



IRON GAME HISTORY



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An Explanation

We begin this double issue of *IGH* with an apology for having taken so long to get it into your hands. What happened is that for most of the last academic year we both thought we would be leaving The University of Texas at Austin and taking our Physical Culture Collection and ourselves to another university. Accordingly, we decided last winter to print the next issue only after we knew for certain where we would be. As it happened, however, two universities were interested in having us and our collection, we were torn between the two, and the months dragged on without a decision. Both universities offered us good positions and both were anxious to help us refine and organize our holdings. Even so, to create two professorial positions and make room for a collection which takes up almost five thousand square feet of space involves complicated negotiations and takes time. Thus the delay.

Although we had sought out neither position, we were open to the offers because we were disappointed that a place for our collection had not been created as plans were drafted several years ago for the remodeling of Gregory Gym, where our library and related materials had been housed for over a decade. We thought that a move might allow us to maintain and operate the Collection in a way which would make it more accessible to fans and scholars of the iron game. Since we acquired the Otley Coulter Collection over twenty years ago, it has been our dream and firm intention to do everything we could to bring together the most comprehensive collection of materials in the world in the field of physical culture, to make that collection available to iron gamers around the country and world, and to see that the collection is properly housed and organized so that it

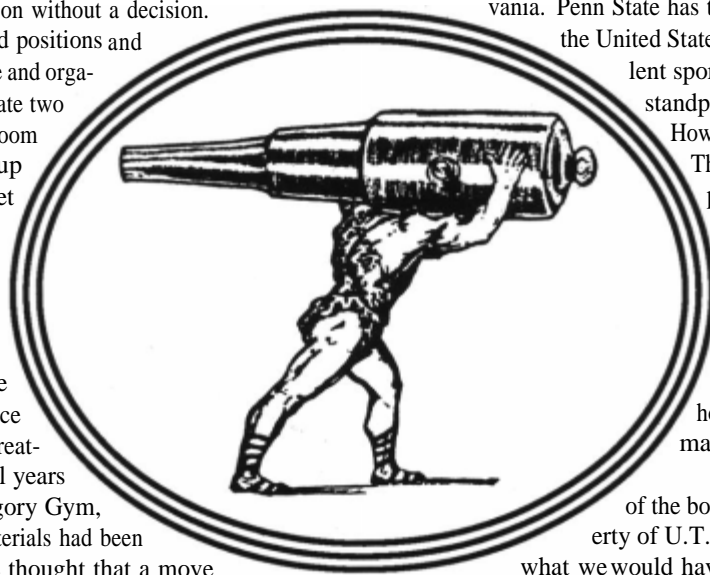
will live long after we are no longer here to care for it.

In any case, as grateful as we are to The University of Texas for having given us the space to house the Collection for the past fifteen years, we thought that we should listen carefully to the offers of a university would be willing to significantly improve our working conditions and provide us space and staff which would help us realize our dream. As it happens, the most attractive of these two offers came from Penn State University in State College, Pennsylvania. Penn State has the best Sport History program in the United States and they already have an excellent sports archive, so from an academic standpoint it seemed to be an ideal fit.

However, as we thought about leaving The University of Texas, where our patron—the late Roy J. McLean—had worked, collected materials about lifting, and taught weight training for fifty years, we realized that our dream was tightly interwoven with Mac's dream of having such a collection housed at his (and our) beloved alma mater.

Another factor is that some of the books in the Collection are the property of U.T. and would not have been part

of what we would have transferred to Penn State. We also have family, friends, and academic colleagues in this area we would have sorely missed had we left. So, for these and other related reasons, we finally reached what has been the most difficult decision in our professional lives—the decision to stay here in Austin. Having made the decision, we are filled with determination to work with various agencies of the University and create a permanent, well-funded home for the Collection, a home that will insure the Collection a long a productive life. This work has begun and we will



inform you of progress as it occurs.

As soon as we made the decision to stay, we put the finishing touches on this issue, after having decided to do two issues in one as a way of apologizing to those of you who have been our supporters through the years. One of the problems we've faced from time to time as we've produced *IGH* is the problem of having to severely edit long articles. Accordingly, beginning with the next issue, we will increase the size of an average issue from twenty-four to thirty-six pages. In order to be able to print the journal without taking a loss, we will issue approximately four issues a year instead of six. As subscribers, you will still get the number of pages for which you have paid, but they will be printed in issues which will be approximately fifty percent longer, thus allowing us to print such

articles as the one about Apollon you'll find on page twenty.

Again, we apologize for the delay and we ask for your understanding in this matter. We also ask for your continued support and we would appreciate any input you have regarding articles, format, and so on. As you might imagine, it takes quite a bit of time and effort to put *IGH* together. It is a strictly non-profit venture for us and for all of our writers, who pitch in to make it happen for the same reasons we began and continue it—we love the Iron Game and we want to honor our pioneers. Just as Robert Oppenheimer said as he accepted the Nobel Prize, "I have stood on the shoulders of giants." Our intention is to honor those giants by describing their accomplishments accurately so that those who have come lately to our game will understand what manner of men and women have gone before.