

EIGL Tournney Opens Today

Qualifying, All-Around Set Tonight

Penn State begins its onslaught on the record books tonight in the preliminaries of the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastic League championships. The preliminaries begin at 8 p.m. in the Pitt Field House. The finals will begin at 8 tomorrow night.

Besides qualifying the top eight men in the six regular events, tonight's program also will decide the first five scores of the all-around event. The sixth and final event of the grueling all-around—the free exercise—will open Saturday's program and will determine the winner.

The top three returning all-around men are all Lions—Captain Armando Vega, Jay Werner and Lee Cunningham. (No team has won the top three spots in the EIGL all-around.) Vega, who won the honor twice, holds the record with a score of 1574 points. In his absence last year Werner won the title with Cunningham only a point behind, 1515-1514.

In his record-setting all-around pace, Vega took four first places in p-bars, long horse, still rings and free exercise. In winning last year, Werner won the last three events to overcome an 84-point lead Cunningham had built up in the first three events.

Heinz Briegel of Massachusetts originally had been fabled as the athlete who could break into the top three. But yesterday Coach Gene Wettstone came up with his darkhorse, Jeff Cardinelli of Springfield.

Wettstone pointed out that the Springfield newcomer worked well against Werner and Cunningham at Sarasota, Fla., and could edge the pair "if he has a good day."

Although tonight's prelims will not determine a single champion, they will give a good indication of the winners under the EIGL combined-scores system. For both the preliminary and final scores are totaled to determine the winner.

Besides Werner and Vega in the all-around, the Lions have only one defending champion. He's tumbler Dave Dulaney. The little pre-med student knows the pressures of falling behind on the first day and then having to make a comeback in the finals to win.

In the '58 Easterns, he was fourth after the preliminaries, but the breaks went his way in the finals as Werner who was first, Pitt's Don Neeld who was second, and Graeme Cowen who was third, broke and pulled low scores. Dulaney then pulled another 259 and won. Fortunately, nobody did a 260 in the last night.

Three others in the tumbling picture are Army's Dick Seaward, Pitt's Dave Hirst and Syracuse's Al Bird.

On the side horse, it looks like another battle royal between defending champion Fern Sheppard of Navy and Cunningham. But keep a sharp eye peeled for a guy named Vega. He could win it. Also in the running are Army's Jim Hill, Springfield's Dick Peterson and Syracuse's Ed Levine.

The high bar is a fight between Vega, Cunningham, Werner and possibly John Morgan of Navy and John Marcinko of Pitt.

The rope climb, which is won on the best time in the finals, will feature a trio who all have hit 3.5 seconds—Army's Bill Cohen and the Lions' Vince Neuhouser and Don Littlewood. Jack Hiding has the fourth best time in the East with a 3.8.

Although the Lions don't have the technical defending champion on the p-bars, they do have Vega, who won the title in '56 and '57.

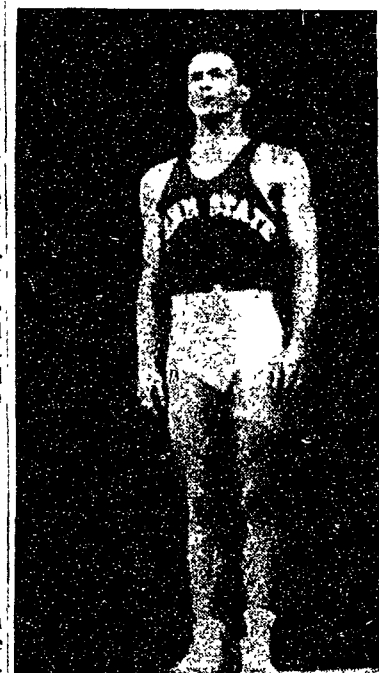
On the rings Pitt's Hirst is the man to beat, by virtue of his win over Werner last week. And Werner looks like the only performer who could beat him.

The EIGL championships should give the Lions a good line on their chances of winning the nationals—and of beating Michigan next Saturday.

—By MATT MATHEWS



THE BIG THREE—The East's three best all-around men—Captain Armando Vega, Lee Cunningham and Jay Werner—will lead the Lions into EIGL individual championships tonight at Pitt's Field House.



EASTERN INTERCOLLEGIATE GYMNASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS PENN STATE 1958 Dave Dulaney ... to defend tumbling title

Moran May Break Distance Records

Coach Chick Werner predicts a brilliant outdoor season for Penn State track ace Ed Moran. "Moran has looked so impressive during the indoor season," Werner says, "that if we could arrange our outdoor schedule so that he could run the 440, half-mile, mile, and two-mile, I'm certain he would set new school records in each."

In indoor dual action thus far this winter, the James City senior set an Army field house record for the 1000-yard run with a 2:10 time, and a Navy field house one-mile mark with a clocking of 4:23.2.

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Bird Dogs Clinch Title In IM Cage

The Bird Dogs clipped off a 39-27 victory over the previously undefeated Nittany 34 to wrap up the championship in independent basketball League F.

The Bird Dogs were strengthened by an all out team effort as they chalked up their seventh straight victory.

Scoring their seventh straight win in League G, the Motogimps copped the championship laurels as they downed Tony's Terrors, 40-17. Bob Helm paced the Motogimps with 12 scores.

The Phakes finished off an undefeated season with an 8-0 record to lay claim to the League B championship as the Seller Athletics forfeited the final game to them.

Finishing off their season with a 7-1 record, the Sphinxmen assured themselves a second place rating in League B as they polished off the Clam Diggers, 66-22.

In other independent games, the Red Raiders defeated Penn Haven, 27-12; the Blobs topped the Favorites by forfeit; Nittany 28 edged the Donairs, 17-15; Nittany 23 whipped the Forty Thieves, 30-14; the Thompson Hoods stopped the Prestos, 27-17; and Thompson One downed the Imperials, 30-20.

Delta Tau Delta nabbed a second place standing in fraternity League C by whipping Alpha Epsilon Pi, 26-7. Dellie Kreiser was high scorer for the Deltas with 12 tallies.

Bob Isham led Delta Chi to a 44-22 victory over Triangle in League D as he swished the nets for 15 counters.

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As a MATT-er-a-FACT

By MATT MATHEWS Associate Sports Editor

Penn State's gymnasts already have won the EIGL team title this year on their undefeated 6-0 record and will be after every one of the individual titles tonight and tomorrow night in the Pitt Field House.

But that's not the extent of the importance of the meet. As far as Coach Gene Wettstone is concerned, this might just be a good workout for his Lions.

Now I don't mean that in the sense that the Lions will necessarily dominate all the events—they won't. But Wettstone and the team are after more important game than individual honors. They want, and have been quietly talking about all year, the NCAA team title—their fifth.

Because the Easterns is the first real testing ground for the Lions' all-around power, it previews what they can do in the Nationals. They finished third last year behind host Michigan State and Illinois, but that was without Captain Armando Vega. And the Lion captain was good for 58 points in 1957 as Wettstone's G-Men won the title with 88 1/2 points.

Vega holds the EIGL all-around title (which he has won twice, along with the parallel bar crown) with 1574 points. He will be out to break that mark and should have an easy time doing it.

Vega pointed out that when he set the record two years ago, he didn't have anybody really pushing him. This year he does in teammates Jay Werner, the defending champ, and Lee Cunningham, the 1958 runnerup.

Also, the champ points to the fact that the judges hesitate to give 95 scores to an athlete when his competition is only scoring in the low 80's. But Werner and Cunningham should remedy that situation by keeping Vega and the judges on edge trying to decide the winner in each event.

In fact, Cunningham bettered Vega in two all-around events—side horse and high bar—and Werner bettered the Olympian on the still rings. But those were comparative scores from two different years and two different sets of judges.

A breakdown on Vega's record score finds only a 217 on the side horse and he can easily top that by 30 points. He also could top his 263 high bar score by 20 and his 266 free exercise score by a like sum. His other three scores probably will be the same (mainly because they're so high)—a 278 on p-bars, a 271 on long horse and a 279 on still rings.

Still, no team ever has had the top three finishers in the all-around and the Lions have a good chance of setting that record. In fact, they have a handy man named Lou Savadove who could probably finish fourth. But the EIGL rules allow three entries per team.

OTHER MATTERS—In case you're wondering about all the Penn State names in the stories on the Easterns this week, there are two valid reasons: 1. I believe (along with coaches, judges and athletes I have talked to) that Penn State could win every event, and 2. The information from Pitt has been practically nil.

In fact, I saw yesterday in a Pittsburgh paper where Gar O'Quinn, the amiable assistant coach at West Point, is coming back to defend his parallel bar title. He graduated . . . This is two days late, but happy 21st birthday Jay Werner . . . Incidentally, Werner will be on WDFM's "Meet the Varsity" at 9:45 tonight. The program also comes over WMAJ and is MC'd by Carmella LaSpada, "Miss Versatility PSU." . . . The Lions have one more home meet and it promises to be the best gymnastic dual meet ever . . . The opponent is Michigan, which has beaten both defending NCAA champions Michigan State and Illinois . . . Illinois is the team to beat in the nationals—besides Penn State.

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