

Wettstone 'Gym Coach of Year'

Penn. State gymnastics coach, Gene Wettstone's defending national champions finished a dismal ninth out of 41 entries in this year's NCAA tournament, but the lanky Wettstone did much better than his team—returning from the Albuquerque, N.M., tourney as "Coach of the Year."

The veteran State mentor was also elected president of the National Association of Gymnastics Coaches for the second straight year.

"THE AWARD was probably based on service to the federation," Wettstone said. "The organization had a very successful year."

The year wasn't quite as successful for the Lion gym team. State had won the national crown for three straight years and this year's squad, led by defending all-around champion Greg Weiss,

was expected to be a contender for the team title again.

But Weiss suffered the worst days of his spectacular career and the Lions' fortunes slipped with those of their star performer.

"Greg just didn't have it," Wettstone said. "Those were his first bad days all season."

The Lion captain lost all chance to repeat as all-around champion when he fell off the side horse in Friday's competition, but he still managed to finish fourth on the parallel bars, seventh in the still rings and ninth on the high bar.

New all-around champion Bob Lynn and his Southern California teammates piled up 95.5 points to win the team championship.



Gene Wettstone

Southern Illinois was second with 75, followed by Michigan with 55, Illinois with 54.5 and Michigan State with 52.5.

Lynn tied an NCAA record held by former Penn State star Jean Cronstedt, winning gold medals in four events—the all-around, parallel bars, horizontal bar and free exercise. Cronstedt won the same four events in 1954.

TWO OTHER LIONS—Tommy Seward and Bud Williams—qualified for the finals, but Seward strained a rib cartilage and was forced to withdraw from the side horse finals.

Williams competed in the rope climb, finishing 11th with a time of 4.4 seconds on the 20-foot rope.

First-place winners included Dale Cooper of Michigan State in the still rings, Rusty Mitchell of Illinois in tumbling, Mike Hufrecht of Illinois in the side horse and Steve Johnson of Michigan State in the rebound tumbling.

Next year's tourney will be held at Pitt.—John Morris

Lions 26th in NCAA Fencing; Middies Edge NYU for Title

By IRA MILLER

Penn State's return to the NCAA Fencing championships was an inauspicious one as the Lions finished 26th in the 36-team national tourney Friday and Saturday at Ohio State.

Navy ended NYU's 2-year hold on the team title by edging the Violets, 76-74. Columbia was third with 69. Rounding out the top ten were Illinois, Cornell, Wisconsin, Yale, CCNY, Wayne State and Penn.

STATE FINISHED with 27 points, more than half of them coming from Dave Lewis who compiled a 14-15 record in epee. Chick Poole was 9-20 in sabre and Joe Budinak 4-29 in foil.

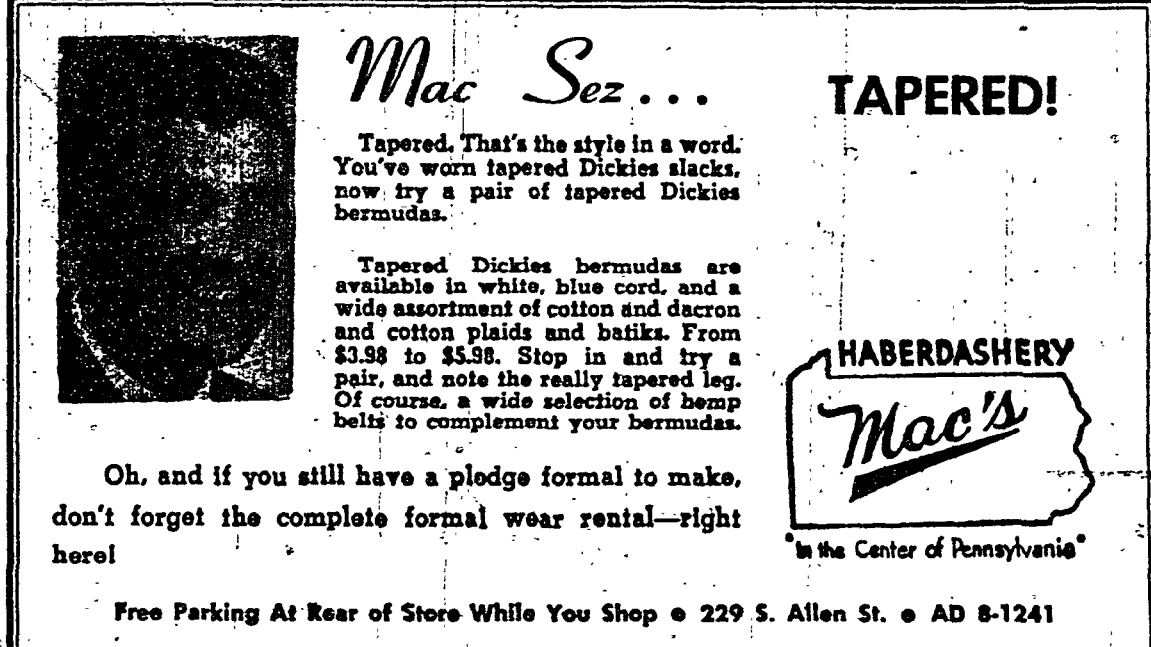
NYU's Herb Cohen repeated as

individual foil champion and won the Illinois Memorial Trophy as the outstanding fencer. He won 31 of 33 bouts.

Thane Hawkins of Navy took the epee title with a 27-2 record, while Columbia's Barton Nisonson took the sabre title in a fence-off with Navy's Ed Hurst, 5-4. Nisonson and Hurst had tied with 24-5 records.

The team scoring:

Navy 76, NYU 74, Columbia 69, Illinois 63, Cornell 60, Wisconsin 58, Penn 56, Air Force 55, Buffalo 54, Michigan State 53, Princeton 53, Ohio State 51, Detroit 48, Brooklyn College 45, Notre Dame 42, Brandeis 37, Pace 36, Harvard 34, Penn St. 33, Iowa 28, Kansas 28, North Carolina 28, PENN STATE 27, Trinity 27, Chicago 24, VMI 20, Rochester 20, St. Peter's (NJ) 18, Lafayette 17, Duke 14, Oberlin 11, Army 10, Johns Hopkins 9.



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