

Illinois Fighting Illini
1926-1927 Wrestling

VARSIITY WRESTLING



PAUL PREHN
Coach



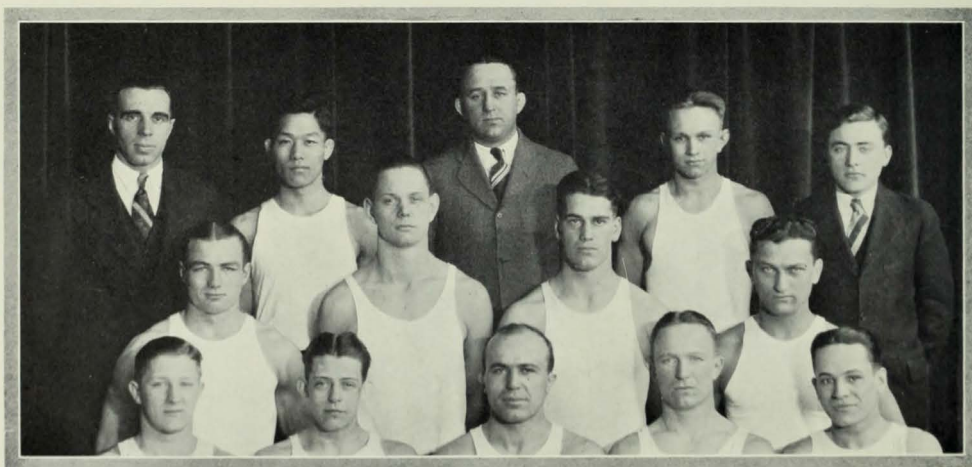
GEIS

COACH Paul Prehn led the Illinois wrestling team to its annual Big Ten championship last season. Other Illini teams may come and go with vascillating success, but the wrestlers reap their customary conference title each year. Again in 1927, Prehn's men proved the consistency of his teams, winning their fourth title in as many consecutive years. It was the sixth in Prehn's eight years here in which Illinois teams have won 34 dual meets and lost four. The championship is well on its way toward being considered a matter of casual fact, a traditional Illinois possession.

Illinois started the season by beating Wisconsin, 17 to 8, six of Prehn's seven letter men taking care of the result. With this veteran team, the Illini trekked East to West Virginia, plotting revenge against the Mountaineers for the 1926 beating. Illinois lost only one match, and that narrowly, winning 24 to 3. Geis, Ritz, and Shively demonstrated Illinois' coming supremacy in heavier weights by taking falls.

The Illini took the first home meet from Chicago, 19½ to 7½, following with a 17 to 6 decision over Minnesota. The heavy-weights again decided the meet, Webster ending it with a fall.

VARSIITY WRESTLING TEAM



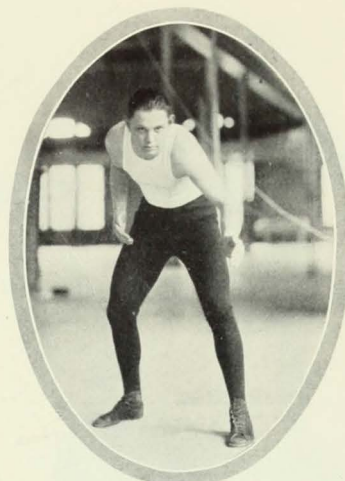
Voyles (Assistant Coach) Soga Shively Prehn (Coach) Webster Minot Furness Murphy (Manager)
Hesmer Ritz Thacker Geis Gunlock Vondenbosch

Illinois clinched the western section title by beating Iowa, 12 to 9. For the fifth consecutive year of this rivalry, the decision was left to the last match and Captain Shively came through in a hard-fought overtime battle as the score stood tied. Geis was beaten for the first time in his collegiate career, but Thacker, Hesmer, and Minot won their bouts.

Michigan invaded the Gym Annex with the championship of the entire conference at stake. Thacker won, but Hesmer, Minot, and Gunlock lost. With the score 9 to 3 for Michigan, Geis and Ritz tied it up with decision victories and Shively decided it, 12 to 9, with another of like kind.

Two Illini won conference individual championships in their class. Pete Hesmer, entering for experience only, took the special-weight title, and Ritz came through in the light heavy class, beating three former champions in order. Allie Morrison, freshman wrestling captain, successfully defended his national A. A. U. lightweight championship at Ames, Iowa, in March. He promises much for next year. Hesmer was chosen captain for 1928. Minot and Webster are, with him, the only returning lettermen.

It looks like a bad year ahead, but Prehn will probably have a team, albeit one of cripples. Signal recognition of his executive ability, wide knowledge of sports, respect from the sports world and athletic record was accorded Paul when he was appointed to the Illinois state athletic commission last year. He means much to Illinois.



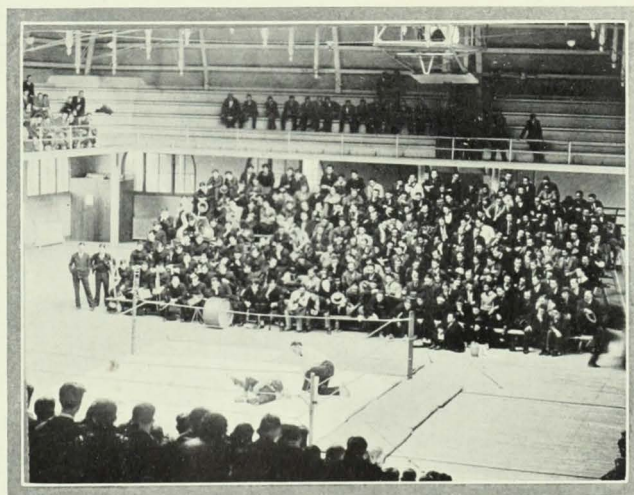
B. A. SHIVELY
Captain



J. H. RITZ



T. C. HESMER
Captain-Elect



WRESTLING MEET IN OLD GYM.