

levine's sports line

Old and New In Gym Meet

By PAUL LEVINE

Collegian Sports Editor

The old master has done it again. Gene Wettstone opens his 30th year as head coach of the Nittany Lion gymnastics team on Saturday, but he has planned a special treat for the eve of the 1968 season.

At Wettstone's invitation, a group of Scandinavian all-star gymnastics champions are coming to Penn State to compete against a squad of Penn Staters on Friday night. The Scandinavians are international stars in their own right, but they will be up against some pretty lithe competition when a crew of past and present Lion stars limber up for the new year.



LEVINE

Not that international gymnastics shows are anything new for Gene Wettstone... he's been bringing foreign stars here for the past 13 years. In 1954 and 1955 visiting Swedish teams appeared at Penn State, and a squad from Switzerland was here in 1956. The national men's and women's teams from Finland appeared in 1959. In 1961, a match between the Olympic squads of the United States and Russia was staged on campus.

And, last January, in the largest and most publicized of all the international affairs, Penn State played host to the gymnastics team of Germany's University of Cologne. More than 7,000 Penn Staters packed Rec Hall for that affair.

But this year's extravaganza should even top the Cologne event, where some of the best gymnastics was seen since the invention of the side horse.

For this time, Wettstone included more than just foreign athletes; this event will have an authentic European atmosphere as part of the show.

And, as he has done in the past, Wettstone is making use of the Little German Band of State College. While the colorfully attired members of the band will play songs of the Old World, their wives, dressed in German costumes, will act as usherettes. Authentic antiques will adorn Rec Hall, transforming the gym into a not-so-authentic "beer garden," complete with bar.

"Everything is intended to remind you of the wonderful days of the past," said Gene Wettstone in discussing the spectacle. "What we have is a large European family. The fathers are members of the band. As they did in Europe, they play for the enjoyment of the community, the people in the stands. The mothers are the usherettes and the children are the athletes."

What Wettstone is aiming for is a blending of the old with the new; hence the children are part of the modern world of gymnastics.

As for the Scandinavians, they may bring a squad into Rec Hall even more talented than the Cologne team that defeated Penn State all-stars last year. The seven-man team includes two gymnasts each from Norway, Sweden and Finland, and one from Denmark. The coach is Olavi Leimuvirta, former Olympian from Finland. Five of the gymnasts are national champions.

The Lions will face the international stars with two former NCAA all-around champions, as well as five members of the present team. Greg Weiss and Steve Cohen, both two time NCAA champs, will compete for Penn State, as well as Bob Emery, Joe Litow, John Kindon and Dick Sweetman of the current varsity squad. The Lions' reserve will be Tom Dunn, a promising freshman performer.

It will be a blending of the old with the new, a contrast of Europe and America, and for Penn State's masterful coach, another gymnastics triumph of international proportions.

Intramural Bowling News

The first half of the men's intramural bowling schedule has been completed and the first-half league champions have been determined. In the fraternity division Kappa Sigma, Alpha Chi Rho, Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Mu Delta, and Delta Sigma Phi are the league champions. The dormitory division champions are New Kensington, Lawrence-McKean, Balsam, Clearfield, Locust, Warren, Chestnut, Luzerne, Nanticoke, Northampton, and Montgomery Houses. The P.S. Jockies and the Psychos are the winners in the independent and graduate divisions respectively.

IM Handball

All men who wish to participate in the Intramural Handball-Singles Tournament must register at the Intramural Office, 206 Rec. Bldg., by Thursday afternoon.

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Two-Point Win Like Schoolyard Session

Stansfield's Shot Nips Kent State

By RON KOLL
Assistant Sports Editor

On Saturday afternoons, school kids used to get together in someone's side lot or macadem alley, choose up sides and play no-holds-barred basketball for a couple hours. They'd battle back and forth, throwing up ridiculous shots at a sagging hoops, accusing each other of fouling or "gunning."

Finally, after everyone's shirt was soaked and every player was out of breath, the score would be tied at, say, around 50-50, and someone would yell, "Next basket wins." Then the best and most experienced man on the team would dribble around awhile, find an opening and shoot, but he'd just miss, and some kid with a broken arm would toss in the winner on a rebound.

Too Bad

Too bad they didn't have a sign over Rec Hall Saturday that said, "Welcome to Sandlot Basketball."

The Penn State-Kent State game wasn't exactly the prettiest display of skill ever seen by the 2900 fans. Truth is, it was pretty sloppy. But a finish like the one displayed to an otherwise passive audience by the Nittany Lions almost made the biddy basketball showing at halftime look routine.

Had the Ball

With 2:56 remaining in the game and KSU's minute-and-a-half stall having succeeded by bringing them within one at 49-48, Penn State found itself with the ball, out of bounds in front of the Lion bench. Guard Jim Linden tried to in-bound the ball to Tom Daley, but little Roger Harper reached in, bounced the oval the length of the court and laid it in for a 50-49 Golden Flashes lead.

Two seconds later Harper did it again, but as is the practice of the fates to discourage stealing in any form, the 5-9 youngster was called for traveling. As the PSU bench offered thanks, Harper started an animated conversation. Little did he know he wasn't through yet.

Back up court came the Lions, and after Daley converted a free throw at 1:55, tying the game at 50, Kent State assumed control.

Obviously waiting for the last shot, the Flashes played around in the backcourt, and Egli, waving his arms in front of him, yelled, "Go out, go out." Daley went for the basketball and fouled—you guessed it—young Mr. Harper, with 44 seconds left.

The fates still remembered him, and Harper's attempt hit the back of the rim and bounded into the hands of State's Jeff Persson, who called time out two seconds later.

Ready For Finish

In the huddle at the bench, Egli prepared for the schoolyard finish. "Jeff, you dribble around until about 10 seconds left, then take it in yourself," he explained to the team's lone senior and established star.

Persson took the pass and handled it in the backcourt for about 25 seconds. Making his move,

he slipped around to the right baseline and shoveled one to the basket. Twice the ball was tapped hard against the backboard, until finally 6-8 Bill Stansfield gained control.

Two weeks earlier Stansfield had a broken forearm and couldn't even bend his wrist. Now he flipped the taped right arm and swished an eight-footer with five seconds left. Kent State called time, but it was too late. That "next basket" had won.

Probably fed up with comments about his lack of leadership on the team, it was Persson who provided the margin of victory. "I was very pleased with Jeff," Egli said after the game. "We kept him moving in and out, and he just took charge."

The first half seemed to be a battle between Persson, who scored 12 of his 14 points in the first 20 minutes, and KSU's Bill Bullock. The 6-3, 180 pound Ohio junior who hit seven for 11 from the field, actually resembled one of those sandlot players, the heavyset kid with a wierd two-handed over-the-head throw shot. He just kept hitting them from 25 feet.

"I said the team with experience would win," Egli commented. "We made a lot of mistakes, and we should have beaten them by 15 points. The kids are obedient, but they're not patient and they want to do too much at one time."

Pleased With Godbey

He was, however, pleased with the performance of State College product Galen Godbey, "Galen is a better ball handler than Bill Young, though he does get in foul trouble. But he's a hustler and a hard worker." Godbey hit four of five shots and grabbed seven rebounds.

The crowd put Rec Hall even more in a sandlot setting. Acting rather bored throughout, they practiced their math by counting passes. They also dribbled a lot.

And though the rather inept play on the court seemed of schoolboy character at times (at one point, the ball changed hands four times in 10 seconds), the end result still went down in the win column, the third victory in seven outings for the Lions.

Sometimes those alley thrillers are the best kind.

PENN STATE (52)					
	FG	FGA	F	Reb.	PF
Linden	0-1	2-3	2	2	2
Daley	0-15	3-5	5	7	11
Persson	6-13	2-3	7	0	14
Young	1-4	0-0	7	1	2
Stansfield	6-14	7-5	8	1	12
Godeby	4-5	2-2	7	3	10
Team			6		
Totals	21-54	10-17	42	10	52

KENT STATE (50)					
	FG	FGA	F	Reb.	PF
Harper	2-4	3-5	4	3	7
Legodich	2-12	1-1	9	3	9
Grayson	0-17	3-5	7	1	4
Burden	2-7	0-0	2	2	4
Bullock	7-11	1-1	7	1	15
Brown	1-2	0-0	2	2	2
Team			6		
Totals	21-53	8-12	35	12	50

Shooting Percentage: Penn State 38.9, Kent State 39.6.
Halftime Score: Penn State 31-28.
Officials: Ralph Casale and John Solt.
Attendance: 2,900.

Springfield Here Saturday

Koll Preps State For Maroon

By STEVE SOLOMON
Collegian Sports Writer

Mention tough competition, and Bill Koll's pulse will double and that ever-present cigar will be chewed down to the end. Mention Oklahoma, and the fingernails are liable to go with it.

The Sooners were Penn State's first wrestling opponent this season, and the team that many consider the finest in the land beat the Lions quite handily, 20-9. Coming cold off a brilliant 8-0-1 season last year, the Lions weren't quite ready for a national power which had previous tournament competition under its belt.

Must Play Best
"You never know how good you are until you've played against the best competition," Koll said. "However, I don't think the Oklahoma meet was indicative of our ability. The boys gave everything they had, but the first meet is always tough. You walk on the mat and suddenly realize there's nobody to help you. Oklahoma went through this in tournament competition. But you can't take anything away from them—they're certainly a fine team."

In view of State's initial defeat, Koll may face an even more demanding task in preparing his grapplers for this Saturday's Rec Hall meet against Springfield. The Lions' head coach describes the Massachusetts school as "the best wrestling team in New England."

"I don't think we'll have any problem getting high for Springfield," Koll said. "We don't go into any wrestling match expecting to lose. We're in good physical shape and the boys are eager to get back on the right track. I think we'll have to be more explosive with our moves and more definite on maneuvers. But that kind of sharpness comes with time, and I don't want the boys to reach their peak too early."

That peak should come early in March with the Eastern Regional Tournament, the prelude to the prestigious NCAA Tournament which Penn State will host March 21-23. The Lions placed third in the Eastern Championships last year and will return this season with three matmen—Vince Fitz, Rich Lorenzo, and Wally Clark—who placed high individually last time.

"Fitz, Lorenzo, and Clark are definitely the nucleus of this year's team," Koll said. All three are seniors who have matured in the physical and technical aspects of wrestling. Lorenzo, the team captain, was undefeated in eight dual meets last season. Moving up from the 177-pound weight class Lorenzo wrestled heavyweight in the Oklahoma meet and stormed past his opponent, 14-0.

Fitz, who wrestles at 145, went undefeated in nine meets last year and is a veteran of 32 matches, of which he's won 26.

Clark, from Clearfield, wrestled at 130 and has 23 victories over his two-year varsity career.

Coach Koll points to Matt Kline and Dave Spinda as his most improved wrestlers.

"They're seniors now and have the experience and strength to be top flight wrestlers."

The experience gained against a national power like Oklahoma should help the Lions as they prepare for a tough schedule. It would have been appropriate, though, to have had Purdue's basketball coach on hand at the Oklahoma meet to throw out the first sweat-shirt—or whatever you do to open a wrestling season. Purdue opened its basketball season against UCLA.

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Payment will be according to performance. It will vary from \$50 to over \$110, with an average payment of about \$85 for the entire experiment.

Those interested should sign up in person with proof of age, at the Institute For Research, 257 S. Pugh Street, from 9-12 a.m. and from 1-4:30 p.m., Friday, January 5, Saturday, January 6, and Monday through Wednesday January 8-10, until the quota is filled.

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