

# Ace Rope Climber Mullen Rejoins Gymnastic Team

By MATT MATTHEWS

Star climber Phil Mullen makes his annual spring scholastic comeback this week—and not a meet too soon.

The defending Eastern and National Collegiate gymnastic squad faces a favored Army team this Saturday in the convenient confines of the Academy's own gymnasium. As a matter of fact, the Cadets have never lost a meet in their new field house.

Bob Foht, captain of the gymnastic team, commented on Mullen's return by calling him "a tremendous asset to the team and to our chances of beating Army this weekend. The outcome of the meet is going to be decided by only a few points, and with a first in the rope climb we'd have a better chance."

Coach Gene Wettstone was also very elated over the return of his number one climber during the past two campaigns, but issued a word of caution. "Phil will still have to go great to save State this Saturday."

Mullen, who has his weight down to 166, appears in good physical and mental shape. Although he had to limit his workout time during the fall semester, Mullen worked himself into shape during the semester break when he worked out every day.

As proof of his determination, Mullen has been hitting the pan at the top of the 20-foot rope in 3.6 seconds—only one-tenth of a second off his best time. A time that earned him the Recreation Hall record and the Eastern and National rope climbing championships during his sophomore year.

And the Eastern and National titles he lost last year give him an additional incentive to defeat Army. For it was Cadet Paul Dean that dethroned him in the Easterns and topped him in the Nationals last year. Dean also beat Mullen in the dual meet last year with a 3.4 clocking when Mullen hit the pan in 3.5. But the Lions still won the meet 19½-16½.

But Dean is gone, and Mullen will climb Saturday. His chief opponent will be veteran Bob Degan who has been averaging 3.9 seconds in Army's four meets to date.

When asked about his

## West Virginia Still Top Team Despite 1st Loss

By The Associated Press

After due consideration of West Virginia's first defeat of the basketball season, the sports writers and broadcasters who follow the game closely today voted the Mountaineers the No. 1 College team in the nation for the seventh straight week.

The race for the top spot became wide open when the last two unbeaten major teams, West Virginia and St. John's of Brooklyn, finally met defeat last week. But the observers who had liked West Virginia during its 14 game winning streak didn't back down too far after the Mountaineers lost to Duke then bounced back to whip Florida State.

Only one change in the top 10 was made in this week's voting as Kansas, Cincinnati, Kansas State, San Francisco, Oklahoma State, North Carolina, Maryland, North Carolina State and Temple rounded out the upper bracket.

The second 10: Bradley, Kentucky, Duke, Dayton, Michigan State, Seattle, Mississippi State, Arkansas, Georgia Tech and Dartmouth.

## Martinez Draws A Bye in Tourney

NEW YORK, Feb. 3 (AP) — A draw out of a hat today gave handsome Vince Martinez of Paterson, N.J., a free ride into the final round of the Welterweight Boxing Eliminations Tournament. He will meet the winner of a Virgil Akins-Isaac Logart 12-rounder for the title vacated by Carmen Basilio.

If the plans of the World Championship Boxing Committee, headed by Julius Helfand, go through on schedule, a new 147-pound champion could be crowned within three months.



Phil Mullen ... added strength

chances. Mullen eluded the probe with, "I should lose three or four pounds when the tension gets greater a couple of days before the meet. You know what it means to go up with a couple less pounds dragging."

Wettstone is expected to enter Vince Neuhauser and either Don Littlewood or Jack Hiding as the second and third Lion competitors in the climb. Neuhauser has the best supporting record to date with first against Temple and West Virginia. His clockings were 4.6 and 4.5 respectively. Hiding and Littlewood are in the 4.7 to 4.9 area, but Littlewood hit a 4.45 in practice last night.



Mac Sez... Last Time!

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## Will Duel Sime, Murchison . . .

# Nittanies Discover Sprint Star

By MIKE MAXWELL

Penn State has a new sprint sensation in freshman track star Bob Brown. This can be verified by Brown's brilliant showing two weeks ago on the indoor track floorboards in Philadelphia at the annual Inquirer Games.

Brown scored a surprising upset, even over the experts, when he came through with a burst of speed in the last 35 yards to finish a close second in the 50-yard dash to speedy veteran Ira Murchison in a photo finish. Both were clocked at 5.3.

Brown's performance was so astounding that the sports pages in Philadelphia and Harrisburg heralded him as another Jesse Owens and a future member of the United States' Olympic Team—and they told it in headlines.

The tall, muscular freshman, majoring in Physical Education, hails from Northeast Public High School in Philadelphia where he began his swift rise to fame.

In his junior year in high school, Brown won the 100-yard dash and finished a close second in the 220 in the High School



Bob Brown ... Nittany Speedster

City Championship meet.

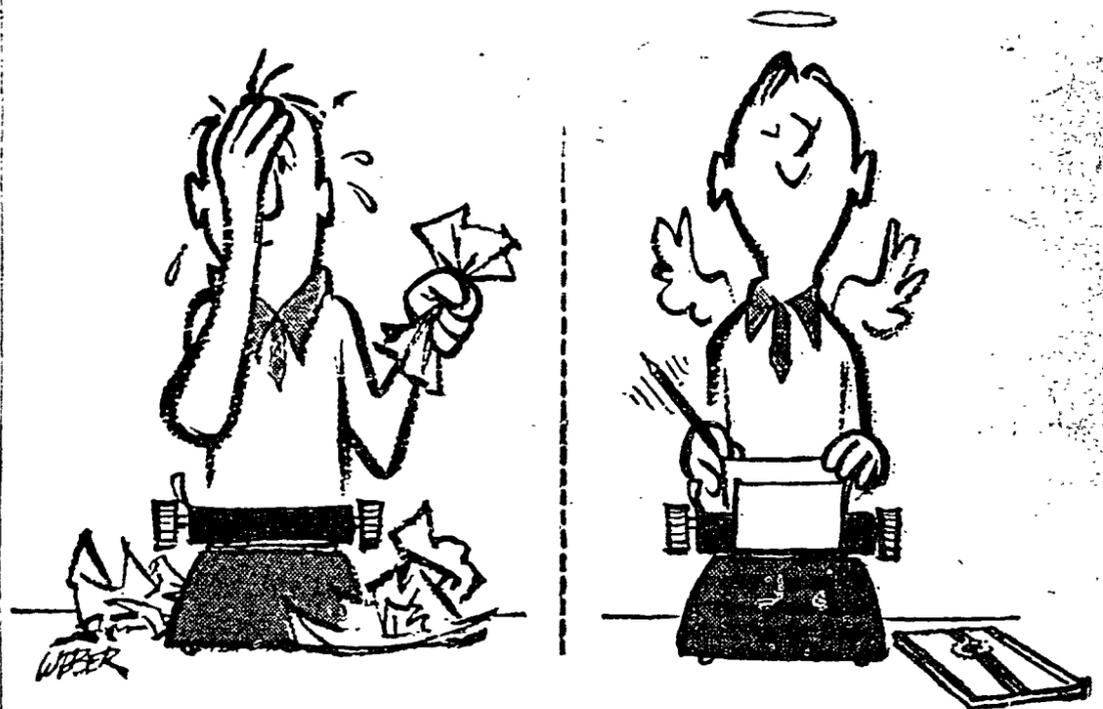
The next year Brown won the Public League Championship in the 100-yard dash, turning in a very fast time of :10.1. Then in the City Championship meet, Brown won the 100 again in :10.1 and copped the 220 in :22.7.

After sitting out a year Brown began to compete in a few meets last summer.

His most impressive, and most startling performance, occurred in the middle of the summer when he turned in a remarkable time of :09.5 in his specialty, the 100. The time, ironically enough, wasn't fast enough to win. Brown was barely beaten at the tape by Ed Waters, a recent Morgan State graduate.

From this we shouldn't be startled to learn that Brown is aiming for the freshman 100-yard record of 9.7 held by both Barney Ewell and Art Pollard. And the varsity record isn't very much further away—only 9.6.

The real test will come this weekend when Brown travels to the Millrose games in New York where, in addition to Murchison, he will compete in the 60-yard dash against such sprint stars as world record holder Dave Sime, from Duke, and Mel Barnwell, a sophomore flash from Pitt.

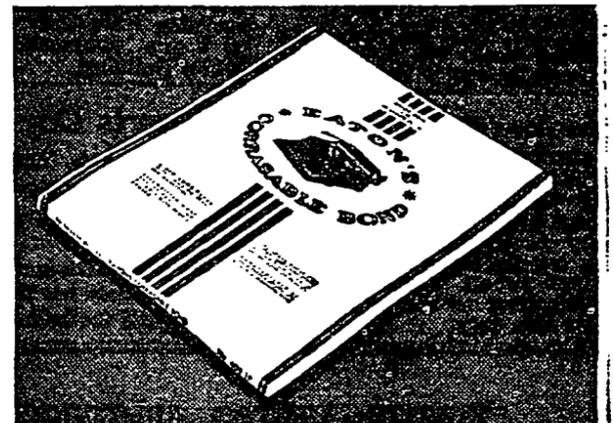


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