

Johnston Hopes to Stop Leta's Takedown Tactics

By JIM KARL

Mike Leta made his mat reputation fast, and it has stuck for quite a while.

Rutgers' 137-pounder, named to the midseason All-American team picked by the Amateur Wrestling News, is one of the greatest takedown artists in wrestling.

Mere mention of the name "Leta" brings thoughts of lightning-fast takedowns, tremendously high scores, or just plain forfeits.

But Dan Johnston, scheduled to meet the stocky junior in Rec Hall tomorrow night, isn't thinking of anything except winning.

Johnston exploded against Pitt's Daryl Kelvington last week and gained a masterful 11-6 decision to trigger State's 17-12 upset.

Kelvington was ranked right behind Leta in the Amateur Wrestling News poll. Now Johnston wants the top spot.

Lehigh's Curt Alexander shattered the legend of Leta's invincibility last week when he beat him, 6-3 and almost scored a fall in the process.

The Rutgers lightweight was undefeated in dual meet competition last year, won the Easterns at 130, and finished third in the nationals at 137.

Leta doesn't figure to lose two in a row, but Johnston isn't paying too much attention to the law of averages right now.

A win tomorrow night could establish the Lion senior as the top contender for eastern honors.

Leta's big move is the double leg takedown. "Once he gets his hands on you he draws you in like a vice. He has very strong hands and fingers," Johnston said.

Leta has run up extremely high scores against opponents with his patented football tackle. His usual strategy is to get a takedown, let his opponent escape, and move in for another takedown.

Built like a fireplug, he moves under his opponents with great speed and is especially effective against long-legged opponents like Johnston.

"I know I'll have to watch him



DAN JOHNSTON

closely," Johnston said. "The big thing is to keep him away from your legs. But there's no doubt in my mind he can be beaten."

Coles Stars As ATO Wins, 33-8

By JOHN STOECKEL

Ken Coles of Alpha Tau Omega turned in the top individual performance in IM swimming last night.

He took first in the freestyle with a time of 35.5 and led his team to victory in the relay as ATO downed Triangle, 33-8.

Grier Cooper and Dick Stromfors, both of ATO, took first and second places respectively in the backstroke.

ATO's Dick McCoy and Dave Ulmer captured first and third places in the breaststroke. Gordie Schmidt of ATO turned in an excellent performance to take top honors in diving with a score of 25.4.

Coles, McCoy, Bill Surgner, and Schmidt teamed up to give ATO a victory in the relay.

Alpha Gamma Rho beat Alpha Epsilon Pi, 21-20, after a special medley race was set up to break a 20-20 tie.

Carl Merkle of AGR captured first place in the freestyle with a 39.4. Wyatt Gosnell, also of AGR, took first in the backstroke in 48.6.

In the other scheduled meet of the evening, Nittany 36 forfeited to Nittany 41.

Nelson, Skinner Star in Buc Tilt

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — A double by Bob Skinner and Rocky Nelson's single earned the Ron Northeys a 4-3 victory over the Frank Oceans yesterday in the Pittsburgh Pirates first squad game. The game was limited to six innings.

Dick Schofield and Hal Smith each had two hits for the Northeys. Schofield also drove in two runs. Rookie first baseman Norm Housley had a single and triple for the losers.

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Brumel-Thomas Clash Tonight

NEW YORK (AP) — Round three — the final round — of the Vallery Brumel - John Thomas winter high jump battle comes up tonight in the Knights of Columbus track meet at Madison Square Garden.

But the decision already has been won by Brumel, the 18-year-old Russian. He outjumped Thomas, 7-3 to 7-1, in the first meeting and last week won 7-2 to 7 feet.

"I'm going all out this time," said Brumel through an interpreter. "I hope to hit 7-4 or 7-5."

A little more than a month ago, Brumel climbed 7-4½ in Leningrad, the highest in history.

Thomas, the tall Boston University junior, will be 20 years old today. He's hoping to give himself a birthday present — a victory over Brumel.

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