

Johnston, Gratto, Auble Favored in EIWA Event

Wettstone--A Master At Promoting Gym

12 Tutors Give NCAA Champs Unanimous Nod

By LOU PRATO
Two defending national champions and an unbeaten sophomore are favored in the lightweight divisions of the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association's 54th annual tournament which opens at the Pitt Field House Friday afternoon.

Penn State's own Johnny Johnston, last year's 130-pound NCAA titleholder and a two-time 130-pound Eastern champ, and Lehigh's Joe Gratto, NCAA 137-pound winner last year and the EIWA's 137-pound titlist in 1956, are overwhelming favorites to capture the crown of their respective weight classes. Dave Auble, the unbeaten yearling from Cornell (10-0), is given top honors in the 123-pound class.

Johnston and Gratto were the unanimous choices of 12 EIWA coaches who participated in a recent poll conducted by Pitt's publicity agent Carroll Cook.

Auble was given the tutors' edge over Pitt's Paul Powell (10-0-1) to succeed three-time NCAA champion Ed Peery as the new 123-pound champ. However, Powell, another sophomore, may not compete in the tournament. Rumors out of Pittsburgh have the Lock Haven native sidelined with mononucleus disease.

Other leading 123-pound contenders include Syracuse's George Creason, third place finisher in last year's affair; Brown's John Cummings, the fourth place winner in 1957; Temple's Art McCall, who owns a 22-dual match winning streak; and Yale's Bobby Fitch.

Creason, who wrestles at 130 during the regular season has a 5-3 record, Cummings, who could wrestle anywhere from 123-137, is 6-2 for the season. McCall is unbeaten in six dual encounters while Fitch's only loss in eight scraps was to Lehigh's Bobby Myers.

Johnston will have his hands full trying to gain his third straight 130-pound Eastern title. All three of last year's "money winners" have returned this year as have several other top-flight men. Pitt's Vic DeFelice, whom the Lion captain beat in the finals last year, 6-3, is back as well as third place man Leon Harbold of Lehigh and fourth place finisher Jerry Weinsenseel of Army.

Johnston has the best record of the pack with eight wins and no defeats. DeFelice—who goes at 137 during the dual campaigns—is 7-2-2, Harbold is 5-2 and Weinsenseel is 8-1. Weinsenseel's only defeat was to Creason, 1-0. Included among his victims was Harbold by a 7-3 count.

Other highly-rated challengers at 130 include Syracuse's Ed Carlin (7-1-1), whose only loss has been to Auble; Cornell's Carmen Molino (8-2); Pitt's Sherm Moyer (3-3), who owns wins over Harbold and Creason; and Harvard's Dave Skeels (6-2).

Gratto will be seeking to regain the 137-pound crown he won as a sophomore in 1955. The Lehigh captain was beaten by Penn State's John Pepe, 4-2, in the Eastern finals last March but later avenged that defeat in the NCAA finals.

Gratto posted a 9-0-1 mark this year, tying Navy's Joe Longton, 2-2. Gratto's toughest competition is expected to come from Cornell's unbeaten sophomore Lee Austin (8-0). However, Rutgers' Bill Griffa, whose only loss in nine matches was to Gratto, 3-2; Penn State's Guy Guccione (2-4-1) or Dan Johnston (2-2); Harvard's Bob Watkins (6-2); Army's Jim Hankee (4-4); Syracuse's George Willis (4-3) and Longton (4-2-1) also figure in the title contention.

Gym, Mat Draw

Gymnastics and wrestling share the spotlight with basketball during the winter sports season at Penn State. Each of the three sports attracted overflow crowds of 6000 during the 1958 indoor season.



Johnny Johnston
... defends 130-pound eastern title

IM Cage Playoffs Open at Rec Hall

Intramural basketball competition will get tougher and tenser as IM basketball enters its final week of play.

The playoff schedule was announced yesterday by the intramural athletics department.

After last night's tie breaking games for five league championships, the tournament will get into full swing this evening when six games will be played.

Alpha Tau Omega was made the official League E champion over the weekend. It was discovered that Alpha Phi Delta, who defeated ATO, 25-24, in the final game of the season for both teams, had used an ineligible player. The loss had been ATO's first. The player Alpha Phi Delta had used was not registered in the IFC office as having any fraternity connections.

In tonight's action, Alpha Tau Omega (8-0) will meet the League A winner Phi Mu Delta or Phi

Gamma Delta and Kappa Delta Rho (6-1), fraternity champions in 1954-55 and 1955-56, meets Sigma Phi Epsilon (6-1) at 7 p.m. in fraternity quarterfinal contests.

In independent ball, the League H winner The Tribe or Red Raiders meets the Watts I (8-0) and the Skeller Rats (7-1) takes on the Sharpshooters at 7:45 p.m. At 8:30 the Studniks (8-0) meet League C champions (Nittany 23 or Nittany 31) and Nittany 25 (7-0) meets either the Sinkers or the Night Raiders, the League D titlist.

Defending champion Alpha Sigma Phi (7-1), having only one defeat in the past two years—a 26-22 defeat at the hands of Tau Kappa Epsilon, will enter semifinal tournament play on Wednesday night. Theta Chi (7-0) will also play its first game that night.

Independent semi-finals will be held Thursday night. Both divisional finals take place Friday night.

Ex-Lion Greats Win State 'Y' Wrestling Titles

Larry Fornicola and Bill Oberly haven't lost any of the talent which made them NCAA champions while wrestling for Penn State a couple of years ago. Both of the ex-Lion captains proved this by copping state YMCA titles at Bellefonte Saturday night.

Fornicola, the NCAA 147-pound winner in 1955 and presently the playing-coach of the second Army mat team, pinned former State schoolboy champ Sam Marano of Clearfield to haul in the 167-pound state title. The fall came with a minute left in the second of a two minute overtime session after the two men had battled to a 1-1 draw in the regular time.

Oberly, who won the NCAA unlimited title in 1955, flattened former Lehigh grappler Dave Gallahery, also of Clearfield, in the second period to win the heavyweight title. Oberly wrestled under the Easton banner.

Pitt's Bob-Bubb, wrestling for the Greensburg YMCA, won the 157-pound title.

Volleyball Entries Due

Entries for the Intramural Volleyball tournament must be turned in by 4:30 p.m. tomorrow. Six men are required to form a team. Competition will be run for both fraternity and independent groups.

By VINCE CAROCCI
Sports Editor

Well, Lion gym Coach Gene Wettstone did it again. Every bit living up to his reputation—at Penn State, anyway—as one of the greatest promoters in collegiate athletics today. Wettstone again proved himself the master of his sport with his spectacular handling of the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastic Championships last weekend at Recreation Hall.

When Wettstone promotes something, even the famed Mike Todd could stop to learn a lesson or two. Scurrying here and there with the zest of an atomic rocket, he single-handedly ran one of the smoothest tournaments this writer has witnessed in his four years here.

A stickler for the slightest of details, Wettstone made certain nothing was left forgotten. From the awarding of the championship medals to having a man hook the flying rings after each performance on the apparatus—these and other details were taken care of in typical Wettstone fashion. He could even be found at times saying "now" to his head manager Harry Oxman, who handled the P.A. system.

It brought back memories of the National AAU Championships and Olympic Trials he staged two years ago in the same Rec Hall confines. Again nothing was left to chance.

We said it then and we say it now: Congratulations, Gene, on a job well done . . .

As with every tournament, this one had its usual share of interesting sidelights. Here are just a few we picked up during the final runs Saturday afternoon:

Here's a conversation that took place between Oxman and Lion Jay Werner as Werner was readying himself for his final all-around routine—the free exercise . . .

Oxman (who wanted Werner to wait until the previous competitor's score was announced to the fans): "Give us some time, Jay."

Werner (with a snile): "You give me some time."

Apparently he got all he needed because you know what happened. He won the event with a 265 total to give him the all-around crown by one point over teammate Lee Cunningham, 1515-1514 . . .

A roar went up from the crowd when Werner's total was announced. But an even bigger one followed when the defeated Cun-



Dave Dulaney
... tumbling champ, finally!

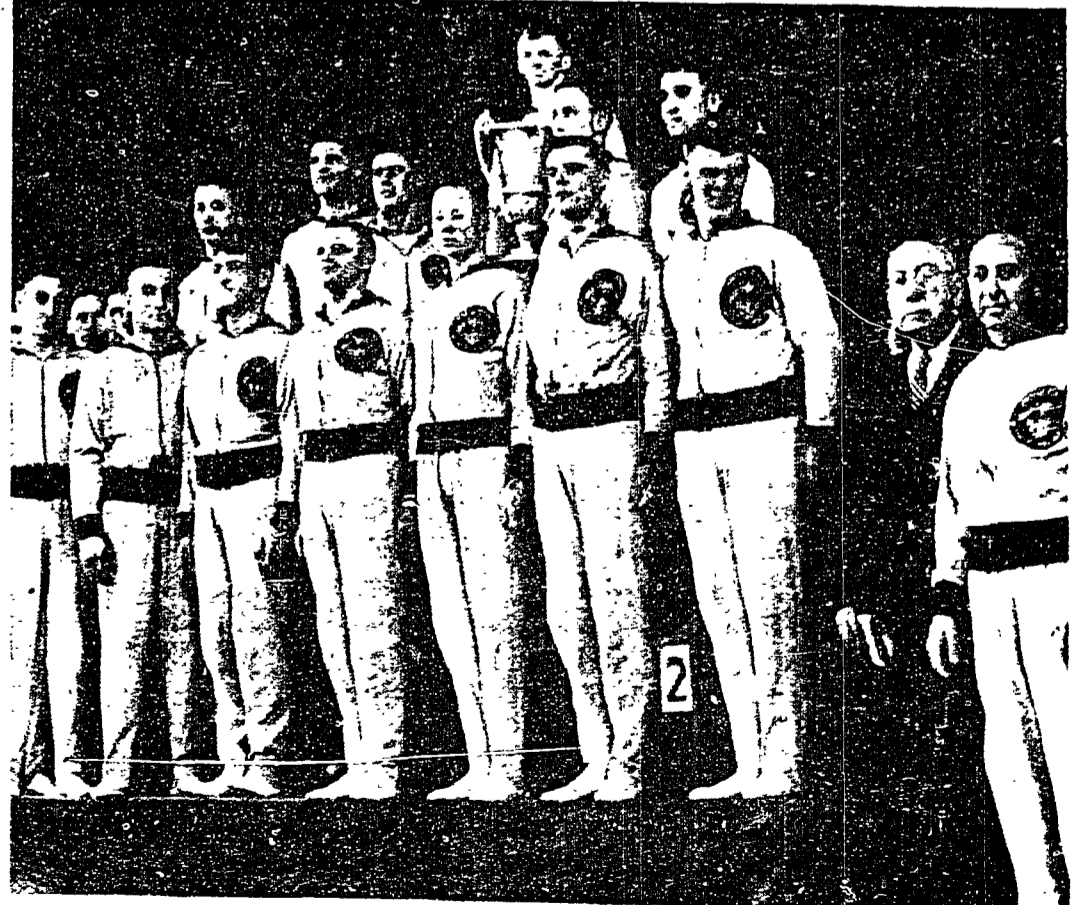
ningham went over to shake the victor's hand in a true sporting gesture.

It was a double-barreled applause—one for the victorious Werner, the other for Cunningham, as close a loser as one could be. There was certainly little to choose between the two . . .

Asked afterwards how the victory felt, the beaming Werner simply replied: "Pretty fine!" But it was clearly evident how happy he was.

And Cunningham's reply to the question of how he felt after such a close loss was: "As long as it's to him (Werner), it's all right . . ."

Wettstone, when asked if he could remember competition ever being so close in the all-around, said: "No, wasn't that something?" He added gleefully, "And they're both sophomores." He had a right to be happy . . . he has them back for another two years.



THESE ARE THE TEAM CHAMPS of the 1958 Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics League competition. Coach Tom Maloney's Cadets won the team title by handing the Lions a 50½-45½ setback in mid-season, and then going through the rest of their League schedule undefeated. The happy redhead at the top of the photo holding the championship cup is team Captain Gar O'Quinn who lost his side horse title, but won the parallel bar crown.