

Gymnasts' Spirits High For National Tourney

By MATT PODBESEK

Last weekend's Eastern Wrestling Championships may have aided Coach Gene Wettstone's gymnasts by giving them a much-needed breathing spell before this week's National Collegiate Gym Championships at Navy.

The Olympic mentor said last night that the esprit-de-corp was at a satisfactory high after the break provided by the wrestling tournament.

In contrast to the regular season dual-meets, Wettstone will have to rely on specialists and his three top all-around men rather than team "depth."

For in the Nationals, Wettstone will be allowed to enter a maximum of ten athletes, including his three all-around men—Armando Vega, Gil Leu and Dion Weisend.

The chief team competition should come from three Big Ten schools—defending champion Illinois, powerful Michigan and Michigan State—also perennial contender Florida State and a strong entry from the West Coast, Southern California.

Bob Kneidler, gymnastic coach at the University of Chicago, says of the three Big Ten teams:

"Illinois is loaded, Michigan is real tough, and Michigan State is tough, too. I can't see how Illinois can lose in the N.C.A.A. (unless Florida State can beat them or your team.)"

As proof of how strong the Illini are, Kneidler pointed to the results of 1957's Big Ten championships in which the defending champs walked away with the title.

Headed by Olympian Abie Grossfeld and Tony, the Big Ten kings defeated Michigan 143½-111½ while "strong" Michigan trailed with 68½ team points.

On the individual level, Vega is given a good chance to get the 1957 all-around title. His chief rivals will be fellow-Olympians Abie Grossfeld, an Illinois sophomore, and Ed Gagnier, a junior at the University of Michigan.

Three other all-around contenders will be the defending champion Tony, Rafael Lucione of Florida State, and Sam Baillie of Iowa.

Kneidler says of the Big Ten all-around competitors, "Iowa has a one man team in Sam Baillie and he is a real threat. Baillie is tops on the side horse, has regained his double flyaway on the



ARMANDO VEGA, opposes fellow-Olympians in Nationals

—Daily Collegian Photo by Sam Price

rings, and is a steady all-around man. (don't underrate him.)

"The Big Ten All-around was a race between Grossfeld, Gagnier and Baillie. As you can see by the results of the Big Ten Championships, the two olympians tied for the title. But Tony of Illinois (the 1956 champion) hasn't improved over last year whereas the other boys have, so my prediction is about 7th or 8th for him."

Wettstone personally rates Lucione as a top contender for Vega. The Cuban has been going great this year according to the Lion mentor.

Sophomore Grossfeld and junior Gagnier tied for the Big Ten all-around with an average 89 score of a possible 100 points. In the Eastern at Syracuse two weekends ago, Vega averaged 87 in winning his championship.

But the Lion Olympian hit for a 1574 grand total, topping the old Eastern record held by former Lion Jean Cronstedt who went on to win the Nationals that same year.

Vega is hoping to parallel the efforts of his Lion successor and also successfully defend his National parallel bars crown.

OCU Denies Any Racial Charges Hurlled at 'Wilt'

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 18 (P)—Oklahoma City University officials hotly denied today that any racial overtones were involved in OCU's unsuccessful effort to beat Kansas in last Saturday night's regional NCAA basketball finals at Dallas.

Abe Lemons, OCU coach, had charged that the officials were trying to protect Wilt Chamberlain, Kansas 7-foot Negro center, but said at no time did he order his team to "deliberately dump" Chamberlain or call him "big nigger."

Ed Nall, OCU's athletic business manager, demanded an apology from one official for what he

termed stirring up racial trouble and pointed out OCU had Negro students, including some on the baseball team.

At Salem, Ore., the official, Al Lightner, reiterated his charges that Lemons before the game told him that if Chamberlain were to go up to stuff the ball in the basket and "if that big nigger comes down on any of my boys, they're going to beat . . . him."

"I don't think I owe an apology to anyone," Lightner said today. He is sports editor of The Oregon Statesman.

OCU was charged with 25 fouls and Kansas 10.

OCU, the nation's No. 9 ranked team, lost to Kansas, the No. 2 club, 81-61.

Sport Shorts

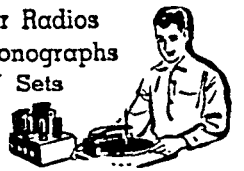
J. L. "Pete" Mauthe, chairman of the board of Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co., is a former Penn State football great.

B. M. "Dutch" Hermann, former Penn State basketball coach, lives in retirement a few miles from the campus.

Johnny Jaffurs, former Penn State captain and guard, is a member of the football coaching staff at Cornell University.

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PHILADELPHIA, PA.—Mr. L. J. Woods, vice-president and director of Research and Engineering announced today that Philco's pioneering and continuing growth and expansion in the electronics field—notably in color television, transistors, computers, data processing systems and guided missiles has opened up unique and rewarding opportunities for young engineers and scientists to extend their professional development upon graduation.

Mr. Woods also pointed out that Philco's recent entry into the home laundry field, and the necessity for developing entire new lines of automatic washers and dryers, in addition to other household appliances, has created many new and attractive openings for beginning engineers.

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—Daily Collegian Photo by Sam Price

FOOTBALL COACH RIP ENGLE, decked out in sweat pants and his traditional "Sunday" hat instructs End Romeo Pannozzo (right) and tackle Bill Wehmer on how to "double team" an onrushing lineman in yesterday's first day of spring training.

Varsity Golf Managers

Candidates for varsity golf managers should sign up anytime this week in 248 Recreation Hall. Candidates must be fourth semester students with at least a 2.0 All-University average.

Milton Plum, Penn State's talented quarterback, has signed to play professional football with the Cleveland Browns.

Rip Engle, Penn State football coach, will go to Japan in July to conduct a grid clinic for the armed services.