

BETWEEN THE LIONS

By BEN BAILEY, Sports Editor

Sport fans move indoors tonight as Court Coach John Lawther's varsity quintet meets Washington and Jefferson in Rec Hall to open the Winter sports season.

Tonight's opener, as has been the case for the past several years, will again probably be one of the toughest matches on the card for the Lawthermen.

The Presidents also happen to want tonight's game very badly. Last year, you remember, they dropped a heart-breaking 31-33 decision to us after a final-whistle shot was ruled a fraction of a second too late to count.

And the year before they did succeed in halting us in a photo-finish 31-30 final count.

Several times during the past few days I've already listened in on some heated arguments on the merits of the sliding zone and set-style type of play as employed by John Lawther.

Many students still contend that use of the system practically kills the spectator-interest in the sport, and that the individual player is reduced to the role of an automaton.

And on the surface of things, they have a perfectly good argument. The game is slowed down. Many fans, unfamiliar with the workings of the system and the plays that comprise it, quickly lose patience with the game. And as for seeing some of the old-time knock-down-and-drag-'em-out style of play, it just doesn't happen anymore in most Eastern circles.

To the casual observer the game becomes nothing more than a prolonged defense—if you'll pardon my dragging in the controversial defense-offense method of distinction.

However, there are certain things you can watch for in such a type of game which, although often unnoticed, can be fascinating in their execution.

Some of the double and even triple screening plays and methods of setting up plays perfected by Lawther teams are remarkable pieces of precision work.

At times it's almost uncanny to note the effectiveness that can be obtained by Lawther's sliding zone. As employed by the Lion coach it can be made to cover the opposing ball-handler almost as effectively as a sliding safety zone would protect the wandering pedestrian in downtown Gotham.

The opponent who manages to gain possession of the ball often finds not one but three, or even four defensive men clinging to him just as annoyingly as an accelerated seven-year itch.

And yet, the moment he gets rid of that ball he is just as quickly deserted by that knot of defenders who in a matter of seconds spread out to form a blanket between the opposing team and the bas-

Cagers Open Season With W&J Tonight

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counted on to give a repeat performance.

At the forward posts will be veteran Tom Mears and Ted Mistal, sophomore sharpshooting er. Paul Konyha, stellar defense man, and Ray Forquer will be at the guard slots.

For the Lawthermen a quintet of seasoned veterans will take the floor. Larry Gent and Whitey VanNieda will be at the forwards. Co-captain Herk Baltimore will be at the pivot spot while towering six foot, five inch Dave Hornstein, and co-captain John Egli will be at the back-court positions.

Lion substitutes who will probably see much action are Sid Cohen, Jim Lawther, Bob Beck, Red Zelitch, and Jack Biery.

Newman Club Breakfast

The Newman Club, observing the third anniversary of its formation at Penn State, will hold its annual Communion Breakfast at the Corner Room Sunday, December 6, 1942.

The breakfast, scheduled to begin at 9:45 a. m., is open to members and non-members alike. Guest speaker for the breakfast will be Dr. Norbert Kreidl, whose topic will be "Catholicism in Europe and in the United States."

ket in question. Watch for it tonight. Any style of offense must be more than just good to penetrate such a system.

That's where the chance factor is discarded and the scientific type of game makes itself evident. When the value of the system is questioned, one only has to take a glance at Lawther's record of games won and games lost.

Lawthermen to Try for Second Season Without Defeat at Home

Starting Seventh Season



John Lawther opens his seventh season as head basketball coach at Penn State when his 1942-43 edition pries the lid off the winter sports season with their annual tussle with the always-powerful Washington and Jefferson five tonight.

Players' Show Review

(Continued from Page One) Pastor Manders was realistic enough to arouse hisses.

The scenery design and costume supervision handled by Mrs. Dorothy B. Scott easily transformed the audience into the mood and period. Miss Grace O. Clayton's technical supervision of the unsung workers behind the scenes deserves plaudits for the emotional stage lighting.

Curtain calls were demanded by the audience, but Director Cloetngh believed that the actors should remain behind the curtain to preserve the mood of the play;

Lion Quintet Sports 12-Game Win Streak

Like many other Penn State teams, the Lion basketball team does not usually lose contests at home. In fact, when they open their new season tonight with Washington and Jefferson at Rec Hall they will be out to extend a 13-game winning streak on the home boards.

Not since midway in the 1940-41 season have the Lawthermen been downed at Rec Hall. The last team to perform the feat was West Virginia, the same college that stopped the Lion football team this year after an 11-game win streak.

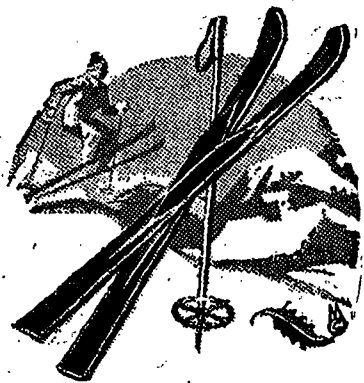
The Nittany five can boast of another consecutive win streak. Not since the first half of last year has the team lost a regularly scheduled tilt. The string is now extended to 12 games. Oddly enough, it was immediately following the Nittany-men's loss at Morgantown, West Virginia, to the same Mountaineers that the streak started.

This string does not include the NCAA tournament last year in which the Lions competed and received third in the Eastern Play-offs at New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Blue and White bowed to the Eastern champions, Dartmouth, in the first round but came back to trounce the favored Illinois in the consolation competition.

These two streaks are the longest held by Penn State basketball teams since John Lawther came to the Nittany Lion fold seven years ago.

In six years Lawther's teams have compiled a won-and-lost percentage of .695 which is better than two wins for each loss. Lawther teams have won 82 frays and dropped but 36 since 1936.



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