

BETWEEN THE LIONS

By BOB GRUBB

Tonight Coach John Lawther's first edition of a Penn State cage team meets its first test of the current season as the Lions inaugurate their second year in the Eastern Conference by meeting West Virginia, third ranking member of the circuit at this date.

The Lions are the last team to enter Eastern Conference play, each of the other five teams having played at least two games so far, with Pittsburgh leading the loop, followed by Carnegie Tech and the Mountaineers.

Jack Gocke, West Virginia forward, is now leading the conference scoring race, with 26 points, while his teammate, Phares, a guard, is trailing him by 24 points. These are the boys who will give the State defense a considerably greater test than it was put to in the two previous games.

The failure of Captain Joe O'Dowd to come through at the crucial moment and pin his opponent in the deciding match of the wrestling meet at Princeton Saturday was a bitter disappointment not only to his teammates and to his coach, but to the fans who had looked for great things from Joe this year. Conceded little chance of winning over Princeton minus the services of Joe Krupa and Johnny Calvin, the Lion grapplers pulled a surprise by piling up enough points to stand at the top just prior to the heavy-weight encounter.

It was a tense situation, with everything depending on the Lion leader for a decisive victory. Then came the letdown and O'Dowd was beaten by one who was not considered his equal before the meet. True, defeat at the very outset of the season should have little bearing on the man's performance later on, but the fact that he was beaten under such conditions makes a comeback doubly difficult.

Can you do the 100-yard dash in nine and eight-tenths seconds or better? Coach Chick Werner is issuing a second call for winter track candidates, both varsity and freshman. With the Millrose Games and other invitation meets coming up, there is a special need for sprint men.

"If I could hold a time trial for every physically fit man in the College, I'm sure I could find at least one undeveloped sprinter," said Coach Werner. "Compared with high schools where every candidate is a would-be sprinter, this measure supply of dash men is an odd situation," he concluded.

All winter track aspirants are urged to report either in the locker room or at the outdoor board track any afternoon at 4 o'clock.

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CAGERS TO OPEN LEAGUE SCHEDULE TONIGHT

Mountaineers To Play Here At 7 O'clock

Lawther To Use Same Line-up in West Virginia Tilt

By WOODROW W. BIERLY

Penn State's basketball team will play the first league game of their Eastern Conference schedule when they meet the West Virginia five in Recreation Hall at 7 o'clock tonight. It will be the twelfth time that the two have met on the basketball court since West Virginia won the first game, 16-to-14, in 1906. Since that time the Lions have scored six victories to five for the Gold and Blue.

Lawther plans to start the same five that opened the Penn, Lafayette and Susquehanna tilts. Sol Michoff and Joe Proksa will be playing at forward, Jay McWilliams at center, and Max Corbin and Jack Reichenbach at guard. The team has had almost a week of practice since their last game and have improved some of the weak points in their playing.

Gocke Paces Line-up Pacing the West Virginia line-up will be Jack Gocke, high scoring forward. Stan D'Orazio will play the other forward position while Don Meranda will be at center. "Squint" Phares and Harry Lothes will play guard. The five, although forming a strong quintet, is "but a shadow of the great team the Mountaineers had last year" when they defeated the Lions 40-to-35 and 54-to-31.

Coach Glenn's greatest problem this season was to fill the center post that was left open by Babe Barna who suffered a broken leg as the result of a football game last fall. Barna was one of the leading players of last year's team. Meranda, who Coach Glenn has chosen to play center, has been making a fine appearance in the position, especially in his defensive work.

Play Well on Defense Gocke is the real threat of the team. He was high scorer in the conference last year and scored twenty-three points for the Mountaineers in their victory over State. He shoots a dangerous over-head shot, much like that of Charley Prosser, and takes a crack at the basket from any place on the floor.

Phares, guard who combined with Gocke in scoring eight points during the first eight minutes of play against Carnegie Tech on Saturday night, has a knack of dribbling the ball down the side and scoring field goals, although not near the basket. D'Orazio had not been on the starting line-up for several weeks. He was injured in the game with Georgetown and the Mountaineers point to that as the cause of their defeat by Salem. Lothes, a sophomore, is one of the cleverest passers on the squad.

The Gold and Blue use a "three-out, two-back" zone defense that has been working very well for them. Their men come out from under the basket, making it almost imperative for their opponents to score on long shots.

Mountaineer Star



JACK GOCKE

Varsity Defeats Frosh Gymnasts

Coach Glasser Expects to Upset National Champion Temple Team February 17

As was expected, the varsity gym team trounced the freshmen 38-16, last Saturday afternoon. Captain Ray Mattern, Ray Runkle, and Mat Rorabaugh were outstanding for the varsity.

Shaffer and Gillespie starred for the freshmen, taking first places on the side horse and ropes, respectively. Runkle was high scorer with 13 points—first place on the high bar and the parallels, and a second on the rings.

Mattern had little competition in his specialty, tumbling, while Rorabaugh annexed first place on the rings and was second on the side horse.

In the coming meets with Army, Navy, and Temple, the country's three outstanding gym teams, Coach "Glass" Glasser expects this varsity trio and Sam Beck to put up a hard

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State Loses 1st Mat Tilt To Princeton

Tigers Gain 15 - to - 13 Victory; O'Dowd Drops Finale

By FRANCIS H. SZYMCAK

Weakened by the loss of veterans, State's wrestling team battled stubbornly against its top-notch opponent, the Tigers, to lose the opener in the Princeton gym on Saturday afternoon by the narrow score of 15-to-13. The surprise victory of Toll over O'Dowd gave the Princetonians their two-point win.

A nip-and-tuck affair throughout, the final match came up with the Lions holding a one-point advantage. The Tigers' football captain-elect, Charley Toll, a heavyweight giant, stepped out for his initial wrestling appearance to face Captain Joe O'Dowd.

O'Dowd Loses To the State team victory seemed inevitable, while the Princeton rout-ers prayed. Joe did his best, he rushed his man who averted any contact. When Joe was under, Toll grimly hung on hoping for the minutes to count up. The referee once commanded him to wrestle, but Toll frankly replied, "I don't know how, I'm doing my best." Toll won the match with a time advantage of 2:35 minutes.

Critics can condemn O'Dowd—his failure to come up to form may have various reasons, but it's a tough enough disadvantage for future meets to have the past incident hovering in the background. Charlie Speidel suffers keenly his infrequent defeats, but he looks forward to the future. He realizes that his weakest team participated in this opener, and more experience and familiar faces will appear in the line-ups of future meets. He awaits the strength of Calvin, Krupa, and Light. He also realizes that Stegmayer, Priolo, Brooks, and Bachman have acquired confidence in themselves.

But for the brighter side. Ross Shaffer and Aldo Zazzi proved to be wrestlers. They went out with confidence and displayed form, enough to take credit for the two falls of the entire meet. Reynolds came through his first test with victory and three points to that earned by Shaffer and

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Leads Team to Victory



CAPT. LOU RITZIE

Swimmers Lose To Penn, 49-26

Geiger, Burleigh, Medley Relay Team Capture Victories In Opening Meet

Penn State's swimmers dropped the opening meet of their second intercollegiate season Saturday as they bowed to the powerful Penn tanksters in Philadelphia. 49-to-26.

The Lions made a much better showing against the Quakers than they did last season. In capturing three first places as compared to a lone victory in 1935, the mermen scored eight more points.

Winners for Penn State were Dick Geiger, in the 150-yard backstroke; Gil Burleigh in the 200-yard breaststroke; and the 300-yard medley relay team composed of Geiger, Burleigh, and Bill Helriegel. This latter event was added to the intercollegiate program this season.

Captain Jim Cumming placed second to Geiger in the dorsal event to give the Lions a sweep. Geiger repeated his victory over Penn, for in last year's meet, the ex-captain was the only Nittany swimmer to capture a first place. Burleigh was touched out for a win in his event in 1936.

Ken Bunk, sophomore star, placed second in the 220-yard freestyle and gained a third in the 440. George Henderson was third in the 220.

In the sprint events, Penn's captain and football star, Gene Gisburne, raced to near-record performances, with a team-mate, Bob Sanville, just a stroke behind. Charlie Walsh, Lion sophomore, trailed both men in the two events. Gisburne is the intercollegiate champion in the 50-yard freestyle race.

Penn's veteran divers were too much for the inexperienced State entrants. Luther Hoy gained a third in this event. In the final race of the program, the 400-yard relay, the Penn State quartet was defeated in fast time. On the team were Helriegel, Cumming, Art Lehman, and Welsh.

high school. Entering Penn State, he learned much from Coach Joe Bend and from play in amateur leagues around Pittsburgh. As a sophomore last season, Ford was unable to find control until late in the schedule. He then won two games in his only two appearances, putting on masterful performances both times.

Houck Declares Experience For Sophomores Necessary To Insure Boxing Success

Mit Team Stops Western Maryland, 7 1/2 to 1 1/2, Gaining 7 Wins, Kociubinsky's Draw With Captain Ortenzi

By JERRY WEINSTEIN

Experience will determine the success of the boxing team this season. Thus did that philologist, psychologist, and philosopher, Coach Leo F. Houck, review the performance of his mittmen after they opened their 1937 season with an easy swinging victory over Western Maryland, 7 1/2-to-1 1/2, in Rec Hall Saturday night before a capacity crowd of 6,000 that jammed the track and floor space.

When Leo mentioned experience, he had in mind his two little men, Alex Sopheak and Allan Tapman. As they set out to collegiate competition, he said, they will balance the already strong lineup made up of four champions and two stars from amateur ranks.

Nestor Kociubinsky, fighting at 175 pounds, came back in the third round with a thrilling finish to earn a draw with Captain Tony Ortenzi, of Western Maryland. The Lion sophomore started slowly, and with Ortenzi beating him to the punch in the first two rounds, seemed to have little chance to win. But his garrison finish, featured by terrific rights that had Ortenzi groggy, turned the tide. The decision was the best possible and everyone was satisfied.

The entire Nittany team looked good in the first match of the season. Western Maryland presented a game bunch of fighters—but to the Penn State team Coach Charlie Havens owes a vote of thanks, for at least three of the Terrors could have been knocked out.

Soose Wins by K.O. Penn State fans have yet to see sophomore Billy Soose in his first fight. After 1:10 of the first round, during which time Soose chased a ducking George Speigle around the ring, referee Bryan Hayes stopped the fight. Speigle had ducked into a hard right, and being already off balance, was knocked groggy. It was just as well, for Soose punches hard and injury might have resulted.

Sopheak was on the spot in the 115-pound go. It was his first fight and he was first on the initial program of the season. He came through nicely, showing little effect of his lack of work due to his forehead cut. His timing may have been slightly off, but his aggressiveness and a good left jab gained him an easy decision over Sam Grimsey.

Both Tapman and Izzy Richter were faced with the problem of fighting men a head taller. Tapman topped Norvin Gompf by tearing around, swinging both hands, and landing his right. It was a sluggish fight.

Other Fights Easy Richter pummeled Joe O'Leair, heavyweight successor to National champion Tom Pontecorvo. The giant O'Leair, who looked like Primo Carnera, was hard to reach, but Richter jarred him several times and won going away.

The Frankie Goodman-Harold Martin fight was slow. After Frankie hit Martin with several clean blows without being touched, the Western Maryland boy concentrated in running and succeeded. Goodman just jabbed and seemed content to win by

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Ford, of Boston Bees, Dispels Belief That Pros Lack Spirit

The belief that professional athletes lacked the spirit and "rah-rah stuff" of college teams was dispelled today by Bill Ford, former Penn State baseball pitcher who is now a member of the Boston Bees.

"Aside from ability," Ford said, "big leaguers rank ahead of the amateurs in their great team feeling, chatter, and general pep shown in the dugout."

Ford, who will leave for the Boston training camp at St. Petersburg, Florida, right after examinations, was picked up by Jack McAllister, scout of the Bees. The Penn State sophomore was pitching for McKeesport in the Daily News League and was in exceptionally fine form the day McAllister signed him. Ford remained with the National League club during the last seven weeks of the 1936 season.

"Old timers," Ford related, "often tell how they tossed rookies, especially college boys. That is no longer true, for they never took me for a ride."

"The only sort of riding done," Ford said, "occurred during my first two weeks. The team rather ignored me and didn't do anything to make me feel at home. But once they got

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