

# OWLS, HOYAS THREATEN LION COURT SUPREMACY

## Next 10 Days May Change Conference Picture; State Fails To Round Into Shape

By JOHN A. TROANOVITCH

The next 10 days may tell the story. Penn State's roaring Lions, perched on the Eastern Intercollegiate Conference pinnacle, move into their most crucial period of the season when they face Temple's dangerous Owls in Philadelphia tonight in the first of four rapid-fire tests.

Riding the crest of an eight-game victory streak that has jacked them up to the top rung in Eastern college circles, the Lions will place their claim to championship glory on the auction block when they meet Temple tonight, move into Georgetown tomorrow night, rush back home to face Temple again Tuesday night, then venture into the fair of the Pitt Panther a week from tomorrow.

### "Worse Than Ever"

On the outcome of those four games may rest the answer to the Conference championship. Or at least the answer to State's chances.

Rusted by 10 days of inaction because of final-exam week, the Lions have failed to round into shape as rapidly as was expected, and Coach John Lawther obviously is worried.

"They are worse now than they have ever been," Lawther says. And in that "ever" he includes the night of December 30, when Akron University ripped a State outfit that was destined to rear back and cop eight in a row.

### Lineup a Mystery

An indication of how bad the Lions have been in practice sessions this week may be gleaned from the fact that up to last night Lawther had no idea of the men who would make the week-end swing, much less of what the starting lineup would look like.

Not only have the regulars been unable to shake off their lethargy, but Sonny Hoffman, who looks like a budding star, has been laid up with chicken pox.

Meanwhile Temple, conqueror of Stanford's Pacific Coast champions, Southern Methodist's Southern Conference kings, and Illinois' Big Ten co-champions, will present a formidable hurdle for the Lions to overcome.

### Temple on Rebound

Since the surprising 39-22 loss to Georgetown in their Conference inaugural, the Owls have topped West Virginia, 34-31, and Carnegie Tech, 30-27, to move into second place, one game behind State.

Also in second place are Georgetown's Hoyas, who trampled Temple and Pitt, 50-47, before bowing to the Lions here two weeks ago. On the rebound, on their own home court, the Hoyas will be tougher than alligator hide.

What may happen is highly conjectural. But there will be no sparing the pyrotechnics.

The result may be the finest scramble the Conference has yet seen in its pugilistic career.

### Conference Standing

The conference standing at present:

| Team          | W. | L. | Pct.  |
|---------------|----|----|-------|
| Penn. State   | 3  | 0  | 1.000 |
| Temple        | 2  | 1  | .667  |
| Georgetown    | 2  | 1  | .667  |
| Pittsburgh    | 2  | 1  | .667  |
| Carnegie Tech | 1  | 3  | .250  |
| West Virginia | 0  | 4  | .000  |

## Lion Nine Begins Indoor Practice

With the beginning of indoor practice for pitchers and catchers in Recreation hall already under way, the official schedule for the 1938 baseball season has been released by Robert L. Smith '38, manager.

Coach Joe Bedenk's nine is again scheduled for 18 games, the same number as last year. George Washington and Princeton have been replaced by Penn. Maryland, and Georgetown. Bucknell is listed for only one game instead of the usual two.

Last year the Lions played 16 of the scheduled 18 games, and piled up the impressive record of 12 wins and four losses. Although Bedenk lost only two men by graduation, it may be difficult to replace them. The two graduates were Co-captains Frank Smith and Mike Koneck, a very effective battery that had worked together for three years. This year's captain is Pitcher Ben Simoncelli.

The schedule: April 9, Susquehanna, home; 13, Penn. away; 14, Maryland, away; 22, Georgetown, away; 23, Navy, away; 27, Dickinson, home; 30, Villanova, home; May 4, Gettysburg, home; 7, Western Maryland, home; 9, Syracuse, home; 11, Temple, home; 13, Colgate, away; 14, Syracuse, away; 18, Muhlenberg, home; 20, West Virginia, home; 21, West Virginia, home; 25, Army, away; June 4, Bucknell, home.

## S. U. To Hold Tournaments

The annual Student Union pool and ping pong tournaments will start Monday, February 14. Games will be played in the evening. Students and faculty members may file entry blanks at the Student Union desk.

## SPORTS CHATTER

Coach Leo Houck's mitmen are in for some battles royal in the next few weeks. In the matter of returning veterans, the Lions opponents have a decided edge over the varsity boxers.

At Syracuse, Ord Fink is back in the 165-pound division with tough Bob Griffith holding down the 165 berth. Captain Zucero and Johnny Mastrella again hold sway in the 135 and 145-pound classes. Doug Breckenridge is claimed to be much better than the self-retired, 125-pound champ, Carl Sorenson. Heinz Voigt is at 115, Bozo Dluski at heavyweight, and Tiny Jim Brown's brother, Pee-Wee, fills the 175-pound opening.

Army retains five veterans from last year's aggregation. Their lone champion of last year, Bantamweight Cadet Bess, has been fighting 125 this year. The handsome 155-pounder, Harrison is back again, along with York, the boy with the cocked right eye at 165, Shanley at 185, and football captain Jim Isbell at heavyweight.

Veteran lineups also abound at Pittsburgh, Wisconsin, and Virginia. Temple is due to rebound from their Villanova defeat at the Arena tonight. . . and Georgetown just lost a 38-36 game to Fordham Tuesday. . . Loyola of New Orleans and Centenary win the fur-lined something or other with their 78-72 scoring battle last week. . . John Tarleton College in Texas lost their first game in 84 starts Tuesday night when San Angelo Junior College defeated them, 27-26. . . a national intercollegiate invitation basketball tournament is being planned for March in the Garden. . . the country's four leading teams will be asked to compete. . . four picked Eastern teams will fight it out to represent the East on March 9. . . finals on March 14 and 16. . .

## I. M. Mat Entries Due

All fraternities intending to enter contestants in intramural wrestling must hand in their entry lists to Eugene C. Bischoff at the intramural sports office before noon tomorrow. The schedule of matches has been tentatively set for February 7 to 19.

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## Injuries Hamper State Gymnasts

Given another week of practice by postponement of the Army meet in West Point, originally scheduled for tomorrow but set back to Saturday, February 12, the crippled varsity gym squad will oppose the Cadets anticipating a better showing than against the Navy.

Charley Gillespie and Stan Feldman have been competing despite injuries suffered in practice and aggravated in meets. Gillespie has a chipped bone near the ankle and has been climbing ropes burdened by a cast on his left leg. Feldman injured his ankle in practice, hurt it again against Western Reserve, and was severely jolted in last week's Annapolis encounter, but he continues to perform in various events.

Coach Gene Bischoff's team has been further depleted by the loss of Stan Haigh, who has withdrawn from school. Haigh was one of the most promising musclemen of the sophomores and potentially the best gymnast on the squad with the exception of Runkle. A brilliant performer on the rings, Haigh was developing equally as well on the parallel bars and the horizontal bar, although he too was handicapped by an injured ankle.

The abundance of injuries also forced the postponement of the varsity-freshman meet which was tentatively slated for tomorrow. This annual intra-squad competition will take place on a selected day following the closing of the regularly-scheduled season with Temple.

## Frosh Cagers Face Bucknell Here Tomorrow At 2 O'clock

By ROY B. NICHOLS

Presenting the same starting array that walloped Dickinson Seminary, 42-20, in the season opener, Coach Nick Thiel's freshman basketball team will meet a Bucknell freshman team in Recreation hall at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Weakened by the lapse of practice during finals, the frosh cagers are undergoing intensive drilling in preparation for the Bucknell event. A practice game with the varsity Tuesday night brought out too clearly the staleness of the team.

### Moffat, Sapp to Start

Starting the game at the forward positions will be Ed Sapp and John Moffat. The guard posts will be taken by John Barr and Kermit Christman with Norm Herr tipping off at center.

With powerful scoring threats in Moffat and Sapp, and the clever passing of Barr and reserve Ray Edgar, a return to the form that overwhelmed Dickinson Seminary might insure the game for the yearlings.

Against the Seminary boys, Moffat led the Cub scoring with 11 points. Ed Sapp followed with 8 counters.

## Penn State Ski Club To Compete At Kane

The Penn State Ski club has been invited to participate in the Niagara Frontier Ski carnival at Kane Sunday.

Coach Ben Harriman and Paul Massey '38 will compete, as well as several other members of the club. Four events, slalom, downhill, run, cross-country relay, and ski jump, will be held.

Massey, captain of the team, also

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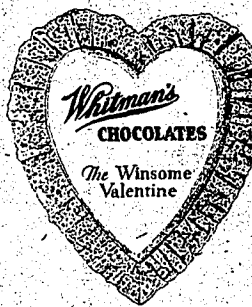
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