



Scanning SPORTS

By FRAN FANUCC, Sports Editor

SPEIDEL (AS USUAL) PREDICTS NOTHING!

Wrestling Coach Charley Speidel, master at quotation juggling and sports double-talk, lived up to this reputation yesterday when he issued a statement concerning this afternoon's Eastern Wrestling Tournament:

"Rash predictions bring about rash embarrassment." "Listen," he said, "those lower weights are so confused that it's impossible to say anything. What do you want me to do? Predict something and then fall flat on my face because it didn't happen?"

But the cautious Speidel ventured out far enough to say that "I'll stick with the champions, especially in the 123 pound class."

"The whole season has been fouled up," he bellowed, "so how can I say what will happen during the tournament. It's (the season) been going around in circles all year. We lose to Lehigh, Pitt beats Lehigh, and we beat Pitt. That's how the entire season for almost all the teams has been. The only thing I can say is to stick with champs and top-seeded entries in the divisions."

Speidel, dean of coaches in the 53-year-old EIWA organization, has been known throughout the years to keep all strategy to himself, discounting even his players, and never to predict the outcome of a meet. So whatever his plans are for today's and tomorrow's matches you can safely bet that he's the only one that knows them.

"I guess my lineup will be the same for the tournament as it was during the year," he said, "although I can't say definitely because I might have to make some changes."

Speidel agreed with almost every sportswriter in the East that Pittsburgh will be the team to beat.

"Pitt is probably the strongest because they have men in all weights. Anyone of them can get into the finals. But no use going on because I'm not saying anything anyone else couldn't tell you."

Asked if he thought his team's win over Pitt would mean anything, he answered: "I told you before that we can't predict anything. Oh, we can boast about the past, but when it comes to boasting about the future we just don't do it. You can't underestimate any teams in this tournament because half of them usually have sleepers that can make or break a team. The Ivy league boys could surprise. We don't know how good they are because we never wrestled them."

Speidel mentioned various Ivy league wrestlers, but the names he apparently emphasized were Columbia's Dave Clark, who has swept through 10 matches unbeaten in the 123-pound class, and Harvard's Bob Foster, who is unbeaten at 167 pounds.

Ed Amerantes, 123-pounder from Springfield, is thought of by Speidel as one of the "sleepers" of the tourney. Amerantes has won 10 straight matches

137 Grapplers to Enter Tourney—

(Continued from page one) escaped with a 74-73 edge over the Nittanians.

The Panthers boast a 9-1 record this year, including victories over EIWA members Syracuse, Cornell, Army and Lehigh. Their only defeat was to Penn State, 14-11, and it ended a 27-meet winning streak.

Despite the "favorite" tag placed on the Pittsburghers, Penn State, 6-2-1, Lehigh, 9-2-1, Navy, 5-2, Cornell, 9-2-1, and Syracuse, 5-5, are considered good enough to upset the "dope bucket."

A darkhorse could also arise from among the likes of Springfield, 9-1, Brown, 7-2, and Franklin and Marshall, 8-2.

Other teams in the tournament include Army, 3-5-1, Harvard, 6-4, Columbia, 3-8, Princeton, 4-3-1, Penn, 1-11, Rutgers, 5-3-1, Yale, 3-7, Colgate, 6-6, and Temple, 0-10.

Back to defend the titles they won last year at Lehigh University are the Lions' Sid Nodland, 123, and Johnny Johnston, 130; Lehigh's Joe Gratto, 137; and Pitt's Dave Johnson, 157, who will compete at 167 this year.

Pitt's Bill Hulings, 123, and Ed Peery, 130, won championships in 1955 but they were unsuccessful in tourney action last year.

Among the semi-finalists last year who are back for another try are Syracuse's George Creason, 123, and Bill White, 167; the Lion's John Pepe, 137, and Dave

Adams, 147; Pitt's Vic DeFelice, at 130, and White at 177 for this year's tourney. Nodland, Peery, Adams, Schirf, Fortenbaugh, Scanton, and Flemmer's Neal Leshar, 167; and F&M's Ron Flemming, 177. However Creason will compete two-day event.



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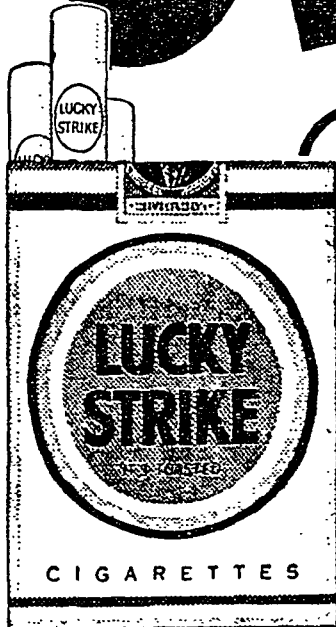
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this year without a loss and hails from the same school that produced Joe Alissi, the only wrestler to beat Pitt's Ed Peery.

But Speidel wasn't forgetting about his boys, who could dominate the first four weights. "I think Nodland and Pepe will be top-seeded," he said, "with Johnston and Adams either second-seeded or maybe top-seeded." Nodland and Johnston are defending champs in the 123 and 130-pound classes. Pepe and Adams were runnersup in the 137 and 147 divisions in last year's EIWA tournament.

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