

Pitt Coach Says . . .

Oklahoma Should Win NCAA Mat Championship

By LOU PRATO

"Oklahoma without any doubt will be this year's National Champion," Pittsburgh's business-like wrestling coach Rex Peery opined during the presentation of awards at the EIWA tournament in Recreation Hall Saturday night.

"They're loaded," Peery—a native Oklahoman—said. "They beat Oklahoma A & M in a dual meet 23-3 and any team that can beat the Aggies that bad would have to be favored."

"And they have a couple of boys who could cop individual titles. There's Don Hodge (at 177), Bob Lyons (at 130), Gordon Roessler (at heavy), and a terrific 137 pounder. All of them will be among the individual favorites."

"Penn State and Pitt should be among the leaders and have a good chance to win the runner-up spot," the grey-haired Panther coach continued. "Iowa State and Iowa are going to be awfully tough but Pitt and Penn State will be up there, too."

Peery was not his usual self while talking but it was understandable. He had just seen his team lose its first Eastern team championship in four years to a highly-spirited Penn State squad, 74-61.



Rex Peery

(Earl) Poust and (Les) Walters really came through to make the difference," Peery said. "We had three individual champs and so did you (Penn State) but they (Poust and Walters) really surprised everyone."

Peery had no alibi's for the defeat. When asked whether Tom Albert's presence in the lineup would have made a difference in the final outcome Peery said "You can't tell about that. He might have come up here and been beaten in his first appearance. We lost and that's that."

Alberts was the Pitt starter at 177 early this season and had lost only two matches in eight outings before being declared ineligible at the semester break.

Peery also saw a tight race looming ahead in the 1958 EIWA carnival. "Pitt and Penn State will be back in the running but Lehigh is really going to be tough," the Panther mentor said.

"We'll only lose three men," Peery said "but those three losses are going to be hard to take. There's (Bill) Hulings, Ed (Peery, his son), and (Ron) Schirf."

These three made up the nucleus of the Peery regime for the past three years. In that period the Panthers won two EIWA crowns and had a 26-match winning streak, including an unbeaten season.

"We have a couple of good prospects coming up in Paul Powell of Lock Haven and Bob Irwin of Greensburg and they should help considerably," Peery said.

What about your heavyweights?

A report has it that Pitt is low at the heavyweight position.

"Low?" Peery answered, "We're without anyone. After Schirf there's nothing."

Despite the disappointment over Pittsburgh's failure to gather in team honors, Peery was quite pleased with the work of his son Ed who won the 123-pound title by beating the Lions defending champ Sid Nodland.

Peery, a two-time National Champ who has only lost one match in his collegiate career, also carried off the Most Valuable Player award and the John Fletcher trophy, given to the senior who has scored the most points in three years of competition in the Eastern classic.

"I didn't think he'd get anything up here," the elder Peery commented when his son was presented with the Most Valuable trophy.)

"However, I'm still opposed to it," he went on. "I always did say that there were eight 'most valuable men—those that win the eight divisions."

But moments later when his son received the Fletcher award, Peery sang a different tune. "That's the greatest," he said, "it really amounts to something. A kid really earns that award."

Gymnasts—



Captain Dion Weissend Finishes Collegiate Career

(Continued from page eight) and Lecuona are rated the three to beat by Wettstone.

Defending champion Amster and AAU titlist Grossfeld will fight it out for the high bar crown with Leu rated an outside chance.

The Illini's Frank Hailland and Glenn Wilson of Western Illinois are favored on the trampoline. Chuck Fegley, who finished eighth in the '55 tourney, is the only Lion entered in this event.

Vega will defend his specialty, the parallel bars—against Gagnier, Grossfeld, Tonry, Amster and Bob Foht. Foht finished fifth last year.

Pitt could come through with a sweep on the flying rings with their Eastern all-winning trio of Champion Tom Darling, John Hammond and Dave Hirst.

Defending Champ Alpha Zeta Drubs DTD in V-Ball Opener

Defending champion Alpha Zeta successfully opened its bid for the 1957 volleyball crown when it drubbed Delta Tau Delta, in the initial round Wednesday night.

Last year's runner-ups, Delta Chi, toppled Delta Upsilon, 15-3 and 15-9, to serve notice of their bid for a championship. Delta Chi swept the title in 1954 and 1955 and was finally edged by Alpha Zeta last season.

In the remaining ten games Theta Kappa Pi defeated Lambda Chi Alpha, 15-1 and 15-6; Phi Mu Delta downed Alpha Epsilon Pi, 15-5 and 15-9; Theta Xi topped Phi Delta Theta, 14-16, 15-8 and 15-9; and Pi Kappa Alpha tripped Phi Kappa, 15-11, 14-16 and 15-6.

Sigma Phi Alpha defeated Phi Sigma Delta, 15-8 and 15-8; Kappa Delta Rho downed Beaver House, 15-12, 9-15 and 15-12; Beta Theta Pi tripped Alpha Gamma Rho, 15-12 and 15-2; Phi Epsilon Pi bested Kappa Sigma, 15-7 and 15-10; Theta Chi won over Sigma Alpha Mu, 15-10 and 15-5; and Alpha Chi Sigma shut out Sigma Nu in perfect games, 15-0 and 15-0.

Balding Charlie Speidel fielded a winning wrestling team for the 24th time at Penn State in 1957.

State Mat Tourney Set for Tomorrow

Four defending champions, including two from the District 6 area—State College included—will head the parade of scholastic wrestling stars who will compete for state titles tomorrow afternoon and evening at Recreation Hall.

Returning to the Rec Hall mats in quest of their second straight titles are Maynard Aungst, 95-pound champ from Lock Haven; Ron Myers, 103-pound winner from Philipsburg; Art Baker, 185-pound titlist from Erie Academy; and Larry Lauchle, 112-pound champ from Muncy.

Aungst, Myers, and Lauchle move into a higher weight class this year.

CAMP LAKELAND

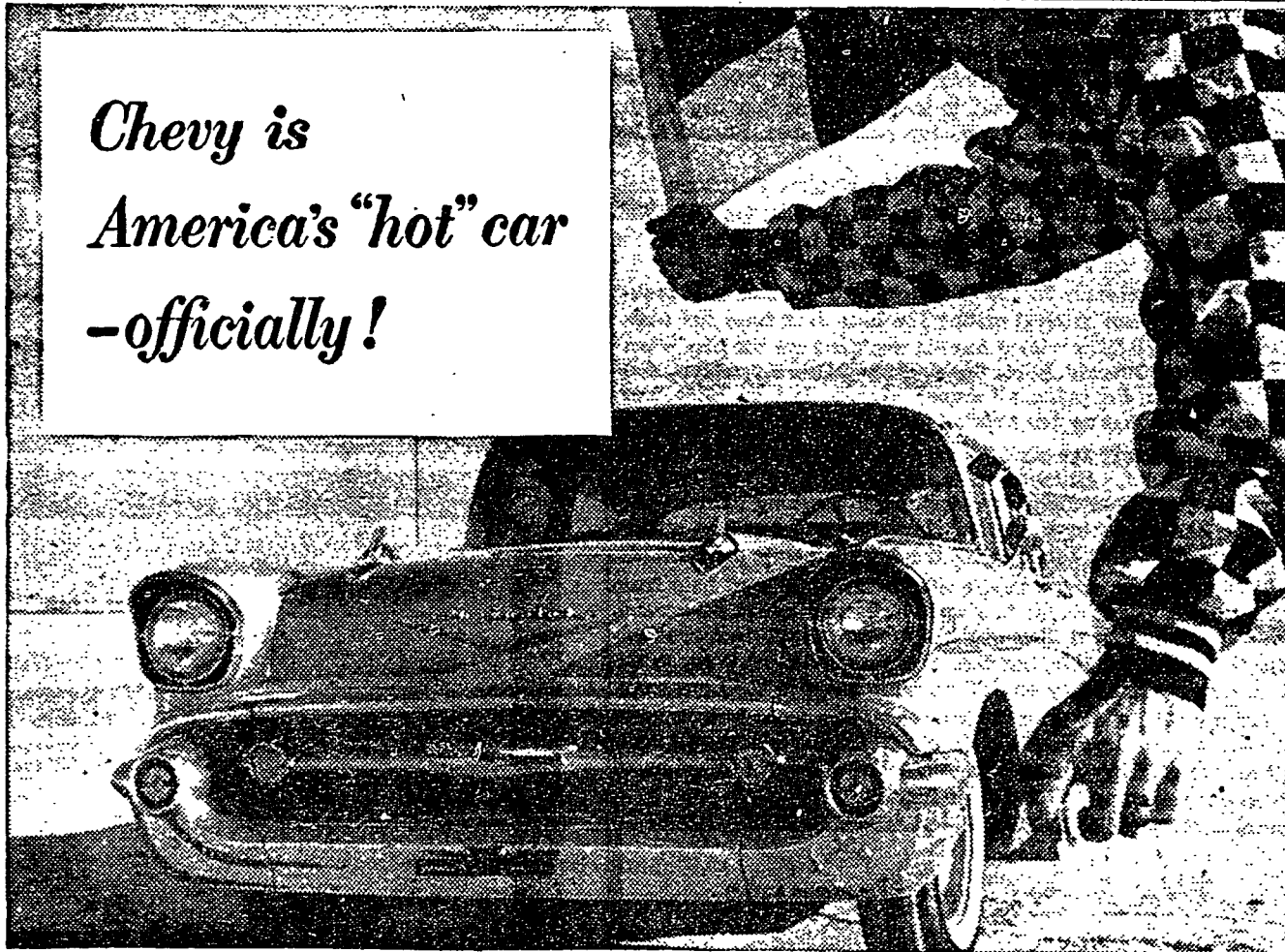
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