

Classy Red Raiders Test Nittany Cagers

Big-time basketball will make its '49 debut at Rec Hall on Saturday, as followers of the Nittany Lion court fortunes are accorded the opportunity to judge the wares of one of the nation's big-name teams, the top-flight Red Raiders of Colgate University.

Entering the contest with the reputation of being one of the finest Colgate cage aggregations ever assembled, Coach Karl Lawrence's crew was aiming at nothing less than the National Championship levels earlier this year.

Between The Lions



By Tom Morgan
SPORTS EDITOR

Feed for the Fans

Western Pennsylvanians transplanted to the Nittany Vale may have a closer interest in this, but we thought we'd pass it on to anyone who thrives on a crumb of scuttlebutt, as we do.

We glean the following from Doak (not Walker) Rutkowski, sports editor of the Valley Daily News in Tarentum:

"It looks like Penn State for Willie Thrower, New Kensington high school's ace football half-back, according to his coach, Don Fletcher."

We'll add here that Thrower is the Negro star who paced his Ken Hi mates to a Western Pennsylvania championship in '47 and a near-miss in '48. In flipping the pigskin he lives up to his name and possesses a pair of the largest hands we ever saw on a high school passer.

Switching to Fletcher

Continuing Rutkowski's discourse: "The time was propitious to clarify Fletcher's future.

'Heard you were quitting to sell insurance?' we asked.

'Naw!' guffawed Fletcher. 'It took me 16 years to learn a little about coaching. No use giving that up and starting all over at something else.'

'Well, then, will it be Michigan State or Penn State?' we continued, since Don has been rumored going to either of the two institutions of learning to teach football and how she is played.

'Not going anyplace,' said Don quite emphatically. 'Of course, if anything is offered me, that's different.'

Any rumor of a Fletcher-Penn State connection probably had its roots in something as innocuous as Lion Coach Bob Higgins' stay at Fletcher's home when the Hig spoke at a recent Ken Hi banquet.

In a sport universally recognized for the cautiousness and reticence in its coaches, Lawrence has shucked the covers off his feelings and at the beginning of the 1948-49 season bubbled over in enthusiasm about his team describing them as "the best squad I've ever coached. Inch for inch and pound for pound they are one of the best teams in the country."

Lawrence's prophecy has been slightly tarnished in recent games, but the Red Raider outfit from Hamilton, N. Y., may be rated as probably the finest court machine that will perform here this year.

With just three men gone from the 1947-48 outfit which was the fifteenth highest scoring team in the country with a game average of 64.8, and six battle-hardened veterans ready to start this year, one can realize the reason for the Raider Boss' confidence.

In addition to the Red Raider's deep reserve strength, the thing that has Lion Coach John Lawther muttering in his sleep is Colgate's phenomenal, record-smashing center, all-American Ernie Vandeweghe.

The 6-foot 3-inch senior, who goes up for rebounds like a high jumper, leads the nation's big colleges in scoring with 56 field goals and 18 gratis heaves for 130 points. The Flying Dutchman from Oceanside, N.Y., sports an average of 26 counters per contest.

Holder of virtually every scoring record in Colgate history, Vandeweghe is second in point production in one game, canning 32 markers against Western Reserve. He is four points off Vince Boryla's pace. The Denver collegiate basketballer ripped off 36 points against St. John's, of Brooklyn.

A great advocate of precision basketball, Coach Lawrence features a fast-breaking, short-passing attack, in direct contrast with Lawther's set-play type of game. Lion fans have good cause to

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CARL NORDBLOM

Lion Forward To Miss Tilt

Gloom cast a shadow over the Nittany Lion practice sessions as John Lawther, Penn State's head basketball coach, glumly released the news that Carl Nordblom, veteran forward, would not be able to participate in Saturday's tilt against the powerful Red Raiders of Colgate.

The taciturn Pittsburgh athlete is confined to a Pittsburgh hospital because of a sinus infection in one eye. Lawther admitted that the loss of the 6-foot, 2-inch defensive whiz will put a considerable crimp in the Lion's plans and stated that "with Nordblom in uniform and able to play we would have at least a even chance against the Hamilton, N. Y. outfit."

The blow came just as Lawther felt that he had his hoopme straightened out after droppin

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Intramural Cage Lions Need Varsity Cats' Scoring Skill

One John Lawther, coach of the varsity basketball squad, will be mighty happy if his Lions don't take after the intramural cage team that goes by the same moniker.

At Recreation hall Tuesday night, the IM jungle cats hit the skids. Unable to find their attack, the Lions could count only one field goal in the second half of their contest with Murgas and suffered a 39-7 shellacking.

But Bill West, Sigma Chi, served notice he knows what the game's about. Banging out 19 counters, West led his mates to a 27-12 victory over Phi Kappa in another contest.

The first night of action after vacation also saw the Berletics trounce Nittany Co-op, 31-5; Section 10 whip A.R.O., 26-10, and the Architects bounce Ceramics, 25-16.

Alpha Epsilon Pi socked Triangle with its fourth loss, 19-11; Phi Sigma Delta overcame Kappa Delta Rho, 19-12; and Pi Kappa Alpha outlasted Phi Gamma Delta, 17-12.

Cody Manor won by forfeit over Ath. Hall Men.

Tonight's schedule is:

8:45 p.m.—Gazelles vs. Drawlers, court one; Dorm 30 vs. Dorm 27, court two; Foresters vs. Interrogatives, court three.
9:25 p.m.—Dorm 28 vs. Dorm 24, court one; Dorm 8 vs. Dorm 21, court two; Indians vs. Warriors, court three.
10:05 p.m.—Watts Stars v. Century Boys, court one; Golden Eagles vs. Coal Crackers, court two; Team X vs. Ramblers, court three.

Gehrdes Wins Race In Sugar Bowl

Competing unattached in the Sugar Bowl tournament at New Orleans, Jim Gehrdes, Penn State's outstanding hurdler, raced to first place over the 120-yard high hurdles course during vacation.

The speedy Lion hurdler topped the hurdles in 14.9 seconds.

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