Mid-Western Matmen Retain High Standing

Visiting Grapplers Exhibit Variety in Their Styles of Attack and Defense With Fast Footwork

Alan Kelly Typical Example With Lightning-like Actions

Mid-western matmen continued to stand out in the lime light of national collegiate wrestling Friday and Saturday in Taylor gymnasium as the corn huskers of Iowa and the cowboys of Oklahoma took seven of the eight individual crowns. Indiana placed the eighth champion.

Never before have the followers of the sport in and around Bethlehem seen such varied styles of attack and defense as used by the visiting wrestlers.

Alan Kelly, 145-lb. champion from Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical college, is a typical example of the type of matman usually found representing the Mid-western schools. Tall, thin and agile, with lightning-like movements, the cowboys were able to outsmart their Southern and Eastern opponents with ease.

The fast footwork of the Westerners was another feature of the bouts. At the beginning of a match the cowboys would prance around their foes, seldom making contact, until an opening appeared. Then with a quick dive the battle would be taken to the mat.

The Oklahoma and Iowa wrestlers went through their bouts with an air of confidence and certainty an attitude resulting from years of experience.

Indiana Men Use Legs

The Indiana grapplers used their legs more extensively than either the Mid-westerners or the Easterners. Head scissors and body rides were prominent throughout their bouts.

The corn huskers and cowboys didn't specialize in any one kind of hold or position. They knew them all and used them. The Kelly-Bishop bout illustrated this fact. Ben Bishop rode through the dual meets against Eastern opponents with ease. His rolls and breaks were unchecked. But the Lehigh star met a wrestler in Kelly who was probably the fastest man entered in the meet. Every move and turn of Bishop's was balked.

The short, heavily set men from Indiana were in striking contrast with the tall, agile Westerners from Iowa and Oklahoma.

Lehigh's captain, Pete Peck used a style that was a mixture of the Western and Eastern methods. His approach was cautious and slow, sometimes utilizing the quick dive, a western characteristic.

All in all the western style, with its weaving, fleet footwork and rapid dives, tends to create a certain showmanship that the other styles lack in one way or another.

