

Illinois will be out to dethrone Florida State in the national collegiate gymnastics championships beginning here today.

Preliminary rounds in the two day NCAA championships will be this afternoon and tonight with sessions to start at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Finals will be held Saturday.

An all-time record field of 97 athletes representing 24 colleges

is on its marks for the meet, being arranged by Charles Vavra, CU gym coach. The event marks the first time a national meet has ever been held on the Colorado campus.

Admission for the championships will be \$1.00 for adults, 75 cents for students and 25 cents for children. Reserved seats will be available in limited number for \$1.25 each.

Newsreel cameras as well as those of Floyd Walters, official CU

photographer, will film the meet with Walters scheduled to "shoot" the entire performance in all events.

Florida State, which upset Illinois for the title by one point last season, is rated a darkhorse entry behind the Illini this season. Army and Southern California also pose stiff threats.

Other schools entered in the championships are Arizona, Cali-

fornia, Colorado State, Colorado, Denver, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas State, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Montana State, Navy, Nebraska, Ohio State, Penn State, Syracuse, Temple and UCLA.

Coaches meetings are also slated to be worked in around the competition, and recreational activities of the athletes have been planned.

What looks to be the hottest team race in the history of the NCAA gymnastics championships is in prospect tonight when the University of Colorado runs off the final session of the tenth annual affair in the men's gym.

Five teams rated as favorites prior to the meet got a running start in preliminary sessions Friday afternoon and evening and figure to fight it out for the title in the finals slated for 7:30 tonight.

Southern California, co-runner-up with Illinois last year, and defending champion Florida State University head the list with Illinois, Michigan State and Army not too far off the pace to offer a serious challenge. Minnesota also entered the title picture on all-around team strength.

The USC Trojans, entering a team of just four men, led the pack point-wise with only one event completed, getting 19½ tallies in the all-around compared to FSU's 13. Illinois had 11½, Michigan State 7 and Minnesota 4.

Top Qualifiers

It was the number of finals qualifiers that caused observers to go along with the five-team dope chart. Here's the way those five go into tonight's finals: FSU, 15; USC and Illinois, 9; Army, 8; Michigan State, 6. Minnesota qualified seven for a surprise showing.

Other teams qualifying men were: Iowa, 4; Michigan, Penn State, UCLA and Navy, all with 2; California, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Ohio State and Syracuse with one each.

Colorado's lone qualifier was Ken Dunstan who was involved in a three-way tie for seventh place in the rope climb prelims. Dunstan recorded a time good enough for fourth on his second try but was ruled out on that one when he failed to touch the platform.

Both Illinois and Florida State qualified men for each event, but the Seminoles grabbed two spots in six of seven events and three in the other to nearly double the number of qualifiers of any other entry.

Hartley Price's squad earned just one first in the prelims — Dick Gutting in the trampoline — but its NAAU flying rings king, soph Dick Miles, was only two points behind the winner in that event. That's where FSU picked up its three qualifiers.

One Final Event

Southern Cal gained its early lead on the 1-2 performances of John Beckner and Chuck Simms. Beckner won the all-around championship and Simms tied for second for the Trojans' 19½ points.

On top of that, Beckner, the defending NCAA parallel bars champ, worked a 17 point lead over his nearest competitor for first spot in that event.

Simms won first in the horizontal bar and Beckner got a second there to strengthen the Pacific Coast entry's bid for its first national team title.

Strong Illinois Bid

Illinois, winner of six of the past nine affairs, will pin much of its chances for a repeat job on Bob Sullivan, the defending tumbling champ. Sullivan headed up the tumbling prelims for the Illini's only first and finished in a second-place tie in the all-around.

Army offers its bid on Bob Wheeler, No. 1 man in the side horse, and a rope-climbing team that plucked off spots 2, 3 and 4 in the meet's opening event.

Both Michigan State and Minnesota won enough first division places in prelims to earn contention for team honors.

UCLA gained recognition in preliminaries for getting the most done with the fewest entries. The Uclians two entrants — Mel Robin and Paul Paley — walked off with first places in flying rings and rope climb events, but don't figure into the team championship picture since they're undermanned.

MEET NOTES: Charley Vavra, director of the meet, expects the crowd to pick up tonight for the final session although nearly 400 people braved the weather to attend the two prelims Friday. Army's entry flew out of a vicious eastern storm into the one that hit the Rocky Mountain Empire. Said Cadet Coach Tom Maloney: "If we hadn't made good on our first landing at Lowry, they would have flagged us on to Colorado Springs. No telling when we'd have arrived." UCLA's two man team of Mel Robin and Paul Paley drove the stretch from Los Angeles by themselves, taking the last leg in

a 4½ hour snowstorm. The storm shredded plans for a special Saturday morning trip to Estes park for coaches and contestants. A cable on the horizontal bar broke with Frank Bare of Illinois competing but no one was hurt and the cable was quickly replaced. Top ohs and aahs came for Army's Jack Kleberg, whose flying rings routine includes letting go of the rings twice while in the end of his swing, then grabbing them again. The field of team entries was cut to 22 when Temple and Colorado State failed to enter men, the individual entry list chopped 10 when others scratched. Michigan's Harry Lochs, the Big Ten parallel bar champion, and great all-around performer, was one of those scratched when he tore cartilage in his left shoulder.

Fans attending tonight's session will see both top spectators events, the trampoline and flying rings. Both proved to be the top crowd-pleasers in the prelims. Jean Cronstedt, the Finnish exchange student at Penn State, fell from the high bar on attempt of a difficult stunt, yet finished high enough to earn a qualifying spot.

Only four schools failed to gain a man for the finals — Arizona, Denver, Kansas State and Nebraska. Next year's championships will be held in the Southwest. First check of all-around competition showed Illinois' Bob Sullivan beating USC's Simms by ½ point for second place before a revise gave the two a tie for the runner-up spot.

Preliminary Results In Gym Tournament

(18 men qualify for finals)

- Rope Climb—1, Paul Paley (UCLA) :02.8; 2, John Bellantyne (Army) :04; 3, John Claybrook (Army) :04.1; 4, Bill Renner (Army) :04.2; 5, Don Holder (Florida State) :04.7; 6, Jack Sharp (Florida State) :04.9; 7, Tie among Kenneth Dunstan (Colorado), Ed Houser (Illinois), Gil Brinkmeyer (Illinois) :05.1; 8, Julius Rosenblatt (Southern California) :05.4.**
- Side Horse—1, Bob Wheeler (Army) :22; 2, Tie between Carl Rintz (Michigan State) and Joe Regna (Florida State) :27; 3, Don Holder (Florida State) :27; 4, Frank Bare (Illinois) :27; 5, Tie between Gil Brinkmeyer (Illinois) and Bob Feldmeyer (Michigan State) :33; 6, Charles Simms (Southern California) :22; 7, Jim Sibley (Army) :24; 8, Tie between John Beckner (Southern California) and Ken Bartlett (Minnesota) :22.**
- Horizontal Bar—1, Charles Simms (Southern California) :74; 2, John Beckner (Southern California) :84; 3, Paul Goodale (California) :80; 4, Tie between Carmine Regna (Florida State) and Mark Linnes (Southern California) :88; 5, Ken Bartlett (Minnesota) :81; 6, Bob Sullivan (Illinois) :87; 7, Jean Cronstedt (Penn State) :85; 8, Don Holder (Florida State) :84; 9, Bob Feldmeyer (Michigan State) :81.**

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Trampolines—1, Dick Gutting (Florida) 373; 2, Duncan Kriey (Michigan) 273; 3, James Sebbo (Syracuse) 268; 4, Steve Mitakis (Georgia) 263; 5, George Haas (Army) 261; 6, Fred Graf (Navy) 260; 7, Bob Haslett (Iowa) 259; 8, Don Perry (Ohio State) 242; 9, Dick Gutting (Florida State) 241; 10, Lawrence Weston (Florida State) 222.

Final

All-around—1, John Beckner (Southern California) 1486; Tie, Bob Sullivan (Illinois) 1479½; Charles Simms (Southern California) 1479½; 4, Don Holder (Florida State) 1423; 5, Jack Miles (Florida State) 1369½; 6, Ken Bartlett (Minnesota) 1353½; 7, Bob Feldmaier (Michigan State) 1342; 8, Carl Rintz (Michigan State) 1322½; 9, Gil Brinkmeyer (Illinois) 1316; 10, Frank Bare (Illinois) 1312.

Florida State Universally successfully defended its NCAA gymnastics title here this weekend, warding off a serious challenge by Southern California before an overflow crowd of nearly 1,900 fans.

The Seminoles, reversing the procedure they used last year at Ann Arbor when they used only two-point winners, combined 15 qualifiers for an 80% total.

USC, with just a four-man entry, scored 75, Illinois counted 60 for third and Army 57 1/2 for fourth to far outdistance the remainder of the 12-team field. These four teams grabbed all eight individual titles.

It was the sixth national gym crown in 10 tries for Florida State's coach Dr. Hartley Price who won four at Illinois prior to taking the coaching job at Tallahassee.

Out-Point Decisions

FSU put together points in each of the eight events, clinching the title on a 21-point outburst in the flying rings where it won first, fifth and seventh.

This was one of two individual titles won by the Seminoles. Jack Sharp won this one on a single point margin over Army's Jack Kleberg, and Dick Gutting won the trampoline event in which the first three spots were also decided by one-point margins.

USC won three individual champions, Jack Beckner getting two of them — all-around and parallel bars — and Chuck Simms the third on the horizontal bar.

Illinois had two — Bob Sullivan in tumbling and Frank Bare on the sidehorse — and Army the other, John Claybrook in the rope climb.

Illinois' Sullivan Tops

Beckner and Sullivan won championships in their specialties a year ago and withstood the terrific threats in both preliminary and final sessions to retain the No. 1 spots. Sullivan won by one point over Syracuse's Jim Sebbo.

Sullivan, Beckner and Simms were the top individual performers point-wise with Sullivan leading the trio on a 32 1/2 total score. Beckner had 22 and Simms 26 1/2.

Colorado scored six points on its single entrant, Ken Dunstan. Dunstan grabbed a fifth in the rope climb to win an individual medal.

NOTES: Saturday was proclaimed "Charley Vavra Day" by some 40 Colorado gymnasts, past and present, who presented him with an engraved briefcase and a pocket of notes commemorating his most important milestone.

Vavra, director of the meet, was the man responsible for bringing the nationals to Boulder, first national meet on the Colorado campus in its 76-year athletic history. Included in the pocket were notes from gymnasts as far back as 1931 and represented Colorado, Idaho, Maryland, Texas, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Utah, Missouri and Minnesota. All this was done on the sly, with the presentations made before the finals began.

This is Vavra's 13rd year on the Colorado staff. Individual medals were presented, the first five-place winners in each event.

E. F. (Bud) Beyer, chairman of the NCAA rules committee, labeled the Saturday crowd as "one of the most enthusiastic I've ever seen for a national meet." And the crowd certainly proved him right. Almost to the man, the entire 1,900 stayed on to watch a comedy trampoline act by FSU's champion Dick Gutting, and Beverly Brooks, a Colorado coed. Another 130 remained to watch Tele news about movies of the champions, finally leaving about 11:45 P. M.

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Colorado officials played host to coaches and competitors at a buffet luncheon following the meet in lieu of the proposed Estes Park trip which was snowed out. Movies of the meet were taken by Floyd Walters, university photographer, and will be shown to local groups. Equipment for the meet, loaned by the Fred Medart Corporation of St. Louis, was packed and shipped to Penn State for use in Olympic tryouts. Judges and coaches felt the bulk of the United States Olympic team in the 1952 games at Helsinki, Finland would be made up of entrants in the NCAA affair. One of the top individual performers was Penn State's Jean Cronstedt, the Finnish exchange student who scored all 14 of the Lions' points. Bob Sullivan, Illinois' two-time tumbling champ went through his difficult routine without a flaw in both preliminary and final sessions, then sprained an ankle while

performing before the Telenews movie camera following the final session.

The summary:

FINALE

Reps (Climb)—1, John Claybrook (Army) :03.8; 2, Tie between Paul Foley (UCLA) and John Balaityne (Army) :02.7; 3, Bill Renner (Army) :04.1; 4, Ken Dunstan (Colo.) :04.3; 5, Ed Houser, DL) :04.5; 7, Jack Sharp (Fla. State) :06.3; 8, Tie among Gil Brinkmeyer (Ill.), Don Holder (Fla. State) and Julius Rosenblatt (So. Calif.) :06.7.

Sidewalk—1, Frank Bars (Ill.) 204; 2, Bob Wheeler (Army) 239; 3, Jim Sibley (Army) 254; 4, Joe Regna (Fla. State) 240; 5, Charles Simms (So. Calif.) 224; 6, Carl Ritz (Mich. State) 222; 7, Don Holder (Fla. State) 211; 8, Bob Feldmeyer (Mich. State) 217; 9, Ken Bartlett (Minn.) 215; 10, John Beckner (So. Calif.) 206.

Horizontal Bar—1, Charles Simms (So. Calif.) 231; 2, John Beckner (So. Calif.) 271; 3, Carmine Regna (Fla. State) 266; 4, Tie between Jean Cronstedt (Penn. State) and Paul Goodale (Calif.) 262; 5, Mark Lianee (So. Calif.) 233; 7, Bob Feldmeyer (Mich. State) 212; 8, Don Holder (Fla. State) 234; 9, Bob Sullivan (Ill.) 261; 10, Ken Bartlett (Minn.) 228.

Parallel Bars—1, John Beckner (So. Calif.) 274; 2, Julius Rosenblatt (So. Calif.) 261; 3, Tie between Jean Cronstedt (Penn. State) and Mike Quariandre (Navy) 261; 5, Carmine Regna (Fla. State) 25; 6, Bob Johnson (Minn.) 248; 7, Bob Sullivan (Ill.) 232; 8, Don Holder (Fla. State) 229; 9, Ray Calvin (Army) 221; 10, Ken Bartlett (Minn.) 102.

Flying Rings—1, Jack Sharp (Fla. State) 274; 2, Jack Kleberg (Army) 272; 3, Ken Bartlett (Minn.) 267; 4, Bob Sullivan (Ill.) 261; 5, Jack Miles (Fla. State) 269; 6, Mel Rubin (UCLA) 248; 7, Joe Regna (Fla. State) 243; 8, Carl Ritz (Mich. State) 238; 9, Tie between Howard O'Connell (Minn.) and Charles Simms (So. Calif.) 233.

Tumbling—1, Bob Sullivan (Ill.) 276; 2, James Sebbo (Syracuse) 275; 3, Stoves Mitakis (Georgia) 261; 4, Fred Graf (Navy) 256; 5, Tie between Duncan Erley (Mich.) and Dick Gutting (Fla. State) 254; 7, Bob Mariett (Iowa) 234; 10, Lawrence Weston (Fla. State) 231.

Trampoline—1, Dick Gutting (Fla. State) 272; 2, Frank LaDue (Iowa) 274; 3, Duncan Erley (Mich.) 273; 4, Wally Cryer (Ill.) 261; 5, Tie between Bob Mariett (Iowa) and Verne Evans (Minn.) 256; 7, Al Hennes (Mich. State) 251; 8, Dick Albershardt (Indiana) 250; 9, Bill Sorenson (Iowa) 246; 10, Dick Ireland (Fla. State) 196.

TEAM STANDINGS

Florida State	89 1/2
Southern California	75
Illinois	60 1/2
Army	57 1/2
Minnesota	50
Michigan State	36
Iowa	20 1/2
Navy	14 1/2
Penn State	14
Michigan	13 1/2
UCLA	13 1/2
Syracuse	9
Georgia	8
California	8 1/2
Colorado	8
Indiana	3
Ohio State	2