

Houckmen Seek Second Against Army; Sophs Shine in 6-2 Opening Win

By George Vadass

After successfully lifting the cover of their '49 ring campaign with a 6-2 triumph over Western Maryland, Coach Leo Houck's boxers have their mitts focused toward their second straight victory when they tangle with Army's sluggin' Cadets at Rec Hall Saturday at 7 p.m.

The Black Knights from the Hudson come to the Nittany Valley with a .500 record, having outpointing Michigan State in their opening meet by a 5-3 score and then dropping a 5½-3½ decision to the Orange boxers of Syracuse, the Lion's ring opponent next weekend.

The loss of six lettermen makes the Cadet boxing squad an "unknown quantity" at least until the yearlings have proven themselves in competition. Outstanding performer of the Cadets is Pete Monfore, a light-heavy who last season was awarded the outstanding boxer trophy at the Eastern Intercollegiate although he dropped a much disputed decision in the finals to Virginia's Ralph Shoaf.

HEAVYWEIGHT

Only other seasoned performer to report to Herb Kroeten, successor to Billy Cavanaugh at the Army coaching helm, is heavy-weight Bill Kellum. Last season the six-foot-three-inch Kellum was eliminated in the semi-finals of the EIBA's and thus has not met Drazenovich in the ring. He is an all-around athlete, holding down a first-string end position on the Cadets' undefeated grid machine last year.

At 125 pounds, Medon Bitzer will represent the Cadets, while Stanley Scott is slated to meet the Lion's captain John Benglian at 130 pounds. Thirdclassman Joe Lafleur will enter the squared circle fighting in the 145 division.

165-POUNDER

Bob Keller, the Lions' hard hitting 165-pounder, will sit this week's fight out with a pulled back muscle. Lanky Paul Smith will fill his mitts battling Cadet Tom Hastings at 165 pounds.

The Lions' sophomore slugging duet of Lou Guthrie and Jim Maloney will receive its second test under fire by meeting John Cunningham and Ken Herring in the 135- and 155-pound divisions, respectively. There is a possibility that Ollie Wallace may replace Guthrie in the line-up.

Guthrie and Maloney, both newcomers to Pen State boxing wars, stole into the limelight last Saturday in the Lions' 6-2 rout over a much-outclassed Green Terror mitt team.

GUTHRIE, MALONEY

Fighting at 135 pounds, Lou Guthrie, a Williamsport battler, kept weaving in and out with cobra-like speed to easily outpoint his opponent, while in the 155 class, Jim Maloney, an aggressive ringster who believes offense is the best defense, carried the fight to his opponent to gain the nod for the three-round battle.

More than 5500 mitt fans were no more disappointed than was the Lion's heavy, Chuck Drazenovich, when his revenge bout against Joe Corletto was stopped after the first round when one of the Brownsville Bombarde's blows inflicted a cut over Corletto's eye. EIBA rules state that any contest that is stopped before the second round is declared a draw although Drazenovich copped the first round by a 10-9 margin.

CROWD PLEASER

The crowd pleaser of the evening came in the third round of the Sheeche-Sieland struggle when the veteran Sheeche, using vicious right uppercuts, apparently outpointed his quickly tiring Terror opponent, but Referee Di Filippo gave the nod to Sieland in a disputed decision.

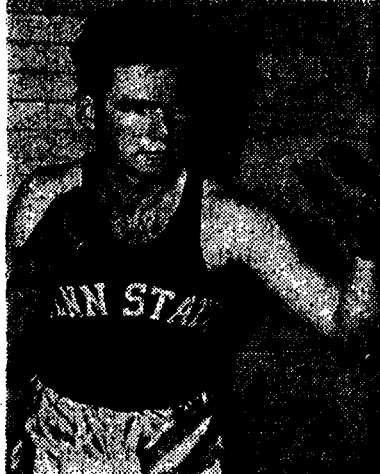
Lefty John Benglian copped three easy 10-8 rounds to completely outclass his green opponent with his lightning like left. Fred Smith, replacing Dave Evans

Schoolboys

Penn State's 5500-seat Rec Hall will be turned over to schoolboy wrestling for the Bellefonte-Clearfield duel Saturday, February 26. The two schools, rivals for the first time, both boast extended winning streaks in Pennsylvania competition.

Home-Grown

An all-Pennsylvania cast represents Penn State on the wrestling mats again this season.



JACK SHEEHE

who injured his hand the day before the fight, garnered the Lion's first point of the evening by decisioning Tom Doolittle. At 165 pounds, Bob Keller, the Lion's best conditioned ringman, completely smothered his opponent into oblivion. Jack Bolger, last season's jayvee heavyweight, was held to a draw in a bitter dragout battle.

Lion-Western Maryland Boxing Summary

125 pounds—Smith, Penn State, decisioned Doolittle, 30-27.
130 pounds—Benglian, Penn State, decisioned Mueller, 30-24.
135 pounds—Guthrie, Penn State, decisioned Lefew, 30-26.
145 pounds—Sieland, Western Maryland, decisioned Sheeche, 30-25.
155 pounds—Maloney, Penn State, decisioned Merrit, 30-25.
165 pounds—Keller, Penn State, decisioned Kelly, 30-25.
175 pounds—Bolger, Penn State, and Solomon, Western Maryland, draw, 30-30.
Heavyweight—Drazenovich, Penn State, drew with Corletto, Western Maryland, when bout was stopped at end of first round.
Referee—V. J. DiFilippo, Newark, N. J.

Lion Gymnasts Face Spartans In Opener

As if things aren't bad enough for Coach Gene Wettstone's gymnastic Lions, already riddled by losses through graduation and to the armed forces, schedule-makers seem to be working overtime to make the 1949 gymnastic debut a bit rough.

The Nittany gymnasts are scheduled to meet Michigan State's Spartans at East Lansing, Mich., Monday.

LAYOFF

This forces the Wettstonemen to open their season on foreign soil right on the heels of the between-semester layoffs—not the most advantageous spot to inaugurate a new season.

The trip to the Spartans' lair made it necessary that the gymnasts taking the journey cut short their between-semester vacation.

Michigan State is a new foe on this year's gym card, a foe Wettstone's charges did not encounter as they romped through five opponents last year.

The Spartans, however, are not being lightly considered. In anticipation of their opening meet, the Nittanyites have been working out daily on the Rec Hall apparatus and mats, hopeful of making their 1949 curtain-raiser a successful one.

BONSALL

Only two headliners, Bill Bonsall, who placed second in NAAU all-around competition, and Bill Meade, last season's ace tumbler, Continued on page thirteen



One of the topnotch basketball players in the country, Ed Stickel is enjoying a sensational year with the powerful Syracuse five which invades State College Saturday. Stickel totaled 320 points last year when only a sophomore.

Tough Orange Matmen Hinder Nittany Streak

By Ed Watson

The Nittany Lion wrestling team faces its toughest assignment of the season Saturday night at Syracuse, N. Y. Its opposition is a high-g geared Syracuse University mat combination, loser of only one dual meet. That loss was suffered at the hands of Franklin and Marshall's power-laden outfit in an early season tangle.

The Orangemen are led by Pascal Perri, defending champion of the 165-pound class in the EIWA, and Ken Hunte, renowned 155-pounder. Last year, the Nittanies fought to a draw with the Orange, 14-14.

The Lion grapplers left State College this morning at 8:30 for the Orange stronghold. Coach Charlie Speidel announced his probable starting lineup before the final practice yesterday afternoon. Injuries have beset the Speidelmen this week, and Jim Maurey, ace 145-pounder, will not see action. In addition, a gap must be filled in the 155-pound division because of the graduation of Grant Dixon on Monday.

REXSE

Undefeated Johnny Reese will be at his usual 121-pound post, and will encounter rugged competition in Jim Fogarty. Jack Dreibelbis will wrestle at 128 pounds and Al Fasnacht will go against the Orange's outstanding Joe Settani at 136 pounds.

Replacing the ailing Maurey will be Larry Shallcross, who has shown plenty of improvement since the first practice sessions began. Bill Santel, a new sophomore, will have a man-sized job on his hands when he meets Syracuse's Ken Hunte in the 155-pound duel. Hunte's coach, Joe McDaniels, calls him a potential Eastern champ.

Bob Hetrick will be at 165 pounds, but for the second straight week, he faces top-flight competition. His foe at Syracuse is Perri. Bob Markle makes his second varsity appearance when he meets Captain George Gebhart, runner-up in the EIWA tourney at 175 pounds in 1948.

BARR

Homer Barr, stalwart Lion heavyweight, will seek his fourth win when he squares off with Fred Gunther, promising Syracuse sophomore.

Last Saturday, the Penn Staters were white-hot as they applied the skids to any hope that the Army mat team had of leading the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association by cracking the Cadets under a 24-6 score before a capacity crowd in Rec Hall. It was the

home opener for the Lions, and their third straight victory.

The Black Knights from the Hudson never stood a chance. From the sound of the bell starting the 121-pound clash between State's Johnny Reese and Joe

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Lion Cubs Cop Second Victory

Penn State's Jayvee wrestling team copped its second consecutive win of the season by coming from behind to edge a strong Lock Haven Teachers College squad, 18-14, Wednesday. The meet was held in the Lock Haven Gym.

Wally Chambers, Lion Cub heavyweight, clinched the meet for the Lion juniors when he pinned the Eagles' Nava in 4:45 with a body press and reverse nelson.

Other fall winners for the Blue and White Jayvees were Mickey Silverman and Johnny Peters, 165-pounder. Silverman threw Mock in 5:06 using a crotch and half nelson, in the 155-pound clash, while Peters tossed Kirsinger in 7:20. He was leading by a 2-1 score when he touched the Lock Havenite's shoulders to the mat with a bar arm and reverse nelson.

Bucky Edinger won his second Jayvee bout by decisioning Hampton, 3-2. Edinger scored a takedown in the last period to edge the T.C. grappler in the 136-pound bout.

Lion Cub decision losers were Kryder Mattern, Wally Maurer and Carl Everett, while 121-pound Bill Dux was the victim of a first-period fall.

121 pounds—McCoy (LH) pinned Dux in :36 with bar arm and chancery.
128 pounds—Gunnor (LH) decisioned Mattern, 10-4.
136 pounds—Edinger (PS) decisioned Hampton, 3-2.
145 pounds—Kocher (LH) decisioned Maurer, 6-0.

155 pounds—Silverman (PS) pinned Mock in 5:06 with crotch and half nelson.
165 pounds—Peters (PS) pinned Kirsinger in 7:20 with bar arm and reverse nelson.

175 pounds—Hout (LH) decisioned Everett, 7-0.
Unlimited—Chambers (PS) pinned Nava in 4:45 with body press and reverse nelson.

The Nittany Realm

By Ray Koehler

A few years ago a small, sharp-featured ex-GI with a confident but not cocky attitude had to make one of the most important decisions of his life, whether to play pro baseball or enter college.

Today, Joe Tocci, the ex-Navy man, is confident that he has made the right choice. Adding more followers to the Tocci fan club every time he treads the boards, "Little Joe," as he is dubbed, is making Lion fans sit up and take notice by showing 'em how the pros do it.

DECISION

But the mighty mite from Ridgewood, N.Y., was still a long way from Old Main's cloistered halls when he made his decision to enter college in search of a physical education degree.

You'll have to credit Ed Wagner, then Athletic Director at Mohawk Junior College, with an assist for bringing the talented Queens' athlete into the Lion fold. But for Wagner's astute salesmanship, Joe's name would at this moment, in all likelihood, be gracing one of the New York College rosters.

His junior college term lasting only two years, Tocci found himself out in the cold after completing his four semesters at Mohawk. But already the big-time college Lorelei's were beckoning him.

Rhode Island, Utica and Colgate were all hot on his trail. In fact, until Wagner, present graduate physical education instructor at the College, lured the Italian-descended playmaker to Penn State, Carl Lawrence, Colgate's basketball schemer, had visions of Tocci coming into the Red Raiders' camp.

What makes Joe such a stand-out? Oldtimers call it poise. His iceberg attitude under pressure is one of his standout qualifications.

AMBITION

Although not likely to come about in the near future, Tocci's greatest ambition is to go back to his home town and play in Madison Square Garden with a championship team, a dream which he is not alone in holding. In his senior year in high school, Joe, white teeth flashing, said he realized his biggest thrill when his team went to the Garden while he cavorted with Grover Cleveland Hi in New York's PSAL league.

Being a native New Yorker and having the opportunity to judge some of the best basketball players in the land, the swarthy ball-

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