

Nittany Coach Responsible For Building Gym Dynasty

By JOE GRATA

Filing cabinets are wedged full with all sorts of material and no less than three of the four walls in the compact cubicle-like room are covered with photos and newspaper clippings—overlapping and sometimes haphazardly hung.

A black slate window sill and two walnut-stained desks overflow with magazines, manila folders, books, more letters and more papers. Two uncushioned chairs provide the only available vacancy, but even these are usually occupied.

THE OFFICE (Room 234A, Rec Hall) is the professional home of Gene Wettstone, Penn State gymnastics coach, but moreover a world all its own.

Twenty-four years ago Wettstone arrived at the University and began the self-imposed task of building his gymnastics program. The tall, slim and bespectacled coach has carefully molded Penn State into the unofficial gymnastics capital of the East.

In the early 1940's, gymnastics meets attracted only a handful of spectators, sometimes numbering as little as 30 persons. Now capacity crowds of 6,000 fans pack Rec Hall to see the well-versed proteges of the master-mind Wettstone consistently defeat opponent after opponent.

Over the years, Wettstone has accumulated a record that speaks for itself. His all-time dual-meet



GENE WETTSTONE
... "Mr. Gymnastics"

record at State stands at 96 wins against 30 losses. His teams have won nine Eastern and seven national collegiate titles.

VISITING COACHES and gym officials hold nothing but respect for Wettstone, a human dynamo that continues to play a vital role in helping to make America strong.

Filed in his office are letters, personal and professional, from gymnastics dignitaries of the world — he's generally considered as the central agent involved in

the recently organized United States Gymnastics Federation.

The federation aims to heal uncoordinated AAU and NCAA policies which govern the selection of gymnasts for the World Olympics. At the present time the group is fighting for recognition, power to sanction meets, to determine eligibility and to set fair and ethical standards for the nation's gymnasts.

Slouched in his office chair, with a cigarette loosely gripped between two of his slender fingers, Wettstone sometimes doesn't look like the super-showman he is. But ask a question and he'll sound out an expert's answer in his typical soft-spoken way.

INITIATIVE and efficiency are two factors that make opposing coaches, former gymnasts and anyone else who knows Wettstone on friendly or intimate terms hold even deeper admiration for the man.

In 1948, Wettstone went to London as coach of the men's Olympic team; in 1952, to Helsinki as an official, and in 1956, to Australia, again as coach.

Several times the State gym boss took charge of fabulously successful coast-to-coast tours by national championship teams from Sweden, Switzerland and Finland. In 1961 he directed a gala extravaganza which matched the Russian Olympic team against the United States Olympic team in Rec Hall.

Wettstone is presently serving his second consecutive term as president of the American Gymnastics Coaches. Last year Wettstone also gained the distinction of being named "Gymnastics Coach of the Year."

In short, Wettstone is generally hailed as "Mr. Gymnastics" in the United States.



ON GUARD: Two Penn State fencers duel during a practice session at Rec Hall in preparation for their opening meet next Wednesday at Temple. State reinstated fencing last year after a long layoff and under coach Dick Klima the Lions battled to a 1-2 record.

Lion Fencers Duel For Starting Berths

By JOHN LOTT

After weeks of gruelling workouts, final eliminations will be held tonight for the top positions on the Penn State fencing team.

This week the candidates for the varsity squad have been competing in round-robin fenceroofs in order to choose the swordsmen who will perform in State's opening meet at Temple next Wednesday.

ACCORDING TO coach Dick Klima, there will be a lot of new faces in the group that makes the trip to Philadelphia to duel with the Owls. Several of last year's top performers are getting a run for their money from newcomers. However, Klima is not certain of his top 12 men and won't make the final choices until after this evening's final elimination bouts.

"Last year the foil team was our weak spot, but that's all changed now," Klima said yesterday. "We have a real fine group of fellows in foil, and we're hoping that they can counter-balance a definite weakness in the epee division."

"In sabre, I figure we'll be a little stronger than last year," Klima continued. "There's nothing sensational about our sabre group, but their performance is

steady and constant." One of Klima's outstanding swordsmen is Dave Lewis, who competes in the epee division. Lewis, who went to the national championships last year, has improved tremendously this season, Klima said.

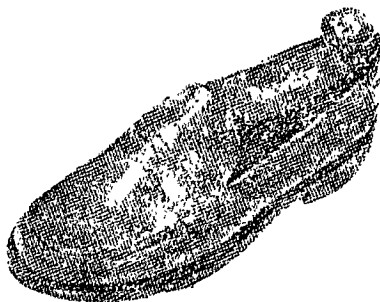
THE LION swordsmen will have a light workout Monday evening, then leave Tuesday to meet Temple, who is the defending Middle Atlantic Conference champion.

The recruiting program for the fencing team begins in the physical education classes. The outstanding fencers in these groups are invited to a spring practice, during which Klima works with each man individually.

In the last weeks of these workouts, eliminations are held in much the same manner as those going on now. The finalists are then asked back as candidates for the varsity team.

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Wall, Cupit Share Lead In San Francisco Open

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Veteran Pennsylvanian Art Wall and 24-year-old Texan Jacky Cupit conquered bumpy greens yesterday to share the first round lead in the \$50,000 San Francisco International Open Golf Tournament with scores of 67, 4-under-par.

They finished just one stroke ahead of five golfers—

Charlie Sifford, Dick Mayer, Bobby Nichols, Phil Rodgers and Rookie Terry Dill over the Harding Park municipal course on a sunny day.

WALL, the 39-year old former Masters champion from Pocono Manor, Pa., fired three birdies and an eagle while collecting only one bogey on his ninth straight competitive round on which he bettered or equalled par.

Cupit, the 24-year-old rookie-of-the-year of 1961 from Longview, Tex., collected four birdies and didn't go over regulation figures on his round.

A half dozen were bracketed at 69 including Billy Casper, winner of the Bing Crosby tournament

Sunday and Canadian George Knudson who was runner-up to Gene Littler in the 1961 San Francisco event.

Arnold Palmer carded only a 73 commenting, "This is one of the toughest courses I've seen anywhere, but it isn't the best. I wasn't putting well. The greens were a little bumpy, but everybody plays the same greens."

BULLETIN
Cassius Marcellus Clay did just what he told everyone he would do when he knocked out Charlie Powell in the 3rd round of their scheduled 10-round fight in Pittsburgh last night.

Grambling Holds AP Cage Lead

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

High-scoring Grambling College topped the Associated Press small college basketball poll rankings for the third straight week yesterday, but the Louisiana team's hold on the No. 1 spot appeared in jeopardy.

Grambling collected 64 points with runner-up Wittenberg, Ohio, close in pursuit with 61 points in the balloting of eight members on the AP regional board of selectors.

Grambling has won 15 games in 16 starts, while Wittenberg shows an 11-1 won-lost record. The voting is based on games through last Wednesday with 10 points for first, 9 for second etc.

Both Grambling and Wittenberg played once during the week, each winning. The Louisiana school, averaging close to 95 points a game, turned back Alcorn A&M 88-83 Saturday night. The Ohioans looked impressive last week in jolting Dayton, a perennial major power, 48-45.

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