

# Phi Gam Paces IM Cage Action

By JOE CHEDDAR

Phi Gamma Delta won its sixth straight game, a 39-3 romp over Beaver House, to move closer to the League D championship in IM basketball Monday night.

The Phi Gams need to win only one out of their remaining two games to cop the crown.

Chris Christiansen led the Phi Gam attack with a 13-point outburst. Eight of his teammates broke into the scoring column.

In other League D action Delta Chi won its third straight game, copping a close 21-18 verdict over Pi Kappa Alpha.

Delta Chi's record now stands at 5-2. Bob Fitzgerald of PiKA led all scorers with 10 points, while Fred Evans led the winners with eight markers.

### Phi Mu Wins

In the final League D game Phi Mu Delta handed Alpha Tau Omega its second straight loss, 24-22. Al Quoons led the scoring parade as he paced the Phi Mu's with 10 points.

ATO had won its first five games, but went into a tailspin, and now stands at five wins and two losses.

In independent league action the Hoyas clinched at least a tie for the League B championship by running away from the Billtowners, 46-21.

### Reph Nets 15

Bill Reph with 15 and Jack Ludwig, with 11, led the Hoya scoring parade.

In another League B game the Nice Guys won over the Erieites, 38-21. Bill Thomas scored 17 and teammate Bob Rice scored 14 to pace the winners. Jim Bautz was high man for the losers with 13.

### Colts Stop McElwain

In League C the Engineering Colts took McElwain, 27-20. Andy Pytell and Dave Fehr netted seven apiece for the winners, and John Bateman scored the same number for the losers.

Also in League C, the Barfers won their fifth in succession, this one coming the easy way, by gaining a forfeit over the Vets. The Barfer's total now stands at 5-1.

### Hodges Leads Navy

In League A, Navy ran away from the cellar-dwelling Fighting Eight, 26-7. Navy led 5-3 at half-time, but high-scoring Phil Hodges pumped in 10 in the second half to help turn the game into a rout. Hodges finished with 12 for the evening.

In the final game the All Stars won their sixth straight League game by getting a forfeit over the Western Boys.

# Tri Delts Take 2nd WRA Award

Delta Delta Delta copped the Women's Recreation Association's participant's trophy for the second straight semester as 68 per cent of the coeds participated in WRA activities and put in an average of 5.7 hours per student.

In 1954-55 Tri Delt earned the trophy with 86 per cent participation and 7.4 average student hours.

The total University coed participation for the fall semester was 90. The per cent of each class was: freshman, 52; sophomore, 47; junior, 31; and senior, 31.

Bowling heads the list of the five highest activities for the semester—as based on individual participation—with a 1190 total, a 204 increase over last year credited to the addition of two alleys.

Basketball is second in standing, with 1079, and field hockey climbed from seventh to third place with 740, as a result of the newly-established intramural program.

The Swimming Club and the Badminton Club took the top five with 587 and 560 coeds participating.

In comparison to previous years, 1955-56 marks an all-time high—1068 or 42 per cent—in the number of participants, breaking the record of 1048 or 42 per cent held in 1952-53.

Sigma Sigma Sigma took the trophy in the 1953-54 season when they were high with 78 per cent. Co-op and Pi Phi copped it in 1952-53 with 90 and 86 per cent, respectively.

Penn State football teams were blanked only four times in their first six seasons under the command of Charles A. (Rip) Engle. Nebraska, Purdue, Wisconsin and Pitt applied the whitewash, each in a different season.

# Paxton Masters Flips, Turns Rates Among Tops in East

By VINCE CAROCCI

When it comes to the flips, turns and twists of tumbling, Nittany Lion senior gymnastic star Bill Paxton from Latrobe, Pa., rates with the best in the east.

Paxton, currently the top man among the Lion tumbling wizards, has played a prominent part in the success of the Nittany gymnastic squad the past two years. In three intercollegiate meets thus far this season, Paxton has captured three first places against West Virginia, Temple and Syracuse.

In the Syracuse meet—his first appearance before a home audience this year—he beat the Orange's previously undefeated sophomore standout, Dick Hall. The ironic thing about this is that Hall had enrolled at Penn State before succumbing to Syracuse's scholarship offerings.

### Wins 2 As Sophomore

Paxton made his varsity debut as a sophomore, winning two first places against Michigan and Temple. Last season he captured the first spot in all but one dual meet, finishing second to Syracuse's "Corky" Sebo.

He was not quite so successful in his two attempts to win the Eastern Intercollegiate tumbling title, finishing fourth in 1953 and advancing one step up the ladder from last year.

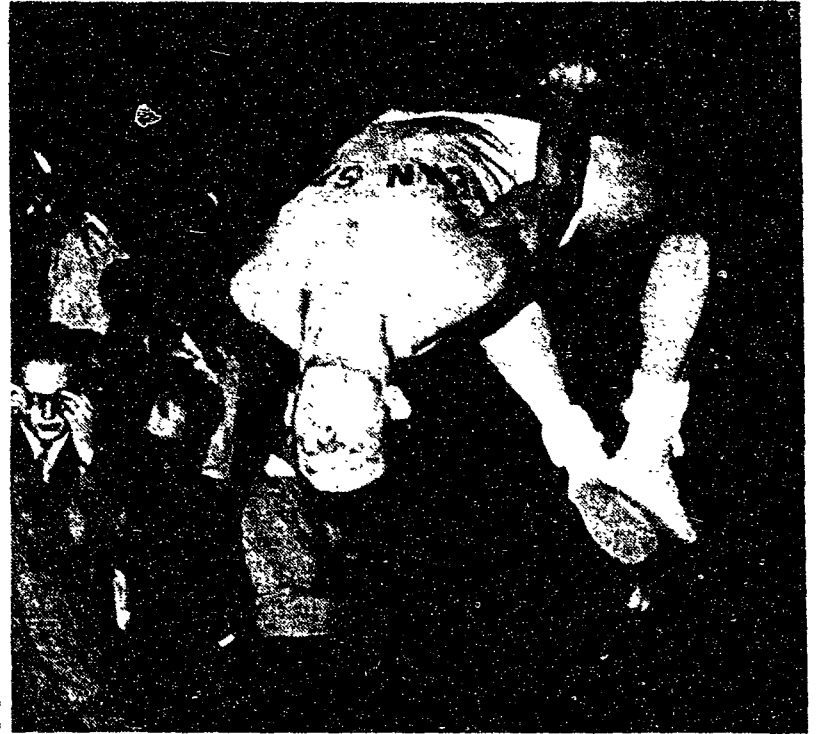
The most interesting sidelight on Paxton's success in collegiate gymnastics is that he had never had any training or experience in the sport before enrolling in the University.

### Wrestler in High School

During his high school days at Latrobe, Bill was a standout wrestler. It was while he was still at Latrobe High, however, that he first came in contact with tumbling.

"Our school didn't have a gymnastic team, but after learning the fundamentals in a gym class, I quickly became very interested in tumbling and began to practice it daily," he said.

After graduating in 1953, Paxton entered Penn State and met varsity Coach Gene Wettstone, who convinced him that he should try out for the squad. "One day after a phys ed class,"



—John Logan photo

BILL PAXTON in a back flip of his tumbling routine.

he said, "I went up to Mr. Wettstone and asked him if he could help me with my back hand spring."

"Well, one thing led to another, and pretty soon I tried out for the freshman squad. Luckily, I made it," he said.

Although the frosh did not have any meets during his freshman year, Paxton showed steady improvement in his routines, earning him a promotion to the varsity the following year.

And what does Wettstone have

to say about his star protegee? Why just this: "Bill showed immediate promise in tumbling. He had that inborn spring in his legs which destined him to be a tumbling star."

Paxton—who is majoring in Forest Entomology—does not believe that he will continue in gymnastics after graduation. "I'll probably limit my tumbling experience solely to workouts after I graduate. I have no intention to enter the coaching profession," he said.

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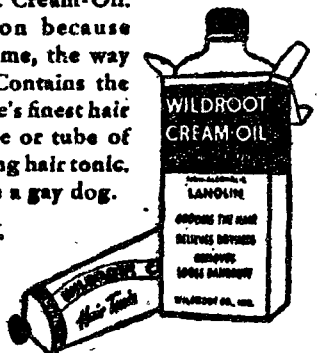


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