

Lion Gymnasts Prepare For EIGL Championships

By JOHN MORRIS

Penn State's gymnastics fortunes are following a remarkably familiar pattern so far this year.

For several seasons in a row now the Lions have been hailed by one and all as the pre-campaign choice for the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics League championships. And for several years in a row the Lions have lost one meet that cost them the title.

But while they have lost the EIGL crown, the Nittanies have established an almost unprecedented three-year claim to national honors. They also have dominated the EIGL individual championships.

This year the EIGL team title went to Army (5-0-1) while the Lions finished second, only a half-step back at 5-1.

Led by defending eastern all-around champion Greg Weiss, State's top 11 gymnasts should assure continued Nittany domination of the EIGL individual competition at West Point this weekend.

WEISS IS ALSO the defending eastern titlist on the parallel bars, still rings and in the long horse vault.

The Lion captain and teammate Tommy Seward, defending eastern champ in the free exercise, will compete in all six events of the all-around competition.

Weiss was undefeated on the side horse and parallel bars in dual meet competition this season and is an overwhelming favorite to retain the all-around title he won last year.

State coach Gene Wettstone expects Seward to be Weiss' main competition in the all-around.

"It looks like a battle between Weiss and Seward in the all-around," the veteran coach commented recently.

SEWARD TASTED defeat at the hands of Pitt's Earl McConnell for his first loss of the campaign in the free exercise last week. The stocky junior still rates the favorite's role in the event.

Wettstone believes his still rings duo of Larry Yohn and fast-improving Bud Williams will be in the running for the title in their specialty.

Yohn, a senior, has been the Lions' number one man all year, but Williams has come along in recent meets to challenge his teammate.

Junior Gene Harlacher will compete in the free exercise, side horse and parallel bars in the Easterns.

HARLACHER HAS been overshadowed by Seward in the free



F. P. SFORZA

"X" and by Weiss on the side horse and parallel bars, but he has been a steady point-getter for the Lions all year.

Other Penn State entries are Bill Schlegel in the free exercise; F. P. Sforza in the long horse vault and still rings; Ray Cherry on the side horse; Lew Capetola and Dave Heilbrun in the long horse vault; and John Bruning on the horizontal bar.

Uelses in K of C Games
NEW YORK (AP) — John Uelses, the 16-foot pole vaulter, returns to action in the Knights of Columbus Games at Madison Square Garden Friday night. Uelses had been bedded by influenza.

Lion 9 To Play Twenty Games

Penn State will play 20 baseball games this spring.

Included on the schedule are doubleheaders with Syracuse and Pittsburgh.

The Nittany Lions will open coach Joe Bedenk's 32nd campaign April 3 against Gettysburg in the first 10 home games. Other home opponents are Ithaca, Bucknell, Maryland, Navy, Colgate, Syracuse, West Virginia and Temple.

Penn State, traditionally an Eastern power, ran into weather trouble last year and started slowly. Rain or snow wiped out six of the first 10 games of the Lions' schedule and they finished with a 9-8 record.

This year's schedule:

April 3, Gettysburg; 6, at Lehigh; 7, at Villanova; 10, Ithaca; 13, at Rutgers; 14, at Army; 17, at Pennsylvania; 24, Bucknell.

May 1, Maryland; 2, at Lafayette; 4, Navy; 6, Colgate; 12, Syracuse (doubleheader); 18, West Virginia; 17, at Bucknell; 19, at Pittsburgh (doubleheader); 22, Temple; 24, at Delaware.

High Jumper's Start Hurt by Poor Form

By DENNIS KNECHT

Before last week's indoor track meet with Ohio State Penn State coach Chick Werner predicted that high jumper Jerry Wettstone was going to do much better than he had in the Lions' two previous meets.

Although Wettstone had cleared 6'5" last year, the Lion senior was having trouble getting started this season, and couldn't get over six feet.

Against the Buckeyes, however, Wettstone came through with flying colors, setting a new Penn State record with a jump of 6'6 1/2". The old mark was set in 1960 by Dick Campbell, a jumper who was largely responsible for Wettstone's success last year.

IT SEEMS STRANGE that a man who at one time jumped 6'5", and then couldn't get over 6', suddenly jumped almost 6'7".

"Last year Wettstone followed Campbell and learned by imitation, but now that Campbell has graduated, Wettstone has no one to follow and has picked up some bad habits," was the way Werner explained the sudden turnabouts.

Bad habits are easy to come by in high jumping where most movements are unnatural and require perfect skill and co-ordination. And it took some time for Wettstone, the former State College high jump record-holder, to iron out his difficulties.

"I knew the form would come sooner or later," Wettstone said, "but I was getting frantic waiting." However, Wettstone and his coaches didn't exactly sit around and wait.

"HE WORKED HARD," Werner said. "A high jumper shouldn't jump more than two or three times a week besides his regular meets, but we had Wettstone

practicing his jump every night to try and perfect his form."

Wettstone's main obstacle was the approach before his jump. In a normal seven-step approach, the speed and the length of the stride increase with each step. But he was doing just the opposite, starting out fast, then slowing down before reaching the bar, thus throwing off his timing.

Now that Wettstone has gotten back to winning form, he hopes to keep it and add a few more inches to his record.

"I hope to add two inches," the modest thincad said, "but I don't want to set a limit. If I add two inches, I'll want to add three, and then keep right on going."

Now that the regular season is over, Wettstone and the rest of the track team are setting their sights on the IC4A championships to be held in New York's Madison Square Garden, March 10.

IM Handball--

(Continued from page six)
defeating William Barber and Walter Bortree of Acacia, 21-4, 21-15. Vernon Zeitz and Phillip Sky of Phi Epsilon Pi took two straight from Don Caum and Harry Streamer of Phi Gamma Delta, 21-2 and 21-17, and John Snodgrass and Stan Johnson of Tau Kappa Epsilon defeated John Burcin and Victor Riva of Phi Kappa Theta, 21-12, 21-18.

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