

Post-Gazette Sports Writer

Gil LaRose, stocky University of Michigan gymnast, scored 55.90 points to lead his Wolverine teammates into the finals of the 21st annual NCAA gymnastics championships at Fitzgerald Field House last night.

LaRose, in succeeding Bob Lynn of Southern California to the all-around crown, qualified for five of tonight's eight final events himself.

In all, Michigan has 15 qualifiers in the finals, compared to 13 for Southern Illinois, co-favorite with the Big Ten champions.

The Wolverines, with Arno Lascafi finishing third and Jim Hynds ninth in the all-around competition, scored 21 points which they will carry into the other finals events tonight. Southern Illinois, with Fred Orlofsky, an Olympic team member in 1960, finishing second, and Rusty Mitchell fifth, picked up 15 points.

No other team seems to have a chance to compete with the Salukis and Wolverines for the title won last year by Southern California.

Iowa, with six qualifiers, and Syracuse with five, are the closest contenders. Southern California has but three qualifiers.

Qualifiers.

LaRose, in winning the all-round crown, finished first in the parallel bars with the almost improbable score of 9.75—just one-quarter point short of perfection. He was second in the horizontal bars, third in long horse, second in floor exercise and fifth in side horse.

Penn State's Tom Seward finished fourth in the all-round with a score of 53.125, more than two points behind

the 55.90 of LaRose, but close to Orlofsky's 53.50 and Lascafi's 53.15. He finished first in floor exercise, and third in parallel bars.

Bud Williams, who finished fifth in still rings, was the other Penn State finalist.

Jack Lehner, who surprised the rest of the field by winning the long horse with a score of 9.425, was the only Pitt qualifier.

Top scores of the entire preliminary session, which lasted until nearly midnight, came in tumbling.

Hal Holmes, the only Illinois qualifier, scored 9.80 in that event and the Salukis' Rusty Mitchell was second with 9.60.

The championship round gets underway tonight at 8:05 following presentation of the all-round trophies.

Behind Michigan, Southern Illinois, Iowa and Syracuse in the qualifying are California, with four; UCLA, Washington, Penn State, Army, Southern California, three each; Wisconsin, Arizona, Temple, Nebraska, San Fernando Valley, two each, and Iowa State, Air Force Academy, Colorado, Florida State, Yale, University of Chicago, Los Angeles State, Pitt, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan State and Arizona State, one each.

Behind fourth-place Seward in the all-round ratings are Rusty Mitchell, Southern Illinois, 53.10; Terry Hale, Southern California, 51.30; Dennis Albers, Nebraska, 51.25; Fred Gaelis, Iowa, 51.05; Jim Hynds, Michigan, 50.55, and Kjell Hansen, Washington, 50.225.

#### TRAMPOLINE QUALIFIERS

Gary Erwin, Michigan, 9.55; Ian Jarrett, Ohio State, and Fred Sanders, Michigan, 8.70 each; George Hery, Iowa, 8.65; Pete Bauer, Wisconsin, 8.55; Jim Selby, Iowa State, and Jim Weaver, Air Force, 8.35 each; Jon Brandt, UCLA, 8.10; Bill Sayre, Iowa, 8.00; Jim David, Washington, and Bud Shroads, Colorado, 7.95 each.

#### FLOOR EXERCISE QUALIFIERS

Tom Seward, Penn State, 9.40; Gil Larose, Michigan, and Rusty Mitchell, Southern Illinois, 9.35 each; Mike Henderson, Michigan, 9.30; Phil Voas, Syracuse, 9.25; Sam Hasegawa, UCLA, 9.20; Jim David, Washington, 9.15; George Hery, Iowa, 9.10; Rick Miller, Florida State, and Jerry Dufour, Army, 9.00 each.

#### SIDE HORSE QUALIFIERS

Russ Mills, Yale, 9.70; Steve Doty, Arizona, 9.55; Ray Grimaldi, Syracuse, 9.45; Sam Hasegawa, UCLA, 9.35; Gil Southern Illinois, 9.05; Mark Cohn, Temple, 8.95; Fred Orlofsky, Southern Illinois, 8.90; Larry Rockwood, University of Chicago, 8.75; Dennis Albers, Nebraska, 8.60.

#### HORIZONTAL BAR QUALIFIERS

Gary Buckner, Southern California, 9.50; Gil Larose, Michigan, 9.45; Arno Lascari, Michigan, and Dennis Wolf, Southern Illinois, 9.40; Terry Hale, Southern California, and Rich Phillips, Temple, 9.30; Larry Robinson, San Fernando Valley, 9.20; Jim Hynds, Michigan, 9.15; Steve Best, Army, 8.95; Ken Siulsky, Army, and Len and Glen Callis, Iowa, 8.85.

#### PARALLEL BARS PRELIMINARIES

Gil Larose, Michigan, 9.75; Arno Lascari, Michigan, 9.70; Tom Seward, Penn State, 9.50; Peter Tarra, Los Angeles State, 9.35; Rusty Mitchell, Southern Illinois, 9.30; Jim Hynds, Michigan, 9.05; Dennis Wolf, Southern Illinois, 8.95; Dennis Albers, Nebraska, 8.85; David Smith, San Fernando Valley, and Paul Newman, California, each 8.80.

#### LONG HORSE PRELIMINARIES

Jack Lehner, Pitt, 9.425; Sid Oglesby, Syracuse, 9.40; Gil Larose, Michigan, 9.35; Phil Voas, Syracuse, 9.275; George Hery, Iowa, 9.250; Rand Y. Nakayama, Southern California, 9.175; Crodd Chin, California, 9.150; Bill Hladik, Southern Ill., 9.150; Fred Orlofsky, Southern Illinois, 9.10; Rusty Mitchell, Southern Illinois, 9.050.

#### TUMBLING PRELIMINARIES

Hal Holmes, Illinois, 9.80; Rusty Mitchell, Southern Illinois, 9.60; Phil Voas, Syracuse, 9.45; Bill Sayre, Iowa, 9.00; Paul Ziert, Illinois State normal, 8.75; Jim David, Washington, 8.65; John Hamilton, Michigan, 8.60; Phil Bolton, Michigan, 8.35; Gerry Moen, Minnesota, 8.10; Mike Henderson, Michigan, 7.95.

#### STILL RINGS PRELIMINARIES

Dale Cooper, Michigan State, 9.50; Chris Evans, Arizona State, 9.60; Bill Hopper, Wisconsin, 9.55; Steve Zahra, California, 9.50; Bud Williams, Penn State, and Fred Orlofsky, Southern Illinois, 9.45 each; Tom Geocaris, Southern Illinois, 9.40; Rich Golden, California, 9.30; Bill Zink, Arizona, 9.25; Dennis Wolf, Southern Illinois, 9.20.

The NCAA gymnastics title and championship trophy headed for its new home in Ann Arbor, Mich., following a smash success in the 21st annual tournament by a group of Michigan Wolverines who piled up a total of 129 points in two days of competition at Fitzgerald Field House.

The Wolverine contingent was paced by Gil LaRose, who won three events, placed in three others, and scored a total of 52.5 points, but Coach Newt Loken had a lot of other stars on his squad.

Gary Erwin won the trampoline competition, and Arno Lascari won the parallel bars title to give the Wolverines five of the nine titles, plus a tie for first in floor exercises by Mike Henderson and Penn State's Tom Seward. LaRose was first in the all-around (combined score of six events), the horizontal bar, and the long horse.

Other individual winners were Dale Cooper, Michigan State, still rings; Hal Holmes, Illinois, tumbling, and Russ Mills, Yale, side horse.

Southern Illinois finished second in the team standings with 73 points, but none of the 49 other schools entered could

equal the 52.5 points scored by LaRose.

Seward, in addition to his first place tie in floor exercise, finished second in parallel bars. His teammate, Bud Williams, finished in a fifth-place tie in still rings to give Penn State 31½ points and fifth place.

Jack Lehner of Pitt tied for fourth in the long horse for the Panthers' only points.

Other team scores included: Iowa, 33½; Syracuse, 32; Penn State, 31½; Southern California, the defending champ, 21; California, 18; UCLA, 15; Washington, 14½, and Wisconsin, 13.