

Lawthermen Seek Upset Win Over Favored Temple Owls

Penn State's basketball team will be gunning for its third straight Rec Hall win at 8 p.m. today when it meets a favored Temple University squad which last Saturday clinched the mythical Philadelphia city court championship.

Temple will be making its final 1948-'49 hardwood appearance, entering the fray seeking its 15th triumph against 8 losses. The Lions, in scouting their sixth win of the campaign in sixteen outings, are hopeful of adding the Owls to their list of scalps which includes Wash-Jeff, Carnegie Tech, Syracuse, Pitt and American U.

DISAPPOINTING

While the Owls' 14-and-8 seasonal mark is not impressive enough to rate national post-season consideration, the Cherry and White emerged from a disappointing season with one hotly-sought-after crown, the Quaker City district diadem.

Temple won its city title in true championship style with a spectacular 57-56 victory over St. Joe's in Convention Hall. Johnny Ballott's mid-court heave in the final five seconds salvaged considerable consolation for an outfit that was supposed to rank with the best in the East.

Making the contest doubly interesting is that, meek as the proverbial lamb on foreign courts, the Lions on their home boards put on a Jekyll-Hyde exhibition that amazes their most avid fan.

OWLS WON

In the initial encounter in a double-header fill at Convention Hall, Temple won going away, 56-46. However, on the State floor signs are out for a much more closely-contested game.

One of Philadelphia's outstanding court aces will be making his final collegiate cage appearances as Nelson Bobb, considered by State Coach John Lawther as one of the greatest hoopsters in the East, dons Owl spangles for the last time.

Missing from the Owl flock will be "Ike" Borsavage, veteran center, whose pivot position will be taken over by the Philadelphians' current fair-haired boy, Ballotts.

Last Won in 1940

Penn State, winner of seven titles, last won the Intercollegiate Boxing Association team championship in 1940.

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Between The Lions



By Tom Morgan
SPORTS EDITOR

To The Record Books

Penn State's scuttling of Navy's record of 52 consecutive defeatless wrestling meets recalls a greater spotless streak in intercollegiate sports.

That one belongs to the Nittany Lion soccer team. In the New Encyclopedia of Sports, Frank Menke puts it concisely:

"The greatest performance in intercollegiate soccer is to the credit of Penn State College. For eight seasons in a row Penn State engaged in 65 games, and was unbeaten, being tied five times. The Coach was William Jeffrey, rated as the most famous of all soccer tutors."

On November 5, 1932, Coach Jeffrey saw his booters drop a 2-1 contest to Syracuse. Not until nine years and ten days later—November 15, 1941—did he see them lose again, this time to Army.

On the editorial page of November 18, 1941, the Daily Collegian was moved thusly:

"After the first mental shock of realization that the invincible Penn State soccer team had lost, an undercurrent of an awakening fire swept through the hearts of the sons and daughters of the Nittany Valley.

"On the lips of everyone were words of praise, or pride, of appreciation for a paragon coach and a valiant team.

"At 2 p.m. Sunday, over 3,000 cheering students met the home-bound bus and gave Bill Jeffrey and his lads the greatest ovation that any Penn State team has ever received."

Ironic, isn't it? It took defeat to bring out the crowd.

Bedenk Begins 20th Season

Preliminary practice sessions have already begun for Penn State's baseballers under the tutelage of Coach Joe Bedenk, who is beginning his 20th season as dean of the diamond for the Blue and White.

Six lettermen return to the Nittany fold. Included in this array are pitcher Cy Miller, holder of a 4-and-1 record on the mound last season; Dick Wertz, first baseman; Gene Solomon, second baseman; Captain Hal Hackman, shortstop; Al Tkac, right fielder, and Bill Benyish, combination outfielder and pitcher.

Graduation and eligibility conditions cut deeply into the Lions' offensive power, for left fielder, Don Stark, and Red Hogan, third sacker, are ineligible for duty this season. Stark was the team's leading hitter for the past two seasons, while Hogan powered a .352 average in 1948.

Ex-captain Bob Gehrett and John Potsklan have finished their eligibility, while Eddie Holler, number one catcher, graduated.

Approximately 115 candidates have signed up for the squad, and Coach Bedenk has had the pitching and catching candidates working out near the East stands on New Beaver Field for the past week.

Temple plays host to the Lions at Philadelphia on April 13, drawing the curtain on a 22-game card for the Nittanians. The schedule is evenly divided between the

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Second-Half Flurries Win For TKE's, Pi Kappa Alpha

Tau Kappa Epsilon and Pi Kappa Alpha, employing second-round splurges that swept them past their opponents, whipped into intramural cage championships in leagues "A" and "F" last night.

The action on the Rec Hall boards rounded out league play, and left individual champs in six circuits ready to vie for the fraternity title in semi-final and final playoffs Thursday and Friday night.

Tau Kappa Epsilon, victor, 18-15 over Sigma Alpha Epsilon during regular season play, trailed 7-5 at the half last night, but with their fast breaks opening holes in the SAE zone, they

powered again to a 20-15 victory for the crown.

With Jack Platt grabbing 7 counters, and Phil Preston adding 5 important tallies, the PiKA's downed Sigma Chi, 19-12, on another court. The white shirted victors, using Elwood Petchel to bring the ball up, and Platt and Preston on the boards, kept Sigma Chi crewmen easily on the defensive.

The Berletics copped the independent league "D" title on another court, beating the Penn Points, 22-10.

In a late game Monday night, the Foresters beat the Interrogatives, 22-19, for the independent league "E" title.

Lion Riflers Defeat Lehigh

Penn State's varsity riflers edged Lehigh University by a 1342 to 1337 score in the Armory Saturday afternoon.

Rifleman Gerald Prange was high man for the Nittany squad with a 281 total, while closely behind were Harry Schwangler, 270; Alfred Darrach, 265; Sam Carnahan, 265, and Jack Hepfer, 261. It was Schwangler's initial appearance with Coach Unrath's charges.

The Lions were hampered by the absence of Robert O'Knefski and Rod Ingleright, both of whom have been consistent point scorers.

In the telegraph matches last week four teams, Brown, Wisconsin, Pitt and Texas participated along with Penn State. The Lions scored a 1376 in this match and will know later in the week their position among these teams.

The remainder of the scheduled matches will be telegraphed. The next shoulder-to-shoulder match will be the Intercollegiate Rifle matches later this month.

Syracuse Coaches Relieved of Duties

The Syracuse University football staff, including Head Coach Reeves (Ribbs) Baysinger, was fired yesterday as a result of an investigation on a disastrous 1948 season in which the Syracuse football team won only one out of nine games.

Relieved, besides Baysinger, were Lew Newton, Ralph (Chubb) Simmons, Bill Johnson, Bill Eschenfelder and Bill Simon. Lewis B. Andreas was retained as Director of Athletics and varsity basketball coach.

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