

'Gold-dust Twins,' Vega Set for Gym Tryouts



LION GYMNASTS are an aggressive group as seen by the smiles on the faces of the above three—Armondo Vega (l.), Lee Cunningham (c.) and Jay Werner (r.). The three are going to the World Gymnastics Tryouts December 25-31 at Sarasota, Fla. They plan to make the long trip on their own, to represent Uncle Sam in the World Gymnastic Championships in June in Moscow, USSR.

By MATT MATHEWS

Armondo Vega and the Gold-dust Twins—sophomores Lee Cunningham and Jay Werner—compose a three-man Lion contingent that will compete in the United States World Gymnastic Tryouts, December 25-31 at Sarasota, Fla.

The tryouts are the preliminary competition for the World Gymnastic Championships to be held in June at Moscow. The final and only other competition for the United States squad will be held in May at Los Angeles.

Vega, who holds the Eastern and National all-around championships, plus many other individual titles, stands the best chance of making the team. The Olympian is considered by many gym experts as the best Uncle Sam has right now. He is by far the best collegiate gymnast in the nation as evi-

denced by his record-breaking performances last year.

The champ swept both the Eastern all-around title and the NCAA honors with the highest score ever recorded in the history of the two events. Later in the spring he lost the AAU gym championship 112.35 to 111.90 to a non-collegian, Jack Beckner of the Los Angeles Turners.

As a matter of fact, Vega won three of the six events in the AAU all-around in his losing effort with Beckner. Beckner was the number one man on the '56 Olympic team, again just edging out Vega for the honor.

On the other hand, Werner, as a freshman, finished 10th in that same star-studded field. In an individual effort on the flying rings, the talented gymnast was runner-up on the flying rings to Pitt's Tom Darling, Eastern and NCAA champion flyer.

As for Cunningham, Wettstone was pleased by his performance

in last year's AAU's and said, "For a freshman, he and Werner really did well. And the experience was invaluable."

The chances of the Gold-Dust Twins making the World team depends entirely on how many members the State Department decides to send. As Wettstone said, "Who knows how many we'll be able to take along. It all depends on how many Sputniks they send up between now and June." The decision is up in the air.

If determination means anything, both Werner and Cunningham should be Vega's traveling companions next June. Since this is strictly a voluntary amateur event, all participants must pay their own expenses.

Therefore, Werner is putting his thumb to the test and hiking the 1500 or so miles while Cunningham has found himself a ride. But Cunningham has been unfortunate in another way—he said he has had six bluebooks this week and very little sleep.

Top Relay Teams Predicted For Nittany Thinclads in '58

By GEORGE FRENCH

"Potentially, we have the two best relay teams in the school's history," varsity track Coach Chick Werner said yesterday.

Among the top candidates to make up the 2-mile relay team are senior Jim Norton, juniors Ed Moran, Fred Kerr, Chick King and Clem Schoenebeck and sophomores Dick Engelbrink, George Jones and Dick Hambricht.

Norton has improved considerably since last spring. His finest effort came last winter when he defeated Canadian Olympic sprinter Laird Sloan in a dual meet with Michigan.

Moran is a definite threat to become the first Lion to run the mile in less than 4:10 and the 880 in less than 1:50.

Kerr, who was recently re-elected captain of the cross-country team, is generally considered the Lions' most consistent runner by his teammates. Last spring, Kerr ran the mile



Dick Hambricht ... former state champ

in 4:16. King won his mile heat in 4:18 in the IC4-A outdoor championships last spring. Engelbrink pulled one of the biggest upsets of

the indoor track season last winter when he upset former national interscholastic mile champion Don Luisi on the final leg of the freshman medley relay in the IC4-A meet. Engelbrink's time for the mile was 4:17.4. Engelbrink also holds the Nittany freshman records for the mile and 880.

Hambricht won the state high school championship in the 440 twice—tying the state record in '49 in his junior year and setting a new record of :48.7 in his senior year. His :48.7 is just .3 of a second slower than Bruce Austin's Penn State varsity record set in 1956.

Jones has shown a great improvement since last spring and may develop into one of the Lions' finest middle-distance runners. Schoenebeck has been sidelined with a leg injury since cross-country season, but is expected to be back in action after Christmas.

Rocha to Coach Pistons

DETROIT, Dec. 19 (AP)—Red Rocha, former NBA player, today was named head coach of the hard-pressed Detroit Pistons. He succeeds Charley Eckman, whose forced resignation from the National Basketball Assn. team was announced yesterday.

Announcing the surprise choice, Fred Zollner of Fort Wayne, Ind., wealthy owner of the Pistons, described Rocha as "a very smart ball player with the Pistons last year."

Coed Bowlers Wait Outcome Of Proxy Meet

Ten Penn State coeds participated in the Telegraphic Meet of co-ed bowlers last Saturday afternoon in White Hall. Their averages will be compared with those of other colleges and universities entered in the tournament to determine the standings.

The WRA Bowling Club final playoffs will be from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Monday, January 6. The Monday night league playoffs will be from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the same night.

The club will hold a party from 8:15 to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 7, in the playroom. Refreshments will be served. All club members are cordially invited to attend the party.

LATE CAGE SCORES

NYU 81, South Carolina 68
St. Joseph's 90, Richmond 64
Louisiana Tech 66, Davidson 41
Belmont Abbey 72, St. Michael's 60



The Sportseer

By LOU PRATO
Asst. Sports Editor

Elephants have fantastic memories, so I've been told. But they have nothing over the sports writing clan—especially when it comes to remembering (in print, of course) an incident that a coach (or alum-nus) likes to forget.

So with that introduction, it is now my pleasure to expound on some of my most memorable experiences with Penn State athletics for 1957—some good and some bad.

It will be a long time before I forget the death of one of my best friends, Carmen Palmerio. Carmen, one of the brightest Penn State cage prospects in years, was killed in an automobile accident over the 1956 Christmas vacation. His memory still lingers on at Recreation Hall.

Coach John Egli's basketball team and West Virginia's fabulous All-American, Hot Rod Hundley, provided me with a big thrill at Recreation Hall in early February. Remember? That's when the underdog Lion quintet beat the rival Mountaineers 80-65 after handcutting Hundley to "only" 23 points.

Then there was the wrestling team's upset of Pittsburgh at the Pitt Field House on March 3. The highly-favored Panthers had a 27-match winning streak going, but the master strategist Charlie Spiedel didn't let that stop him.

Later in the month, Spiedel's men repeated their win over the Steel City team, this time in the EIWA tournament at Rec Hall.

And of course, I'll never be able to forget Johnny Johnston winning the 130-pound NCAA title at Pittsburgh.

I can also remember the running of Rod Perry and his personal hurdle duels with Ohio State's Olympic ace Glenn Davis.

And who didn't get a thrill over Joe Bedenk's baseball team when it finished second in the NCAA tournament at Omaha, Neb., after winding-up the regular season with 17 straight wins.

The selection of pitcher—first baseman Cal Emery as the NCAA's MVP in that tournament is another of my pleasurable memories. But Emery's dramatic ninth inning, two out, game-winning home run in the District playoff final was even a greater thrill.

Two of my saddest experiences occurred this fall. I almost jumped out of the press box when I saw Army's powerful football team pummel the poor Lions at Beaver Field in early October. And when the Nittany soccer team lost to its old nemesis, West Chester, by a humiliating 5-1 score, later in the month, I got sick. (That's no lie, I was in bed for two days.)

However, 'Reckless' Richie Lucas' spectacular and unorthodox play at quarterback against Syracuse, West Virginia, etc. overshadowed that Army setback. And when the soccermen whipped the Army booters at West Point in November I felt revenge had been partially gained.

Like I said, some good, some bad—but oh, what a year!

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