

'Elasticity' Needed In Free Exercise

By JOE GRATA

The Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics League took a giant-sized step toward establishing uniform standards in gym meets when officials adopted a modified version of international rules two years ago.

Among other changes, tumbling was dropped from dual-meet competition and replaced by free exercise, an event frequently called floor exercise and calisthenics. Officials agree that sufficient tumbling usually employed in free exercise routines justifies the rules change.

The average gymnastics fan finds free exercise the most interesting of all events, possibly because the gymnast doesn't perform on any apparatus. A mat measuring about 40 feet square is the only requirement.

ROUTINES in free exercise combine the elements of balance, agility, strength, jumps and leaps with a rhythmic and harmonious presentation. A performance must last at least one minute but not more than 1 1/2 minutes.

Gymnasts specializing in this event must also concentrate on flexibility and elasticity in their bodies. Fans erroneously call this special ability to maneuver "double-jointedness"; more correctly it is the result of consistent practice and movements.

A performer may try for months to conquer a new movement; then he begins the task of strategically placing it into his routine. He must plan to move in several different directions, not using too many running steps. And even these must be kept at a minimum in proportion to the difficulty of a jump or tumbling movement that follows.

MOST FANS don't fully understand how the free exercise event is scored. The judging is simply based on the same criteria as other gym events: 30 points are awarded for difficulty, 20 for combination and 50 for execution.

As children most persons attempted handstands and cartwheels on thick carpets or grass, did somersaults into a swimming pool, etc., unconscious that they were executing several basic maneuvers employed in free exercise.

But now as gymnastics spectators, they should, perhaps, consider that the performers are exhibiting the result of years of sheer effort and desire, a mastery of the body and all its movements.



GENE HARLACHER

Intramural News

Phi Delta Theta took over undisputed possession of first place in basketball league L last night with a 34-24 triumph over Phi Kappa Psi. The two teams were previously deadlocked for the top spot.

Phi Delta, last year's runner-up in the intramural cage championships, sports a 4-0 log this season. In each of the other fraternity circuits, the first-place outfit boasts an unblemished 3-0 log.

Tau Kappa Epsilon rolled up one of the biggest scores in IM history last night with an 81-8 romp over Sigma Tau Gamma. Bill Lyle led the winners with 27 points.

Phi Gamma Delta, champion the past two seasons, and Alpha Chi Sigma share top honors in league A, while Delta Upsilon and Chi Phi are tied for first in league B. Phi Sigma Delta leads league C. Theta Chi heads the pack in league E, and the Sigma Pi cagers are on top in league F.

Basketball

Alpha Gamma Rho	30	Delta Theta Sigma	12
Phi Sigma Kappa	33	Pi Lambda Phi	23
Delta Tau Delta	29	Zeta Beta Tau	16
Lam. Chi Alpha	28	Sigma Alpha Mu	14
Nittany 27-28	34	Nittany 25-26	33
Gravediggers	48	Hawks	19
Coal Crackers	39	Whips	17
Owls	24	Nittany 43-44	12
Court Jesters	35	Bad Guys	19

Bowling

FRATERNITY LEAGUE A			
Beta Theta Pi	6	Alpha Zeta	2
Phi Kappa Sigma	8	Beta Sigma Rho	0
Alpha Chi Rho	8	Pi Kappa Phi	0
Epsilon Phi	6	Alpha Phi Delta	2
Alpha Rho Chi	8	Alpha Kap. Lam.	0

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Gen. MacArthur To Arbitrate AAU-NCAA Power Struggle

NEW YORK (AP) — The president of the Amateur Athletic Union said yesterday he is optimistic of a settlement in the AAU-NCAA power war in the meetings this weekend with Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

"With such an outstanding and such a fair-minded man as Gen. MacArthur serving as arbitrator it is inconceivable to think that these talks can fail," said Louis J. Fisher of High Point, N.C.

"Certainly, the AAU will be ready to abide by any decision the general might make so long as it meets with our international commitments."

FISHER IS one of four AAU representatives who will meet with MacArthur and four representatives of the rival college organization tomorrow to try to resolve the 2 1/2-year-old controversy over who should control amateur sports in the United States.

Other members of the AAU delegation will be Col. Don Hull, executive director of the AAU, Attorney Albert S. Whittle of Baltimore and Pincus Sober, legislative chairman of the AAU.

The college group, announced yesterday, will consist of Walter Byers, executive director of the National Collegiate Athletic Association; William Russell, president of the newly-formed U.S. Track and Field Federation; Dr. Mason Gross, president of Rutgers University, and Kenneth Midgley, Kansas City attorney.

President Kennedy, concerned over the threat to American prestige in international sports, called upon MacArthur to arbitrate.

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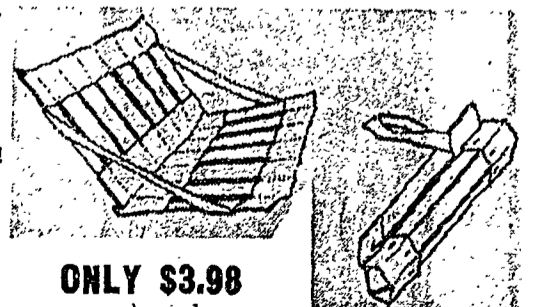
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