



# As a MATT-er-a-FACT

By MATT MATHEWS  
Associate Sports Editor

## ANALYSIS OF THE ARMY MEET—

Well, the defending Eastern gymnastic champion (Army) has been defeated and the Lions face three more challengers before officially claiming their ninth Eastern crown.

Most of the crowd that I talked to was excited over seeing Coach Gene Wettstone's latest powerhouse in action. And they did put on a thrilling finishing kick.

But one of the stars was missing—tumbler Graeme Cowen. The Lions have lost the last two tumbling events, 9-7, with Eastern Champ Dave Dulaney doing most of the scoring.

But Cowen, who was expected to add the scoring punch Saturday afternoon, injured his knee in practice two days before the meet (Strategy called for a "cover-up" on the injury so as not to show the Lions' weakness.)

Now it appears that Cowen may miss more than the Army meet. His injury has been diagnosed as pulled ligaments and a possible torn cartilage. He will miss this week's Navy encounter and possibly the one with Syracuse. If he definitely has a torn cartilage he will be out for the season.

Wettstone has his three all-around performers, any of whom could fill in for Cowen. But the real problem comes in not who to use, but where can he afford to weaken his team by tumbling Lee Cunningham, Jay Werner or Armando Vega.

Wettstone will have to decide this week because he faces his toughest remaining foe—Navy.

And although Navy has no tumblers of the calibre of the above mentioned five, they do have consistent matmen who could upset the Lions in this event.

But above the gloomy tumbling picture stands the brilliant performance of the rope climbers—Vince Neuhauser, Don Littlewood and Jack Hiding. All three broke the 4-second barrier Saturday and Wettstone finally admitted that they are the fastest trio he has ever coached.

Littlewood pulled a 3.7, which is an excellent time for any climber. But Neuhauser surprised everyone (including me) by climbing in 3.5 and lowering his career mark by three-tenths of a second. And Hiding also lowered his top speed by three-tenths with a 3.9 clocking.

Handy Lou Savadove, who is probably the best fourth gymnast in the nation, also came through in the clutch Saturday. The little

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Graeme Cowen  
... on injured list



HIDINGER

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# Frosh Maul Cornell Mat Squad, 27-3

If the way the Penn State freshman grapplers mauled the Cornell novices Saturday afternoon is any indication, the Big Red should not remain eastern collegiate wrestling champs for many years.

Art Ravitz and Ron Pifer didn't waste any time flattening their opponents as both gained first period falls. It was the second pin in as many matches for each man.

Ravitz made short work of Cornell's Mike Golden in the 130-pound class, pinning him in 2:24 with a cradle. One hundred fifty-seven pound Pifer was 26 seconds faster, dumping opposing Captain Dave Shearing in 1:58.

Phil Myer got in the act in the 177-pound bout as he pinned Jim Conover in 5:27.

Jere Seiple won his first outing, decisioning Jared Barlow, 7-3, in the meet opener, and Ray Cornell outfought Richard Giustra by a 4-3 count in the 137-pound battle.

John Barone won, 5-1, at 147. After Pifer disposed of Shearing, 167-pounder Bill Polacek evened his season record by earning a 5-3 decision over Alex Steinbaugh.

The Lion cubs only loss came in the heavyweight division where newcomer Ned Kerr, a former 167-pounder, moved up to fill the gap in the unlimited class and dropped a 4-0 decision.

—by John Black

# SPORTSEER

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feel that Coach Rip Engle would be more than happy to oblige.

"There are many other things involved," McCoy said. "Who is responsible for the boys who come in here and get hurt? Who pays the transportation costs for getting these people here? I think we've got a swell thing going and I think the students should have the privilege of seeing the game for free. We couldn't let them in free if we were going to do this."

The "S" Club has ready answers for McCoy's questions. It plans to pay for all of the transportation, housing and insurance costs. It even plans to go as far as to hire baby sitters for the married men who bring their families.

The admission problem is touchy. But after all, it is a charity game—and for a good cause. Besides, we feel that the Penn State student would be glad to pay the token \$1 student price (Adults—\$2) for a chance to see some of today's finest pro gridders in action.

This is not a hit-and-miss affair. The "S" Club has been working on the event for months. And it will stop at nothing but perfection in seeing that the enterprise is a success.

McCoy is one of the top and most able athletic directors in the nation and he has done much to further Penn State athletics. He's respected by players, coaches and fans alike and they stand by his decisions.

But I feel that he is wrong in not allowing the "S" Club to go ahead with its money-making project. I think it would benefit all concerned, including the Penn State varsity players, themselves.

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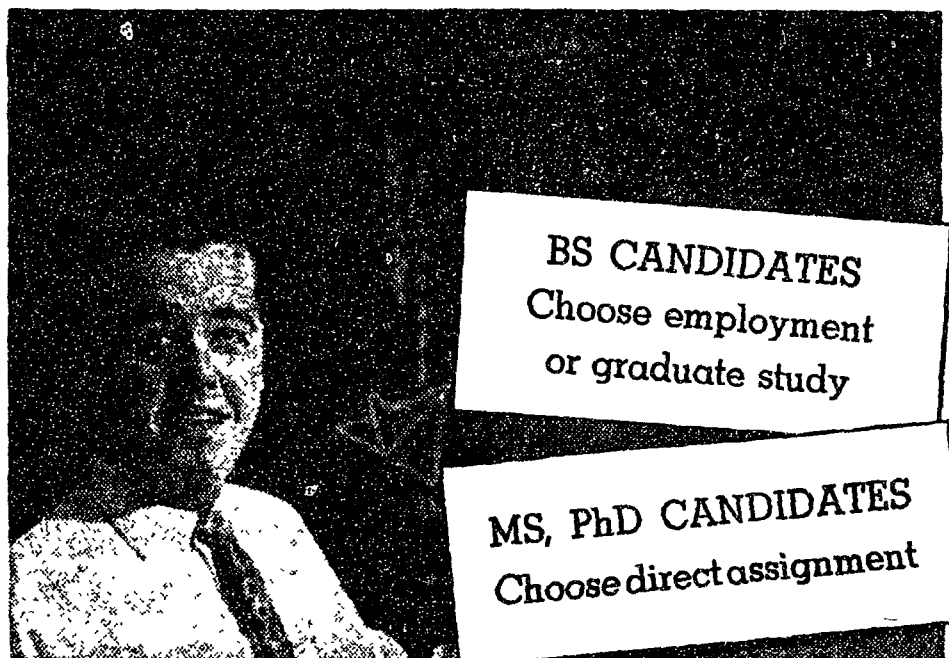
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