

Vega's 3 Firsts Pace Lions in NCAA Prep

By MATT MATHEWS
Associate Sports Editor

On to the Nationals!

That was the feeling of Penn State's gymnasts and fans as the Eastern champion Lions humbled a previously-undefeated Michigan team Saturday night, 54½-41½. The meet was a hot warm-up for the NCAA Championships to be held Friday and Saturday in Berkeley, Cal.

Although there is no absolute correlation between an undefeated dual-meet team and a national champion, the Lions strengthened their championship stock by soundly defeating the Big "M" who own dual meet victories over both defending NCAA champions, Michigan State and Illinois.

And Michigan showed the 6400 Lion fans that they had one of the greatest dual-meet teams in the nation before bowing.

But the 6400 fans, who composed by far the largest crowd in Recreation Hall this winter and for many winters past, were there mainly to see the last Penn State performance of one of her greatest athletes of all time, Captain Armando Vega.

Point-wise he came through for them. He opened with a graceful free exercise routine that earned 286 points for first place and followed with a fourth on the side horse and second (to teammate Lee Cunningham) on the high bar.

Then in true showmanship, he climaxed the night with firsts on the parallel bars and still rings at 287 and 282. Following his ring

dismount, head manager Ralph Swank announced that that was Vega's last performance as a Lion. And the standing-room only crowd, teammates and Michigan squad rose and gave Vega a standing ovation for nearly two minutes. During the applause, Vega took his last bow and received a gift blue "PSU" blanket. Each of the five seniors received the gifts from appreciative coach Gene Wettstone.

But Vega was one of the first to "apologize" for his work Saturday which he felt was "not as good as it could have been." The champ felt that his shoulder bruise and resulting lack of exercise hurt his edge.

Still, the 282 on rings, 287 on parallels and other scores amounted to 1362 points for five of the six all-around events. His long horse score is usually in the 280's and would have given him quite a respectable 1642, which would break his own national all-around record by 40 points if he duplicated that this weekend.

As expected, the Lions took firsts on the side horse and high bar—both won by junior Lee Cunningham. Lee's high bar score was a good follow-up after winning the Eastern title a week ago, but his horse routine could use more polish.

Dave Dulaney "only" took second in tumbling. But with the meet already won, the Eastern tumbling champ was mainly experimenting with his double-back somersault which he needs to win the nationals. He hit just a little short of completing the double, but showed the potential to do it this week.

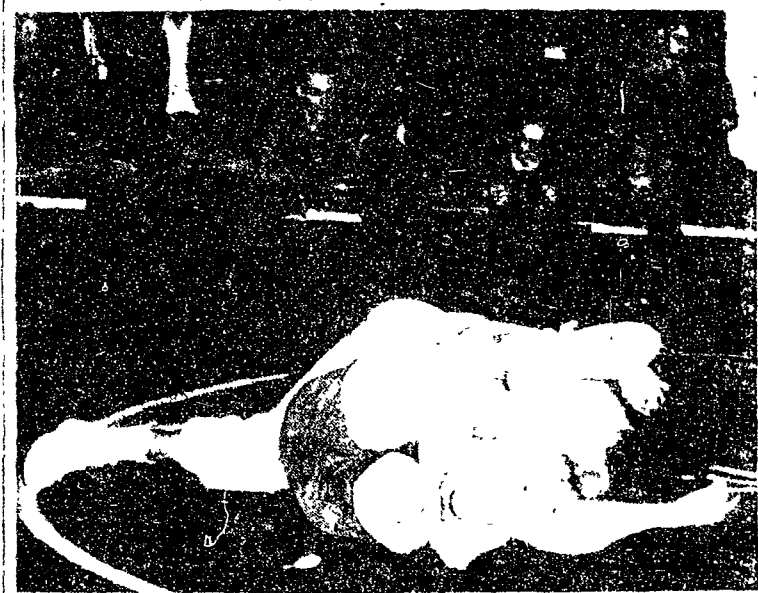
Although Vega was the number one man, Jay Werner had reason to be proud after a successful day of hard work on six events. His

still rings and free "x" routines deserved to win and would have but for a guy named Vega. Still, Werner needs more consistent work on the high bar and parallels.

Although it will not count in the record books, senior Don Littlewood bowed out in more poetic fashion than even Vega as he tied the Penn State and Eastern rope climbing record of 3.4 seconds. Junior Vince Neuhauser did a 3.5 and senior Jack Hidingger, a 4.0.

The crowd and the meet complimented each other—they were the greatest of the year. Now the Nationals!

Kaul Pins Amato in :55; DU Takes Four Wins



—Collegian photo by Rick Bower

FOR THE UPSET—Benny Amato of Delta Upsilon is pinned by Bob Kaul of Beta Theta Pi in the Intramural 158-weight class

By DICK GOLDBERG

Benny Amato, top seeded contender in the intramural wrestling 158 pound class, was pinned last night by Bob Kaul of Beta Theta Pi in 55 seconds.

Amato of Delta Upsilon was leading on points and had a pinning combination on his opponent, when Kaul slipped loose and showed Amato the lights.

Although Amato and Homer Hilner lost, DU was able to pick up wins in the 128, 135, 150, and the unlimited classes.

In the 176 division, Bill McDougall of Chi Phi scored a 5-0 decision over Ron Griffith of Sigma Nu. McDougall rode Griffith for the whole match and picked up his points on reversals and a predicament.

The unlimited division was featured by the match between Ron Alleman of Delta Theta Sigma and Joe Synkonis of Al-

pha Chi Sigma. Alleman pinned Synkonis in 2:23 as he scored a quick takedown and pressed his advantage for the pin.

128—Thompson (DU) pinned Coward (ACS), 2:35; Lardos (ACR) pinned Ramsey (TC), 1:50; Bollinger (CP) pinned Friday (SAE), 1:30.

135—Shaffer (Beta) won by forfeit; Platts (STG) pinned Barnes (TRK), 3:15; Reeves (TX) pinned Lipson (PSD), 2:28; Bennett (DU) pinned Coista (APD), 1:59.

142—Deckman (DTS) pinned Clarke (TPD), 3:15.

150—Klippenstein (AGR) pinned Claycomb (STG), 1:15; Mayhew (DTS) pinned Miller (Tri), 4:25; Robinson (AZ) dec. Vignola (PMD), 8-2; Kerr (DU) pinned Carlson (TRK), 3:00.

158—Kaul (Beta) pinned Amato (DU), 55; Dellastatious (SC) won by forfeit; Kuusman (ACR) dec. Seldomridge (AGR), 2-1; Potter (Ind) pinned Schlentner, 3:00; Ottoson (Ind) won by forfeit; Baker (Ind) pinned Gay, 5:00; Berry (Ind) pinned Williams, 2:30.

167—Crowe (SN) pinned Lyter (AGR), 5:00; Charlton (SAE) pinned Ziegler (ACR), 3:45.

176—Wilson (SPE) won by forfeit; Berry (ATO) pinned Fenimore (SAE), 5:25; McDougall (CP) dec. Griffith (SN), 5-0; Campbell (DTD) dec. Hilner (DU), 1-0.

Un—Landherr (DU) dec. Gardner (Tri), 3-2; Alleman (DTS) pinned Synkonis (ACS), 2:23.



—Collegian photo by Bob Thompson

WANNA TRY IT?—Lion junior Jay Werner "sits" on his finger tips during his free "X" routine Saturday night in Rec Hall.

Gym Summary

FREE EXERCISE: 1—Vega (PS) 286, 2—Werner (PS) 266, 3—Hayalett (M) 256, 4—Marion (M) 255, 5—Monpetit (M) 244, Event 10-6.

SIDE HORSE: 1—Cunningham (PS) 256, 2—Marion (M) 241, 3—Montpetit (M) 240, 4—Vega (PS) 230, 5—Stahl (M) 227, Event 8-8, Meet, 18-14.

HIGH BAR: 1—Cunningham (PS) 284, 2—Vega (PS) 277, 3—Stall (M) 268, 4—Monpetit (M) 256, 5—Werner (PS) 244, Event 11-5, Meet 29-19.

PARALLEL BARS: 1—Vega (PS) 287, 2—Monpetit (M) 274, 3—Marion (M) 266, 4—Werner (PS) 248, 5—Dosauner (M) 244, Event 8-8, Meet 37-27.

STILL RINGS: 1—Vega (PS) 282, 2—Werner (PS) 274, 3—Marion (M) 273, 4—Stall (M) 257, 5—Dosauner (M) 227, Event 10-6, Meet 47-33.

TUMBLING: 1—Skinner (M) 275, 2—Dulaney (PS) 273, 3—Brown (M) 261 and Werner (PS) 261, 5—Savadove (PS) 234, 6—Hayalett (M) 220, Event 7½-8½, Meet 51½-45½.

(In an exhibition, senior Don Littlewood scaled the rope in 3.4 seconds to unofficially tie the Penn State and Eastern rope climbing record.)

H-Ball, Badminton Entries

Entries for the handball doubles and badminton singles are open in the Intramural Office, Recreation Hall. Deadline for the entries is 4:30 Thursday.

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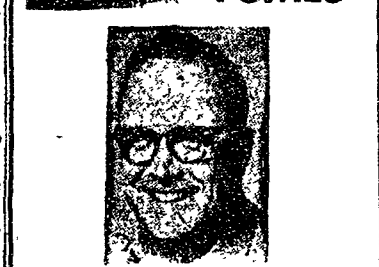
Wettstone in 20th Year

Eugene Wettstone is entering his 20th campaign as Penn State gymnastics coach. His record is 73 victories and 27 defeats.

Engle's Winning Double

Rip Engle's nine-year record as Penn State football coach is 53 victories, 26 defeats, and 4 ties. He directed the Nittany Lions to a 6-3-1 mark last season.

GAS FUMES

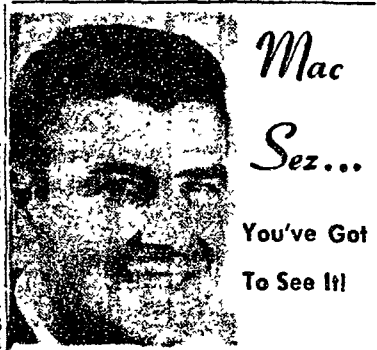


By JIM BATHURST

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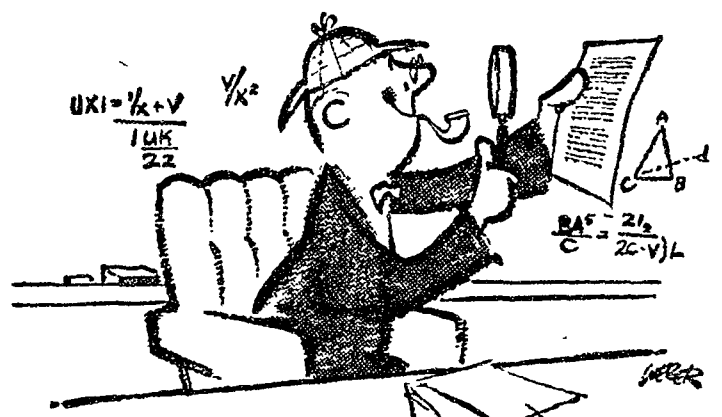
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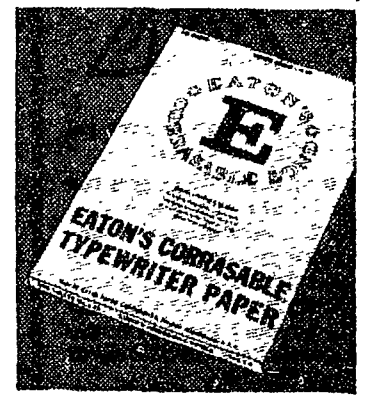
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