

# Lion Heavyweight's Slate Cleveland Counting Marred by 2 Deadlocks On 3 New Players

By JIM KARL

Seven meets don't make a season. That, in a nutshell, is the philosophy of State's eastern heavyweight wrestling champion Johnston Oberly.

With three-fourths of the mat season past history, Oberly remains the only undefeated grappler in Coach Charlie Speidel's camp.

But the two ties in his 5-0-2 record stick out like bermuda shorts at a formal dance.

However, Oberly, an admittedly late starter, isn't losing any sleep over such matters. "I like to base my success on the EIWA's and the nationals," the "Big O" said before practice yesterday.

The Lion co-captain emphasized that the season isn't over yet and said that he usually rounds into his best shape late in the year.

Despite his two ties, Oberly is the most feared wrestler in the East.

Nobody expects him to settle for a draw and the thought of him losing is absurd. Everybody, including even the least informed Penn State fans, take it for granted that the Lions will win the heavyweight match hands down.

A good example of Oberly's far flung reputation is a comment made by Joe Whritenour, sports editor for the Bethlehem Globe-Times in a recent issue of that paper:

"There's a feeling here that Turner (Thad) can trim anyone in the Eastern Association with the exception of Johnston Oberly, Penn State's gigantic heavyweight king."

The quote can't be fully appreciated unless it is known that Turner, Lehigh's EIWA 167-pound champ and undefeated in eight meets this year, is the Golden Boy of Bethlehem.

Whritenour's admission that Turner might possibly be beaten is like the United States admitting that we might possibly lose the race to the moon.

Further evidence of Oberly's almost legendary fame in the East is a comment made by a member of Syracuse's famed Sizable Seven, Jack Bemiller, after he became number five in Oberly's streak of consecutive pins last year.

"Going nine minutes against Johnston Oberly is worse than going 60 minutes against any center in football," Bemiller said.

Usually his opposition spends more time running than wrestling. Still Oberly has managed three pins this year.

But by his own admission, he is not in top physical condition. He said his best wrestling weight is 240 pounds and at the moment he tips the scales at 253.

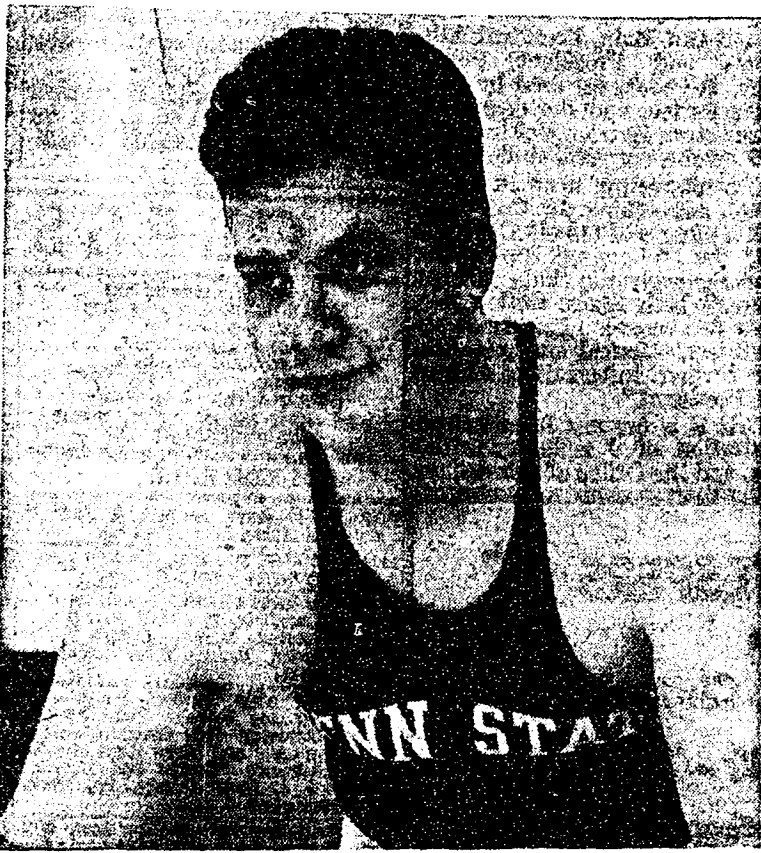
It hasn't been easy for the big guy to get in shape, though. Nobody on the team can give him a good workout, let alone stimulating competition, with the possible exception of sophomore Dave Hayes. But Hayes, who has been out for the team only two weeks, has to worry about getting in shape himself.

Oberly's two ties came at the hands of top notch grapplers.

Michigan's Carl Fink, who deadlocked the "Big O," 1-1, is the top contender for the Big 10 title. Navy's John Griffith, who held Oberly to a 2-2 draw, has won six matches this year.

In his other five matches he has met no one of even comparable ability.

He pinned West Virginia's Tom



JOHNSTON OBERLY

... Paul Bunyan of East?

★ ★ ★ ... Paul Bunyan of East? ★ ★ ★

Greaser in 3:35, won by a 2-0 decision over Lehigh's Chuck Moore, pinned Cornell's Bill Werst in 4:22 and pinned Maryland's Bill Rishell in 5:01.

Oberly missed his chance to get some real competition when Army Coach Leroy Alitz was forced to forfeit the heavyweight match in the season lifter won by State 24-10.

Dale Kuhns, Army's unlimited candidate, was on the football team and didn't get in shape in time for the meet. The Cadet heavyweight has come along fast, though, and next to Oberly is the

most respected heavyweight in the EIWA.

"The fellow I'll have to worry about most is Kuhns," Oberly said. "He's got a lot of natural ability and he's in perfect shape. On top of that he's fast and has a couple of good holds." But Kuhns isn't the only thing Oberly has to worry about.

With the season nearing its final stages, Oberly's "better late than never" outlook will get the supreme test. The "Big O" has the potential to become the Paul Bunyan of eastern wrestling, but time is running out.

(Another in a series of major league team prospects written under the managers' own by-lines.)

By JIMMY DYKES

Cleveland Indians

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—The Indians will be counting heavily on three new men, Johnny Antonelli, Willie Kirkland and Ty Cline. If they and some of our young pitchers come through the way we expect, Cleveland fans will have plenty to cheer about.

Antonelli and Kirkland, you know about. We got them from the Giants for Harvey Kuenn.

They tell me that Antonelli's arm is in good shape. If he can manage close to 15 victories he'll be a highly valuable addition. Kirkland can hit with power and gives us a strong arm in the outfield.

Cline could be one of the most exciting players to come up from the minors in a long time. He's an outfielder who can run like a deer. He was with Mobile of the Southern Association last season.

I am anxious to get to spring training to see how our pitching is going to shape up. If Gary Bell

can pick up where he left off in 1959 and early 1960 that will solve one problem. Jim Perry, Barry Latman, Jim Grant and Bobby Locke are our other strong right-handers.

Right-hander Dick Stigman and Frank Funk, a lefty, can develop into a good bullpen relief team. Stigman was brilliant at times last year.

Now that Woodie Held has completely recovered from a broken finger we'll have a fine double play combination with him and Johnny Temple.

Vic Power is set at first base and John Romano behind the plate. Romano showed considerable improvement in the last half of 1960 and is capable of giving us some home run power.

On paper, at least, this looks like the best club I've ever taken to spring training.



Jimmy Dykes

## Halberg to Compete In Japanese Indoor Meet

TOKYO (AP)—Olympic champion Murray Halberg of New Zealand will compete in Japan's first indoor track and field meet next month, the Japan Amateur Athletic Association said yesterday.

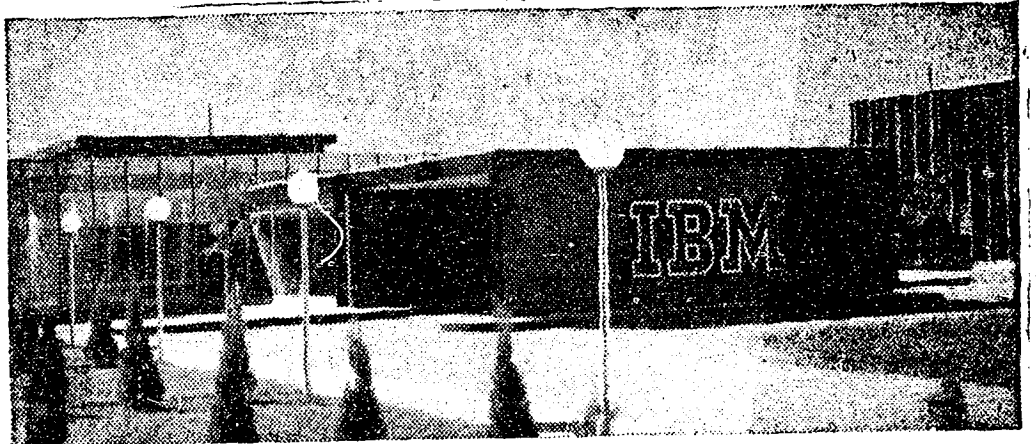
America's Don Bragg, world pole vault record holder, and Italy's Livio Berruti, winner of the 200-meter dash in the Rome Olympics, also will participate.

## San Francisco Back Traded to Baltimore

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Joe Perry, veteran San Francisco 49er fullback, was traded yesterday to Baltimore for an undisclosed draft choice. Perry spent 13 seasons with the 49ers.

Perry, 34, is the National Football League's leading ground gainer with 7,246 yards in 1,451 attempts — an average of 5 yards a carry.

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