

'On The Ball'

By RAY KOEHLER Sports Editor

Trip With Cagers Provides Thrill



You're strolling down the street with nothing much to do, when a sharply-etched red and white monster of the highways...



Migawd," you offer, echoing the sentiments of others who first look, then stop, and finally stare.



You watch, trying to appear rather unconcerned, as this sharp-ly-attired, broad-shouldered crew stands talking among themselves...

Life O' Riley

Then you nudge your neighbor with a friendly elbow and say, kind of wistfully, "What a life these college kids must lead. Wonder what it's like?"

Even campus students, closer to the scene than most people, must have at one time or other wondered what it would be like to take a trip with a college basketball team.

Having the opportunity to travel with Penn State's now-roaring Lions on their recent two-day basketball trip to Washington and thence Annapolis, the writer jumped at the possibilities of such a trip and now dutifully records a few impressions.

Big Bus

Piloted by Walt Spicer and built to seat 37 occupants, our land-cruiser weighed anchor from in front of the Corner Room. The first few miles are usually spent lounging deep in tilt-back seats, reading newspapers (the sports sections, mostly) or just exchanging small talk.

Gradually the dreamy conversational hum subsides and only the powerful rumble of the motor is heard. One by one the athletes slide down in their seats in the attempt to get in a few of those precious extra winks before gametime that night.

In a specially-built compartment beside the driver—the so-called "jump seat"—sits Head Coach Elmer Gross, serious as a Puritan minister, his mind probably racing with thoughts of offensive and defensive strategy.

Directly behind the sun-spectacled driver sits John Egli, assistant coach, and the sharply-chisled team trainer, Chuck Medlar, who claims that during the past football season he used 121 miles of tape on Rip Engle's charges.

Jovial as they come, Egli is a perfect foil for Gross. He's the guy who provides the comic relief over the long training grind and the boring road engagements.

Tocci Wonders

Directly behind Gross sits freshman Coach Tocci, his jet-black crew cut just about visible over the top of seat as he stares vacantly

(Continued on page seven)

Robinson Picked To Cop Middleweight Title Tonite

CHICAGO, Feb. 13 (AP)—Sugar Ray Robinson, world welter king, rules a solid favorite to strip Jake La Motta of his middleweight crown tomorrow night in the first battle of two champions since the days of Henry Armstrong.

Simplifying the prevailing 3-4 odds, Jake the Bull is a 3 1/2 to 1 underdog in man-to-man betting. Chances are it may come down to 2 1/2 to 1 by ringtime at 10:00 p.m. (EST).

Some 12,500 fans are expected to pay \$175,000 to see the 15-round match at Chicago Stadium, scene of the Rocky Graziano-Tony Zale thriller four years ago.

La Motta, the cement-jawed "Doll of the Bronx" who never has been knocked off his feet in

95 fights, is the mystery man. Nobody knows his exact weight. Nobody can fathom his pre-fight strategy.

Weight always is a problem with squat Jake. That is why the weigh-in will be two hours before noon giving La Motta extra time to sweat off suet if needed.

Jake claimed two weeks ago he was "160, on or about, believe it or not." Twice he has made the weight with great effort to defend against Tiberio Mitro and Laurent Dauthuille since he won the title from the late Marcel Cerdon.

In case La Motta fails to make 160 pounds by noon, he will lose his title on the scales, according to Joe Triner, chairman of the

Nittany Lion Cagers Try For 7th Straight Win At Pittsburgh Tonight

The Nittany Lion basketball team travels down to Pittsburgh in hopes of its seventh straight win tonight when the Lion cagers meet the unpredictable Pittsburgh Panthers. Although the two teams' records are as different as black and white, the Panthers will be a tough hurdle in the Lions' current drive.

A Tough Break



Junie Moore

State's hopes to continue its winning ways were dimmed a bit when Junie Moore broke the first joint in his thumb during the West Virginia game. He has trouble catching the ball with the thumb bandaged, and it is doubtful if he will play at all tonight.

Penn State goes into the game tonight with a respectable 10 and 5 record while Pitt stands at the other extreme with 5 wins and 15 losses.

The Panthers have beaten Gettysburg and Bucknell, both of whom Penn State defeated, and Westminster and Grove City. Navy, also a team the Lions dropped, Bradley, Cincinnati, Minnesota, U.C.L.A., California are a few of the stronger teams that have defeated the over-ambitious Panthers.

The Nittany Lions will have to readjust their sights for the Pitt game. After staring up at 6 foot 9 inch Mark Workman Saturday night, the Lions will have to look down on little Mike Belich, Pitt's ace point-getter, who stands only 5 feet 7 inches.

16.1 Average

In 20 games, the diminutive forward has averaged 16.1 points per contest and he hasn't padded his average against the "breathers."

Another guy the Lions will have to watch is Mickey Zernich, 6-3 forward, who played basketball for Aliquippa's Pennsylvania state champion squad two years ago.

Penn State fans will have their eyes on the boxscore, watching for Captain Lou Lamie's point output. The Arnold, Pa. forward needs only 29 points to set a new Penn State three year scoring record and he'd like nothing better than to set it at Pitt before a contingent of Arnold fans who will attend the game to see the State captain perform.

Fight Facts

CHICAGO, Feb. 13 (AP)—Tale of the tape on Sugar Ray Robinson and Jake La Motta for their world's middleweight 15 round championship bout in the Chicago stadium tomorrow night.

Table with 4 columns: Name, Age, Weight, Height, Reach, Chest, Waist, Thigh, Arm, Neck. Rows for Robinson and La Motta.

Illinois Athletic commission. Triner says Robinson, as the No. 1 NBA challenger, will be proclaimed champ if La Motta fails to make 160.

The fight would go on, but as non-title match.

However, there is little possibility of such shenanigans. Triner will tell you off the record that Jake has been under 160 for a "couple of days."

Robinson, expected to weigh 154, holds four wins over La Motta in their five-bout series. However, Jake is the only man to whip him in 123 fights. That happened Feb. 5, 1943, in their second meeting, a unanimous 10-round decision at Detroit.

Twice La Motta had Robinson

Fraternity Teams Find Opponents Touch In IM Tilts

As fraternity basketball action moves closer to its final date of March 13, loop leaders are finding it rougher and tougher to keep their place at the front of the herd.

Monday night was no exception, as Theta Chi of league B suffered a startling upset at the hands of Alpha Chi Rho, 19-15. Theta Chi was ahead at halftime, 11-6.

Meanwhile, Phi Kappa just about sewed up the same league as they topped Alpha Epsilon Pi, 21-14. In league C, Tau Kappa Epsilon continued its undefeated string by trouncing Acacia, 26-8, as Carl Trautmann dumped in 10 markers.

Sigma Pi of league A, last year's champs had to go all out to down Phi Epsilon Pi, 17-12. In another league A battle, Pi Kappa Phi dropped its second tilt to Theta Xi in a real thriller, 20-19.

In league D, Beta Sigma Rho and Sigma Phi Epsilon stepped out a half game ahead of Phi Delta Theta, who was idle, by winning forfeit victories over Alpha Sigma Phi and Delta Tau Delta.

The only affair in league E was Chi Phi's 24-17 win over Pi Lambda Phi. Pi Lambda led at the half, 11-10. Myron Lamont paced the victors with 14 points.

Luckman Ends Career As Bears Quarterback

CHICAGO, Feb. 13 (AP)—Sid Luckman today ended his 12-year playing career with the Chicago Bears and became a vice president of the club.

Owner-coach George Halas of the Bears today announced Luckman's finish as a player. Williams, the Notre Dame all-American quarterback, and the Bears' first draft choice this season, was there as well as Bear Quarterback Luck and Leahy, the Irish coach.

Williams said that come April he would decide whether to enter the air cadets, the navy, or cast his chance in being drafted by Uncle Sam.

Luckman, 34, a former Columbia great, was voted the National Football League's most valuable player in 1943.

He will be a scout and backfield instructor as well as vice president of Halas' club.

on the floor, for a nine-count the night he beat the sugar man, and for an eight-count three weeks later when Robinson avenged his lone defeat.

IM BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Standings table with columns: League (A-L), W, L. Lists various teams and their records across different leagues.

Baseball Ponders Future Of Shorts

MOBILE, Ala., Feb. 13—(AP)—Now that Branch Rickey has switched to the Pittsburgh Pirate payroll, what's to happen to Brooklyn's bare knee program?

Will the Pirate farm clubs, rather than the Dodger affiliates, begin to sprout shorts next summer?

Or will the wool shortage knock out the regulation uniforms anyhow?

These questions are beginning to pop up, here and in other Brooklyn farm cities now that spring training time is rolling around.

Edgar Allen, president of the Mobile Bears who started the bare knee fad in the Southern Association last summer, said today he frankly didn't know the answer.

The shorts and nylon shirts the blushing Bears turned out in last summer are all freshly laundered, ready for use when the decision is made.

Mobile, Hollywood and a few other 1950 Dodger farm clubs tested the comparative comfort, speed, and other features of the shorts last year.

The idea was generally credited to Rickey, and the rumor was that if the farm players took to them the Dodgers would turn up with knees bared this next summer.

Lends Helping Hand

Wally Hayes, former Temple University and Eastern intercollegiate all-around champion, is lending a helping hand to Gene Wetstone in the coaching of the Penn State gymnastics team. Hayes is on campus for the year as a graduate assistant.