

Gymnasts in Title Defense Lions to Enter Milrose Games

Cadets Favored At West Point

By MATT MATHEWS

During the past seven years, the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastic League Championship has been won by one of two teams—Army or Penn State. The two meet at 2 p.m. tomorrow at West Point in a meet that will again decide the title—for the winner.

Although Coach Gene Wettstone's Lions have won four of the last five titles (Army won in '56), the Cadets are a slight favorite to dethrone the Nittanians. Besides competing in their own friendly gymnasium before a sell-out crowd, the Cadets have a better record and experience in their favor.

The nucleus of that experience is veteran Gar O'Quinn who is considered to be Army's best all-around competitor. The redheaded athlete has taken a first in each of Army's four winning meets to date and is their highest scorer.

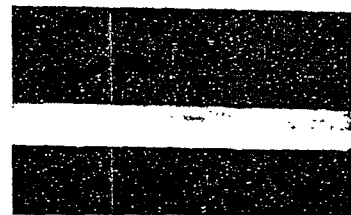
O'Quinn's specialty is the side horse. Although he won the EIGL individual title, he had a difficult time defeating the Lion's Jack Biesterfeldt in the dual meet competition last year, 262-261.

Besides the horse, O'Quinn is Army's top man on the parallels. And according to his accumulated scores this season O'Quinn has improved about twenty-two points over his average performance last year. He is now hitting around 268 while his 1957 routine against the Lions earned him only 246 points and a third place in the event. But the two Lions who beat him on the p-bars—Armando Vega and Gil Leu—are gone.

Another top-notch performer, considered one of the best the Academy has ever produced, is Bill Gillourakis. "Gill" has been averaging 276 points in his specialty, the flying rings. He would particularly like to win this event and wipe off a bad black night against the Lions last year.

The script ran something like this: The Lions had a seven-point lead going into the final event—the rings. Gill was the last competitor of the meet. Bill Clark sewed up a first (and 6 team points) for Army with a 257. Vega held a weak second for the Lions with 252 (4 team points), followed by Cadet Jack Hanford with a 251 score.

All anchorman Gillourakis needed was a 253 and a second place routine to finish ahead of Vega. Thereby the Army would win the event by eight points and the meet by one. But Gillourakis, Army's best



Gar O'Quinn ... Army's big gun

ring man, broke and finished with a losing 226 score—far below his normal.

The parallels will again be the last event of the meet tomorrow. And the way it's figured, the meet should be just as close as last year, with just as much pressure.

Penn State will enter a 2-mile relay team and an individual participant in the annual Milrose Games this Saturday at Madison Square Garden.

Bob Brown, tall, muscular freshman sprint star, will be coach Chick Werner's solo entry in the individual events. Brown will run in the 60-yard dash against such sprint stars as Dave Sime, world record holder in the 100 and 220, Chunky Ira Murchison and Mel Barnwell, promising sprint star from Pitt. Brown has already run a 9.5 hundred yard dash and two weeks ago finished second to Murchison in the 80-yard dash in the Inquirer Games at Philadelphia.

The two-mile relay team will be comprised of Dick Ham-bright, George Jones, Bill Schwab and Ed Moran in that order.

Two weeks ago Moran set two Navy field house records and anchored a Nittany relay team which set a third record when the Lions opened the indoor season against the Midshipmen.

Moran won the mile in 4:24.7, the two-mile relay, the 1000 in 2:16 and anchored the Lions' winning two-mile relay team with a 1:59.4 half-mile.

Schwab, who ran his first varsity track meet against Fred Kerr—placed second in the Navy, turned in an impressive two-mile relay, 2.1 seconds behind St. Johns.

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ACROSS FROM OLD MAIN

Gym Captain Foht Recalls 'First' Meet

By CARMELLA LaSPADA

"When I saw my first gymnastics meet, I was like a little kid in a candy store, I just didn't know which way to look first; I was so amazed."

Four years later, this amazed youth by the name of Bob Foht, who had never worked on the parallel bars before he came to Penn State, became the 1958 captain of Penn State's gymnastics team. As such, he is no longer an amazed spectator—now he's an amazing competitor.

"Fohtie," as he is known to all his friends, placed third on the p-bars in the Eastern gymnastic finals last year and is rated as one of the top contenders in the East this season.

Fohtie's first meet was against the Swedish gymnastics team which was touring the U.S. in 1954. Bob was a freshman, Rec Hall was jammed, and he admits he was a little scared. He believes that first meet prepared him for his sophomore year when he finished fifth in the nation in his specialty.

This modest gymnast's greatest

experience came the night of the preliminaries for the Olympic try-outs when he came in second to his former teammate and Olympian, Armando Vega.

Fohtie received his second greatest honor when he, along with the other Penn State athletic captains, signed the Christmas card to Larry Sharp which went along with a T.V. set given by the Athletic Association.

When asked about the future of the gymnastics team, Captain Foht said: "If we can get by Army, we can take the Eastern championship." He went on to say: "I'd like to do as well as last year's team did, and you can be sure we will put up a good fight for nationals."
You can bet on that.



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