

3 Lions in NCAA Semifinals

Johnston, Pepe, Adams Hold Key

By LOU PRATO

PITTSBURGH, March 29—Johnny Johnston, John Pepe and Dave Adams hold the key to Penn State's chances of winning the 1957 NCAA mat crown as the tournament enters the semifinal round here at the Pitt Fieldhouse tomorrow afternoon.

Coach Charlie Speidel's original eight-man entry was cut down to the Johnston-Pepe-Adams trio, but not before Penn State had shot into a third place tie in the team standings with Oklahoma A&M with 13 points apiece.

Oklahoma leads the 64-team field at the halfway mark with 23 points and has four men going into the semifinals. Pitt trails the Sooners with 18 points, but will send five men into tomorrow afternoon's action, including the 167-pound sophomore, Tom Alberts, who had been ineligible for the major part of the school year.

Oklahoma A&M will also have three men in tomorrow's matches. Michigan, Iowa, and Iowa State are tied for fifth place with 11 points apiece. Michigan and Iowa State have two men left in the tourney, while Iowa has three remaining.

Sid Nodland and Les Walters were beaten in the quarterfinals while Earl Poust and Sam Markle were stopped in the second round. George Gray lost a first-round decision.

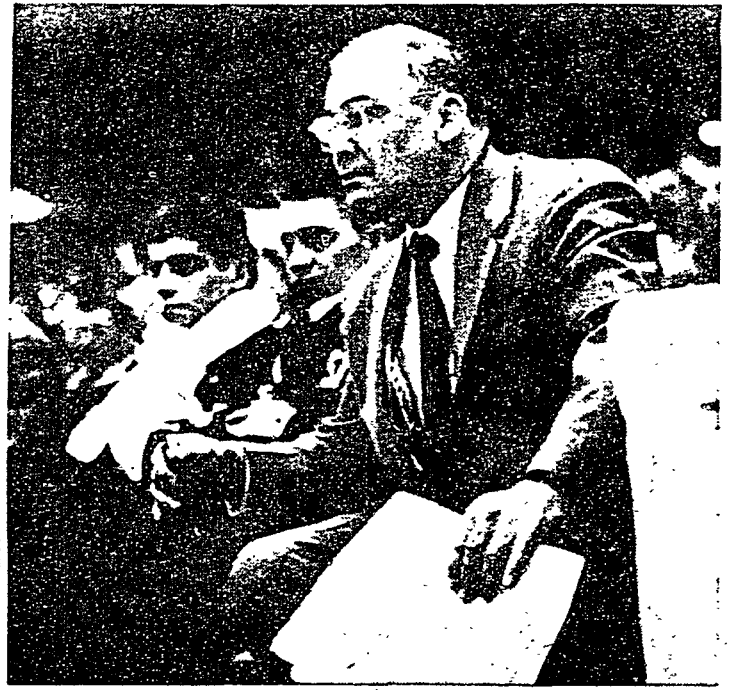
All three Lion semifinalists will have to be at their best tomorrow afternoon if they expect to be around when the finals start at 8 tomorrow night. Johnston meets Oregon's Lee Allen, the 1956 Olympic entry and AAU champ; Pepe runs into another conference champion in the presence of Big Ten titan, Ralph Rieks; Adams faces Iowa State's Big Seven champ, Ron Gray.

A lack of nine seconds riding time cost Nodland his chance for the 123-pound title when Oklahoma's Harmon Leslie, last year's NCAA runnerup, edged the Lion grappler, 8-7. Nine more seconds would have given Nodland enough time advantage to send the match into overtime.

Johnston used a takedown, two



—Daily Collegian Photo by Ron Walker
130-POUND EASTERN titlist, Johnny Johnston is awarded a point for an escape against Dick Chellevoid, Wartburg, in the Lion's first encounter. Johnston won the match, 5-0.



—Daily Collegian Photo by Ron Walker
LION COACH Charlie Speidel peers anxiously toward the mats to watch John Pepe's narrow 1-0 overtime victory over Tom Nevits, Ohio University, in the preliminary round yesterday afternoon.

reversals, an escape and riding time to stop Iowa State's Dean Horner, second in the Big Seven this year, 8-5.

Pepe gained revenge for his only loss suffered in the regular season when he shutout Maryland's Atlantic Coast Conference champion, Rod Norris, 4-0. It was Pepe's third bout of the day against a conference titlist. Earlier he had beaten the Mid-American winner and the Big Seven champ.

Adams moved into the semifinal bracket when he took his second default win of the day against Oklahoma A&M's Clad Wright. Adams was ahead, 7-2, when Wright dislocated his shoulder.

Walters lost a heartbreaker to Oregon State's undefeated John Dustin, 2-1, on the basis of a 1:14 time advantage. Dustin, who has won 18 matches in a row, got most of his time in the second period.

Five of the Nittany entries escaped unscathed in the second round of the tourney, which did not end until 10 p.m. Only Poust and Markle failed to advance a notch.

Nodland gained his berth in the quarter finals with a narrow 4-3 win over Iowa State's Dave Harty. The Lion co-captain scored a takedown in the first and a reverse in the second, while Harty could only

manage three escapes—one in each period.

Wartburg's Dick Chellevoid gave Johnston little strain as the Lion 130-pounder rolled to an easy 5-0 win. Johnston completely outclassed Chellevoid with a takedown, a reverse and riding time included among his five markers.

Pepe tried vainly for a fall against another conference champion—this time it was Colorado's Lyle Neville, the Big Seven titlist—but he could only come through with a 9-3 conquest. Pepe, who made Neville look like a beginner, had two takedowns, a near fall, a reverse and riding time in his favor.

Adams picked up a win via default over Colorado's Will Derby—the Rocky Mountain and AAU champion—when Derby aggravated a knee injury that has plagued him all year. The victory came with 13 seconds remaining in the second period with Adams ahead by a 4-1 count.

Poust put everything he had into his second-round match with Michigan's Mike Rodriguez, and at times showed signs of pulling a major upset.

But Rodriguez, the Big Ten win-

ner who was second in the Nationals as a sophomore two years ago, floored the game Poust with a half-nelson and crotch at the 6:30 mark. The Michigan ace led 11-4 at the time.

One minute and 11 seconds riding time brought Walters his victory over Michigan's Carl Leutomski, 3-2. Walters reached Leutomski for a takedown midway through the first period and rode him out for the rest of the frame. Leutomski scored a near fall in the second period, but Walters offset this with three minutes of riding time in the final quarter.

Iowa's Gary Kurdelmeir scored a comparatively easy 7-0 win over Markle. Kurdelmeir's points came on a takedown, reverse, near fall and riding time.

Because of the heavy entries in the 137, 147, 157 and 167-pound classes, Pepe, Poust and Gray were among the 121 wrestlers that saw first round action. Gray was the only Lion to lose.

An escape with 15 seconds remaining in the second period of a double session overtime gave Pepe a narrow 1-0 win over Ohio Uni-

versity's Tom Nevits, the Mid-American Conference champion. The regular bout ended in a 1-1 deadlock.

Pepe rode out the Ohio battler in the first overtime period and then made his escape in the waning moments of the finale.

Adams had a much easier time disposing of Bernie Wood, CCNY, 7-2. Wood, who was undefeated in dual competition this season with an 8-0 mark, was held scoreless by Adams until the last few seconds of the last period when he pulled off a reverse.

Adams scored his points on a first period takedown, a second period reverse and near fall and time advantage.

Poust eliminated Baldwin-Wallace's only entry, George Assadorian, 3-1. Poust had a reverse in the second frame and time advantage, while his opponent's only score was a third period escape.

Gray was soundly beaten by Jim Ferguson, Michigan State, 4-0. The first period was scoreless, but Ferguson had an escape and a takedown and rode out the rest of the match.

Hodge Focal Point at NCAA Tourney

By MIKE MOYLE

Daily Collegian Editor

PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 29—As expected, Oklahoma's Dan Hodge was the center of attention at yesterday's opening action in the Pitt Fieldhouse. In his first match, Hodge drew a majority of the sports crowd down from the stands to gather around matside to see him pin Rutgers' Rich Garretson in 5:50. Garretson scored one point on the Oklahoma powerhouse—it was only the second point scored on Hodge in his collegiate career.

In his evening match, Hodge met Pitt's Alex Skirpan, who hasn't seen much action this season. Skirpan was overheard telling teammates before the match, "I'm going to be on the offensive all the time. I'm going to show him I'm not afraid of him."

Hodge disposed of Skirpan in exactly 50 seconds.

During Les Walters' win over Earl Leutomski, Michigan, Referee Leland Merrill, kidding Coach Charlie Speidel about the

large number of well-wishers which had crowded onto the matside, commented: "You brought everybody but the athletic director down here."

In the strain of championship competition, coaches have been apt to do a great deal of grousing to the referees. The Kansas University coach, after his 123-pound grappler, James Miller, lost a close decision on a last-minute takedown, screamed indignantly at referee Godron Dupre of Oklahoma City.

Dupre calmly walked over to the angry coach and countered in a broad drawl: "He was on his fanny, wasn't he?"

Sports Illustrated's Don Parker, who wrote a feature article on Hodge this week, was on hand to see his subject in action. Parker

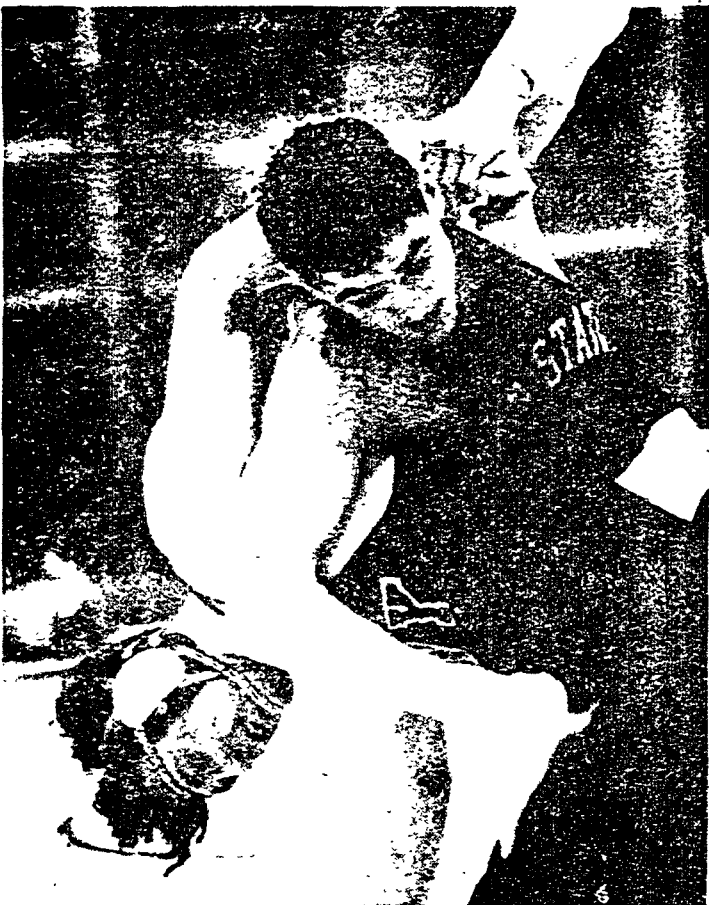
had the misfortune to wrestle briefly (how else with "Homicide") during his interview, so he probably knew just how Skirpan felt for those agonizing 50 seconds.

The Indiana U. team is made up nearly completely of former Pennsylvania schoolboy wrestlers. Only one "Hoosier" wrestler received his high school training outside the Keystone state.

Famous Pittsburgh personalities encountered yesterday were former Pirate baseball star, Frank Gustine, and Olympic track star Arnie Sowell, who stopped long enough to ask Pitt coach Rex Peery how his boys were faring.

Oklahoma's Dick Delgado racked up the most lopsided score of the opening day when he mauled Dave Moore of Illinois, 21-5.

No You Don't



—Daily Collegian Photo by Ron Walker
CO-CAPTAIN Dave Adams counters an attempted escape by Bernard Wood, CCNY, in a first round match. Adams won the bout, 7-1.

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