

Between the Lions

By DAVE COLTON
Assistant Sports Editor

Coach Elmer Gross' cagers can still make this a highly successful basketball season by dumping the West Virginia Mountaineers tonight and the Pitt Panthers Saturday. Both of these quintets are long-time rivals of the Lions and every win over them is sweet. . . . Despite the recent losing streak, the Lions will have to be conceded slight favorites. The Nittanians downed the Mountaineers 61-60 in Morgantown, and Pitt twice in its own backyard. These triple triumphs and the influence of Rec Hall will give State a considerable boost.

The Mountaineers will be especially rough though. Mark Workman & Company have only lost one other game besides the State upset and have a 21-2 record. They've just about clinched the Southern Conference title, and may go to the NCAA tournament. . . . Workman missed weekend games with Clemson because of two fractures of the sinus bone, a black eye, a badly bruised cheek and a chipped tooth. The all-time West Virginia scoring ace suffered these injuries in a collision with Washington and Lee's center. He will probably wear a specially designed mask against the Lions tonight.

Two members of the Lion quintet, Jim Blocker and Ron Weidenhammer, expect to go out for Coach Joe Bedenk's baseball team after the hardwood season ends. Weidenhammer is a shortstop and Blocker a first sacker. . . . The Lion dribblers adopted a new name for themselves while travelling. The new moniker is, "Ten Tall Men." . . . Chet Makarewicz had his nose broken in warmup exercises at the second Pitt game. It has completely healed now.

One consolation to the Lions' losing streak and a 17-4 record: Anyone who would have predicted 17 wins for Gross' outfit at the beginning of the season would have been considered crazy. No one dreamed the team would break as many school records either. . . . This year's squad has cracked the team away scoring record, home team scoring record, one year team scoring mark, individual player season scoring, individual away scoring record, one game individual scoring high for Rec Hall, longest winning streak in State history, and won the Steel Bowl tourney in Pittsburgh.

Herm Sledzik, Nittany forward is from the same high school as Johnny Yuha, schoolboy football player, who broke his neck last season. Yuha, Elder Ridge's brilliant halfback, who was reportedly sought by 37 colleges, will be an invalid the rest of his life because of the injury. A story about him in the Tarentum Valley News told about Yuha watching television and getting quite a thrill out of seeing "Legs" Sledzik of his school perform against Army at West Point. Yuha explained Sledzik was individual scoring leader in Indiana County three or four years ago.

Joe Lemyre Hails From Mat Country

By JAKE HIGHTON

There are coal sections of the country, corn sections of the country and among others, there are wrestling sections of the country.

One wrestling country in particular is centered in Mepham High School, Long Island. In such a prolific wrestler-growing climate Joe Lemyre apprenticed before coming to Penn State where he is now contributing his second straight year as a consistent winner for State's EIWA champion matmen.

That the Lions are now approaching a second successive unbeaten season in the second of Joe's years here, may be partly because of the contagious qualities of Mepham High.

Mepham could truly be termed a land where wrestling streaks grow—big. Mepham had a 100-match streak broken in 1946, but the persistent Mepham wrestlers today are working on their second 100, having just arrived at their 89th in a row for an unbelievable 189 for 190 record.

Owens Records

With such a wrestling environment it isn't any wonder that Joe and younger brother Dick are outstanding on the mats.

As might be taken for granted, any fellow on the Lion varsity owns a stack of championship high school and other records. Joe is no exception. The Merrick, L.I. junior won the South Side, L.I. and Long Island 155-pound championships as a high school junior.

In his senior year, with no heavyweights available, Joe stepped in and won the South Side and Long Island championships in the unlimited class. During the summer of 1948, Joe won the New York State AAU 177 pound title.

Legendary Match

Coming to the Nittany Vale last year from DuBois Center where he was in company with Don and Doug Frey and Hud Samson, Joe as a soph rolled up a 7-1 record plus a third place in the Easterns.

It was in this EIWA tournament that Joe tangled in the now legendary semi-final duel with Navy's top-seeded Don Thomas. This unforgettable match will

Consistent Winner



Joe Lemyre

probably be hashed over the Nittany hot-stove league forever. The two 165-pounders reversed and near falled with lightning rapidity until the stronger-closing Thomas finally pulled away from a 10-10 deadlock to win 17-10.

Although the Lemyre-Thomas scrap had the most spectator appeal, of all Joe's matches the one he's proudest of he also lost. It was in the New York Metropolitan's Lee Merrill who went on to finish runnerup to the world's best in the 1948 Olympics.

Briefs: A Sigma Chi, Joe is active in IFC. . . normally 205 pounds, Joe stands five-ten. . . a C&F major, Joe is pinned to hometown girl Pauline Karbel. . . eleven on the 19-man Syracuse roster come from Joe's section of Long Island. . .

Kentucky Cagers Convicted

NEW YORK, Feb. 26 (AP)—

Three former University of Kentucky basketball stars, members of the great teams that won the National Collegiate A.A. championships in 1948 and 1949 and went on to win Olympic fame, today pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiring with gamblers to shave points in a National Invitation Tournament game here in 1949.

Dale Barnstable, Ralph Beard, and Alex Groza were permitted to plead to a conspiracy charge, a misdemeanor for which they may be sentenced to serve up to three years in the New York City penitentiary. A more serious charge of accepting a bribe was, in effect, dropped. Bribery, a felony, is punishable by a state prison term. General Session Judge Saul S. Villanova and Illinois in the East-

ern regional tournament and Ok-Streit paroled them until March 28, when sentence will be pronounced.

The three pleaded guilty of conspiring to influence the result of the invitation tournament game with Loyola of Chicago in Madison Square Garden, March 14, 1949. Loyola won the game, 67 to 56. After that surprising "upset," Kentucky went on to win the NCAA championship, beating Iahoma A. and M. in the East-West final.

Indicating that the investigation of games played by Kentucky teams has not ended, Assistant District Attorney Vincent A. G. O'Connor told the court that Barnstable and two other players, Walter Hirsch and James

Line, had "done business with fixers" during the 1949-50 season.

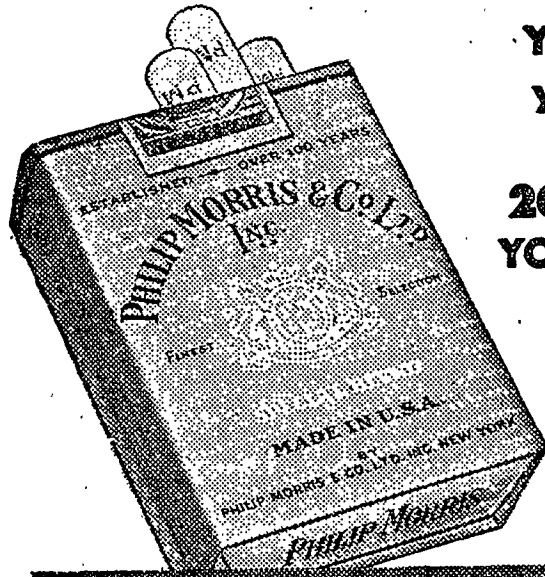
Still another Kentucky star, Bill Spivey, visited the district attorney's office today for a conference. Spivey, who has denied any connection with the fixing of games, asked to be declared ineligible this season until his name was cleared of suspicion. He recently sought reinstatement. Spivey will appear tomorrow before a grand jury which is investigating cage fixes.

Hirsch, captain of the 1950-51 team, has appeared before the grand jury investigating the scandal and is under \$500 bond as a material witness.

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