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Photo by H.R. Begley II Rich Burkhart lifts weightclub

Weightlift titlists bolstering sport

By RICK STARR

Assistant Sports Editor Until recently there had been a certain measure of ridicule and disdain reserved for weightmen and bodybuilders. In the past weightlifting meets and physique contests had been

relegated to the same level as beauty contests. However in the past decade, due in large part to the efforts of the AAU, that image of weightlifting has rapidly changed, The sport has gotten away from the image of exhibitionism and is no longer thought of as a frivolous social phenomenon. Weightlifting has become a serious and highly competitive sport. Witness as evidence the growth of the Penn State Weightlifting Club.

The Lion weight club won its first national title on March 18th when Penn State's five representatives captured the team honors in the National Collegiate Weightlifting Championships at York.

The Lion lifters came up with 30 points, outdistancing

Florida Tech and Millersville. Four years ago the Lions didn't even send a representative to the meet. But starting in 1971 the club has been competing annually and last month it sent a squad of five men.

Besides the increase in the number of Lions attending, the meet saw the field grow twice as large as last year's. Some of the other schools represented included Iowa State, Louisiana State, Maryland, Michigan State, Pitt, Santa

Clara, Navy and even Vassar. According to club member Richard Burkhart, the other teams had better individual lifters but Penn State had the better balance.

Representing Penn State in the meet were Frank Keller (132), Burkhart (165), Jim Pericaud (181), John Schofield (198) and Bill Stillwell (superheavyweight).

Keller, a senior, took a surprising sixth in his division considering he had started lifting only one and a half months before the Nationals.

Burkhart, a junior who has been lifting for two years, placed fourth in his category, one spot lower than his finish in last year's meet. Pericaud was seventh and Schofield fourth in their respective divisions. Schofield had to contend with Olympian Phillip Grippaldi in his division.

Stillwell, primarily a power lifter, competed in his first sanctioned Olympic meet and placed fourth.

Comprised of more than 80 members, the club offers competition to all club members who have not won a meet. The club gets together at the beginning of each term and then each of its three groups begin working on their own. In addition to their intercollegiate competition, the weight club





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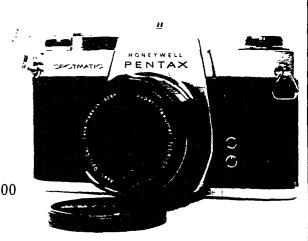
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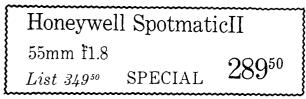


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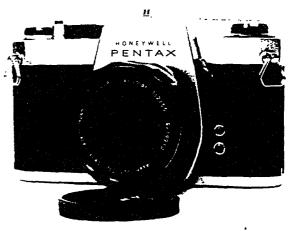
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