

Basketball Team Leaves for 2-Game Trip

Attempt To Break Jinx; Face Hoyas, American U.

Hoping the break its long standing jinx on foreign floors, the Nittany cagers play their first two away games of the season tonight and tomorrow night.

The Lion hoopsters will face Georgetown tonight in Washington's Armory, then make the short hop to Uline arena tomorrow night to face American U. The Lions have a ten-game losing streak on the road.

The Hoyas and the Eagles have 2-0 and 2-1 records respectively. Georgetown, making a bid for big time basketball recognition, came through with a 68-63 win over American U last Thursday.

DIXIE CLASSIC

Following these two encounters State will remain idle until Dec. 28-30 when it makes the trek to Raleigh, N. C. to play the 'Big Boys' in basketball's Dixie Classic clash.

Coach Gross is not too confident of his team's chances in the Capital City. "I still can't tell just what kind of a team we have. Sure, we beat Susquehanna by a big score, but we didn't have too much opposition.

"If we win both games down there we'll do all right this season, but don't expect too much," he said ominously. "Frankly I don't expect to beat American U. I was quite surprised when A. U. beat Georgetown the other night; that's an indication that the Hoyas have quite a nice little club.

"As to our losing streak, well, we'll all be punching."

SCHIS AT CENTER

Gross intends to use his platoon attack employing Lee Schisler at center, Marty Costa and Whitey McKown at guards and Joe Tocci and Lou Lamie in the fast-break forward spots, as his first team. Despite the presence of American U. scouts in the stands he intends to pull no punches with his offense, playing each game as it comes.

Concerning the fast break, Gross thinks that there is still too much fumbling of the ball when driving in, and when finally in scoring range the shots are not dropping. He expressed pleasant surprise over the play of Jay McMahon who came through with eight points in the last quarter of play, reiterating what he has said before that the Altoona youth has all the potentialities of a great player.

Gross remembers only too well, as assistant coach under John Lawther, what happened last year when State was tripped up on two successive evenings by Georgetown, 49-41, and American U., 59-45, its first two '48-'49 defeats.

WON 9 LAST YEAR

Playing a 25-game schedule Georgetown won 9 while dropping 16. Against Penn State the Hoyas won on their home court but lost a 61-42 contest at Rec Hall. The 'Caps' hit their high mark against Fort Belvoir taking a 91-41 run-away but turned around to be trounced, 70-59, by N.Y.U.

Five men who scrimmaged against State last year have returned to Coach Elmer Ripley's Hoya fold. The returnees are led by high-scoring Tommy "Flash" O'Keefe who notched 270 tallies his sophomore year and 294 last season.

Although Captain Ray Corley, who accounted for 248 points and was named to State's all-opponent second team, is gone, lettermen John Mazziotta, 6-foot 5-inch center, Dick Falvey, Dan Supkis, 6-foot 7-inch reserve, Italo "Fireball" Ablondi, Frank Alagia, Rogers and Biff Brown will be on hand to reinforce O'Keefe.

Mazziotta, who scored 126 points last year, will get the call for center duties while Falvey and O'Keefe handle the ball from the guard spots. Probable forwards are Ablondi and Brown, a 200-point producer last year. Ripley's squad will average around the 6-foot 1-inch mark, a rather small figure in the days of "goon" basketball.

When Georgetown meets Penn State in basketball this season, it will be a battle of two "Elmer's." Elmer Ripley will lead the Hoyas against the Nittany Lions of Elmer Gross.

Three IM Cage Teams Continue Undefeated

The Portage Terrors, Dorm 41 and Dorm 6 put their second consecutive victory into the win column Monday night as they took undisputed leads in their respective Independent basketball leagues.

Dorm 41, of League A, kept their record clean as they downed Dorm 28, 31-12, in a rough ball game. Joe Werlinich tossed in 12 points to pace the winners. With Dick Dietrick getting ten big points, Dorm 11 edged Dorm 43, 19-15; and Joe Franceschina's six points helped Dorm 22 to a 19-13 win over Dorm 24 in other League A contests.

In League B, Dorm 6 whipped Dorm 38, 15-5, to go to the top in the league standings. Other League B results saw Dan Shoemaker lead Dorm 2 to a 21-11 victory over Dorm 7, and Dorm 21 down Dorm 4, 19-10, with Orin Jaquish netting eight for the victors.

The Portage Terrors went into the lead in League K with a 24-12 decision over Mary's Muggs. Al Barano was a big factor in the Terror's win as he cut the cords with 12 points. Tom Strike also got 12 points as he paced the Eagles' 20-12 victory over the Penn State Club. In the other League K game, the Reds nipped the Timber Wolves, 18-16. Wayne Shearer was high for the Red quintet with eight.

Tonights scheduled games will be the last played in the intramural tournament until after vacation. The schedule:

8:45—Alpha Zeta vs Delta Chi; Zeta Beta Tau vs Alpha Chi Sigma; Sigma Pi vs Kappa Sigma.

9:25—Phi Epsilon pi vs Sigma Phi Sigma; Tau Phi Delta vs Alpha Phi Alpha; Theta Kappa Phi vs Sigma Phi Alpha.

10:05—Sigma Alpha Epsilon vs Beta Sigma Rho; Acacia vs Pi Lambda Phi; Phi Delta Theta vs Phi Sigma Kappa.

3 College Officials Elected to Posts

Dr. Carl P. Schott, dean of the School of Physical Education and Athletics, was elected president of the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastic League at the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference meeting in New York City last weekend. Dean Schott will also continue to serve on the executive council of the E.C.A.C.

H. R. Gilbert, graduate manager of athletics at the College, was elected president of the Eastern Intercollegiate Golf League, while Nick Thiel, lacrosse coach, was named secretary-treasurer of the United States Lacrosse Coaches Association.

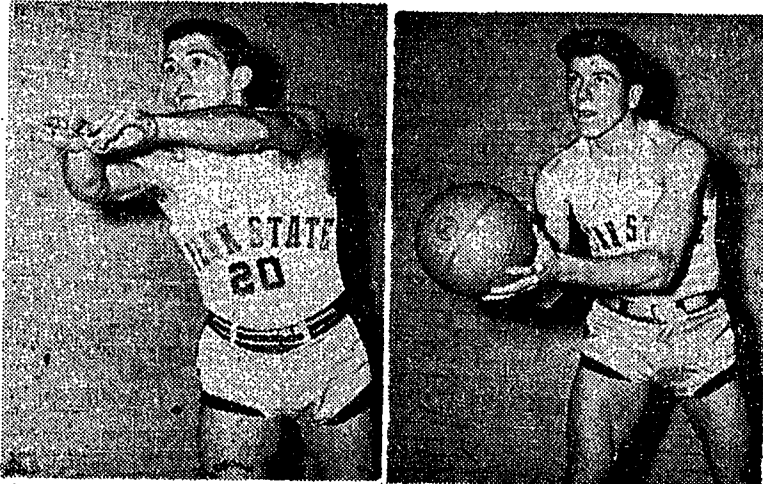
The College's bid for the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association championships in 1951 was accepted by the conference at the meetings.

Three members of Georgetown University's court squad from last year hit the hoops for more than 200 points. Ray Corley, Tommy O'Keefe, and Biff Brown all reached the two-century mark.

Track Managers

All sophomore men interested in becoming second assistant managers in track, please report to the balcony track in Rec Hall any evening after 4 p.m.

Gross' Fast-Break Combo



TWO OF COACH Elmer Gross' starting quintet for tomorrow night's game with the Georgetown Hoyas at the Washington Armory are forwards Joe Tocci (left) and Lou Lamie (right).

Tocci, ace dribbler on the Nittany cage squad, teams up with Lamie on Gross' fast downcourt breaks and both put them to good scoring use.

Track Coaches Must Build Star Runners for Boards

With the cross country season in the record books and the beginning of the indoor invitational track meets still a month away, it would seem that Penn State track coach Chick Werner and his assistant, Norm Gordon could be sitting back taking things easy.

But that is as far from the truth as the Washington Senators are from the American League Pennant.

WORK AHEAD

For the Nittany coaches realize that if they hope to receive any invitations to the winter meets, they have a terrific amount of work ahead of them. To be invited to one of the indoor meets, a performer or team must really be good. The average aren't invited.

Outside of Captain Jim Gehrdes the Lion team is shrouded in mystery. Jumpin' Jim is the only Nittany thinclad sure of invitations to the top meets.

Jim one of the best hurdlers in the nation, will open his campaign on New Year's Day in New Orleans at the Sugar Bowl Carnival, held each year as a part of the New Year's Day celebration. He won the 120-yard high hurdles event at the Carnival last year and will be out to defend his title. The former Altoona high school star has been working out for the last couple weeks following a six-weeks practice teaching session at Johnstown.

DOUBT

As for the rest of the Blue and White team, things are very much in doubt. Coach Werner has said that he will concentrate on building good one mile and two mile relay teams.

Leading candidates for the one mile team are John McCall, Bill Lockhart, Wil Lancaster, Bob Giron, Harrison Feese, Wally Schlegel, and newcomers Jimmy Gibson and Jim Davis.

Members of the cross-country team will fight it out for berths on the two mile relay team. The battle will be between Bill and Don Ashenfelter, Bob Freebairn,

Bob Parsons, Jack St. Clair, maybe McCall and a group of promising sophomores.

Indoor practice began in earnest last week, or at least as earnestly as is possible in Rec Hall. The lack of a fieldhouse seriously handicaps the Wernermen, not only in the matter of practice, but also because it prohibits the scheduling of dual meets. The Lions must rely solely on the invitational meets the first of which comes in the middle of January in New York.

OTHER EVENTS

In addition to Gehrdes and the relay teams, other thinclads are working out in their specialties—sprints, middle distances, high jump, and pole vaults. The Nittany coaches hope to be able to get a full team ready to enter the IC4-A meet.

Three of the nation's top distance runners, alumni Curt Stone and Horace Ashenfelter and Illinois grad, John Twomey will work out in Rec Hall during the winter campaign. . . . The Lion trackmen are watching with interest the adventures of several of their members in the IM boxing tournament. Heading the group are Ron Coder, Al Porto and Wil Lancaster. Several others fell by the wayside.

Tommy O'Keefe led the Georgetown University Hoyas' basketball team in scoring for the 1948-49 season with 294 points in 24 games.

Lion Tankmen Open Relations With Seton Hall

The Nittany swimming squad has now completed its swimming schedule with the addition of a home meet with Seton Hall Jan. 27. This will be the first meeting between the two schools.

Coach Bill Gutteron pointed out that this meet will be a tough one, but expressed his belief that the Lions will be trying hard to get off to a good start with their new opponent.

SQUAD CUT

Having cut the squad to 38 men, Coach Gutteron is now stressing conditioning with an eye toward the Christmas vacation, which could ruin a lot of hard work. However, many of the top competitors will continue to work out at their respective home towns. The mermen are taking their training seriously, and by hitting a peak before vacation, expect to be ready for their tough opening schedule only a week after returning.

The two opening meets, on Jan. 13 and 14, with Colgate and Cornell, respectively, will be two of the toughest meets for the Lions. These two away meets will pit the tankmen against some of the top swimmers in the East.

Cornell, who has a perennially strong team, is meeting topflight competition, including Army Penn, Syracuse and Yale. Cornell and Syracuse were the only two teams that defeated the Lions last season, as the locals ended with a 5-2 record.

NEWCOMERS LEAD

Coach Gutteron expressed satisfaction at the way the newcomers to the squad are performing. He expects help from them this year, and is maintaining a larger squad than usual throughout the season to give them experience for next year.

Graduation did not seriously deplete the ranks of the swimmers for the 1949-50 season, but will hit harder at the close of this year.

The site for the Eastern Intercollegiate has not been determined. Glennland pool is not equipped to handle a crowd such as would have to be accommodated for the meets, although its swimming facilities are adequate.

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