



Scanning SPORTS

By FRAN FANUCCl Sports Editor

WETTSTONE SIZES UP EIGA TOURNAMENT . . .

Lion Gymnastics Coach Gene Wettstone rattled off, in his usual prolific style, facts and figures concerning tomorrow's Eastern Inter-collegiate Tournament at Syracuse, but in his voice there was a faint note of pessimism.

"Oh, we'll do all right tomorrow and Saturday," Wettstone said apparently looking past tomorrow's tourney and to the Nationals, "but I'm afraid our three all-round men are not strong enough for the National tournament."

Dion (Weissend), Gil (Leu), and Armando (Vega) are my three top men," he continued, "but Dion and Gil have been inconsistent and Armando will have a lot of pressure on him because of his reputation. We're going to need Dion's and Gil's best work to win."

Wettstone added: "I think the Easterns are going to be very important for us because of this. The Easterns will act as a preliminary for the Nationals and that way we can tell who will be weak in what."

Wettstone became slightly more optimistic as the conversation continued, especially concerning the EIGA tourney. "Vega, who we think is the East's best, will more than likely take the all-round title, and we should win the rope climb and the parallel bars. We have, shall I say, good outside chances of winning three other events—tumbling, sidehorse, and horizontal bar."

The naming of the rope climb as a possible winning event was slightly surprising since Phil Mullen, the Lions' defending Eastern and National champion, was defeated two weeks ago by Army's Paul Dean. Mullen's best time for the year was that night—3.5.

Wettstone had an explanation: "Phil's shrewd. He hasn't reached his peak yet and he still may be two weeks away from his best time (about the time of the National tournament) but don't be surprised if he beats Dean tomorrow night. No one likes to win a championship one year and lose it the next. And Phil is no different."

The parallel bars are Vega's strongest event, which undoubtedly will be a winner for the Lions as Wettstone predicted, but he also added a little notation to that event. "Bob Foht," Wettstone said, "is still not at his peak. He got off to a slow start this year and is slowly rounding into top shape. He's important to us and a fine routine by him could aid us on the bars."

VEGA'S PERFORMANCES EXPLAINED

The horizontal bar is set with Leu the top man and Weissend and Vega following. All three are capable of over 250 scores, which is apparently enough reason to list it as a darkhorse winner for the Lions.

But Wettstone again stressed the same point as he did earlier in the conversation. "Leu and Weissend are unpredictable and for us to win they will have to show their best this weekend," Wettstone repeated.

Our tumbling and sidehorse performers could pull an upset with not too much trouble, Wettstone said.

"The tumblers," he added, "did a fine job all year. They want to win and they have good spirit."

The sidehorse will be one of the few events that Wettstone will enter five men. Jack Beisterfeldt is the Lions' most dependable performer here, but he should receive plenty of help from Walt Heiler, Vega, Weissend, and Leu. According to Wettstone this is definitely Weissend's weakest events.

The rundown of events was complete but Wettstone still continued talking. Vega was the subject of his talk. "I guess," Wettstone said, "most of the students feel Vega is slipping. The reason is apparently the fact that he lost the flying rings event twice (Army and Pitt) and he fell off the horizontal bar once during his routine. We have no intention of making him a good ringman. The reason is simple. The flying rings event is not an Olympic event or is included in the EIGA or National tournaments so why should we have Vega train for it."

"His three best events, besides the parallel bars, are not even in dual meet competition. He's terrific on the long horse vault, in calisthenics, and on the still rings. Students only see him perform well on the bars. We are trying here to develop Olympic performers that's why we have Vega practice only Olympic events."

Chuck Medlar—As a Trainer He Rates With Nation's Best

By VINCE CAROCCI

Meet Charles "Chuck" Medlar, the University's head athletic trainer and assistant baseball coach. He's not a man who spends most of his time in the Lion spotlight, but he's built up quite a reputation for himself as a trainer—not only in the east, but all over the country.

Medlar operates chiefly out of the Recreation Hall training room, handling all types of physical injuries for any of the Lion varsity players.

Although he travels only with the football, basketball and baseball squads, Chuck treats any ailing varsity performer. "The kid out for the other sports is just as important as any other athlete," he said.

If it weren't for two injuries, Medlar may never have entered the training business, however. The first injury introduced him to the job and the second made it his full-time occupation.

The first injury came in the football season of his sophomore year. Chuck was out for the squad as a tackle when a ruptured cartilage in his knee called a halt to his playing days.

He spent the rest of that season, and also his junior year, working with Jack Hulme, the head trainer at the time. Looking back on those first days, Chuck said: "Jack was a fine trainer. He and Doctor Griess (Dr. Alfred Griess, the University athletic physician) broke me in as a trainer . . . they gave me my start."

The second injury occurred some three or four years later while he was in the Navy. Medlar, an outstanding pitching prospect for the Lion nine, signed a professional contract with Ed Katalinas, Detroit Tigers' head scout, at the end of his junior year and left school.

After spending a year with Beaumont in the Texas League and another with Buffalo in the International League, he entered the Navy in 1943. It was while in the Navy he unknowingly injured his throwing arm, bringing to a close his pitching career.

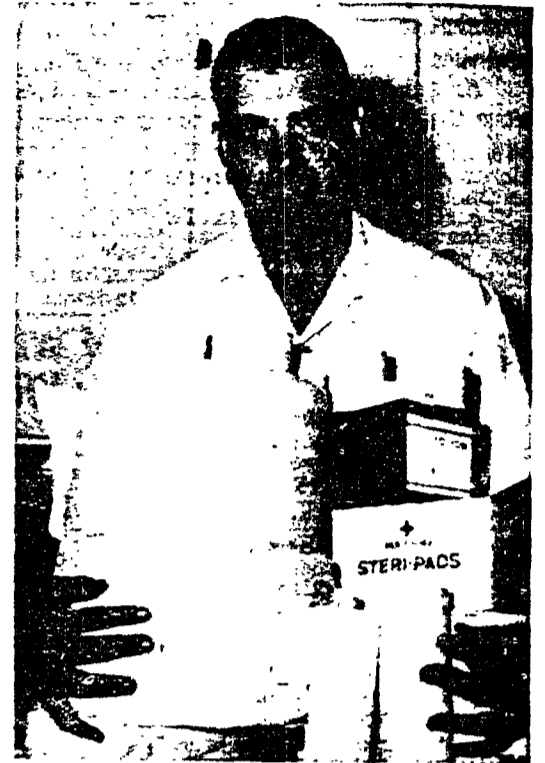
After his discharge in 1946, Chuck had another tryout with Buffalo, but he couldn't throw with full speed—he had to call it quits. Back he came to the University in the fall of 1946 to complete his study for his physical education degree, which he received in Jan., 1948.

He started to work with Hulme again. When Hulme suddenly died before the 1946 football season, Chuck retained the trainer's position—he's been there ever since.

During his 10 years—he's working on his 11th—at Penn State, Medlar's gained the reputation of being one of the top trainers in the nation. But, he does not take full credit for this.

"Working under a physician such as Doc Griess has made the job very rewarding," he said. "I honestly believe he's one of the finest team physicians in the country."

Turning to his assistants—Ray Ulinski, Ed Sulkowski and Bill



Chuck Medlar

He keeps them physically fit

Meyers—he said: "Having three fine assistants such as these has made the training room operations more effectively performed. They're a big help to me."

If you doubt Medlar's value to a team, go ask a Lion coach or two about him. You'll receive something like this from cage coach John Egli: "He's a tremendous value to a team . . . without him we'd be lost. I'd rate him as the best in the east."

Or from Joe Bedenk, his base-

ball chief, you'll hear: "There's no doubt about it—he's a big help. I'd like to have him all the time."

That's only two coaches talking, but you can bet the rest of them would answer along the same lines. Behind the scenes, but invaluable—that's Chuck Medlar.

Bob Higgins, former Penn State football coach, lives in retirement just a stone's throw from the campus at University Park, Pa.

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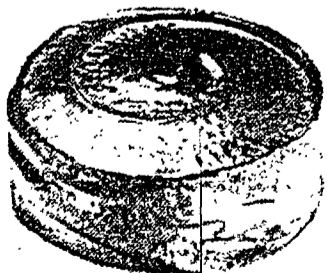
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