

Eight Meets Scheduled For Nittany Gymnasts

Gene Wettstone, who has hardly had time to catch his breath after tutoring the United States gymnastic team in the recent Olympic games at Melbourne, finds himself hard-pressed to whip his men into shape for the rapidly-approaching gymnastic campaign.

The Nittany Lions open against West Virginia on Feb. 2. However, with final exams and registration sapping valuable practice time, the engagement is closer than the date indicates.

After the University Park inaugural, the Lions host Temple, at home, Feb. 6 and then hit the road for a pair with Navy, Feb. 9, at Annapolis, and the Orangemen of Syracuse, Feb. 16, at Syracuse. They return home for an important encounter with Army, Feb. 23.

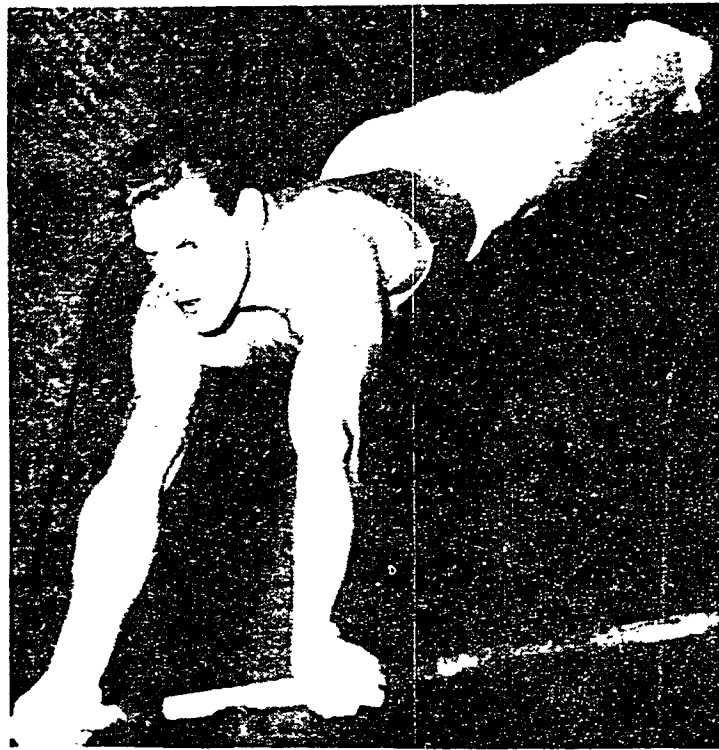
The Pittsburgh Panthers provide the competition on March 2, at Pittsburgh, in the "must" win for the gymnasts.

The Nittanies return to Syracuse, March 8-9, for the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics Association Meet. Following the Easterns, the Lions will enter the NCAA test. The time and place will be announced at a later date.

Two of Wettstone's top performers will be ineligible for the opening match. Armando Vega, E.I.G.A. All-Round Champion and National Parallel Bars king, dropped out of school to participate in the Olympic games and will return to action for the Temple meet.

Captain Dion Weissend will also be on the sidelines for the West Virginia vendetta. Weissend is scholastically ineligible at the present time, but is in top form and will be ready by Feb. 6.

Vega's events are uncertain according to Wettstone, but he will probably compete on the parallel bars, the horizontal bars and the rings. Weissend is definitely set



Dion Weissend, Lion Gym Captain

to lead the tumblers and will more than likely get the nod for the horizontal bars.

Elsewhere, the Nittany mentor is a little more uncertain. "No positions have definitely been clinched," he said.

He has eight lettermen on hand, including Vega and Weissend. Adie Stevens will back Weissend in the tumbling event, while monogram-winner Jack Biesterfeldt tops the Lions on the side-horse. Another vet, Walt Heiler will be pushing Biesterfeldt.

Bob Foht looks like another

starter on the parallel bars and letterman Ed Sidwell will be back for another shot at honors on the rings.

Junior Phil Mullen, a rope climber, holds both the Eastern and National titles. The team should cash in on several firsts here, according to Wettstone. Dick Rehm also will enter the rope climb.

Sophomore Gil Leu, the freshman phenom from Switzerland, has an inside track on the side horse, horizontal bars and parallel bars.

A Glance at . . . SPORTS

By VINCE CAROCCI
Assistant Sports Editor



LION SPORTS IN REVIEW—

With the coming of Christmas vacation, another year in Penn State sport annals comes to a close. The Lion athletic teams, in keeping with an old tradition, again posted outstanding records in practically all sports. Let's pause for a moment to look back on the Lions' athletic achievements for 1956. Individually, here's how Penn State will look in the local record books:

BASKETBALL:

The cage team posted a 12-14 mark during the regular season—the only Lion team on the red side of the ledger. However, Coach John Egli was faced with the tedious task of rebuilding after losing such standouts as Jesse Arnelle, Ron Weidenhammer, Dave Edwards, Jim Blocker, and Bob Rohlands through graduation.

Using the now-departed Bob Hoffman, Earl Fields, and Rudy Marisa as a nucleus for his 1955-56 contingent, Egli molded an average team together, long on heart, but short on talent.

WRESTLING:

Led by Co-Captains Joe Krufka and Bill Oberly, the Lion matment again compiled another outstanding record—7-1 during the regular season and a second place in the Eastern championships.

Pittsburgh was the big Lion jinx, defeating Charlie Speidel's grapplers in a dual match and topping them in the Easterns. However, Sid Nodland, Johnny Johnston and Oberly emerged as Eastern wrestling champs. Oberly was defeated in defense of his National Unlimited Championship at Oklahoma.

GYMNASTICS:

For the first time in three years, Coach Gene Wettstone's gymnasts lost their first Eastern meet, bowing at Army in the middle of a 5-1 season.

Led by sophomore Armando Vega, the Lions copped three individual championships in the Eastern Tourney at West Point. Vega won all-round honors and finished first in the parallel bars. Phil Mullen won the Eastern Rope-Climbing Championship. Mullen also copped the National Rope-Climbing Championship while Vega took honors on the parallel bars.

The gymnasts ended the season in dramatic fashion by placing three men on the 1956 United States Olympic team—two competitors and a coach. Former gym captain, Karl Schwenzfier was second in the all-round competition while Vega was sixth. Wettstone was selected as the Olympic Coach immediately after the trials were completed.

BASEBALL:

Coach Joe Bedenk's diamond aggregation compiled a 16-4 record during the regular season and earned its second consecutive berth in the District 2 NCAA playoffs.

Individually, southpaw Ed Drapcho and Captain Bob McMullen were the big guns in the Lion season. Drapcho posted a 7-1 mound mark while McMullen batted a solid .420 for the year.

LACROSSE:

In their last season under veteran coach Nick Thiel, the Lion stickmen posted an 8-6 record. Sophomore Bill Hess set the Lion scoring record flying when he tallied 43 goals in his first varsity season.

GOLF:

Coach Bob Rutherford's golfers was again one of the east's top teams, recording a 7-2 season mark. The golfers finished second to Yale, a perennial champion, in the Eastern Intercollegiate Golf Association Championship.

TRACK:

Led by the sprinting of Captain Art Pollard, the middle-distance running of Bruce Austin and the hurdling of Rod Perry, Coach Chick Werner's cindermen finished the regular season with a 3-1 mark, losing only to Quantico's potent Marines.

TENNIS:

Tennis, one of the weaker sports in the Penn State program, had a 7-5 mark. Fred Trust and veteran Dean Mullen were the big winners for Coach Sherm Fogg's team.

FALL SPORTS:

All Lion teams recorded commendable records during fall. The football squad finished with a 6-2-1 mark, the soccer team had an 8-2-1 record, and the cross-country team posted 4 wins against 1 loss, after going winless in 1955.

IT WAS A GREAT YEAR—

WE HAD:

- SAM VALENTINE
- BILL OBERLY
- SID NODLAND
- MILT PLUM
- ED DRAPCHO
- STEVE FLAMPORIS
- ARMANDO VEGA
- BILL HESS

- BOB HAMEL
- ROD PERRY
- RUDY MARISA
- BOB HOFFMAN
- EARL FIELDS
- BOB McMILLEN, AND MANY OTHERS

MR. PENN STATE FAN RECALLS SOME OF THE NITTANY LIONS' TOP ATHLETES OF THE 1956 SPORTS YEAR!



MERRY XMAS FROM THE COLLEGIAN SPORTS STAFF

Trippi Agrees With Lions

ATLANTA, Dec. 20 (AP)—Professional football coach Charlie Trippi said today he agrees "100 per cent" with the Detroit Lions' charge that end Ed Meadows of the Chicago Bears deliberately tried to knock quarterback Bobby Layne out of a game.

Layne was put out of action Sunday after being tackled by Meadows in the Western Division title game.

"After playing them (the Bears) the week before, I know what Detroit Coach Buddy Parker says must be true. That Meadows tried to do the same thing to our quarterback when we played them.

"I played under Buddy Parker for three years, and he's a very quiet, mild-mannered man. He doesn't pop off unless he has something to say. I agree with Buddy 100 per cent on this thing."

Giles Drops Gore From Umpire Staff

CINCINNATI, Dec. 20 (AP)—Artie Gore, 49, an umpire in the National League since 1947, was dropped today by President Warren C. Giles to make room for younger talent.

Giles announced the signing of Ken Burkhart from the Texas League and Tony Venzon from the American Association.

Town House

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