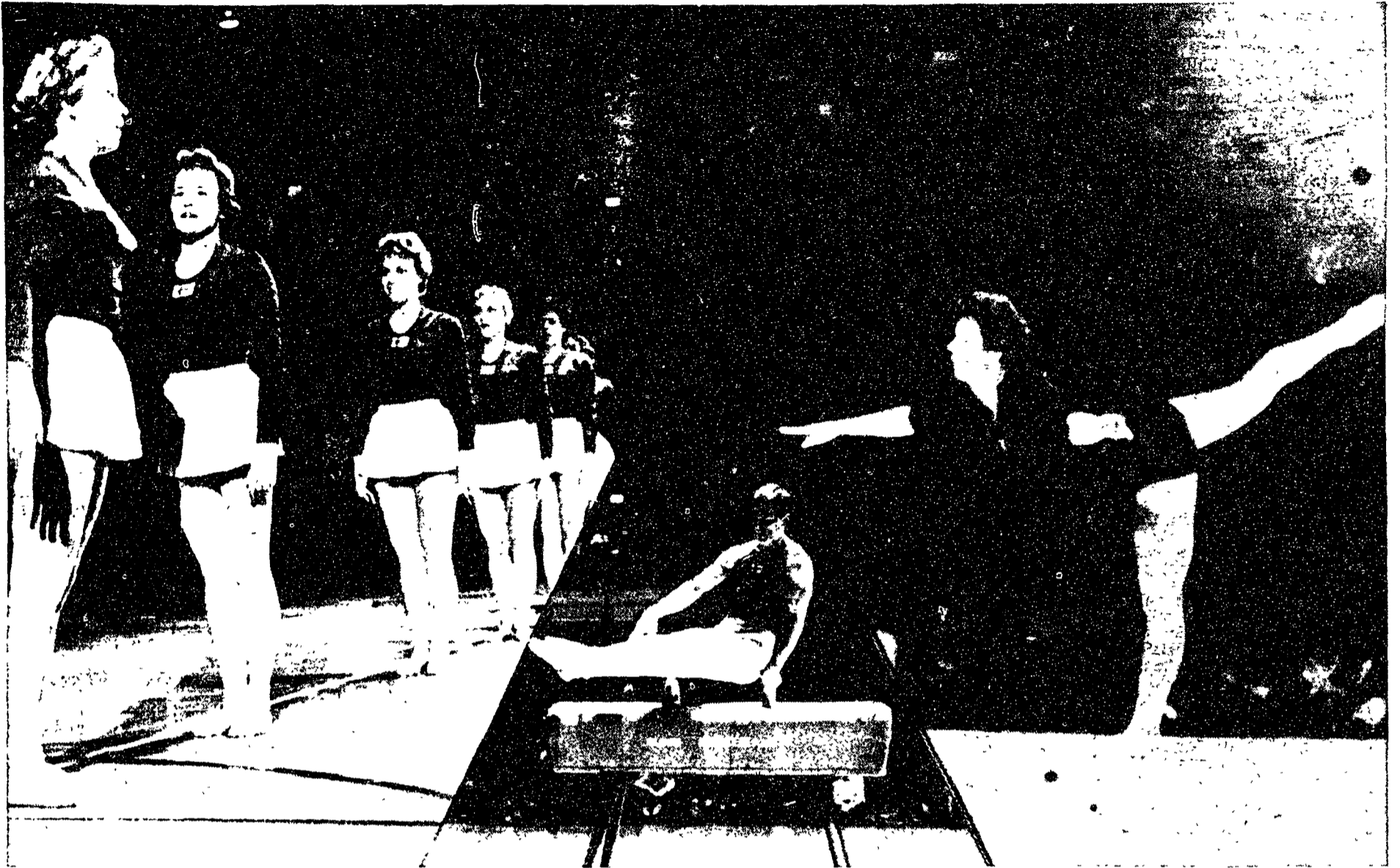


Finns Defeat State Gymnasts



Vega's Brilliant Comeback Wins All-Around Honors

By MATT MATHEWS
Associated Sports Editor

The gymnastics spectacular last night in Recreation Building was just that—Spectacular.

From the graceful and rhythmic, dance-like performances of the Finnish women to the music and ceremony it was another successful Wettstone production before a capacity crowd.

But of course the center ring was filled with the competition between the Finnish Olympic gymnasts and the Penn State collegians and in particular with the

battle for individual all-around honors.

The main performers were Finland's Sakari Olkkonen and Penn State Olympian Armando Vega.

From the start it was evident that the two were going to be the main contestants. In the first event, the parallel bars, Olkkonen won with a 9.5. Vega was second at 9.45.

After the side horse event, which is Vega's toughest, Olkkonen stepped out to a 187-180.5 lead. After that, it was all Vega, as he came home with firsts in the next three events to tie the score at 46.65.

Vega received the strategic advantage going into the last

event as he followed his foe on the horizontal bar. Olkkonen hit on a solid 9.2 routine and Vega knew he had only to better that to win. He didn't have to go all out.

"I threw my 'safe' routine," Vega explained after the meet. "I didn't want to take the slightest chance of losing and left out a lot of difficult moves. I was in the position to play it safe and I did."

After the Penn State team captain, completed his routine judge Carl Patterson's score was flashed first—a 9.0. But the other three judges scored his performance at 9.3 (Vincent D'Autorio), 9.4 (Continued on page seven)

Gymnastic Feats Secondary

Finnish Gym Show Promotes Friendship

By LOU PRATO
Sports Editor

It would take at least half the adjectives and superlatives in the dictionary to fully describe last night's Finnish Gym meet at Recreation Building.

The final team score didn't really matter. And even Penn State's own Armando Vega's great All-Around victory would

have to take a back seat to the good will and international understanding and friendship that emanated from the extravaganza.

Perhaps All-University president Jay Feldstein best described the auspicious occasion when he told 6100 spectators in a closing remark: "You have just witnessed a very memorable evening."

Dr. Kent Forster, professor of European history and master of ceremonies for the event, had an equally significant comment: "This has been more than a sporting event," he said. "The friendship and understanding resulting from tonight will not be forgotten."

One of the judges, Frank Wells, of Scotch Plains, N.Y., went even further. "I thought it was great. It was one of the most outstanding meets I have ever seen."

"Nowhere will you see such an excellently produced gym show," Wells said. "Wettstone tops them all, and that includes anything they can put on in Madison Square Garden."

Another Judge, Frank Comminsky of Westwood, N.J., called the affair "excellent." "This is definitely the top show of the tour," Comminsky said. "They'll never get a bigger or more receptive audience than they did tonight."

And what did the Finns themselves think of the meet? "We have met only smiling people in the U.S.A.," Finn Coach Eas Seeste said in his broken English. "It has been just wonderful."

"We enjoyed it very much," the Finn Captain Olavi Lemiuvirta said in the locker room. "Our hosts have been very kind—especially this place. I'm thinking of trying to get a scholarship to an American

University in the future," Lemiuvirta added in his very fluent English syle, "and I would very much like to study at Penn State. The people are just wonderful."

"Wettstone is a wonderful coach, too. Everything on the tour has been arranged by him. We have no worries at all—we just go from place to place. Everything has been taken care of by him."

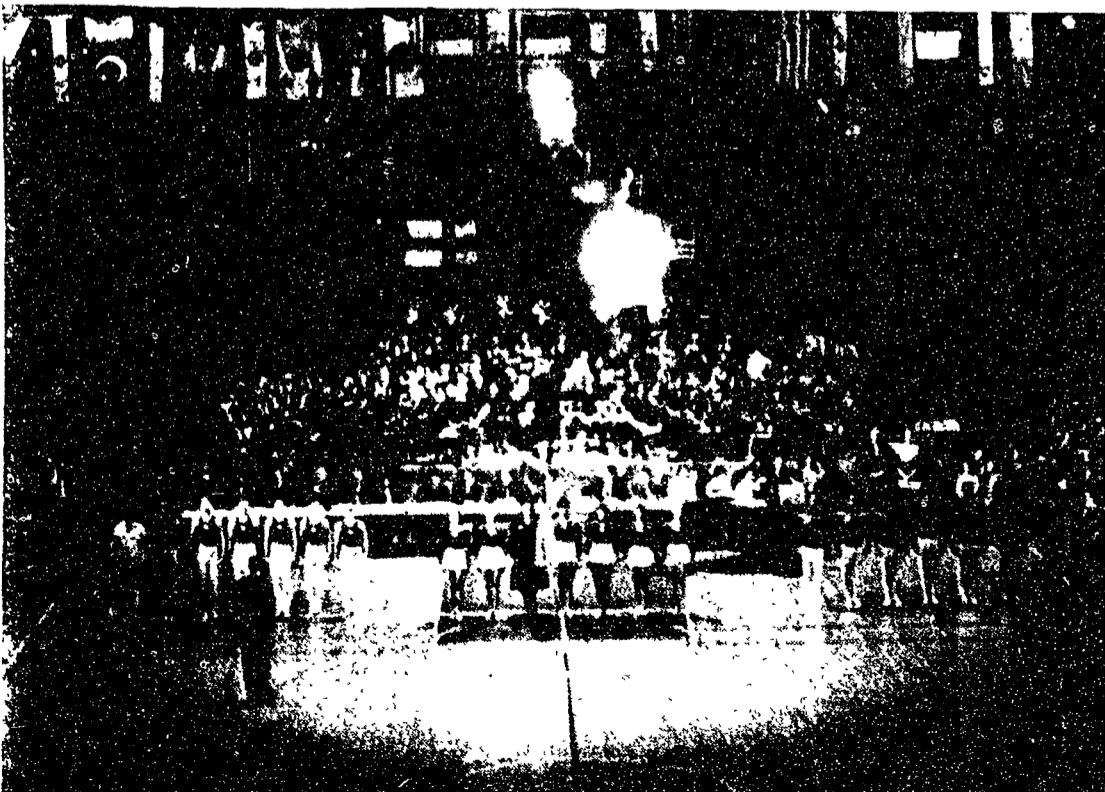
Asked about the performance of Vega, Lemiuvirta said: "He's a very nice gymnast. He has all those qualities for a gymnast—strength, muscles and rhythm. He's one of the best."

Wettstone had highly complimentary words for his protegee. "That was the best I've ever seen him," Wettstone said. "He was excellent."

Comminsky almost echoed Wettstone's words. "He was excellent," Comminsky said, "except for his side horse routine. He has to improve on that."

"If Vega keeps on working," Judge Wells said, "I'm sure he'll win a gold medal in the Olympics. That boy has really improved over the last three years. And I think the main reason has been the effort that Wettstone put into coaching him."

Yes, they'll be talking about the Finnish Gym Meet for some time to come . . .



FINNISH AND PENN STATE GYMNASTS stand at attention for the national anthems of both Finland and the United States before a capacity crowd in Recreation Building last night at the beginning of the international gymnastic competition.

—Collegian Photo by George Layman

SPORTS CARD

SATURDAY

GYMNASTICS—Temple vs Penn State, 2:00 p.m., Rec Hall.
WRESTLING—Lehigh vs Penn State, 8:00 p.m., Rec Hall; Preliminary: Lehigh Frosh vs Penn State Frosh, 6:00 p.m.
BASKETBALL—Penn State at Rutgers.