

Edinboro Big Favorite To Repeat in IM Race

By JIM PETERS

While the sports spotlight is focused on intercollegiate competition in basketball, boxing, and wrestling, Penn State's intramural heroes are getting set for the finals of their marathon basketball tournament.

Some of the teams which turned in unblemished records for the regular league play will soon just be remembering that they too were once undefeated. Others may escape elimination for several games, but in the end some unlucky independent outfit is going to have to contend with the defending champion, Edinboro.

Edinboro hasn't been beaten in intramural competition since the season of 1949-50. The following two campaigns found the towering court monarchs taking home the independent championship.

Just Warming Up

This season has proven no different, with no team giving Edinboro so much as an uneasy moment. The League I entry has bowled over six consecutive opponents in such easy fashion that none of the teams has been closer than 29 points to Edinboro at the final whistle. In a 24-minute game, that is phenomenal in itself.

The defending champs opened their schedule Oct. 31 by thumping the Woodchoppers, 42-13, as Dick Beynon sparked the not-yet-hot winners with 16 points. Next came the Hot Shots. They were clipped, too, with Bill Mihalich scoring 14 markers in a 49-11 romp.

Another Record Falls

With these two warm-ups under their belts, the high-flying eagles had set the stage for their record-breaking performance Nov. 29 in which they made the helpless Has Beens the victims of a 101-14 slaughter. It was the highest score ever recorded by an IM cage team.

After the Kool Kats fell, 54-14, still another record was broken. Ken Bouldin, tall Edinboro pivotman, poured in 32 points in a 69-21 massacre of the Privateers to break the previous one-game record of 30 set the year before by teammate Mihalich.

One Game Remains

In its last outing, Edinboro smashed previously unbeaten Joe's Boys, 60-25, as Mihalich returned to the line-up after a three game absence to score 19 points.

One game remains on Edinboro's regular schedule, that with the Basketeers (3-3) tonight. In six games, the defending champs have come up with some high-scoring individuals. Bouldin has tallied 85 points in five games for a 17 point per game average. Glenn Brown has 82 in six games for an average of 13.7 points per game. Beynon, Fred Mueller, and Mihalich round out the top five scorers with 64, 43, and 39 points, respectively. Beynon might well be acclaimed the best foul-shooter. He has made good 10 shots from the foul line in the same number of tries.

Marked Team

As a team, Edinboro has averaged 62.5 points per game against 16.3 for the opposition.

In the finals, there are going to be some fine teams, all capable of an upset. Teams such as Dorm 4, Dorm 11, Trace A.C., Foresters, Wildcats, Dorm 36, Dorm 23, Dinks, Dorm 14, and the Sinkers are all rough, aggressive outfits. But when it comes to playing Edinboro, they'll have to be that and more. Edinboro is a marked team in every game, but still appears to be the best of a classy lot of intramural basketball league champions.

LaMotta May Quit If He Loses

DETROIT, March 4 (AP)—Burly Jake LaMotta was so sure of himself today he said he would quit the ring if he "decisively" loses his bout here Wednesday night with Eugene (Silent) Hairston.

"I'll retire—definitely—if he beats me decisively," said the bull-shouldered boy from the Bronx. "But that's barring accidents," he warned. "Like a butt or an eye cut."

Feel Good

But the swarthy, 30-year-old battler made it clear he's entertaining no thoughts of losing.

"I feel good," he said. "I'm strong, I've had lots of work. I feel real good and I got no excuses."

In fact, La Motta, in the unusual role of an underdog at 9 to 5, planned a decisive win, himself, for his 99th fight. The scrap will be broadcast and telecast on the ABC network, 10 p.m., EST.

Maybe Even Maxim

"The IBC (International Boxing Club) promised me Turpin if I win this one," he declared, lounging in his hotel suite awaiting the bout. Randy Turpin, the rugged Britisher, won and lost the 160-pound title last year from Sugar Ray Robinson, conqueror of La Motta in five of six matches.

Given a win over Hairston, La Motta was prepared to look even further ahead.

"A couple more fights," he mused, "and I'll be ready for Maxim (Joe Maxim, light-heavyweight champion)."

Eight Contests Feature PIAA Cage Playoffs

HARRISBURG, March 4 (AP)—Eight games, including two in Class A, will be played tomorrow night as the Pennsylvania public school basketball playoffs move into high gear.

Unbeaten Washington, one of two Class A quintets with spotless season records, gets its first taste of tourney competition tomorrow night in a District 7 quarter-final against tested Midland.

The Little Presidents raced through their 12 league games in section 4 of the WPIAL and added nine exhibition triumphs. Midland, which had a tough fight winning section 8 honors, downed McKees Rocks, 49-31, in the WPIAL preliminaries.

Red Lion and Ephrata have a District 3 preliminary game tomorrow night at Lancaster, postponed from Monday night.

Scholastic Mat Finals

Pennsylvania's 44 top school-boy wrestlers will vie for individual titles in the annual PIAA championships here March 15. The finalists will be determined in regional tournaments March 8 at Clearfield, Lancaster, Wilkes-Barre and Washington.

All-Around Man

Penn State's Joe Bedenk, who'll field his 22d baseball team this spring, previously coached the diamond sport at Rice Institute and the University of Florida. He also doubled in football at these three institutions.

5 Men Enter Rifle Tourny

Five men from the College, making up the Nittany Lion Rifle Club, will enter the National Intercollegiate Rifle championships at Buffalo University March 22.

These men, Fred Wessman, Nelson Benard, Don Plaster, Bob Hess, Dick White, and Walt Beers, are not representing Penn State, but have entered as an independent team.

Most of the men were members of the now defunct varsity rifle team of last year. Benard was captain-elect of the team, and is captaining the independent team.

The team is affiliated with the National Rifle Association, and through the cooperation of Capt. O. J. Morel USMC, has been using the facilities of the Navy ROTC for practice.

Moore Gets New Coaching Contract

PITTSBURGH, March 4 (AP)—Dudey Moore, coach of the powerful Duquesne University basketball team, got his reward today—a new three-year contract with a salary hike.

Moore still had two years to go on a five-year contract. He said he was well pleased with the new paper but would not say how much he will make.

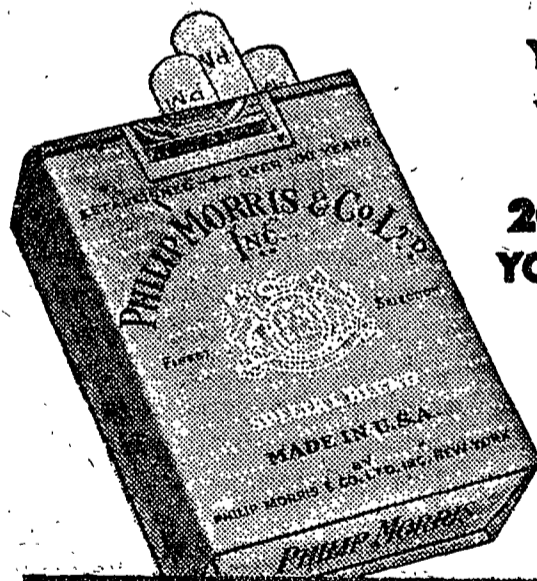
The Dukes finished their season last night with a record-breaking 95-51 victory over Baldwin Wallace. It gave them a 21-1 mark, their only loss having been a 64-62 overtime defeat by Villanova.

The 42-year-old Moore, a former high school coach and ex-Duquesne star, began coaching for the Dukes in 1948. Since then his teams have won 76 and lost 20.

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