

To Perform Here Friday

Finnish Gymnasts Defeat U.S. Team at Sarasota

By **MATT MATHEWS**
Associate Sports Editor

Gymnastics coach Gene Wettstone tabbed the touring Finnish team as "without a doubt the best gymnastics group to ever tour the United States." The team proved him right during the Christmas vacation period.

The Finnish men's team, which will appear in Recreation Hall Friday night along with a female team, are the champions of Europe. During the last three Olympics they won once (in '48) and finished third in '52 and '56.

Only 400 reserved tickets at \$2 each remain for the Finnish gym meet Friday night. All the \$1 unreserved seats have been sold out. Tickets can be purchased at the ticket office in Recreation Hall.

But just to prove they haven't lost their touch, they finished off a special American squad during the annual Christmas gymnastics clinic at Sarasota, Fla.

Although the European champions won nearly every event, the shining light in the U.S. defeat was the performance of Penn State's own Olympian, Armando Vega.

Vega will be Penn State's main hope in international competition with the Finns Friday night in Rec Hall. His teammates will be Jay Werner, Lee Cunningham, Lou Savadove, Frank Donatelli and newcomer Greg Weiss.

Vega's performance against the Finns during the Sarasota meet included second in the all-around and third in the long horse vault, calisthenics and horizontal bar.

In inter-squad competition during the clinic, Vega won three gold medals for firsts on the parallel bars, side horse and calisthenics and a silver bowl for his all-around performance.

Juniors Cunningham and Werner and freshman Weiss also attended the clinic but were not in the Finnish meet.

Vega's conquerer in the all-around was Olavi Leimuvirta (Lee-moo-veer-ta), the Finns' top performer. He took the all-around title on the strength of a first in the long horse (edging Vega, 94-93), a second on the parallels (Vega's specialty) and a third in calisthenics (tying Vega, 93-93).

The final all-around score indicates the closeness of battle, 556-554. Vega was tied for the second spot by another Finn, Eugen Ekman.

Ekman, who is considered the Finn's "most talented gymnast," made strong showings with a first on the parallel bars and placed second on the side horse.

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Armando Vega
... stars against Finns

Pro Grid Title, Davis Cup Top Vacation Sports

A sudden-death victory by the Baltimore Colts for the National Football League title and an upset win for the United States in the Davis Cup were among the highlights in the sports world over the Christmas recess.

Steve Myrha booted a 15-yard field goal in the closing seconds to give the Colts a 17-17 tie with the New York Giants at the end of the regulation 60 minutes. In the sudden-death overtime, Alan Ameche bowled over with the winning TD, turning the city of Baltimore into a riot.

The United States pulled the upset of the year, defeating Australia, 3-2, on the strength of Peruvian Alex Olmedo's two singles wins and his doubles victory with teammate Ham Richardson. The use of Olmedo by the U.S. was highly criticized "down under" as was Jack Kramer's signing of Mal Anderson and Ashley Cooper to pro contracts.

At home, the firing of Terry Brennan as head coach of Notre

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Frosh Cops 2nd at Wilkes

Penn State didn't send any varsity wrestlers to the Wilkes College mat tournament over the Christmas recess, but freshman Art Ravitz unofficially represented the Lions and emerged with second place honors in the 130-pound division.

Ravitz was one of three Nit-tany cubs who entered the two-day carnival under the Blue and White banner. However, the former Easton High School product was the only Lion finisher.

Don Mockler, who wrestled at

137, was eliminated in the opening round and Ron Pifer, 157, was stopped in the quarterfinals.

With Ravitz bearing the brunt, "Penn State" scored 15 points to finish in a 12th place tie in the team standings with Toledo and Oswego. Arch-rival Pitt won the team crown for the third year in a row with four first places, one second and one third.

Ex-Lion heavyweight Sam Markle also competed in the affair, which drew 280 performers. However, he was

eliminated in the quarterfinal round, too.

Ravitz stopped Fred Kellerman (Michigan), fall, 3-40; Fred Copalong (Ithaca), 7-6; Charley Anderson (Michigan), 4-2; and Jerry Weisenseel (formerly of West Point), 5-0; before bowing to Pitt's Larry Lauchle, 7-3.

Besides Lauchle, Pitt's other champs included Bob Bubb (147) and Alex Skirpan (157). Defending National 123-pound kingpin, Paul Powell, finished second. He had to default in the finals because of a bloody nose.

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