

**Karl's Korner**



# The Olympic Dilemma

By **JIM KARL**  
Collegian Sports Editor

A few months ago a thin, light-haired man with a determined look paid Penn State a visit.

His name was Gustaf Laurell, and he was Sweden's national track and field coach.

Laurell didn't come to the United States to tour the countryside—he came to pick up new techniques and pointers on track and field.

His country, along with many other countries in Europe and of course Russia, has already started its big push for the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo.

What's causing the big push and what's the United States doing about it? It's a long story.

The big push was started by Russia not so many years ago when it realized that the Olympic games could be implemented to lower American prestige.

The Soviets began setting goals for their athletes just as they set goals for their economic system and a trip to the moon.

It didn't take long for them to get results.

Russia won 22 gold medals at the Helsinki Olympics in 1952. Last year, after only eight years of concentrated effort, Russia produced exactly double that amount.

Over the same period America dropped from 40 to 34.

Some European nations pushed the panic button at the thought of future Russian-dominated Olympics and began crash programs to mass-produce athletes of Olympic caliber.

So far the United States hasn't adopted any crash programs, but the suggestions are flying thick and heavy.

In fact three full pages of the official program for the Penn Relays at Philadelphia last weekend were devoted to "The Burning Question for 1964—What should be done in the United States track and field program to strengthen the team for the Olympic games in Tokyo?"

Many suggestions were made by this country's leading sports writers and track coaches.

Morgan State's Eddie Hurt said we should include more Olympic events like the hop, step and jump and the steeplechase in our dual meet programs.

Pitt's Carl Reese said we should concentrate more on distance running, especially in high school.

Manhattan's George Eastman said we should have the Olympic trials closer to the Olympics so that the athletes don't reach their peak performances a full month before the Games start.

All these suggestions are good and will improve our Olympic showing in track and field, an area where the Russians are still catching up.

But the unavoidable fact is that someday in the near future the Russian's will catch up.

No matter how much aid we give our amateur athletes, how many Olympic events we include in intercollegiate competition or how much money we spend on a National Youth Physical Fitness Program, Russia's highly trained professionals will eventually dominate the games.

In order to compete with Russia we must change our whole concept of amateur athletics.

So-called Russian "amateurs" like high jumper Valery Brumel and gymnast Albert Azaryan are actually well-paid professionals dedicated to becoming world champions in their specialties.

American amateurs often have demanding jobs outside the realm of athletics. They have families to support. They too are dedicated to their sports, but only in the hectic hour of practice they manage to squeeze in each day—not in the eight well-planned hours the Russians spend mastering small details.

And there are other points to consider before we begin any crash programs.

A well-known writer states: "The Olympics have become grim business . . . The members of the team must be firmly convinced that they are fighting for national prestige as well as individual glory."

But were the Olympics designed to foster "national prestige?" As the situation stands now, the Olympics just add fuel to the cold war.

The original purpose behind the Olympics, to promote friendship between nations and at the same time provide for individual competition between the top amateur athletes of the world, is completely lost in the race for national glory.

In 1952 Avery Brundage, the president of the Olympic Association, wrote:

"One of the greatest dangers facing the Olympic Games today is excessive nationalism. The Games are solely contests between individuals and there is no official scoring. . . . If the Olympic Games as a result of unbridled chauvinism degenerate into contests between the hired gladiators of large nations in an attempt to build national prestige or to prove that one system of govern-

(Continued on page twelve)



CHICK WERNER

## Gross Advances In Fraternity Badminton Play

Bob Gross of Phi Epsilon Pi, the defending IM badminton champ, made a bid for his second straight fraternity singles crown by advancing to the semifinals last night.

Gross defeated Louis Papp of Chi Phi, 15-0, 15-1, in recording his fourth straight win. He will meet Al Horne of Alpha Zeta tonight.

Horne gained a semi-final berth by beating Jim Banks of Phi Gamma Delta, 15-1, 15-4.

In the other semifinal battle tonight, John Barie of Theta Chi will meet Stuart Bischoff of Beta Theta Pi. Barie defeated Doug McKee of Alpha Zeta, 15-9, 11-15, 15-6, and Bischoff beat Dave Burstin of Phi Epsilon Pi, 15-8, 15-5.

The finals in fraternity action will be held tomorrow night.

The finals in the independent tourney will be held tonight with Al Stoddard opposing Nainuchit Chaturachinda. Chaturachinda hails from Bangkok, Thailand.

IM soccer will begin today for both independent and fraternity men.

## Sports Wire Briefs

### Stith's Illness Diagnosed as TB

OLEAN, N.Y. (AP) — All-America basketball star Tom Stith, hospitalized since last week, is suffering from a pulmonary tuberculous infection, a hospital spokesman said yesterday.

Stith, who led the St. Bonaventure University basketball squad to a 24-4 season in 1960-61, was the first-round draft choice of the New York Knickerbockers of the National Basketball Association.

The length of treatment depends "on the course of the disease," the spokesman said. However, he said Stith's hospitalization probably would continue through the fall.

### Floyd Offered \$250,000 to Fight Johnson

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Promoter Herman Taylor yesterday offered Floyd Patterson a \$250,000 guarantee to defend his heavyweight championship here this summer against Harold Johnson, the light heavyweight champion.

Taylor's offer was made in a telegram to Patterson's manager, Cus D'Amato in New York.

Johnson holds the National Boxing Association version of the lightweight title and last week stopped Von Clay in the second round in his first defense of the crown.

### Knicks File Suit Against SF Team

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Knickerbockers of the National Basketball Association, seeking an injunction to keep Kenny Sears from playing in the new American Basketball League, filed a court suit against the San Francisco team yesterday.

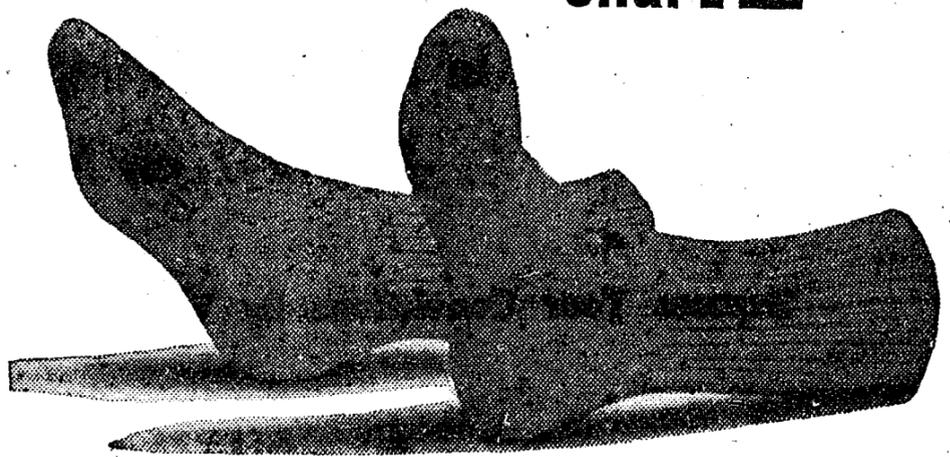
The suit was filed in San Francisco's federal court.

In making the disclosure at an emergency meeting of the NBA's (Continued on page twelve)

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