

Cagers to Play Okla. A&M

What can the Nittany Lions cagers do against top ranking basketball teams? Many Penn State fans will have the answer to that question after the holidays are over. For from Dec. 29 to 31 Coach Elmer Gross will be matching his strategy against some of the nation's top-seeded squads.

On the first of those three days, the cagers will go against the fifth ranking team—the Oklahoma Aggies coached by Henry Iba. The other contests will have Western Kentucky against Idaho, Wyoming against Tulsa, and Bowling Green against Oklahoma City.

Won Two

The losers of the first day pairing will meet in consolation tilts on the afternoons of the next two days.

But win or lose the experience the Lions will gain will be a valuable assist in the remaining regular scheduled contests. They already have two games in the win column—against Alfred U. and W&J—but in both contests the Lions didn't play up to their capabilities. They have one more game before the tourney and that will be against Colgate this Friday.



Elmer Gross

The Nittany Lions have competed in three early-season tournaments. In 1949 they broke even at Michigan State and the next year were runners-up in the Dixie Classic at North Carolina State. Last year the Lions journeyed to

Pittsburgh and won the Steel Bowl Tourney.

The Aggies are the team that is noted for their strong defense. When they lose it's not by much but they know how to stop high scoring quintets. Last year they knocked off highly touted Kansas, holding them to 45 points.

Tall Squad

They play deliberate, slow-moving, possession typed defense which can best be described as such:—Defending players on the weak side of the court (the side where the ball is not in play) leave the men they are guarding to fall back and clog up the middle or vital keyhole sector whenever a player from the opposite side indicates he is going to dribble through either for a hook shot or to set up a scoring pass.

Great things are expected of the Aggies this year. They have a strong squad headed by their 6-11 junior, Bob Mattick, who is being hailed as another Bob Kurland. Four other seasoned performers have returned including Dale Roark who was the spark-plug of the drive that saw the Aggies win their last six in a row last season. Another newcomer who'll add height is a 6-6 giant named Keith Lane.

Sports Thru The Lion's Eye

By JAKE HIGHTON
Collegian Sports Editor



"Why, shucks. In my day ballplayers were really ballplayers—none of the sissy stuff and creampuff type you see today. Today's players couldn't compete on the same field when we were in our prime." Thus Ollie Oldtimer re-lives the past. In his mind—the narrow mind of the "great" Ty Cobb ridiculing present day baseball players as being inferior—no one who follows could begin to match the footprints left "in the sands of time."

Although in football and baseball no fair or accurate measurement can be made between the past and present stars, it is fortunate that in track and cross-country sharp comparisons between ancient and modern are possible. The stop watch presents a bold truth—today's runners are stopping the clock sooner. Unless, of course, watches these days are running slower.

All of which leads to some enlightenment on the Penn State's 1952 cross-country team. Although it "failed" to recapture the IC4A title it held the last two years and although it "only" finished fourth among the nation's best teams, it was the best team that Coach Chick Werner has had in his 20 years at State.

Crazy? No. According to the tell-tale stopwatch, Red Hollen, Jim Hamill, Jack Horner, Stan Lindner, and Lamont Smith ran faster than any Penn State team in the 14 years of the NCAA title run held annually at East Lansing, Michigan. All five of these Lion harriers were clocked beneath 21 minutes for the four mile run—a feat accomplished by no other Nittany team. Not even the 1942 national champion team with Curt Stone, Jerry Karver, and Norm Gordon, nor the 1947 NCAA champs with Karver and present Olympic champ Horace Ashenfelter, nor the 1950 NCAA champs with Bill Ashenfelter and Bob Freebairn had done so well.

To give you an idea of how fantastic it is to have five men under 21 minutes, remember that the best team performance in terms of the clock was in 1949 when only two men, Don Ashenfelter and Freebairn, touched the better side of 21 minutes. A story may illustrate just how unbelievable the 1952 situation is. Assistant Coach Norm Gordon is a talkative sort who will gab about track for hours. Of him Werner has said, "However good Gordon says he is, just believe half of it—of course, that's still mighty darn good." It must be admitted that Gordon was a pretty hotshot runner, but even he confesses that he wouldn't have made this year's team.

No, the Lion hill-and-dalers weren't sub-par. (How anyone can consider fourth in the nation bad, is hard to understand except that Penn State x-country has made a habit of doing better.) State's John Chillrud finished 67th in the last NCAA title run with a time of 21:26 which would have placed him among the top 20 in any year previous to the 1951 race.

HOW TIMES CHANGE: Curt Stone won the IC4A x-country title in 1946 with a 27:09 clocking which would have placed him an also, also-ran 66th in this year's run . . . Talk about brass? Soph Hamill ran a steaming 4:35 first mile in the IC five-mile test and still had enough stuff to run four more miles fast enough for a lofty 11th . . . Reliable Hollen, suddenly a poised, confident veteran, is so consistent that Werner will be checking his stop watches on Red's running.

Sports Briefs

Maxim, Moore Clash in Title Bout

ST. LOUIS (AP)—At the ripe old age of 36, able Archie Moore finally gets his long sought crack at the light heavyweight title tonight when he clashes with champion Joey Maxim in a 15 rounder at the Arena.

An 8 to 5 favorite to cash in on his first championship chance, Moore, if he wins, will become the oldest 175 pound king since Ruby Bob Fitzsimmons grabbed the crown at the age of 41.

A crowd of some 14,000 was expected by the promoting International Boxing Club to pay about \$85,000. The 10 p.m. EST bout will be broadcast and telecast coast to coast by CBS.

The Toledo contender has been hammering at the doors of champions for over five years. If he wins, he will be the second man ever to turn the trick against the steel chinned Cleveland cutey, Curtis "Hatchetman" Sheppard bombed out Maxim in the first round on March, 1942. Maxim whipped the Hatchetman a month later. Former heavyweight champions Ezzard Charles and Jersey Joe Walcott never floored Maxim.

Fordham Grid Plans?

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (AP)—Fordham University is surveying its football program to decide whether to: (1) continue its present set-up, (2) drop football or (3) adopt a middle course of de-emphasis on a "back to the campus" basis.

The Rev. Vincent Hart, director of university development, revealed today that the football situation was up for review. He

Horace Ash Named North America's Top '52 Athlete

Horace Ashenfelter, former Penn State track star, today was named North America's foremost amateur athlete of 1952 by the Helms Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles, California.

Ashenfelter, who also has been nominated for the Sullivan Award, emblematic of American athletic supremacy, will receive a silver plaque from the Foundation and his name also will be engraved upon the massive World Trophy which is lodged in Helms Hall.

One athlete was chosen from each of the six continents by a nine-man board, of which Grantland Rice and Paul Zimmerman, both nationally-known sports writers, were members.

This award originated in 1896 and has been won by such well-known names as Walter Eckersall, Jim Thorpe, Bill Tilden, Red Grange, Glenn Cunningham, Jesse Owens, Gill Dodds, Bob Mathias, Dick Attlesey, and Bob Richards.

said no decision could be expected for months."

Fordham lost approximately \$50,000 in the 1952 season and some \$200,000 over a seven year period. In the season just completed, Fordham won two games, tied one and lost five. A nine game schedule for 1953 recently was announced by athletic director Jack Coffey including a game with Penn State.

Shantz, Reynolds Best

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (AP)—Right-hander Allie Reynolds of the New York Yankees and southpaw Bobby Shantz of the Philadelphia A's were the most effective American League pitchers in 1952 according to official statistics released today.

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