



As a MATT-er-a-FACT

By MATT MATHEWS
Assistant Sports Editor

The truly great athlete is the versatile one, the competitor who can do nearly everything and do it well. This is particularly true of the world's oldest surviving sport, gymnastics. The event which shows the greatest versatility of the gymnast is the rugged, tiring all-around competition.

As the Lion's great Olympian Armando Vega said last year after he won the Eastern all-around with the highest total in the league record books, "An all-around man doesn't strive for perfection, he just wants to finish a routine." A good finished routine is of more value to the all-around man than one or two excellent exercises and a break on another. The break will lose more for the competitor than he will gain with the above-par performance on another.

We are telling you this, because tonight you will have an opportunity to see five of the six all-around events—side horse, high bar, parallel bars, long horse vault and still rings.

Most of the 11 all-around competitors will have trouble scoring in the high figures on some of the events. There are many reasons. One, they are not used to the apparatus (such as the "beastly" side horse or still rings because they are limited to three events in regular meets and do not work these pieces regularly).

Two, they are dog-tired from competing in all six events plus their specialty (like Jay Werner who also competes on the flying rings, etc.).

Three, they are under terrific pressure in a star-studded field as opposed to the usual dual-meet competition.

There is another hitch to the all-around this year—in that the specialist gets a distinct break in the new combined scoring system. Scores of both Friday's preliminaries and Saturday's finale both are tabulated in the athlete's final score.

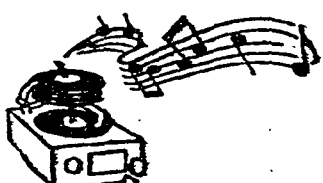
When the all-around man competes on all six pieces and then also shoots for an individual title, he is usually physically "beat" before he mounts the piece. The specialist, who only competes on one apparatus, has a new handicap. But the new rule may be for the better. Anyway we are glad to see the Eastern coaches at least give the new changes a tryout in their circuit. We'll form a definite opinion after the meet. So will the coaches.

This writer goes along with the Eastern coaches in picking sophomores Jay Werner and Lee Cunningham 1-2 in the all-around. Of

Fresh Lacrosse

Freshmen interested in playing lacrosse should report between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. this week to 211 Rec Hall or to the Nittany Team Room across from the Ice Skating rink anytime after 4 p.m.

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Matmen Prep for EIWA Title Defense But Starting Lineup Still Unknown

Just who will be in Penn State's starting lineup when the Lion matmen defend their 1957 Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association title next weekend is the big question around the Recreation Hall mats these days.

Only two positions are definitely set. Two-time EIWA 130-pound champ and last year's NCAA winner Johnny Johnston is set to go at 130 and Ray Potitos, the hero of the Pitt upset last Saturday, will be in the heavyweight slot.

Nine men are battling for the other six spots with the heaviest competition being displayed in the middleweight ranks—137, 147, and 157. Either Gordon Danks or Jack Maher will get the nod at 123 but after that, not even Coach Charlie Speidel knows what elimination battles will take place.

"There will be a lot of battles for position," Speidel said. "I don't know what will happen. I have Dan Johnston, Guy (Guccione), Earl (Poust) and Sam (Minor) all fighting in the middleweights. Guy and Dan will probably meet at 137 and the loser will then probably challenge Earl (for the 147-pound berth). And then the loser there will probably challenge Sam.

"Like I said, everyone will have

to work hard for there's a lot of who could also move up to 167.

Besides the middleweight race, there could also be a slight scrap in the upper-weights. As of now, it looks like George Gray will get the nod at 167 and Hank Barone the pick at 177. But things could change. George's brother, Dan, could work in anywhere from 147-177 (although he's a long shot choice). And then there's Minor



Johnston

There's still a week left before Speidel will have to make his final choices. The EIWA tourney—long regarded as second only to the NCAA event in championship calibre—opens next Friday afternoon at the Pitt Field House.

Lehigh and Cornell have been established the early favorites by the University of Pittsburgh's flamboyant publicity agent Carroll "Beano" Cook. Says the provocative Cook: "The Lions (of Penn State) will have a difficult time repeating (their 1957 tourney triumph). Lehigh and Cornell look like the best bets at this moment."

course, we have never seen Massachusetts's Heins Briegei in action. But Coach Gene Wettstone isn't one to give anyone a bigger buildup than he deserves—particularly his own men.

Flying rings champion Tom Darling is a sure bet to repeat, although we hesitate to predict the outcome of the side horse competition. Lee Cunningham had bad form last week, but the kid can beat Cadet Gar



Meier

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by H. J. Hallberg
Du Pont Representative



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