

Lion Cagers Test Navy, Buck Tars' Court Jinx

Hoping to solve the question that has been stumping cage experts for years—how to beat Navy on its home court—Penn State's basketball courtage entrained for Annapolis early this morning for a 4 o'clock engagement with the Middies.

The Tars, on the strength of their unmarred home record, are heavy favorites to repeat last year's 40 to 36 defeat of the Nittany Lions. However, Coach John Lawther's cagers, who have come back strong after an early season slump by coping two of its last three games, figure to have some opinions on the matter themselves.

This afternoon's tussle with Navy will terminate Penn State's basketball activities until after the semester exams. Following its 2-week layoff, the Lions return to action Wednesday, Feb. 2 against West Virginia at Morgantown, W. Va.

FLOOR ADVANTAGE

"Over the years, teams entering Annapolis have found the Middies' skill and floor advantage plus a tremendous buoying spirit prove too great an obstacle to overcome."

"You can compare Navy games to those played in the 'Big 10', Lawther reflected. "There, if you win about two games away from home you are a virtual cinch to win the loop championship."

Coach Ben Carnevale's team has so far won five while dropping four. Navy's last game resulted in a 57-50 defeat of a good Rutgers outfit in the Tar gym. The four losses were sustained from such worthy opponents as Princeton, Northwestern, Minnesota and a 70-62 loss at the hands of Notre Dame, (all on foreign courts.)

Last year, Navy won ten games and lost seven.

Coach Carnevale has counter-

acted the loss of several of his starters from last year's squad with the addition of some highly-regarded dribblers from the 1947-48 undefeated plebe team.

Carnevale has three returning lettermen, with Captain John "Wheel" Barrow, a reliable set-shot and good 6 foot 3 inch defensive player as his hub.

Navy's starting lineup will see Barrow and Harry Woods, 5-foot-10-inch hurdler, at the forward spots. Willie Wilson and Dick Williams will alternate at the center slot. Wilson, an especially dangerous one-hand pivot shot, led last year's plebes in the scoring column. Williams, who also can play forward, is the Tar's biggest man at 6 feet 4 inches.

PLAY MAKERS

Dave Mullaney, a 6-foot Long Island athlete, is especially adept at setting up plays from his guard spot and teams perfectly with Barrow. Joe Fitzpatrick, who notched 14 points against Rutgers, will be the other starting guard.

Lawther has listed his opening five, naming Milt Simon, whose 14 points against Carnegie Tech Saturday enabled him to take over the No. 1 spot among Lion scorers, and Joe Tocci as his guards, Marty Costa at center, and Carl Nardblom and Terry Ruhlman in the frontcourt. Lawther also named Lou Lamie as a possible starter at one of the forward positions.

Pi Kappa Alpha Wallops Alpha Epsilon Pi, 41-17

When five men pound out 41 points in two short IM cage periods, that's cooperation that pays off in wins.

Jack Platt, Pi Kappa Alpha, and teammates, Phil Preston, Harold Rahn, Ed Lloyd and Charley Catanach, turned the trick at Rec Hall Monday night, smothering Alpha Epsilon Pi, 41-17. Platt led the parade with 13 counters; the others kept in step with 7, 7, 6 and 6 points respectively.

The Pi Kaps were never

headed as they bumped easily to their fifth win in fraternity league "F."

Important action in league "E" kept most of the attention centered on the Kappa Sigma-Delta Tau Delta battle, however. Slipping a couple quick fielders in the waning moments of the second half, Kappa Sigma locked up its fifth straight win, 14-12, and clung to a one-game lead in the circuit.

Independent Smooth Schmoos and Q. Quintet climbed one and a

half games ahead of the pack by winning their fifth straight game. The Schmoos walloped the Privateers, 26-11, while the Q's eked a 22-18 win over the Red Flashes.

In other games, Beaver House battered Matilda Chi, 21-9; Jordan Hall won its first, 19-17, over Ward 2; Theta Kappa Phi edged Beta Theta Pi, 17-16; Beta Sigma Rho bombed Phi Sigma Kappa, 24-17, and Lambda Chi Alpha beat Theta Xi, 13-10.



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