



PENN STATE CO-CAPTAIN Ron Pifer (right) grimaces as Pitt's Daryl Kelvington attempts an escape in their 147-pound match. Kelvington beat Pifer, 3-1, to win the EIWA crown that Pifer won last year.

# Barr's Little Lions—64 Straight

By JOE GRATA

A group of well-conditioned wrestlers and the coaching ethics set down by Homer Barr—these are the ingredients in State College High School's grappling win streak of 64 straight dual meets over the past six years.

Considering this record, Barr must be one of the most successful scholastic wrestling coaches in the country.

Last week, Barr and his Little Lions received national mention in Sports Illustrated's weekly feature, "Faces in the Crowd."

THE WELL-VERSED boss of the State College grapplers is no stranger to this area. Wrestling for nearby Clearfield High School in his senior year, Barr won a PIAA schoolboy championship.

That year was Barr's first in high school competition. After school obligations at his parent's

farm kept him from trying-out for the team in other years.

Veteran Penn State wrestling coach Charlie Speidel was quick to take notice of Barr, who continued his brilliant wrestling career as a Nittany Lion.

WRESTLING heavyweight, Barr quickly became a favorite of Lion followers, twice winning the easterns and racking up an overall college record of 44 wins against only 5 losses. In 1949, he finished fourth in the NCAA wrestling tourney (4-2), and in his junior year, third (5-1).

Barr's career came to a climax in his senior year when he was runner-up to Brad Glass of Princeton in the nationals, losing on a referee's decision after the match ended with the score knotted at 1-1. The only other loss in Barr's college career came in the last dual meet of his senior year, when he dropped a 7-6 decision to Cornell's Dick Clark.

HOMER WAS SECOND to none," Speidel recalled. "He was the 'god' of the campus. In that last bout with Clark, he was

hampered by the flu. When he lost the match, many of the spectators who packed Rec Hall found tears rolling down their cheeks."

After graduation in '51, Barr coached high school wrestling in Warren, Pa., compiling a 35-13 record. In 1956 he began his current job at State College High, where his first team won its first two meets, dropped one, and then began the streak of 64 straight.

Meet by meet and year by year, the streak has steadily accumulated, bringing with it more fanfare glory, and more pressure.

"WE STRESS A LOT of hard work and superb conditioning," Barr explained. "We are taught to be aggressive, to go first for the takedown, the reverse, and the pin."

Speidel attributes his protegee's success to many things.

"He's made a study of the game and knows what's what," Speidel said. "He's done a lot for the youth of the community, and the people of this area recognize it."

# Speidel Praises Polacek For EIWA Performance

By JIM KARL  
Sports Editor

Aside from Ron Pifer's unexpected loss to Pitt's Daryl Kelvington for the 147-pound championship, one of Penn State's biggest surprises in the EIWA tournament was Bill Polacek's third place finish at 177.

Polacek won four bouts and lost only one in the two-day tourney, beating Rutgers' Don Cory, 2-0, in the final consolation round for third place.

His lone loss was to Lehigh's Jim Detrixhe, who didn't have a point scored against him in four matches and won the 177-pound crown.

DETRIXHE SCORED 5-0 decisions over Don Dunning of Syracuse, Polacek, and Art Mann of Yale. He beat Pitt's Ken Barr, 4-0, in the finals.

Neither coach Charlie Speidel nor anyone else expected a high finish from Polacek. The Lion senior was 1-5-1 in dual meet competition this year, winning his first match last week against Rutgers' Mike Leary.

"Up until now this season has been a nightmare," Polacek said after his victory over Cory. "I got some breaks—that boy from Yale just needed 15 more seconds riding time and I would have been out of the tournament. I'm happy I got this far."

LAST YEAR POLACEK won his first match in the tournament but then was eliminated by the same Cory on a referee's decision in overtime.

"Polacek deserves a lot of credit," Speidel said yesterday. "He never got a nickel to come to Penn State and he didn't have outstanding wrestling ability. He developed late and he proved he could wrestle in the tournament."

Kelvington was twice a bridesmaid, never a bride until Saturday night when he took the 147-

pound title away from Pifer. An EIWA runner-up the past two years, Kelvington won the 3-1 decision by using a "Navy ride" to keep Pifer from standing and using his legs to escape.

HE WAS WARNED once for stalling on top, but it was too near the end of the match to do any good.

"I wasn't stalling," Kelvington said afterwards. "I was riding him tight but I had to because Pifer's like a spider with his legs. He's wicked."

Pifer and Lion coach Charlie Speidel felt that Kelvington was stalling.

"The only time Pifer loses a match is when he's the only man on the mat who is wrestling," Speidel said.

PIFER SHOOK HANDS with Kelvington in front of the near capacity crowd of 5,000, but under the privacy of the stands he said he was disappointed that the Pitt senior didn't wrestle.

"He was stalling, there's no doubt about it," Pifer said. "It took more guts to shake hands with him than it did to wrestle him."

"Regardless, it's been a wonderful three years wrestling for Penn State and I appreciate the sup-

(Continued on page six)

# Fencers To Sit-Out Eastern Title Meet

By IRA MILLER

A conflict with final exams has forced Penn State to withdraw from the Intercollegiate Fencing Association's 65th annual championship meet Friday and Saturday at NYU's Alumni Gym in New York.

The decision to pull out of the IFA tourney—the eastern championships—was made since it would have been virtually impossible for the Lion swordmen to prepare for the IFA's and for finals at the same time.

However, State will enter a full team in the NCAA championships. Each member school is allowed to send three men—one in each weapon—to the March 30-31 meet at Ohio State.

THE NITTANY representatives will be Chick Poole, sabre; Art Fuller, foil; and Dave Lewis, epee.

During the regular season, Poole was 6-3, Fuller 3-1 and Lewis 5-4 for the Lions, who won one of three dual meets.

The only other State fencer to finish the season with a winning record was Larry Chamberlain, 7-2 in sabre.

ALTHOUGH CHAMBERLAIN had a better record than Poole, Coach Dick Klima said the decision to send Poole to the nationals was based on his record over the last two meets. In those meets Poole was 5-1 and Chamberlain 4-2. Both of Chamberlain's setbacks came in the final meet.

NYU has won the IFA team championship three straight years and 14 times since 1933. In addition, the Violets won the NCAA crown the last two seasons.

However, Columbia's Ivy League champions and Navy are expected to give NYU a rugged

battle in this year's post-season competition.

Columbia defeated its crosstown rival, 14-13, in December to end NYU's 34-meet win streak. The Middies handed NYU its only other setback this season.

Since 1933, the team title has gone to NYU, Columbia or Navy in all but two years.

LAST SEASON, the Violets finished on top with 71 points, 13 ahead of Columbia. NYU won the epee and foil team titles and tied Columbia in the sabre.

Herb Cohen and Jerry Halpern, who won the individual foil and epee championships last season, will be back to defend their crowns for NYU. Columbia's Allan Schwartz, sabre titlist in 1961, has graduated. But NYU's Israel Celson, who was sabre runner-up, is back.

IF THE VIOLETS are successful in defending their title, it will mark the second time in the tourney's history they've won the championship four straight years. No other team has won more than twice in succession.

The other teams competing in the easterns will be CCNY, Cornell, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, Rutgers and Yale.

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