

# Nittany Gym Champions Kerr Again Named X-Country Captain

By MATT MATHEWS  
Penn State's only National championship squad—the gymnasts—are diligently preparing for their first title defense Jan. 11 at Temple.

Not one to go out on a limb, Coach Gene Wettstone terms his current squad "fairly well balanced." We didn't lose too much by graduation, he said.

But there's one big question on everybody's mind concerning the gym team—will HE compete? Unless you're a newcomer you'll automatically know that HE is Armando Vega, the Lions NCAA and Eastern all-round titlist.

The reason he may not use up his remaining year of eligibility this season is because of his desire to concentrate on this summer's World Gymnastic Championships in Russia and also to save his eligibility for his senior year. (Vega lost a semester of schooling during the 1956 Olympics and plans to graduate in June 1959).

He said last spring he would forego gymnastics this season and, as yet, has not given any indication of a changed mind.

The major graduation losses to hit the team include 1957 captain Dion Weissend, Gil Leu, Jack Beisterfeldt and Dick Rehm.

Weissend was one of the two reasons the Lions continually

made a clean sweep of the points on the parallel bars last year. He teamed with Vega, the Eastern, National and AAU champion, in that event. The third man in that trio of p-



Bob Fohr ... captains the champs

bar competitors, Bob Fohr, not only steps up in importance on the bars, but also steps into Weissend's position as captain of the team.

Leu was a top Lion performer

in the all-rounds, along with Vega and Weissend. Replacing the two graduation losses will be sophomores Jay Werner and Lee Cunningham.

"I have never had two outstanding sophomores so closely matched," Wettstone said while labeling them the "Gold-dust Twms." The only competitor to finished ahead of Werner in any freshman event was Cunningham, who beat him by one point in tumbling. The two won every other event in which they entered.

Replacing Leu on the high bar will be senior John Collier and Lou Savadove. Savadove and Collier both competed last year.

Although Beisterfeldt is lost through graduation, the energetic Swiss is helping Wettstone with the freshman team.

Wettstone recently got a bit of joyful news when he learned that Syracuse, who appeared to be the chief contender in the East, also lost their top gymnast to the wedding bells. Now the chief opposition comes from Army and Pitt.

Fred Kerr will be the first two-year cross-country captain since W. J. Cox in 1928.

The junior from West York was re-elected captain at the team's banquet last week.

Kerr took first place in the Navy and Manhattan meets and finished in a three-way tie for first against Cornell.

He placed second behind Ed Moran against Pitt and third, one second behind Moran at Michigan State.

Kerr led the Lion harriers in both the IC4-A and NCAA meets, placing 9th in the IC4-A's and 12th in the nationals.

Receiving varsity letters besides Kerr were senior Al Jones, juniors Clem Schoenebeck, Chick King and Moran and sophomores Dick Engelbrink and Joe Thompson.

Denny Johnson was elected honorary captain of the freshman squad. Johnson lowered the freshman 3-mile course record from 15:56.6 to 15:39 against Pitt. Herm Weber also broke the record in the same meet with a 15:52 clocking.

The old record was held jointly by Kerr, Moran, Clem Schoenebeck and Bob Thompson.

Ken Hunter, Dick Anderson, Ron Genovese, Ron Landon, Bill Schoenebeck and Skip Johnstone were awarded freshman numerals in addition to Johnson and Weber.

Prospects for next year year look bright, since the Lions will be losing only one graduating senior—Al Jones. Both the varsity and freshman team took third-



Fred Kerr ... re-elected captain

in the IC4-A championships, while the varsity finished ninth in the NCAA championships.

The Lions finished the season with a 3-2 record in dual competition.

## Matmen Open Season Against Colgate Vets

Penn State's wrestling team runs smack into a veteran-laden Colgate outfit when it inaugurates its 34th mat season tomorrow afternoon at Hamilton, N.Y.

Nine lettermen return for the Red Raiders, including eight who wrestled against the Lions last year. But just how much experience those nine men gained last year isn't certain. They have already been beaten this year, losing to Cortland State Teachers College, 17-11, last week.

Spearheading the Red Raider crew is captain Pete Newell, a three-year letterman. Newell, who has lost only four bouts in his collegiate career, finished fourth in the 177-pound division of the Eastern tournament last year. He was eliminated from the tourney when he wrenched a shoulder in a semi-final match and was forced to default.

Ranked directly behind Newell is junior Fred Schult—one of the top-rated men in the East's 167-pound bracket this year.

Newell and Schult were the only Colgate grapplers to record victories in last year's Penn State-Colgate match, won by the Lions, 23-8. Newell rapped Bruce Gilmore, 6-2, and Schult edged Dick Phalen, 2-1.

Included among the other Colgate letterwinners are juniors Doug Werner, Paul Martin, Bob Skirpak, Frank McCarthy, and Dick Zimmerman and seniors Paul D'Esterre and Ted Tobias. All but Zimmerman competed against the Nittanies last year.

Werner, a 200-pound footballer, is the Red Raider heavyweight entry. He was tied by Sam Markle last year, 1-1.

Martin, Skirpak and Tobias were victims of Penn State pinning combinations in the 1957 meet. Martin was flattened by Sid Nodland in one of the fastest pins ever seen on the Recreation Hall mats—45 seconds of the first period. Skirpak was dropped by George Smith and Tobias fell to John Pepe.

McCarthy was beaten by John-

ny Johnson, 8-2, last winter and D'Esterre—another three-year vet—was blanked by Davy Adams.

Colgate's tentative starting array will find Martin at 123, Skirpak at 130, McCarthy at 137, Tobias at 147, D'Esterre at 157, Schult at 167, Newell at 177 and Werner at heavyweight.

This is only the third meeting between the wrestling teams of the two schools. The Lions won the first meet in 1944, 29-5.

## Two Grid Foes Name 3 Lions

End Les Walters, guard Joe Sabol and center Charlie Ruslavage were named to all-opponent teams by two Lion foes.

Syracuse named Walters and Sabol on its team while Marquette selected Walters and Ruslavage. Sabol edged Pitt guard Dan Wisniewski for the second post on the Orange team while Walters, on both clubs, and Ruslavage were fairly handy picks.

Syracuse named Holy Cross quarterback Tom Greene, who also played against the Lions, as the top individual foe it faced this year. The Orange voted Pitt tackle Jim McCusker as the top lineman they faced.

## Late Cage Scores

By The Associated Press  
St. Francis 65, Duquesne 64  
Cincinnati 80, Temple 57

## Carp Captures IM Fraternity Tennis Title

Jerry Carp, Beta Sigma Rho, defeated Mel Royer, Alpha Tau Omega, in a tightly contested match, 6-4, 7-5, to win the intramural fraternity tennis title.

Sickness and bad weather played havoc with the tennis schedule this fall, forcing many match postponements, but all was overcome when Carp and Royer played Sunday on the State College community courts.

Carp and Royer each faced four foes before entering the championship bracket. Carp soundly whipped all four and Royer treated three of his opponents in the same manner, taking the fourth match by forfeit.

They each then downed two more opponents in the championship rounds to proceed to their meeting for the championship.

Carp beat Bill Sekaras, Alpha Chi Sigma, and Hugh Patterson, Pi Kappa Phi, in the quarter and semifinal rounds. Royer won over Danny Gray, Beta Theta Pi, and John Krall, Phi Mu Delta in his quarter and semi-final rounds.

## Sports Dope . . .

Basketball was the first indoor sport to be played at Penn State, starting in 1897, only six years after the game was founded.

Penn State's Rip Engle is battling .633 in 13 seasons, the first six at Brown University, as a major college football coach.

## Baltimore Will Gain Edge If 3-Way Tie Continues

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Baltimore Colts will have the edge if the three-way deadlock for the lead in the Western Division of the National Football League continues after Sunday's games. The Colts are tied for first with the Detroit Lions and the San Francisco 49ers.

According to a playoff plan worked out last week at the NFL meeting in Philadelphia, the Colts would get a bye in the event of a three-way tie.

Detroit and San Francisco would play off Dec. 22 at Detroit. The winner would play the Colts Dec. 29 in Baltimore.

Each team plays its final regular season game Sunday. The Colts will be at Los Angeles; the Lions will meet the Bears in Chi-

cago; and the 49ers will play Green Bay at San Francisco. Each contender has a 7-4 record.

If Baltimore and San Francisco tie, the playoff game would be at Baltimore Dec. 22. If Detroit ties Baltimore, the game also would be in Baltimore Dec. 22.

If Detroit and San Francisco tie, the playoff game will be at San Francisco Dec. 22.



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P.S.—Tickets to the concert by Philippe Entremont, French pianist, in Schwab Auditorium on Wednesday, Dec. 11, are available daily, 1 to 5 p.m. to first 260 students who present Activity and Identification Cards at Main Desk, Hetzel Union Bldg.