

Cagers on Road; Play Tech Tonight

The Penn State cagers invade Pittsburgh this weekend to play two of their ten on-the-road tilts. Tonight's contest against the Carnegie Tech Tartans will be the first regular scheduled away test of the Lions and should give a good indication of what they can do on foreign courts.

The Staters will end their tour of the Steel City tomorrow night when they meet

10 Trackmen to Run In '53 'Star' Meet

A ten-man indoor track team travels to Washington, D.C., Saturday to compete in the Washington Evening Star track and field meet. The meet is the first of a parade of indoor track events in which the Lions will be competing this season.

Coach Chick Werner will enter men in the hurdles, high jump, pole vault, one and two mile runs, sprints, and mile relay. The Lions' chances in the invitational classic do not look very bright, however, since the thinclads will be competing against Olympic performers in every event, including hurdling champion Harrison Dillard and pole-vaulting king, the Rev. Bob Richards.

Werner will send cross-country Captain Red Hollen into the two-mile test and Jack Horner, former cross-country man, is expected to run in the one mile event. Freshman Art Pollard, 1951 PIAA 100-yard dash champ, will run in the sprints.



HIGH JUMPER JIM HERB

State's brightest hope appears to be high jumper Jim Herb, who captured the event in the 1951 meet, topping the bar at 6-7. Herb, however, will face the same dilemma that the rest of the Lion squad will face—a host of experienced, highly rated performers.

Dan Lorch will represent State in the pole vault. Besides competing against the incomparable Richards, Lorch will have to face the number two man of the Olympics, Don Laz. Bill Youkers will run the hurdles for the Wernermen, facing Olympian Dillard and a host of other stars.

The mile relay team could fair better than most of the Lion entries, with Ollie Sax at the anchor position after a year's absence from school. Sax was a contender for the Olympic team. Along with Sax, Werner will have Skip Slocum, Dave Leathen, and Bill Kilmer, running the event.

Disregarding the exceptionally rugged competition which the Lions will face, the thinclads still could not be expected to do too well in the meet. A lack of facilities in Rec Hall has limited, and in some cases prohibited entirely, practice sessions for the squad. Pole-vaulter Lorch will enter competition completely "cold," since he has not been able to jump at all in preparation for the meet.

Werner feels that the Lions will be way out of their class at Washington, and considering the caliber of the opposing performers entered, the experienced mentor is very right.

the Pitt Panthers, coached by 'Doc' Carlson.

"A team playing on its home court always wins" the old saying goes, but so far this year the Tartans have been making mock of this adage.

Lose To Dukes
They haven't won at home this season and have five losses in seven starts. Wednesday night, while the Lions were dropping Syracuse, the Tartans were having a rough time with Slippery Rock. Although Tech led most of the game, the Rockets pulled ahead to win 70-62 and remained one of the few unbeaten colleges in the country.

Other teams to beat the Tartans, who are coached by Mel Cratsley, are the Westminster Titans, Waynesburg, Geneva and Duquesne.

After 6th Win
While the Tartans will be out to break their jinx, the Lions will be aiming to take in win number six in eight starts. They made it the fifth on Wednesday by stopping an aggressive Syracuse quintet with a 71-62 score.

The only losses have been to two of the nations best—the Oklahoma Aggies and the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers. These occurred in the All-College tournament played in Oklahoma over the holidays.

Sherry Paces Lions
The wins have all been by comfortable scores—they have defeated Alfred University, 56-43; Wash & Jeff, 62-50; Colgate, 68-55, and Bowling Green, 67-56.

Against Syracuse, the Stater's offense was spearheaded by Jack Sherry, who collected 21 points for high scorer, and Captain Herm Sledzik, who continued his hot scoring with 20 tallies.

State got off to an early but shaky six point lead. The Orange pressed hard and at one time in the third quarter were only one point behind, but they couldn't get enough shots from inside to take the lead.

Damage at Foul Line
The close zone work of the Nittanics forced the Orange to the outside where Mel Besdin and Skippy Thaw gave a good example on set shooting. But it was their 6-5 center, Frank Reddout, with the most Syracuse points—he had 20 tallies.

But it was at the foul line where the Lions did the most damage. They scored 31 free throws out of a possible 40 while the Orange could only find 28 points on 43 tries.

Sledzik still leads the Lion scorers with 121 points. Jesse Arnelle is next with 102 while Jack Sherry is third with 69.

Tonight's probable lineups
PENN STATE
f Weidenhammer
f Sherry
c Arnelle
g Plorkowski
g Sledzik

CARNEGIE TECH
Thompson
Daniels
Craig
Mocker
Jeske

Joe's Mother Has Final Wish Granted

(Courtesy of Courier Journal, Connellsville)

Joe Gratson's mother wanted him to play in the North-South game no matter what happened.

It was tough on her—knowing—and it was tough on Joe—not knowing.

Mrs. Gratson was in ill health three years. She knew that one of the most exciting things ever to happen to Joe—one of 10 children—was that he was going to play in the annual North-South all-star football game which was played in Miami, Fla., Christmas night.

A former Dunbar Township football star, Joe went on to Penn State and established himself as one of the finest boys to play the grid sport at that school.

Last Fall, he served as co-captain of the Nittany Lion eleven. He was chosen several days ago to play for the North team under Coach Stu Holcomb.

He was home Thanksgiving Day. All appeared well. He was anxious to be home again for a visit with his mother and family after the North-South game.

21-21 Tie
Always a standout performer, Joe did exceptionally well in the Christmas football game.

The two teams battled to a 21-21 deadlock. Young Gratson, 22, played offensive tackle and was used as a linebacker on defense.

He did the kicking off for the North squad. Near the end of the game, with the score tied, Joe's attempted field goal from the 25-yard line just missed by inches of providing victory for the North.

The boot was so deep that a South safety man, returning the ball, reached only the three-yard line and was downed.

After the game, all the boys were given presents. In all, the trip to Miami was quite a thrill for Joe and capped a wonderful college career.

Joe's mother, Mrs. Anna Gratson, 60, knew of what was happening to her son, and—like all mothers—would have given anything to allow the opportunity to bare itself.

'Don't Tell Joe'
She wasn't well but she cautioned her other sons and daughters:

"No matter what happens—don't tell Joe."

And so Joe was allowed to believe he would see his mother again a few days after Christmas.

The game was played, the boys were changing from uniform to more suitable clothing and preparations were being made for the dispersal of the gridders to various homes.

Joe was singled out by Holcomb. The Purdue mentor ended the joy that had been the Leisenring boy's for several days.

It was sudden to even those

close to home—the death of Mrs. Gratson.

Holcomb and Joe boarded a plane almost immediately—instead of waiting a day as had been planned—and then phoned brothers and sisters that Joe was enroute home.



Joe Gratson

Mrs. Gratson became worse at almost the same time the game was being played and died at 11 o'clock Christmas night.

As her condition suddenly became worsened Joe's brothers and sisters notified Miami officials, including Holcomb. At the same time, the family told of Mrs. Gratson's desire—a fervent plea that nothing be told Joe until the game was completed.

She had her wish. The game Joe played was a good one—a tie. His mother's was better. It may have been a game to her—knowing death was near—and she was the tragic winner

Jesse High in Poll

Jesse Arnelle, Penn State sophomore, polled more votes than any other player named to the Associated Press's all-Pennsylvania football team. He was accorded the same distinction last Spring when named to AP's all-State basketball team.

Mathias Wins, But Likes 'Ash'

PALO ALTO, Calif., Jan. 8 (AP)—Bob Mathias received the Associated Press 1952 male "Athlete of the Year" award today, but declared he wished an Olympic teammate had won the honor.

"It was very nice to be voted this honor," said Mathias, 21-year-old athlete from Tulare, Calif., twice winner of the Olympic decathlon championship.

"But personally I would have liked to have seen my Olympic teammate, Horace Ashenfelter, former Penn State star who captured the 3000 meter steeple chase at Helsinki last summer, win the AP award."

Thanks Newsmen
Mathias, who won the 22nd Associated Press poll with the huge total of 249 points, said Ashenfelter's upset victory in the Olympic over the favored Vladimir Kazantsev in a stretch drive served as an inspiration for him.

Mathias, in an interview at his Phi Gamma Delta fraternity

house, thanked the newsmen who participated in the poll.

He said he felt he was through with the gruelling decathlon, but would continue to compete in the discus, shot put and high hurdles.

Marine Training
"But my future for two years, starting next December, will be in the hands of the U.S. Marine Corps," he added.

He enlisted several years ago in a Marine officer training program and will go on active duty at the end of this year.

In the year-end poll, Mathias received 64 first place votes and 249 points on a 3-2-1 basis.

Second place went to Rocky Marciano of Brockton, Mass., who won the world's heavyweight boxing championship last September in Philadelphia by knocking out Jersey Joe Walcott.

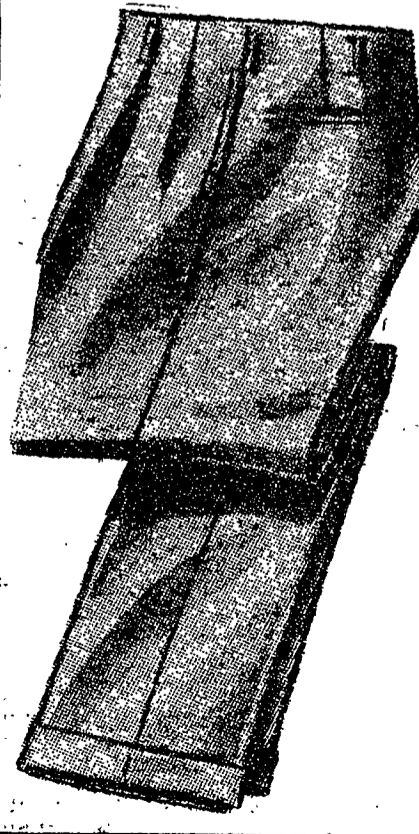
Shantz 4th
Marciano received 19 first place votes and 135 points.

Third place winner with 65 points, was Emil Zatopek, the great Czechoslovakian distance runner who won the 5000 and 10,000 meter runs and the marathon in last summer's Olympics.

Fourth, with 64 points, was little Bobby Shantz, the Philadelphia Athletics pitching star, leading hurler in the American League with a 24-7 record.

Billy Vessels, Oklahoma's All-American back, was next with 52 points; Julius Boros, U.S. Open Golf champion, 44; Robin Roberts, Philadelphia Phillies pitcher whose 28 games won was the highest in the majors since 1934, 40; Mickey Mantle, New York Yankees outfielder, 39; Clyde Lovellette, Kansas, All America basketball player, 18; Dick Groat, Duke All-America basketball player and rookie shortstop with the Pittsburgh Pirates, and Stan Musial, St. Louis Cardinals outfielder and National League batting champion, 17 points each.

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