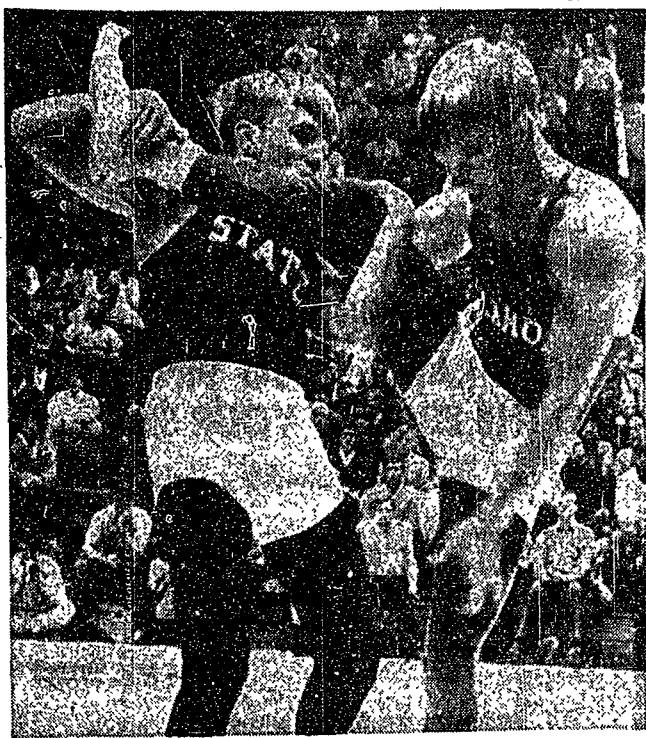


Lions Lose First Match

Better to Wrestle the Best



—Collegian Photo by Paul Levine
PENN STATE'S Vince Fika, wrestling at 145 pounds, tries to bring Oklahoma's Mike Grant to the mat. But the attempt came to no avail as Grant decisoned Fitz, 8-3, and Oklahoma defeated the Lions, 20-9.

By PAUL LEVINE
 Collegian Sports Editor

Bill Koll doesn't believe in the soft life. Anyone who has ever watched the Penn State wrestling coach drill his charges in the lower confines of Rec Hall will attest to that fact. The Nittany Lion wrestlers begin their annual training by prancing on three legs (actually two hands and one leg) up and down the steps of Beaver Stadium, and end it in the sweltering heat of the Rec Hall practice room.

They're a hardy lot as last year's 8-0-1 record proved. And, although State's win skein has already been snipped this season, Bill Koll doesn't regret the addition of powerful Oklahoma to the schedule. The Sooners defeated the Lions, 20-9, Dec. 16 in Rec Hall.

"You don't prove anything by beating nobodies," Koll has frequently said. "You've got to go out of your region once in a while and wrestle the best. It's the only way to find out how good you really are."

Last Year, 17-1

And when Koll talks about wrestling the best, he means Oklahoma. The Sooners, in rolling to their Big Eight Championship last season, compiled an astounding 17-1 dual meet record, including two wins over arch-rival Oklahoma State. Coming into University Park last month, Oklahoma boasted a defending NCAA champion and two runners-up in its lineup. All three Sooner stars recorded wins against the Lions.

"Oklahoma is rated number one in the country in some of the pre-season polls," Koll said before the match. "In one poll of coaches, I voted for them to be national champions. So did Gerry Leeman (Lehigh wrestling coach) and Oklahoma State's coach."

Besides bringing its impressive credentials into Rec Hall, Oklahoma had an advantage over the Lions in scheduling. The match was the first varsity competition of the season for Penn State, while Oklahoma had wrestled in the Oklahoma State Invitational Tournament the week before. Four Sooners won tourney championships as the team wrestled a total of 30 bouts and finished second, edged by only two points for the title.

Built 20-0 Lead

Against Penn State, Oklahoma had the match won before the veteran Lion squad could unwind. The Sooners notched the first six matches for a 20-0 lead before State got on the scoreboard. In the early going, the Lions' Wally Clark nearly upset Oklahoma's defending national champ, Dave McGuire. Wrestling in the 130-pound class, Clark rallied from a 4-1 deficit, only to lose, 5-4 on riding time.

Another heartbreaker for the Lions was Matt Kline's 3-2 loss to Cleo McGlory, an NCAA runner-up at 160 pounds last year.

Two days after the Lions-Sooners match, Oklahoma traveled to Bethlehem and defeated Lehigh, 18-6.

State's first win came at 167 pounds, as sophomore John High rode to a 3-1 decision over Bud McDaniel. Bob Funk recorded two near falls in his match at 177 pounds, as he notched a 13-6 win, and Rich Lorenzo won an easy 14-0 victory in the heavyweight class.

The Lions' next match will be Saturday in Rec Hall as part of a doubleheader with Springfield College. The wrestlers take on the Maroons at 2 p.m. and the Lion gymnastics team opens its 1968 season at 8 p.m. against the Springfield gym team.

Oklahoma 20, Penn State 9

- 123—Rice (O) pinned Wehlofer, 1:34 of 1st.
- 130—McGuire (O) dec. Clark, 5-4.
- 137—Pavolac (O) dec. Spindis, 7-1.
- 145—Grant (O) dec. Fitz, 8-3.
- 152—Wells (O) dec. Abraham, 13-2.
- 160—McGlory (O) dec. Kline, 3-2.
- 167—High (PS) dec. McDaniel, 3-1.
- 177—Funk (PS) dec. Silvers, 13-6.
- Hwt.—Lorenzo (PS) dec. Landry, 14-0.

Oiler Turns Copper

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP)—Bob Jancik, defensive back for the Houston Oilers, plans to enter the Houston Police Academy Monday. Jancik, 27, an Oiler defensive specialist for six years, said Tuesday he decided to retire from football long before Sunday's AFL championship game in which Houston lost to Oakland.

Gym Tickets Go On Sale Sunday

Tickets for Penn State's second international gym meet in as many years go on sale Sunday at noon in 236 Recreation Building. All seats are priced at \$2.25 and customers are limited to four tickets each.

A team of outstanding student gymnasts from the Scandinavian nations will meet a squad of past and present Penn State stars here next Friday night.

The meet, sponsored by the United States Gymnastics Federation, is another in a long line of international gymnastics events at Penn State engineered by Nittany Lion coach Gene Wettstone.

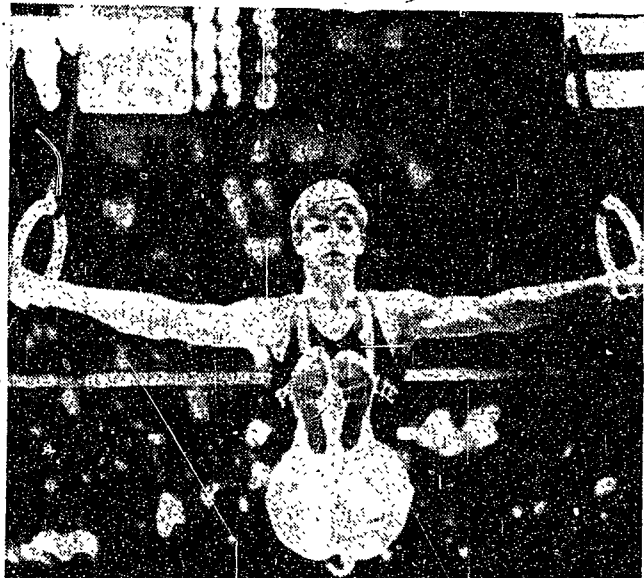
Last Year, Cologne

Last January, the first in what is hoped to be a series of international student matches was held at Penn State between a squad from the University of Cologne, Germany, and Penn State. That competition received international attention, and drew more than 7,000 fans to Rec Hall.

The Scandinavian squad will include seven gymnasts—two each from Norway, Sweden, and Finland, and one from Denmark. Norwegian champion Age Storhaug, one of the crowd favorites from the Cologne team in last year's meet, will return to Rec Hall for the Jan. 12 affair.

Three former Lion stars and four members of the 1968 varsity squad will compete for Penn State. Steve Cohen, NCAA all-around champion who's now enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, will be entering his first competition since the 1967 national championships.

Greg Weiss and Tom Seward—both graduate students and both Nittany Lion champions in their undergraduate days—will perform for Penn State, as will Bob Emery, Dick Swetman, Joe Litow and John Kindon, all members of the present varsity squad.



PENN STATE'S two-time NCAA all-around gymnastics champion Steve Cohen will be one of the gymnasts competing in the international exhibition next Friday night in Rec Hall. The 1966 University graduate will be joined by two other Lion alums and four members of Penn State's 1968 gym squad in the meet against an All-Star Scandinavian team. Tickets for the event go on sale at noon Sunday in 236 Recreation Building.

TV Coverage Expanded

NEW YORK (AP)—The American Broadcasting Co. has announced an expanded two-year college football television package which includes Saturday night games each season.

Another innovation on the TV schedule concerns conference games picked for a Saturday in late November on which there are regional games. Instead of picking a specific conference game in its advance planning for that date, ABC will be able to select just a given conference.

On the date of what the network calls its wild card game—the big game of the year—ABC also will show the regularly scheduled national contest or the four scheduled regional games.

In all, 18 games will be telecast in each of the next two seasons, an increase of two from this past season.

The network also will televise for the first time two Saturday night games each season.

In other words, if a game with the interest and importance of the 1966 clash between Michigan State and Notre Dame were not on the television schedule, ABC still could show it under the new plan.

The cost of the new package to ABC was not disclosed, but it was learned that the figure was approximately \$10 million for each year. The package for 1967 totaled about \$7.5 million.

In disclosing the new agreement with the National Collegiate Athletic Association, ABC said it will be able to pick out one game each in 1968 and 1969 with only five days notice.

In other words, if a game with the interest and importance of the 1966 clash between Michigan State and Notre Dame were not on the television schedule, ABC still could show it under the new plan.

levine's sports line

Peterson Let South Down

(Continued from page ten)
 tell of "heroism unsurpassed," of "duty's sake," of "courage, glory and honor."

And those who call themselves true Southerners don't think it is carrying things too far to transfer these words from the battlefield to the playing field. For this reason, you don't kick a field goal to tie the game when you're on the Northerners eight-yard line. And it doesn't matter if there are only 15 seconds left or not. By the South's code of honor, you don't play to tie, especially in a bowl game... especially in a battle of North and South.

But Florida State coach Bill Peterson didn't look at it that way.

"Any time a team is down by 17 points at the half and comes back the way ours did, it doesn't deserve to lose the ball game," Peterson said in his own defense. "It was the right decision, and I'd make it again. We had been down there three other times and were stopped. It was a great comeback, so why lose it? Remember, it's not a loss."

But the monstrous hisses and groans that filled the Gator Bowl when Grant Guthrie lined up to kick the field goal showed that the great majority of the 68,019 present knew it wasn't a win either. And the discontent wasn't confined to the FSU fans. Among the rumblings of dissent were the sounds of Penn State's fans who wanted their favorites to finish the game in style—with either a game-winning defensive effort, or a valiant stand in a losing cause.

And, in the Lions' locker, room at least one Penn State player was heard to mutter that he would rather have lost on the last play of the game than have it end in a tie. There is just no escaping the engulfing "blah" feeling that a tie leaves with all concerned.

Entirely overlooked amid all the criticism of Peterson for his choice of the field goal is the fact that the FSU coach was playing for a possible tie as early as the third quarter.

With 2:49 remaining in the third period, Florida State scored its second touchdown—only 61 seconds after the Seminoles first got on the scoreboard. Penn State now led by only 17-13. FSU had the momentum that usually carries teams to comeback victories, and a two-point conversion attempt was the logical play.

If it succeeded, a field goal could win the game. If it failed, a touchdown was needed... the same touchdown that would be necessary to WIN if a placement pulled the Seminoles to within three points. The only reason to attempt the one-point kick would be to preserve the chance for the tie, but that's exactly what Peterson did.

For the Bill Peterson-led Southern soldiers, valor and honor were not nearly as important as avoiding defeat. What would Stonewall Jackson have said?



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