

A Glance at . . . SPORTS

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WETTSTONE ANALYZES THE NATIONALS:

"If we do what the wrestlers did, we stand a good chance." Gene Wettstone, Lion gym coach, was doing the talking and when Wettstone speaks on "his" sport, you can be confident that it will be accurate—as accurate as you can get in predictions or outlooks.

Wettstone's Lion gym proteges will compete in the Nationals this afternoon, tonight and tomorrow afternoon at Annapolis, Md. When the festivities are over, Wettstone hopes the Lions will have a National Championship to bring back with them. One thing's for certain—he knows they have a good chance. As he said earlier in the week: "We're not going down there to take second."

"The preliminaries will tell the story," he said in a quiet, confident tone. "If we can get the guys to qualify in the preliminaries, we can do well. It's the same as the wrestling tournament."

As we all know, the secret to the Lions' surprising, but well-earned eastern wrestling victory was their success in qualifying six men for the semifinal round. Wettstone was among the many fans watching the upset take form—we wonder what he was thinking as Lion after Lion continued to qualify.

Should the gymnasts have equal success—equal in that the wrestlers lost only two men before the semifinals—they would also be close to an upset victory. So close, in fact, that they'll probably see the championship cup in their dreams—taking it for granted that they dream.

Looking at the Nationals from the team angle, Wettstone said: "The team never performed at its peak during the year. I feel that we may have been building up for this." Again reiterating on his old theme, he said, "Each man needs to qualify in the top 10 in the preliminary round."

Wettstone said that Illinois rates the favorite role because you have to go with the defending champions—especially if the champions have an Olympic competitor and the defending National all-around champ on its roster.

Keeping his optimism at a minimum, he rated the Lions as the best challenger with Florida State a strong dark horse. Of the Florida State team, he said that it is a perennial top dog in the tourney but never seems to hit its top performance. Should it hit this time, it can go all the way.

Turning to the individual aspect of the picture, Wettstone feels that much of the Lion title hopes rest on the shoulders of Olympian Armando Vega—the most logical choice since he's the best in the East, and maybe the best in the nation. Time will tell.

Vega's performance in the all-around competition will probably draw the most interest among the Lion fans from the individual angle. The Lion wizard has his work cut out for him when he goes against Illinois' Abbie Grossfeld, a fellow Olympian, and Don Tonry, the defending all-around champ. It'll be close, but Wettstone feels that he can take all the marbles if he hits.

Vega's entered in the six all-around events, along with Gil Leu and Dion Weissend, plus the swinging rings and, hold your hats, the rope climb. (Who said there's no strategy in coaching gymnastics?) Wettstone has him entered in the climb, but will use him only if he can beat the worst time among the top 10. Every point counts.

Of course, Vega can't win the title alone. He'll need help from his teammates, particularly Leu and Weissend in the all-around. Wettstone admits that neither of the latter two are serious contenders for the individual title, but feels that they both can place in the first 10 if they hit. If they do, it'll be a big boost in the Lion score.

Summing it up, he said: "I think guys like Leu, Jack Beisterfeldt (side horse entry) and Bob Foht (parallel bar entry) still have surprises for us. They all have the potential, it's just a question of whether they're going to hit. I hope it's this time." So do we!

Everybody Beats the Yankees (In Spring Exhibitions, That Is)

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 21 (AP)—The St. Louis Cardinals snapped a four-game losing streak today when they defeated the New York Yankees, 9-2.

New York was held to five hits, Herm Wehmeier permitting one single and one walk in five innings. They came in succession in the fourth when the Bombers' Gil McDougald strolled and Yogi Berra hit safely. McDougald scored on an infield out.

A run off Larry Jackson came on a walk, wild pitch and single by Hank Bauer.

CLEARFIELD, Fla., March 21 (AP)—The Cincinnati Redlegs, who dealt the world champion Yankees a 20-6 lacing yesterday, laid down another base-hit barrage today to beat the Philadelphia Phillies, 13-10.

Robin Roberts and Tommy Qualters took all the punishment as the Redlegs poured seven runs across on 14 hits, one of them a homer by Hal Bevan.

TAMPA, Fla., March 21 (AP)—Johnny Logan and Wes Covington each blasted three home runs to account for all of Milwaukee's tallies in a 10-7 victory today over the Chicago White Sox.

'Stilt' Wilting Hooper's Hopes

KANSAS CITY, March 21 (AP)—Rival coaches agreed today that Kansas' Wilt (The Stilt) Chamberlain is the "dominant factor" in the weekend national college basketball finals, but disagreed widely on what to do about the sevenfoot problem.

"I think the only way to stop him is not to let him get his hands on the ball," said Frank McGuire, coach of North Carolina's top-ranking team.

Phil Woolpert of San Francisco's defending champions said he might follow the policy of Oklahoma A&M's Hank Iba, let Chamberlain run free and concentrate on pressing the other Kansas players.

Sherm Lollar, who collected three hits for the Sox, touched off a four-run uprising in the eighth with a homer.

LAKELAND, Fla., March 21 (AP)—The Detroit Tigers, who at one point lost six straight, ran their winning streak to two—longest of the spring training season—by trouncing the Washington Senators 9-2 today at Lakeland.

Second baseman Frank Bolling drove across five runs with a three-run homer in the eighth and a two-run triple in the fourth.

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., March 21 (AP)—A triple by shortstop Eddie Bressoud in the seventh inning broke up a scoreless deadlock and helped the New York Giants defeat the Baltimore Orioles 2-1 today.

With Bob Westrum on first and one out, Bressoud tripled home the first run of the game with a drive to right center. Ossie Virgil then sent a sacrifice fly to right to score Bressoud.

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into
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