

# Pifer, Myer, Oberly Brighten Mat Outlook in Hwt. Divisions

By JIM KARL

(This the second and final article in a series on the 1960-61 Penn State wrestling squad. Today, the heavyweights.)

Although the ranks in two of the heavyweight divisions are thin, Ron Pifer, Phil Myer and EIWA champion Johnston Oberly brighten the mat outlook considerably for coach Charlie Speidel.

Experienced grapplers are missing in the 167 and 191-pound divisions, but Pifer at 157, Myer at 177 and co-captain Oberly at heavyweight will make the Lions tough to handle in these classes.

Sophomore Ed Pohland and junior Bill Polacek are the top candidates at 167. Senior John Trojan has looked impressive at 191, but all three grapplers lack experience.

Both Polacek and Trojan have only one varsity match under their belts.

Pifer makes the Lions extremely strong at 157. Speidel had the Lion junior wrestling at 167 last year in an effort to get the most out of his squad.

In his first three matches, the former Bellefonte High School star used his patented double grapevine to pin his opponents, but as the season progressed the big giveaway in weight plus a shoulder injury slowed him down.

Against Lehigh he moved 20 pounds out of his class to wrestle 177 and dropped a 3-0 decision to Engineer star Jim Detrixhe. He finished the season with a 5-3 slate.

If Pifer stays at 157 this year his excellent maneuverability and leverage skills should make him hard to beat.

Other contenders in this division are John Barone and Art Weiss.

Polacek and Pohland are battling for a starting berth at 167. Polacek got his high school mat experience at Charleroi.

He saw action in one varsity match last year, losing, 7-0, to Thad Turner of Lehigh, the EIWA champion.

Pohland was a district champ



Johnston Oberly

... defending EIWA heavyweight champ

three years at Latrobe and was runner-up for the State title in 1958. Both grapplers look evenly matched but Polacek may get the starting nod Saturday off his showing in practice.

If last year's record is any indication, Myer should be hard to stop at 177. As a sophomore in 1959 he gave away 10 pounds to wrestle in the new 191-pound class and compiled a 4-1-1 record.

Myer came within seconds of winning the EIWA crown. He was leading Pitt star Tom Hall with 40 seconds remaining but Hall scored a takedown for the victory.

Trojan is the top contender for the 191-pound berth. The Lion senior saw action only once last year, defeating George Buran of Colgate, 5-3.

Dave Hayes, a sophomore

footballer who impressed as a freshman last year, should give Trojan some help after the Liberty Bowl.

Oberly, a 250-pound giant who won the EIWA crown last year, anchors the heavyweight division.

As a sophomore "The Big O" missed a couple of meets because of an injured knee and he had a 2-3-1 record in dual meets.

But the quick-moving heavyweight reached the semifinals of the NCAA tournament before losing to Ted Ellis of Oklahoma State.

Last year he was undefeated, the only blot on his record a scoreless draw with Michigan's Fred Olm. In the course of the season he pinned five straight opponents before Pitt's Bob Guzik held him to a decision.

Oberly's clutch pin in the final bout of the EIWA's gave State a come-from-behind tie with Pitt for the eastern title and he got as far as third place in the national tourney.

# Kerr Cops Honors In Four Departments

Halfback Jim Kerr has emerged as Penn State's statistical leader for 1960.

Kerr, who led in most departments all year long, topped the Lions in rushing, scoring pass receiving and kickoff returns.

The St. Clairsville, Ohio, senior picked up 389 yards rushing for a 4.2 average and as a pass receiver, he hauled in 13 aeriels, good for 163 yards. He also scored 52 points and returned eight kickoffs for 158 yards.

Quarterback Dick Hoak led in total offense with 396 passing yards and 284 rushing yards. He completed 25 of 46 passes for five touchdowns and averaged 4.3 yards rushing.

Fullback Sam Sobczak edged Hoak for the No. 2 rushing spot with 287 yards and a 4.1 average.

Captain Henry Oppermann gave Kerr a battle for pass receiving laurels. The lanky end caught 13 for 131 yards and a TD.

Quarterback Galen Hall compiled the most yards passing with 448 on 39 completions in 89 attempts. He also threw for five scores.

Oppermann, sophomore halfback Al Gursky, and sophomore fullback Buddy Torris, deadlocked for second place in the scoring derby. Each tallied 18 points, with 12 of Oppermann's coming on extra point plays.

GRID NOTES — Tackle Stew Barber, end Bob Mitinger, guard Bill Popp and halfback

## Alston Signs

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Walter Alston has agreed to a new one-year contract to manage the Los Angeles Dodgers. It will be his eighth one-year term.

Jim Kerr have received honorable mention All-American honors from United Press International . . . The Lions worked out on their own last night on a frozen Beaver Field . . . They'll have a heavy workout today . . . State's Liberty Bowl foe, Oregon, won't start heavy work until the weekend . . . The Lions were the guests at the State College quarterback club banquet last night . . . Dave Nelson, Delaware football coach and Athletic Director, was the main speaker . . .

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# Forfeits Mar Boxing Openers

Five forfeits marred the opening of intramural boxing at Rec Hall last night. Only four bouts were held with all the action coming in the fraternity tournament.

In the 158-pound class three boxers advanced to the quarter-finals by posting decisions.

Watson Brown of Omega Psi Phi survived a first round knockdown and came on strong in the final two rounds to score a close win over Gene White of Alpha Sigma Phi.

Wayne Morrison of Sigma Nu used a strong jab to win a close bout over Karl Schlentner of Theta Delta Chi.

Phi Kappa Psi's David Whitsett and Ed Snyder of Beta Sigma Rho fought toe to toe in the evening's most exciting bout with Whitsett gaining a close decision.

William Joyce of Phi Kappa Tau earned the right to meet Steve Moorhead of Beta Theta Pi in the quarter-finals of the

150-pound class by pounding his way to a decision over James Burke of Sigma Nu.

All other scheduled action was cancelled because five participants failed to make weight.

Benjamin Bow (Delta Upsilon), Ed Finney (Tau Kappa Epsilon), Eric Whorrel (Alpha Chi Rho), and Gary Rickard (Phi Delta Theta) posted forfeit wins over Arnold Eversole (Theta Delta Chi), Jim Karl (Acacia), Harry Whiteman (Sigma Nu), and Richard Buck (Theta Xi).

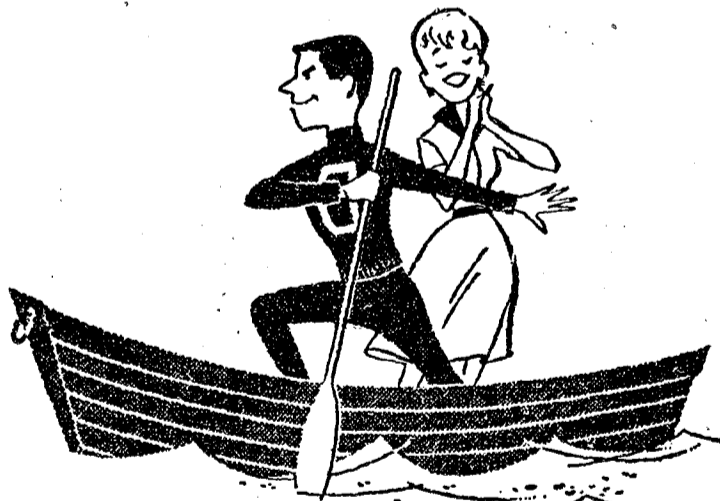
Wilbur Oswald also posted a forfeit win over Dave Andre in the only scheduled independent bout.

Boxing will continue nightly at Rec Hall with the finals set for Dec. 16. Matches start at 5:00 p.m.

## Basketball Scores

NBA Syracuse 135, St. Louis 126

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