

Lions Face Springfield

Gym Opener Saturday

By DAVID NEVINS
Collegian Sports Writer

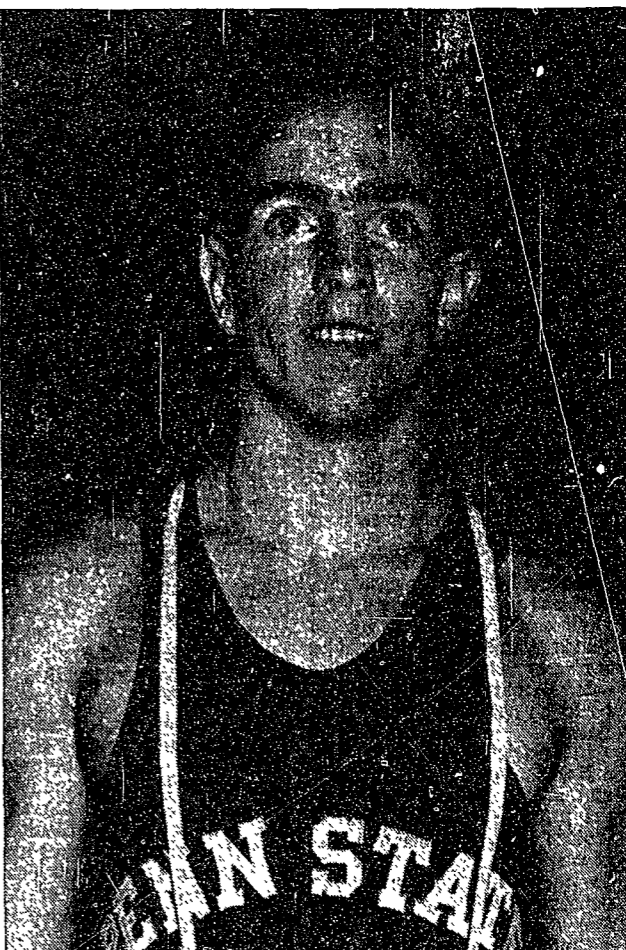
Probably the greatest task Penn State gymnastics coach Gene Wettstone faces this season is convincing Lion fans that the loss of Steve Cohen will not result in a catastrophe. On the contrary, even without the two-time all-around NCAA champion, the 1968 Lions could possibly be one of the strongest teams in Penn State history.

Swetman receives his biggest accolades on the parallel bars. In this event he has developed a completely original routine which exhibits a high degree of risk. Fighting it out with Swetman for State's all-around honors will be juniors Bob Emery and Joe Litow. Emery proved himself to be an outstanding performer in his first season last year, finishing second in the Eastern all-around championship behind national champ Cohen.

One man who will certainly be heard from is ring specialist Paul Vexler. A junior from Freehold, New Jersey, Vexler seems ticketed for national recognition. Vexler is expected to thrill Lion fans with his dynamic and seemingly mechanical routine which looks deceptively easy. Larry Warner also returns to bolster the ring squad. State's captain, senior Don Spiker, who will compete in the long horse and parallel bars, cites individuality as the Lions' greatest asset.



DICK SWETMAN
... Sophomore Gymnast



DON SPIKER
... Lion gymnastics captain

Pennsylvania Will Recognize Title Tilt

PHILADELPHIA (P) — The Pennsylvania state athletic commission yesterday reaffirmed its support of the World Boxing Association's heavyweight championship tournament.

The three-man commission met to decide whether to break away from the WBA tournament and recognize the winner of the scheduled March fight in Madison Square Garden between Joe Frazier of Philadelphia and Buster Mathis of New York as heavyweight champion.

Already Recognized
The New York and Massachusetts state boxing commissions have recognized the winner of the Frazier-Mathis 15-rounder the first week in March as the successor to Cassius Clay as heavyweight champion.

The Pennsylvania commission said in a statement that it is "... a member of the WBA and joined it in good faith. We are dedicated to the principle for the good of boxing that there must be some orderly worldwide program for the ranking of boxers and for the conduct of tournaments to fill vacancies. With this overriding principle in mind, we must adhere to our obligations to support the WBA sanctioned tournament."

Frank Wildman, commission chairman, added, however, that it was the private opinion of the Pennsylvania commission that Frazier was the outstanding boxer in the heavyweight division and no heavyweight crown should rest on any head without Frazier having been afforded a chance to prove his claim to the title.

The commission said it would not recognize the winner of the Frazier-Mathis fight as champion. The 23-year-old Frazier, unbeaten in 19 pro fights, refused an invitation to the WBA tournament, choosing to campaign independently.

Mathis, undefeated in 23 professional fights, wasn't invited.

Frazier Dropped

Because of Frazier's refusal to participate in the tournament, the WBA dropped Frazier from a No. 2 ranking to No. 9 in their heavyweight rankings. Frazier, however, has been boosted to No. 7 in the latest WBA rankings. The Philadelphia is ranked No. 1 challenger by Ring Magazine.

Clay was stripped of his title by both the WBA and the New York Commission when he refused military service.

The WBA tournament is in its final stages with Jimmy Ellis already a finalist, waiting to meet the winner of the Feb. 3 semifinal in Oakland, Calif., between Thad Spencer of San Francisco and Jerry Quarry of Belflower, Calif.

The New York boxing doubleheader also features middleweight champion Emile Griffith defending his title against Italy's Nino Benvenuti.

Mantle Hopes For At Least 3 More

NEW YORK (P) — Love that first base, says Mickey Mantle who believes he can go another three or four years at \$100,000 per as a player.

"I like playing first," the 36-year-old Mantle said Tuesday.

"It's a lot easier than playing center field and a lot easier on my legs. I doubt if I could have continued in the outfield. It was just too hard on my legs."

The veteran Yankee, who made the big switch from center field to first base last season, looked several years younger than his age and seemed to be in tip-top shape already.

Feels OK

"I only weigh about 195 pounds—about five over my playing weight right now—and I feel real good. Nothing bothers me at the moment and I'm actually looking forward to next season," said Mantle.

He was in town with Willie Mays, Bob Feller and Jackie Robinson for a press luncheon for athletes participating in the \$30,000 American Airlines Astro-jet Golf Classic Feb. 16-18 at LaCosta Country Club near San Diego.

The field for the 54-hole tournament will include many of the leading pro football and baseball players.

Mantle played in 131 games at first last year and appeared in 144 games in all, more for him than any other season since 1961.

He hit only .245 but belted 22 homers and had 55 runs batted in.

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ARTIFAX

Lombardi Praises the Raiders

Packers Play It Cool

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — The strategy of both the Green Bay Packers and the Oakland Raiders is not to come up with any immoderate statements that might rile the other guys in the Super Bowl football game.

Coach Vince Lombardi of the Packers, National Football League champs, praised the Raiders Tuesday as a team with "excellent speed, agile linebackers, small but very quick linemen and very fast defensive backs."

Coach Johnny Rauch of the Raiders, American Football

League winners, said the Packers were "fantastic."

In the first Super Bowl game at Los Angeles, some Kansas City Chiefs made bold, even disparaging remarks about the Packers and are still eating the words. Green Bay clobbered the Chiefs 35-10.

Rauch had nothing but praise for the Packers.

"They don't have a weak spot," he said. "There's no doubt there's a certain mystique about them—the result of their winning record, their

pride, their being the best in the game. I hope this doesn't bother us." Lombardi said the Raiders could match the Packers in defensive speed.

"If there is one difference between the defensive teams," he said, "it's that the Green Bay line backers are a little bigger."

Gym Meet Tickets Available

About 500 tickets remain for Friday night's international gymnastics meet in Rec Hall. Ticket sales resume this morning in 236 Rec Hall with all seats priced at \$2.25. The meet, which pits a Scandinavian all-star team against a squad of past and present Penn State gymnasts gets underway Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Both teams will be feted at a special sports luncheon tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. at the Nittany Lion Inn. The luncheon kicks off the gala weekend of gymnastics competition which also finds the Lion varsity squad opening its season Saturday night in Rec Hall.

Members of both the Scandinavian and Penn State teams as well as their coaches will be guests at the luncheon. A special guest will be Frank Bare, director of the United States Gymnastics Federation. The luncheon is open to the public and the price is \$1.50. For reservations, call 865-6588 before noon today.

IM Basketball

Men's Intramural Basketball team captains are to check their basketball schedules, so that they are aware when their games are scheduled, this term.

DAILY COLLEGIAN CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE 10:30 A.M. Day Before Publication

REPERTORY THEATRE U.S.A. Presented through the courtesy of STANDARD OIL COMPANY (New Jersey) Distributed by EASTERN EDUCATIONAL NETWORK

This new drama series includes plays by world's greatest playwrights performed by the finest professional repertory theatre groups across the nation. Produced by David Susskind and hosted by Walter Kerr, the series is broadcast each Wednesday at 10 p.m. on WPSX-TV. Upcoming plays are:

- Feb. 10th — George Bernard Shaw's "Don Juan in Hell" Feb. 17th—August Strindberg's "The Creditors" Feb. 24th — Moliere's farce, "The Forced Marriage" Mar. 2nd. — Harold Pinter's "The Dumb Waiter"

WPSX-TV PENN STATE TELEVISION

Collegian Ads Bring Results

Biggest Sports Weekend For Nittany Lion Teams

Three Penn State varsity teams—including one which hasn't competed for 17 years—will open their seasons Saturday to highlight the biggest sports weekend on the winter schedule.

The Nittany Lion gymnastics, swimming and fencing squads will open on Saturday. In addition, coach Bill Koll's wrestlers will return to action for the first time since their opening-night loss to Oklahoma Dec. 16.

The swimming team, which resumes competition for the first time since the sport was discontinued in 1951, will officially initiate Penn State's new "Natorium" aquatic building at 2 p.m. Saturday against Temple. It'll be the first of a nine-meet schedule for Coach Lou MacNeill's squad.

Gene Wettstone will begin his 30th season as gymnastics coach when his squad takes on Springfield at 2 p.m. Saturday, the same time as coach Dick Klima's fencers open their campaign against Temple.

The big weekend will get under way Friday night when Rec Hall will be the scene of another of Wettstone's international gymnastics extravaganzas—an intercollegiate meet between Penn State and a squad of Scandinavian all-stars.

The Nittany Lion basketball team, after a Wednesday night home engagement against Gettysburg, will play at Pitt Saturday afternoon.

WRA Activities To Begin

Orchestrated by the Women's Recreation Association dance club, will hold tryouts at 7:30 tonight in the White Hall dance studio. All graduate and undergraduate men and women are invited to attend.

will sponsor a volleyball officiating clinic for men and women interested in working with the coeducational volleyball tournament this term. The clinic will be at 7 p.m. in the White Hall gym.

The WRA Officials Club will hold its first meeting of the term at 6 tonight in the White Hall gym. All women interested in officiating volleyball or basketball are encouraged to attend.

Sign-up procedures have begun for winter term WRA intramurals. Those interested in participating in the basketball, bowling or coed volleyball tournament may sign up with their floor or sorority representatives.



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