

# Between the Lions

By DAVE COLTON  
Assistant Sports Editor

It took a decade to do it but Penn State's Nittany Lions are once again in the NCAA basketball tournament. Not since the 1941-42 season when present coach, Elmer Gross, was co-captain, have the Lions played in a post season tourney.

Our comment on the selection is that it couldn't happen to two more deserving men—we mean Coach Gross and his assistant John Egli. This trip will surely revive sweet memories for these coaches since they were both stars of the great 1941-42 team which played in the Eastern Regionals playoffs in New Orleans.

After last night's tournament announcement we dug into Collegian files and discovered the Lions finished with a 17-2 record that season. After losses to Cornell and West Virginia in the early part of the campaign, Coach John Lawther's proteges won their last 12 contests.

The Mountaineers walloped the Lawthermen 58-33 in the seventh game of the year, but the Blue and White clinched the District 2 title with a spectacular 44-30 decision over the Morgantown entry in Rec Hall. The Lions' last seven triumphs were over Temple, Syracuse, Colgate, Pitt, West Virginia, New York U., and Carnegie Tech. They massacred Tech 42-19 to complete the most successful season in State history.

Lawther took his team to New Orleans to meet a strong Dartmouth five in the opening round of the "big-time" competition. The Big Green, veterans of the previous year's tourney, eked out a 44-39 win over State. Forward Egli paced the Lions with 12 points.

Although their championship hopes were destroyed by Dartmouth, the Lions put on one of their top displays of the campaign to upset Illinois, 41-34 in the consolation round. Little Larry Gent, Nittany forward, spearheaded the attack with 21 points.

Gross, senior forward, topped the State quintet in regular season scoring with 168 points. Teammate Herb Baltimore was runnerup with 162, and Egli was fourth with 91 markers. Gross scored nine points against Dartmouth and four against the Illini.

Egli made the highest individual scoring total of the season when he cut the cords for eight field goals and a foul for 17 markers against Bucknell. Gross, in pacing the Nittanians over the season, sank 50 of 66 free throw attempts.

The records reveal an interesting note on the Lion squad. When they opposed the usually towering Mountaineers of West Virginia, the Blue and White cagers were aided by their height advantage. They averaged six-foot-two while the Mountaineers had only one man over the six-foot mark.

Other starters besides Baltimore, Egli, and Gross were Co-captain Dick Grimes, Bob Ramin, Dave Hornstein, and Larry Gent.



## PIAA Matmen Hold Tourney Here Saturday

While Penn State's wrestling team will be vying for its second straight Eastern title at Lehigh, Rec Hall will be the scene of the PIAA wrestling championships.

Forty-four high school matmen will compete for titles, starting at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Four defending champions will seek to repeat in this year's tourney. The returning champions are Manuel Pihakis of Canonsburg, Dave Adams of Bellefonte, Ed Peery of Shaler Township, and Ed DeWitt of Trinity. Pihakis will be seeking his third straight title.

Three second place finishers also return. They are John Johnston of Clearfield, Joe Angellello of Washington, and Alex Skirpan of Carnegie.

## NCAA Bid--

(Continued from page one) ished the regular season with a 20-4 record, back on the practice courts last night and said that they would continue regular practice until they left for the tourney.

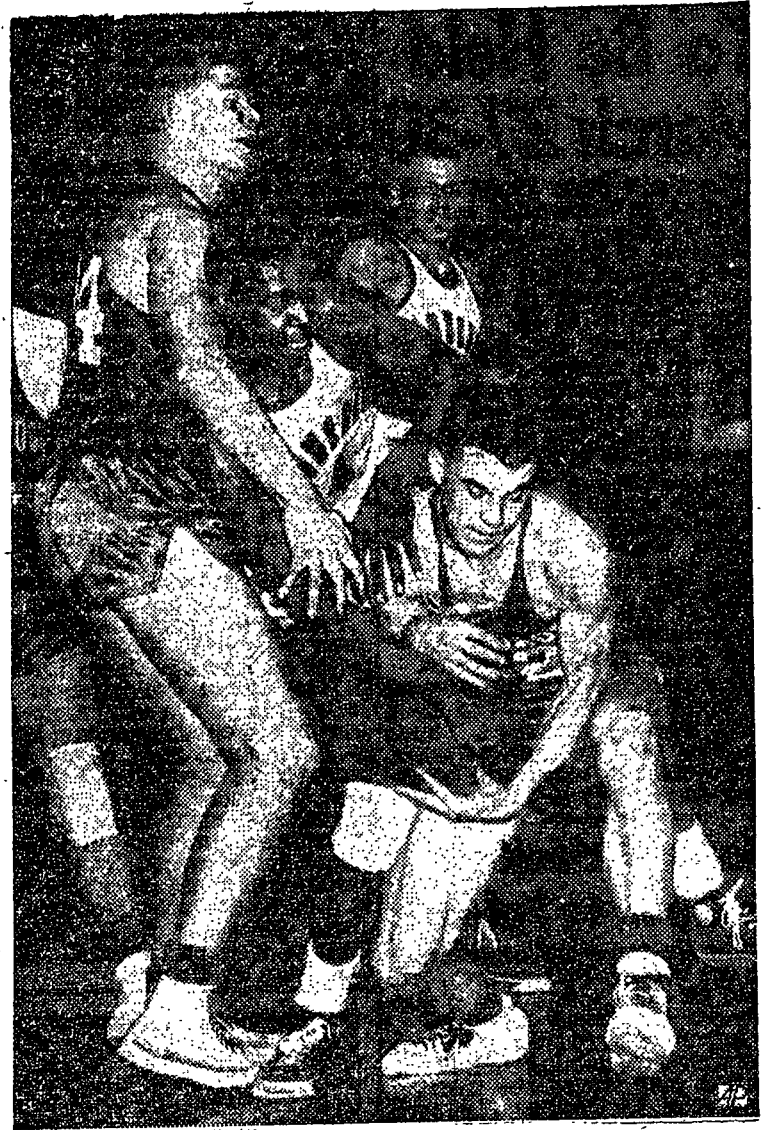
"I'm happy we received a bid. The boys are overjoyed," said Gross.

Co-captain Tiny McMahan flashed a big smile and said, "It's sure nice."

His running mate, Hardy Williams, echoed McMahan and added, "I'm sure glad the season isn't over."

Penn State's last appearance in a post-season basketball tournament was after the 1941-42 season when the Lions were invited to the NCAA tourney in New Orleans. Gross and Assistant Coach John Egli were members of that team. The Lions were eliminated in the first game but won the consolation contest.

## Cagers Practice Squeeze Play



DUQUESNE'S JIM TUCKER (4) is sandwiched between two Holy Cross players, Earle Markey (right) and Dave Nangle as they wrestle for a loose ball in the first half of their National Tournament basketball game at Madison Square Garden, New York, March 11. Duquesne won, 78-68.

## Sugar Ray Makes First Title Defense

SAN FRANCISCO, March 13 (AP)—Sugar Ray Robinson, making his first defense of the middleweight title since he regained it last September, was an overwhelming favorite to easily retain the crown in his scheduled 15 round fight tonight with Carl (Bobo) Olson of Honolulu.

Robinson knocked out Olson 17 months ago in 12 rounds.

The champion weighed in at 157½ pounds to 159½ for Olson. Robinson appeared trim and fit when examined by the doctor for the State Athletic Commission. So did his opponent.

## Unbeaten Washington, Farrell Clash in Top PIAA Contest

HARRISBURG, March 13 (AP)—Farrell's once-beaten Steelers face one of their biggest hurdles of the PIAA Class A basketball playoffs tomorrow night when they collide with unbeaten Washington.

The District 7 (WPIAL) title playoff at Pittsburgh highlights a night in which five Class A district champions will be crowned.

The Farrell-Washington game poses the question: Can a good short team beat a good tall team when the chips are down? Farrell, with a 25-1 season's

record, has only one player over the six-foot mark while Washington has only one of its starting five under six foot. However, Farrell's lone "giant" is all-Stater Julius McCoy, 6-1, who has scored 625 points this season.

Westmont's Hilltoppers are favored to down Hollidaysburg in the District 6 title scrap at Altoona.

Chester and Coatesville tangle at Philadelphia's Penn Palestra for the District 1 Class A title.

## Coleman, Klaus Off For Olympic Tryouts

Penn State's two soccer hopefuls, center halfback Kurt Klaus and inside right, Ron Coleman, will leave today with Coach Bill Jeffrey for Astoria, L.I., where the Olympic soccer tryouts will continue Sunday after a three-month layoff.

Coleman and Klaus, inactive from regular competition since the North-South All-Star contest last December, will play for a selected

collegiate team against a selected Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland club team.

The game will be part of a doubleheader which will pit a selected New York club team against a selected New England club team in the other game.

The games will be played in the Eintracht Oval in Astoria.

Besides Coleman and Klaus, six other soccermen from three Pennsylvania colleges will play for the collegiate team.

Temple heads the list with three men, while West Chester has two and Penn one.

Temple, which tied State, 1-1, here in the final regular season match for both teams, will send Jack Dunn, Len Oliver, and Eddie Tatoian as its representatives.

Dunn, who scored Temple's lone goal against State, plays inside right while Tatoian plays inside left, and Oliver center halfback.

West Chester will have Tony Puglisi and Bill Engard as its representatives, while Penn will place Joe Devaney on the team.

Four times since 1943, Dr. H. C. Carlson's Pitt teams have used "freeze" tactics in their basketball games with Penn State.

## KKG's Capture V-Ball Victory

Kappa Kappa Gamma thrashed Phi Mu in the WRA volleyball intramurals last night when Valerie Hobbs of the KKG's scored 30 straight points in the second half to lead the team to a 108-8 win.

McAllister, leader in League 6, and SDT had a double forfeit in volleyball. Thompson A forfeited to Alpha Chi. AEPi won over a Tri Delt forfeit.

Delta Gamma rebounded after over 5 minutes with no score in the v-ball game with Gamma Phi Beta to tie it up at 36 points.

In bowling Atherton East downed ZTA, 478-465. Alpha Xi Delta won over Delta Gamma, 585-439.

Simmons lost to AOPI, 605-447. Pat Purks of the winning team was high scorer of the evening with 155 points. Emma Jean Way of the same team was runner-up with 137 points.

## Tigers Beat Braves

LAKELAND, Fla., March 13 (AP) Bating around in the sixth inning against rookie right hander Murray Wall, the Detroit Tigers scored four runs for an 8-5 triumph over the Boston Braves today.

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