

**LOS ANGELES (AP) —** Illinois, UCLA and Florida State led the way into tonight's finals for the NCAA Gymnastics Championship, with defending champion Penn State seemingly out of the running.

Illinois topped the qualifiers at the end of last night's preliminary round, placing 14, while UCLA and Florida State had 10 each.

Penn State qualified nine and won the first title as Earl Schwenzseier was crowned the all-around champion.

Other schools qualified as follows: Iowa and Southern California, 8 each; Michigan 7, Minnesota 4, California and Nebraska 2 each, and Indiana, Los Angeles State, Ohio State, Stanford, Syracuse and Army one each.

### Special To The Democrat

**LOS ANGELES**—Florida State's nationally-known gymnasts finished seventh in the 1955 NCAA gymnastics meet at UCLA last Saturday but Coach Hartley Price's Seminoles gave strong evidence they will be a leading candidate for national AAU honors later this spring.

Seven FSU performers qualified for Saturday night's finals, but the Seminoles lost their bid for a third NCAA crown when FSU's Pan American gymnasts, Don Holder and Rafael Lecuona, failed to qualify in their strongest event, the side horse.

Both Holder and Lecuona were fatigued from their week-long competition in Mexico City, where they gave outstanding performances in the second Pan American Games.

Illinois stopped Penn State's aim at a third straight NCAA title, nosing out the Eastern Intercollegiate champs. Others in the top 11, in order, were UCLA, Southern Cal, Michigan State,

Iowa, FSU, Indiana, Nebraska, Ohio State, and Army.

FSU performed creditably in the still rings and long horse, but the two events counted only in all-around competition and not as team points. Holder, FSU's U. S. Olympic star, won the still rings in competition with athletes from 20 other universities.

Both still rings and long horse count as team points in AAU competition, where FSU is expected to make a strong comeback.

In one of the highlights of the national NCAA meet, FSU's Price was awarded the second service award by the American Association of Gymnastics Coaches as an outstanding coach for the past 25 years. Max Younger of Temple won the first award last year.

Here's how Seminoles placed in the rugged competition:

Free exercise—Al Ruc' (10th).  
Parallel bars—Holder (tie for 2nd), Rafael Lecuona (7th), Joe Taylor (10th).

Horizontal bar—Holder (8th).  
Flying rings — Jim Tanaka (7th), Taylor (10th).

Tumbling—Ruda (10th).

All-around—Holder (3rd).