

NCAA Gym Meet Begins at 2

28 Schools, 200 Athletes Will Compete

By LARRY ROTH

Over 200 competitors representing 28 schools will vie for individual and team honors in the 19th NCAA gymnastics tournament which gets underway at 2 this afternoon in Rec Hall.

Another preliminary session will be held at 8 tonight with the top ten qualifiers in each event advancing to tomorrow night's finals. Only one championship, the all-around, will be decided tonight.

Observers believe the race for team honors will narrow down to a three-way battle between Pacific Coast champ Southern Cal, Big Ten champ Illinois, and Penn State's defending national champs.

Each team boasts one or more men who could capture the all-around, but California's Art Shurlock rules favorite on the basis of his overwhelming victory in the PIGL tournament two weeks ago.

Southern Cal has sophomore Sam Garcia, junior college transfer Bob Lynn and two time Hungarian olympic star Attila Takach. This trio came in second, third and fourth respectively in the PIGL all-around.

Illinois has Ray Hadley, a muscular sophomore who captured the Big Ten all-around this year, and Penn State has Eastern champ Greg Weiss, and co-captains Jay Werner and Lee Cunningham.

Springfield College's Jeff Cardinali, who was runner-up to Weiss in the EIGL championships, is also considered a prime threat, as is Minnesota's Duane Hoecherl, runner-up in the Big Ten.

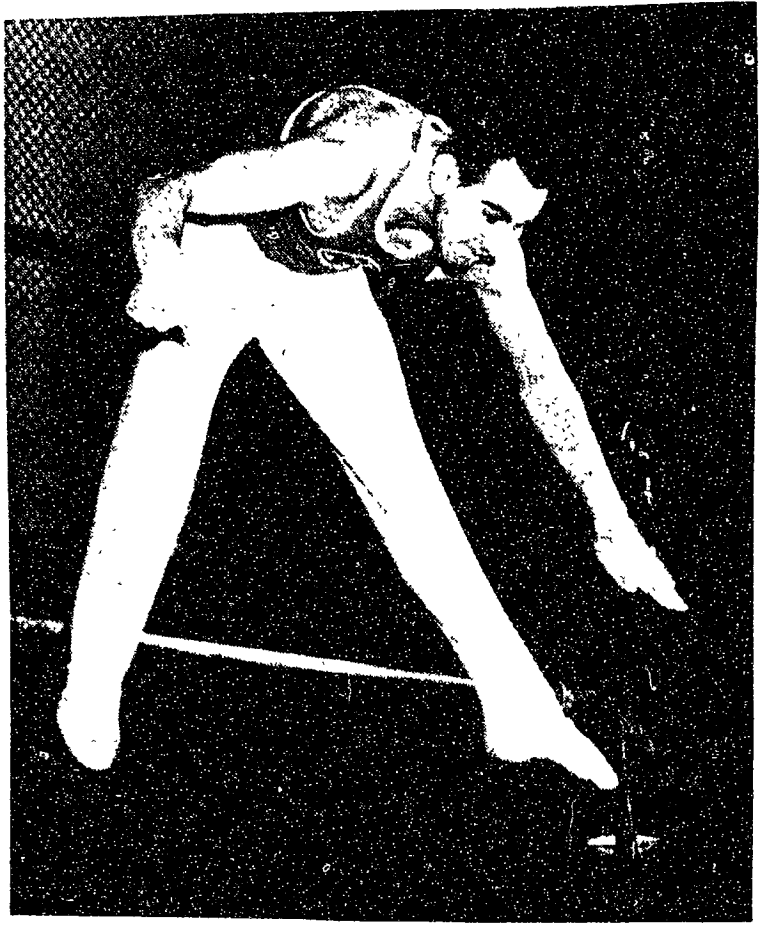
While these contestants, plus a host of others, are battling for the all-around crown, they also will be trying to qualify for the finals in five events—free exercise, side horse, high bar, still rings and parallel bars.

The side horse will feature a



Art Shurlock

... defending side horse champ



Stan Tarshis

... defending high bar champ

pair of former champions in Shurlock and Bill Buck of Iowa.

Buck, runner-up to Shurlock last year, won the title in 1958. Cardinali, Illinois' Bill Lawler, Cal's Jim Fairchild and Cunningham also are considered top threats on the side horse.

Stan Tarshis of Michigan State will defend his high bar crown but Shurlock, Cunningham, Takach, Lynn and Weiss will provide some tough competition. Shurlock and Cunningham won this event in their league tournaments this year.

Lynn, Werner and Hadley should lead the field in the free exercise. Werner placed fourth in last year's nationals, while Lynn and Hadley won the event in their respective conferences.

Garcia, whose routines remind one of Penn State's Armando Vega, is a topnotch contender on the parallel bars and still rings.

The parallel bars should prove to be one of the most hotly contested events with the likes of Weiss, Cardinali, Buck, Shurlock and Werner listed among the entrants.

Weiss is Eastern champ and Buck finished second in last year's nationals.

Another runner-up in last

year's nationals is tumbler Jack Wiley of Southern Illinois. Eastern champ Joe Marshall of Navy, Pitt's Earl McConnell, and Florida State's Jack Ryder are expected to be Wiley's main opposition in his quest for the tumbling crown.

Navy's Nelson Hulme, who holds the Eastern record in the rope climb (3.3 seconds) is the favorite in this event. USC's Rick Barasch, PIGL rope champ, and Penn State's Vince Neuhauer have done 3.6 while a host of others have turned in 3.7 performances, including the Nittany's Bob Mumau and Bill Fosnochi.

The flying rings will pit defending champ Werner against a pair of Easterners who beat him in the EIGL tournament and in dual meet competition this season. Jon Aaronsohn of Army won the Easterns and Pitt's Dave Hirst finished second with the muscular Werner third.

Iowa's Larry Snyder was runner-up in the rebound tumbling (trampoline) last year and will battle to move up a notch against the likes of Texas Tech's Jack Tillinghast and San Jose State teammates Bob Haywood and Bob Bogios.

Tournament Notes

Rec Hall will be loaded with gymnastic greats for the next three days . . . You can't walk four steps without bumping into a former national collegiate or AAU champ in one event or another . . . Most of the coaches and even one of the managers are former title-winners . . . Able Grossfeld, 1958 all-around champ, now a graduate student at Illinois keeping in shape for the Olympic tryouts, came along as a manager for the Illini so he could see the journey.

This is the first National Gym Tournament held at Penn State . . . The last major tournament staged here was the AAU championships and Olympic tryouts in 1956 . . . Place-winners in the All-around, which will be completed tonight, will be

presented just before the first event on tomorrow night's program . . . Other winners will be presented after each event.

Vega and Grossfeld, bitter rivals a year ago, worked out with the contestants yesterday . . . Both are practicing for the Olympic tryouts . . . Grossfeld's wife is also a gymnast . . . She will try out for the women's Olympic team this spring.

A collection will be taken tomorrow night for the Olympic fund by members of Blue Key Hat Society who are acting as official hosts and guides for the visiting teams.

Although competing for different schools, several of the NCAA participants are from southern California, and more particularly the San Fernando Valley . . .

Baseball Team Opens April 6

Joe Bedenk's Penn State baseball team opens its 22-game schedule April 6 at Beaver Field against Gettysburg. State will play 11 games at home and 11 on the road.

The Nittany Lions, who finished fourth in the College World Series at Omaha, Neb., last spring, will be shooting for their sixth straight Eastern Playoff berth and chances are pretty fair that they'll get it.

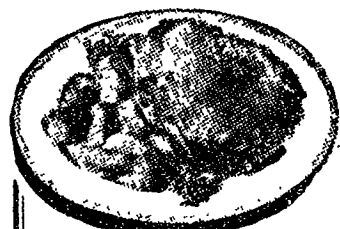
Bedenk loses only three from last year's team, but some highly rated sophomores are expected to fill the gap.

Finding a replacement for slugging shortstop Bob Hoover will be Bedenk's biggest worry. But he'll also have to replace pint-sized Ron Riese who had a 5-2 record last year.

Hoover was State's best clutch hitter in 1959 with 28 runs batted in and a .370 batting average. Basketballer John Phillips and reserve infielder Bob Hrobak could fill the gap, but there are several other promising candidates on hand.

Ed Kikla, who wound up as one of the top collegiate pitchers in the country with a 9-1 mark last season, will head the mound staff which boasts plenty of veteran left-handers, and a lot of inexperienced righties.

DUGOUT CHATTER—Joe Bedenk owns a record of 382 wins, 142 losses and 6 ties in 30 years as Penn State's head coach . . . Rumors from Navy say that catcher Joe Bellino may be switched to left field . . . Bob Hoover, Penn State's 1959 baseball captain, is doing graduate work in physical therapy at Stanford University.



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