Lions Take National Title; Vega Scores 54% Points By MATT PODBESEK "And in this corner, that

By MATT PODBESEK "And in this corner, that 142-pound Olympic marvel and double-winner of the Eastern all-around, that twotime Eastern and National parallel bar champion and most recently, record-smashing NCAA all-around king, Mr. Col-legiate Gymnast—Armando Vega of Penn State.

of Penn State. "Mr. Vega singlehandedly scored two-thirds (54½) of the Lions 88½ winning team points that gave Gene Wettstone his fourth National Collegiate team title. And rightfuly gained the Lion acc recognition as the best col-legiate gymnast in the nation." That would probably be a sports announcers spiel on in-

sports announcers spiel on introducing Armando Vega after the Lion gymnast carried Penn State to its fourth National Collegiate gym title Saturday at Navy.

But Coach Wettstone issued a much simpler statement and probmuch simpler statement and prob-ably the highest compliment in the eyes of the 1956 Olympic' coach when he said yesterday: "He performed like a Russian." And then he continued his praise of Vega: "Never was he so superior. He

was even more superior than in the Olympics. This time he did everything right. Never once did he show signs of insecurity. "Two great days," Wettstone reid in his happy flow of compli-

said in his happy flow of compli-ments, "One right after another." And Vega really had two great days against the best in the na-tion. He amassed his 54½ team points with a first in the all-

ment before leaving for the nationals Thursday in which he said: "We will win if we can do as the wrestlers did." And

terfeldt-informed him that the



-Daily Collegian Photo by Sam Price THE NATIONAL CHAMPS are represented in the above photo (left to right) by Captain Dion Weissend with the National trophy, Coach Gene Wettstone behind the huge Eastern team trophy and Armando Vega with his Eastern all-around cup and National allaround plaque.

had been building up since Fri- seventh Gil Leu with a tenth in day. We had every possible way the all-around and a seventh on figured how we could lose the the high bar, Bob Foht on the meet, and then we had it won, even if Illinois slammed the Stevens in tumbling with a sevtumbling."

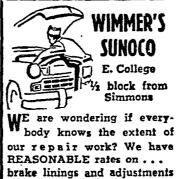
arounds and parallel bars (22), Illinois did more than slam the second in free exercise (9), third tumbling, they finished 1-2-2, but place on the horizontal bar (8), still picked up only 28 points and Illinois did more than slam the place on the horizontal bar (8), still picked up only 28 points and third place tie on the side horse a second place with 80½ points. (7½), fourth on the flying rings Florida State, second to the Lions (7) and tenth in an event in which he does not compete in regular competition—tumbling (1). Wettstone had issued a state-ment before leaving for the met before leaving for the source for the the low for the met before leaving for the source for the the low for the low for the the low for the the low for the l sixth with 17.

The Lion's only medal-winners beside Vega were Captain Dion do as the wrestlers did." And beside Vega were Captain Dion he did. Weissend and rope climber Phil Weissend and rope climber Phil Weissend and rope climber Phil Mullen. Weissend finally came fact that the matmen won the through on his specialty—the high Eastern title the previous week by having only two athletes elim-inated in the preliminaries. The Lion mentor said that his personal statisticians—headed by side horse competitor Jack Bies-terfeldt—informed him that the 3.1 second climb.

3.1 second climb.

trophy was "in the bag" before Making the victory complete the last two events began. was the scoring of Biesterfeldt on "That was really a relief." the side horse with an eighth,

Wettstone said. "The pressure Dick Rehm on the rope with a lenth.



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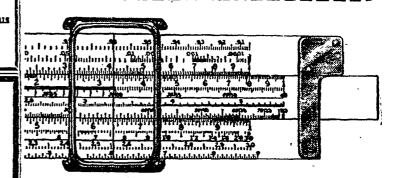
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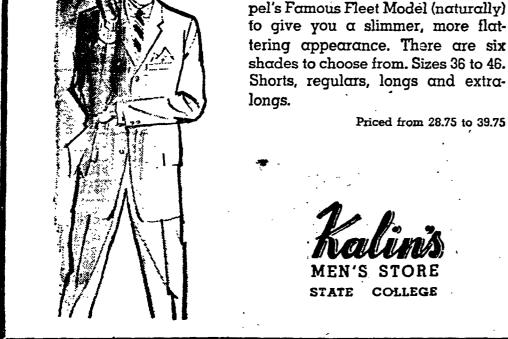
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