

indiana state

Indiana State wants all the marbles this time

By BARRY BREEDE
Of the Emerald

The Midwest traditionally has been recognized as the center for this nation's finest gymnastics performances. All-Americans from this part of the country are as common as corn stalks. It only seems fitting then that one of the favorites to capture this weekend's NCAA gymnastic championship at Mac Court hails from the midland area, in this case Indiana State University.

Last year's NCAA co-champ with Oklahoma, ISU comes into



Roger Council

Eugene with an 8-4 dual meet record this year which includes wins over powerhouses like Oklahoma and Penn State, both of whom will be competing this weekend for the team title.

However, the Sycamores' season has been plagued by some inconsistent performances to date as their eight wins have been combined with losses to some of the weaker squads in the nation.

ISU head coach Roger Council believes a three week layoff, combined with tremendous overall team depth in virtually all events, has helped put an end to the problem of inconsistency for the Sycamores.

"We've had a three week break between our regionals and the upcoming finals and this has given us a chance to make sure everyone is healthy and above all make sure our routines are polished and consistent," said Council.

"We have no individual stand-

out on this year's club so we have to rely on each team member performing to the best of his abilities," said Council. "I have to believe the depth we have within our team is one of the major reasons for the team's success up to this point, and if we maintain our depth we should stay consistent throughout the finals."

The lack of a star on this year's ISU squad is partly the result of Council's own decision to redshirt All-American Kurt Thomas. Those local residents who attended this year's USA-Japan international meet at Mac Court in February may well remember Thomas' meet winning all-around performance.

"There is no doubt in my mind we would be the champ if we had Thomas," said Council. "But we made the decision to keep him out so we could use him on next year's squad when he is a senior and we have to live with our decision."

Filling the all-around shoes of Thomas is sophomore Don Osborn, whom Council feels is "destined to become the best gymnast that ISU has ever had. He is a greatly improved gymnast, particularly in the side horse, where he was a little weak last year," said Council.

Joining Osborn will be another All-Arounder, senior Mike Booth. Booth is another one of Council's ever-growing list of All-Americans whose specialty is the high bar. "He is a consistent 9.5 scorer and I think he will do at least that well for us in the finals and probably a whole lot better," said Council.

The depth that Council talks about becomes apparent throughout the ISU roster. Ring man Larry Brown and floor exercise specialist Chris Dolsen are both 9.4 scorers according to Council.

A surprise for Council has been the steady performances of junior Gary Bernloher in both the parallel bars and vaulting. Bernloher is a walk-on from nearby Indianapolis and "is really coming along fine for us," according to Council.

With 14 years at ISU under his belt as head coach, it would seem fairly easy for Council to project the possible winner of this year's title, but according to Council the task of predicting a champion will not be easy this time around.

"This is probably the most balanced NCAA finals that I can think of in all my years at ISU," said Council. There is really not a weak club in the bunch. However I have to admit that I am somewhat unfamiliar with many of the clubs coming into Eugene."

Council believes Oklahoma should provide the toughest competition for his optimistic Sycamores during the three day championship. "We beat them in our last dual meet of the year earlier in the season, but I have a feeling things are going to be a whole lot different now that it is time for the national finals," said Council.

Both Arizona State and Penn State should be exceptionally tough. However, ASU may be a bit overrated due to some inflated dual meet scoring on the part of the judges, according to Council. The Sycamores defeated Penn State earlier this year on their Terre Haute home floor.

Council says he is unfamiliar for the most part with host Oregon even though the Ducks pinned an easy 213-208 win over the Sycamores during last year's dual meet schedule.

"I know that individually Oregon is strong, but I'm not sure how good they are as a team simply because I haven't had a chance to see them this year," said Council.

One thing Council does seem fairly sure about going into championship action is the chances that

his club has of winning the title outright this year.

"It was a little disappointing to have to share the title with Oklahoma last year when we had a good chance to win the whole thing for ourselves," said Council. "I think most of the guys on the team feel the same way and they want to try their best to make sure

the whole championship comes back to Terre Haute with us after the meet, and not just a part of it."

"We are not overconfident about our chances of winning the title this year but we are just optimistic about our chances and we feel it is about time we get the whole thing to ourselves this time around," said Council.

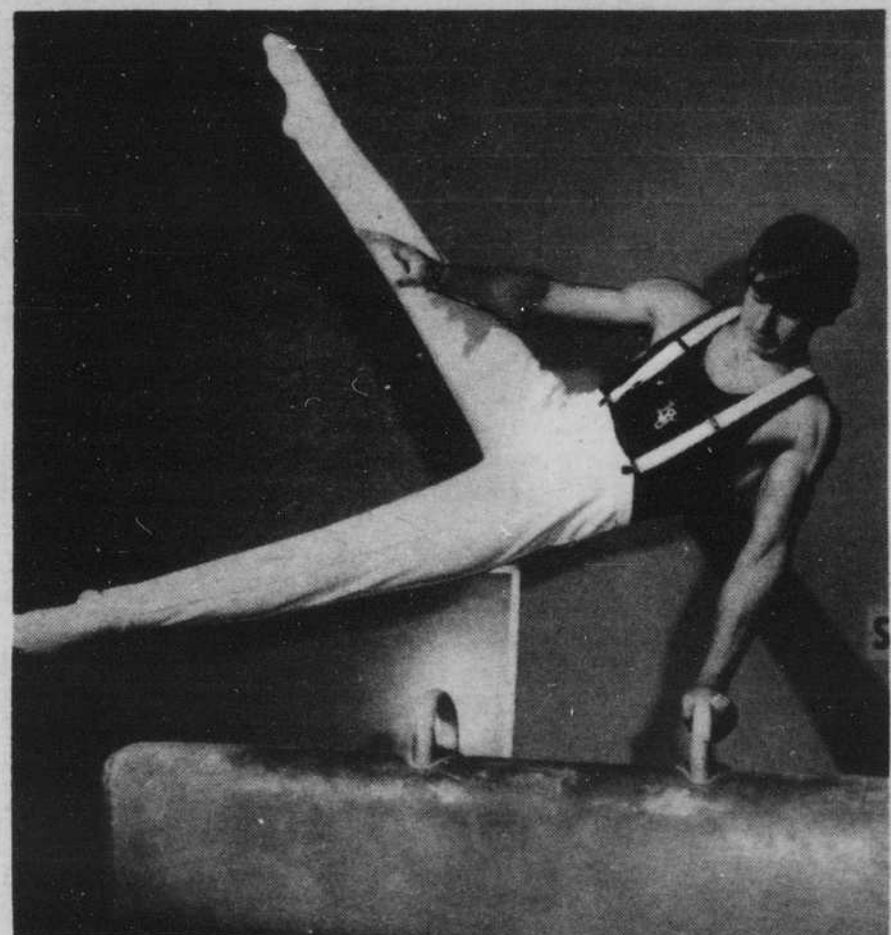


Photo courtesy Indiana State

Sophomore Don Osborn stepped into the number one all-around position when Sycamore All-American Kurt Thomas decided to redshirt this year. Osborn leads ISU into the NCAA championships.

(Continued from Page 5B)

Minnesota

realistic chance of compiling high points in the all-around and winning the finals.

Surprisingly, Minnesota gymnasts did not win any individual event at their district meet. Instead they performed less than spectacular routines and received consistent scores. Because of this, the team made few errors and registered a school record 423 points.

Other colleges have higher totals, but according to Roethlisberger the figures may not be relevant because the meet may not have been a championship and the judges may have been overly conservative. "The championship meets are the best indication of comparative scores," he said.

The four all-arounders will compete in all six gymnastic events using their optional and compulsory routines. In the first day compulsory, each performer must do a prescribed medley of moves to please the judges. Points are awarded and these are added to the scores of the optionals. During the optionals, the gymnasts are rewarded on their showmanship and creativity as they perform their own unique routine. Combined scores are usually in the 100s for the all-arounders with a perfect score being 120. LaFleur won the Big-10 this year with a score of 103.90.

Minnesota will also travel with seven specialists. These gymnasts compete and practice in one or two events only. Their scores are usually in the 9s with a 10 being a perfect score. Needless to say, 10s are seldom awarded un-

less your name is Nadia Comaneci.

Specialist Peter Velguth is a top threat in the still rings. The blond-haired sophomore finished second in the Big-10 and hopes to improve on last year's eighth place finish in the NCAA. LaFleur has registered the highest mark in a meet this season with an impressive 9.4 score.

In the pommel horse, Minnesota is fortunate to have two fine senior specialists. Bob Waldron won fifth place at the league meet with a 18.18 mark. He will be pressed by teammate Bob McHattie who owns the team's best score in the event with 9.5. He was the 1977 National AAU champion and took home eighth place in the NCAA meet last year.

The floor exercise features two excellent specialists. Larry Selchow, a powerful and explosive sophomore, is a favorite in this event after placing second at the Big-10 meet. Lowinske will also pick-up high scores in this event. He has the year's best mark of 9.35 and also finished third in the district meet. The other specialist is freshman Tom Caron, who has championship potential.

The Gophers are probably weakest in the vault. Lowinske has performed well and has recorded this season's best mark of 9.5, but floundered at the Big-10 finals. Selchow and Caron both hope to improve on their vaults and claim high marks.

Specialist Reid Gysland should do well in the horizontal bar. A junior, he has original and difficult routines that would fare well in in-

ternational competition. Watch for LaFleur, though. He finished third in the Big-10 meet and has registered a 9.5 mark.

LaFleur should also do well in the parallel bars. Last year he was seventh nationally and this winter he was second at the Big-10 meet. Lowinske placed third in the same meet and is also a favorite. Freshman specialist Scott Bryan could surprise a few people and place in the nationals. Goldetsky holds the season's best mark in the event with a 9.25.

With seven freshmen on the squad and a handful of fine sophomores, Minnesota should be a dominant force in the Big-10 in the future.

"Next year's team won't be as good as this year's," Roethlisberger said, "but we should be better than now in two years."

For now, he hopes to get better than a fifth-place trophy.

Penn State

(Continued from Page 6B)

Penn State, 7-2 on the season, won the regionals with a combined score of 429.35 (216.55 optional, 212.80 compulsories).

Penn State garnered 13 of the 22 regional qualifying spots, but Schwenzfeier insists getting to the NCAA meet was no simple task.

"We did not have an easy time at the regionals. We were up against such teams as Louisiana State, which has one of the strongest teams in the region," said Schwenzfeier, who added he has seen his team struggle through a battle with the flu.

Fullerton

(Continued from Page 9B)

These men, along with all-around man Ray Latonio, all placed in the Western Regionals held in Portland last month.

The pre-meet favorites, Oklahoma and top contender host Oregon, will no doubt have their hands full with Fullerton in the team fight for the NCAA trophy, but Fullerton's hopes ride primarily with their stronger individuals.

Coach Wolfe believes in the age-old sports cliché that on any given night any given team can beat another, so he believes he has a shot at the title.

If you don't believe that, just ask the basketball coach at Fullerton.

CAL STATE-FULLERTON NCAA GYMNASTICS ROSTER

ALL AROUND —

Dale Britt — Soph
Donnie Evins — Jun
Jack Lash — Sen
Ray Latonio — Sen
Lobban — Fresh
San Shaw — Sen
Joe Snee —

Floor Exercise —

Donnie Evins — Jun

Parallel Bars —

Joe Snee —
Herb Massinger — Sen

Pommel Horse —

Joel Ulloa — Sen

Rings —

Elliot Shnee —

Horizontal bars —

Herb Massinger — Sen