weight lineup.

In the 130-pound division, Johnston probably rates with the best in the nation. His only defeat came at the hands of Peery, 3-2. He beat Peery's only college conqueror in the Eastern tournament, Joe Alissi, of Springfield, who more than likely will be gunning for revenge today and tomorrow.

Pepe is given a good chance to cop the 137 title while Adams has to fight through a host of stars plus defending champ, Ed Eichelberger, of Lehigh, in the 147 class. At 157 pounds, Humphreys is rated a considerable underdog when he bumps up against Pitt's Dave Johnson or Illinois' Larry TenPas.

Spring Grid Practice To Begin April 6

Spring football practice will begin Friday, April 6. Coach Rip Engle said the 20 days permitted under NCAA rules would be spread over the period from April 6 to May 5. He predicted a turnout of about 75 candidates.

Over 100 individual gymnastic entries, representing 25 different schools, will compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament this afternoon, tonight, and tomorrow at the University of North Carolina.

This is the first NCAA meet ever to be held in the south and the largest in the 14-year history of the event.

Defending champion, Illinois, is the pre-meet favorite, but Penn State, Florida State, Los Angeles State, and UCLA are rated better than even chances to win the crown.

The meet is expected to have a great effect on the 1956 Olympic team since many of the winners will probably gain berths on the Olympic squad.

Albershardt Tops
Richard Albershardt, Indiana University, will defend the trampoline championship which he won last year. He is the only returning titleholder.

Don Harper, a Pan American Champion from Ohio State, is expected to give Albershardt stiff competition on the trampoline.

The All-round event is expected to draw the most fan interest of any individual event. It is considered to be gymnastic's answer to track's decathlon.

Vega Highly Rated

Armando Vega, the Lions' outstanding sophomore, is listed as a top contender for the honors with Florida State's Rafael Lecuona also highly rated. Lecuona was a member of the Cuban Olympic team in 1952.

Staffan Carlsson, former Swedish All-round Junior Champion, now at the University of Iowa, is another favorite along with Ed Gagnier—a member of the 1952 Canadian Olympic team.

Waddill, Smith in Rope Climb

The rope climb is also expected to be another close event with William Waddill, North Carolina, and Los Angeles State's Garvin Smith, leading the entries to the post.

Waddill is the Southern Inter-collegiate Champion while Smith is an AAU Champion and holder of the world record for the 25-foot rope climb. A 20-foot rope will be used in the Nationals.

Penn State's Phil Mullen is also listed among the top rope climbing entries on the basis of his first-place performance in the Eastern meet at West Point.

Thinclads Hampered By Weather

Hampered by poor track conditions due to the winter weather, the Lion outdoor track squad was forced to limit its workouts to conditioning runs, Assistant Coach Norman Gordon said yesterday.

Gordon is directing the team in the absence of Coach Chick Werner who is conducting a track clinic in Japan.

The Lions are appearing for their season opener, The Quantico Relays, on April 6 and 7.

Gordon said that, despite the poor training conditions, the squads spirit was at a high pitch as the trackmen attempt to get in the best possible shape for the Relays.

He said, "It is impossible to tell what progress we are making because of the weather conditions. The Nittanians have been practicing for the past two weeks."

Sprinter Art Pollard, hurdler Rod Perry, and weightman Charlie Blockson head the list of returnees from last season's team.

Pollard is considered by many track experts to be one of the top 220 men in the country. He was named, along with two others, to the 1955 All-American Track Team.

Perry, who is only a junior, is the top man in the hurdles — which Gordon considers to be the team's strongest event.

Sophomore Dick Winston and senior Gary Seybert round out the Lion hurdling trio.

Blockson tops the Lion competitors in both the shot put and the discus. The season will be the first in two years that he will be competing without his former teammate and friendly rival Rosey Grier.

Senior Bruce Austin will also be another big gun in the Nittany attack. Last season, he competed in the quarter-mile and was the anchor man on the mile relay team.

Doug Moorhead and Don Woodrow, two cross-country runners, and Don Mowry will probably do the Nittany distance running, Gordon said.

Ron Lewis, Paul Roberts and Dave Nash are listed as the top men in the middle-distance events. Both Lewis and Roberts ran on last season's cross country squad, while all three were members of the indoor track team.

Ogier Norris will make his varsity debut in the pole vault and high jump where he was a stand-out on last season's frosh squad. Sophomore Bob Foht, a member of the Nittany gymnastic team, will also be a probable entry in the pole vault. Foht did not compete in frosh track last season.

Former Pitt Star Now Coaches Lions

By TOM WERNER

"Frank Patrick is a Panther out of the jungle, not the zoo . . . might have been something shot from a gun," thus wrote Grantland Rice in an ode to the Pittsburgh team that had won the 1933 Rose Bowl game with the aforementioned Patrick at fullback.

That was the year Pitt went into the Rose Bowl rated as a futile underdog without a chance of beating the Washington University powerhouse. Fullback Patrick scored twice and dispelled all talk of invincibility when he cracked the Huskie line for 27 yards in three plays in the game's opening minutes. The score, 21-0, was anticlimatic to Patrick's playing of his last collegiate game.



FRANK PATRICK, former All-American fullback for Pittsburgh University and pro star for the Chicago Cardinals, who has been coaching the Lion backfield since 1949.

Starting in 1935, Patrick as a sophomore joined the Pitt varsity as fullback for three years. He managed to end his first season a stop scorer on the team and one of the top scorers in the country, making numerous All-America mentions that year and throughout his playing career. Against Penn State he kicked a field goal and scored one touchdown. The score was 9-0, Pitt.

The word was out that if you could, "Stop Patrick, you'll stop Pitt." And when one of the Pittsburgh sport pages headlined, "Injured Mr. Patrick Worries Dr. Sutherland," it was real cause for hair-tearing on a team that depended on ground power for their victories.

During the three years that Patrick practiced his refined

(Continued on page eleven)

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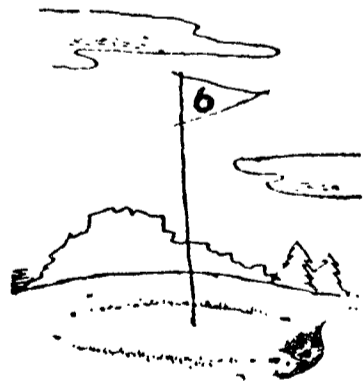
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