

Penn State Underdog as . . . Lions Play West Virginia

The pressure will be on the once-beaten West Virginia basketball team when it invades Rec Hall tomorrow night to repay the Lion visit to Morgantown in December.

West Virginia—currently rated one of the top teams in the nation—will be out after its 16th win in 17 starts, having added unlucky Temple to its string of 14 victories in a row only last week. Wednesday night the Mountaineers rang up their 27th consecutive win on the home floor by running wild in the second half to snow under Temple 80-60.

But the closest call Coach Lee Patton's boys have had all season outside of the Navy game was the first tilt with the Nittany Lions. It was only in the dying minutes that West Virginia could pull the game out of the fire by virtue of two left-handed pivot shots from the corner by Captain Leland Byrd. The score was 40-37.

Gymnasts Seek Fourth Victory

Journey To Syracuse To Meet 'Green' Squad

Coach Gene Wettstone's gymnasts will leave for Syracuse at noon today in search of their fourth straight victory.

The Orange, in its first year of gymnastic competition, is not a tough opponent for the Lion squad which so far has swept aside Minnesota, Navy and Army.

Coached by Paul Romeo, the Syracuse acrobats are victorious to date although the team is composed of 99 per cent PIAA champs.

Charles Warrington and Gerald Eddy will replace Stephen Greene in the side horse and rope events. Greene will stay behind to concentrate on studies.

TITLIST BACK

Warrington was eastern intercollegiate side horse titlist in 1942. This is his first appearance with the Blue and White this year.

Captain Ray Sorensen will again compete in three events. Besides the horizontal bar competition, in which he is undefeated to date, Sorensen will perform on the parallel bars and rings.

Billy Bonsall is slated for ring competition, and the tumbling and high bar matches. Bonsall has taken first place on the rings in Penn State's three meets so far.

Joe Rossi, who tied the world's rope climbing record against Army last Saturday, will team up with Wirtschaffter and Eddy against the Orangemen.

Meade, Petroff and Bonsall, who finished 1-2-3 last week, will again form the tumbling trio.

Emery and Billy Meade will aid Sorensen in the parallel bar match.

The meet will be held tomorrow night in Central High school's gymnasium-auditorium since Syracuse's gym burned down over a month ago.

The Lions will return to Rec Hall next Saturday to play host to a powerful Temple squad, in a contest that will decide the eastern intercollegiate league championship.

LIONS-OWLS WIN

Penn State and Temple both have defeated the Cadets and Navy this year, and the Temple squad is favored to repeat its win over the West Pointers in a return match tomorrow in New York.

On March 8 the Wettstonemen journey to Annapolis to participate in the intercollegiate championship play-offs.

Originally scheduled for West Point, the title matches have been shifted to the Middle campus, as the Army Cadets have already played host to the Midshipmen this season.



Rusinko

It will take more than inspiration, however, to beat the rangy Mountaineers. While Penn State will be handicapped by the loss of Captain Dave Hornstein at the pivot spot and by lack of depth in reserves, West Virginia will present a team that has improved steadily with experience and boasts a wealth of reserve talent.

One of the highest scoring teams in the country, the West Virginians have tallied a total of 1117 points this season—or an average per game of 76. Of this total, Fred Schaus, stand-out freshman protégé of Coach Patton has accounted for 259. Schaus rang up 26 points to lead the scoring Wednesday against Temple. Byrd, nemesis of the Lions in the first game between the two clubs, placed second in the scoring against the Owls with 16.

Close scores seem to be a specialty in the Penn State-West Virginia court rivalry. In addition to the 40-37 victory at Morgantown this season, the Mountaineers won two from the Nittany Lions last season—both of them by close margins.

The first contest went to the boys from Morgantown 42-41, the second 48-45. The last victory for the Lawthermen was in 1945 when Penn State came out on top 53-27.

Tomorrow's battle will mark the 30th game in a series started in 1906. Penn State's cagers hold a 16-13 advantage over the Mountaineer teams over that span.

Coach John Lawther—characteristically declining any prediction as to the outcome of the game—will count on his usual starting five to forestall any temptation toward fast-break ball.

Bruce Dieterick, will occupy the Hornstein vacancy at the center post. Jack Biery, high scorer for the Lawthermen, and diminutive Milt Simon will start at forwards. Johnny Rusinko and Jim Lawther, balance wheel in the Lion court machine, will start at guards.

In Garden Meet



CURT STONE

Weekend Sports

Here's a round-up of the weekend's activities on the home sports front:

SATURDAY

WRESTLING

Penn State vs Army . . . 2 p.m.

SWIMMING

Penn State vs Pitt . . . 2 p.m.

FENCING

Penn State vs Cornell . . . 2 p.m.

BOXING

Penn State vs Wisconsin 7 p.m.

BASKETBALL

Penn State vs W. Virginia 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

SKIING

Max Dercum Trophy Meet 1:30 p.m.

Weatherman Frowns On Hockeymen Again

The Nittany Lion six is scheduled to meet the Red Raiders of Colgate in the rink under the East stands Saturday.

It is very doubtful that there will be a game though, said Coach O'Hara. The fall of snow yesterday makes it unlikely that the rink will be prepared.

If it is possible to play, the probable starting line-up will be Fast at goalie, Bernbaum and Kaufmann at the forward spots and Egan at center. Black and Goodwin will make up the defense line.

Dercum Ski Meet Sunday As Snow Covers Trail

The Max Dercum Trophy Ski Meet, which had been postponed from January 18, will be held at 1:30 Sunday afternoon, Bob Dunlap said in commenting today on the latest snow fall.

Dunlap said there will be a meeting of the Hank Thurston Ski School at the ski lodge all day Sunday.

Snow conditions will be recorded on a bulletin board in the window of the Athletic Store. Food and music will be provided Sunday afternoon. There will be dancing and movies in the evening.

Four Nittany Runners Compete In New York National A.A.U.

Running against the nation's top track stars, four Penn Staters will be competing in the National A.A.U. Track Championships being held in New York City's Madison Square Garden Saturday night.

For what will probably be the toughest competition they'll meet this year, Chick Werner has chosen top distance-men Curt Stone for the 3-mile run, Gerry Karver for the mile, and Bill Shuman and Mitch Williams for the 1000-yard event.

Among Stone's competitors in the 3-mile trek will be Rhode Island's Black, Illinois' Twomey, and distance ace Forest Efaw, winner of five out of the six indoor events he entered this season.

Gerry Karver will find among his running companions in the classic mile-distance, board-artists Rafferty, Quinn, Mack, Drake, Brelsford, and Boston's famous "Flying Parson," Gil Dodds.

Dodds, a bona-fide Minister, turned in his spikes several years ago in favor of the pulpit, after establishing himself as one of the top distance runners in competition.

After much urging by coaches and friends, the bespectacled Parson, decided to return to the board circuit this season and divide his time between his two loves—preaching and running. His entry in Saturday's run in-

sure a fast race. During his temporary, premature retirement, the mile was being won in times like 4:16, 4:15, 4:17—Dodds hasn't run a race slower than 4:10 this year and several weeks ago ran Boston's fastest indoor mile; although he complained that his long layoff had greatly affected his timing.

Shuman and Williams won't have it much easier in the 1000-yard event, as Fordham's Nowicki, N.Y.U.'s Callander, and Leslie Mac Mitchell, winner of the Inquirer Mile last month, are listed among those on the starting roster.

Jackie Tighe, 165-pound boxer, and George Schautz, 121-pound wrestler, both of Scranton, and athletic heroes at Penn State, are room mates and fraternity brothers.

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