

Sports Thru The Lion's Eye

By JAKE HIGHTON
Collegian Sports Editor



Red Mihalic, every bit as colorful a basketball ref as his carrot-topped, crimson face, is one of the best actors ever seen in Rec Hall. When a player commits a foul, Red lets the whole house know all about it with appropriate gestures describing the criminal, his number, and his crime. Probably the district's outstanding ref, Red would undoubtedly boast that he, like baseball ump Bill Klem, "never called one wrong in his life."

Saturday night in Pitt's dandy new field house it was no different—until Red was calling them as he saw them, which is calling 'em right every time. But the one he and cohort Joe Zerilla failed to call in the last 20 seconds of the Pitt-Penn State tussle will remain an everlasting mystery—unless you accept Zerilla's booby-brained explanation that he "thought the game was over."

Here's what happened. State was leading 56-55 and in possession in Pitt's front court with the red-faced clock owning only 20 seconds of life. Herm Sledzik, with only 10 seconds remaining, dribbled toward midcourt in what appeared the game-clinching freeze. Suddenly three frenzied Pitt bandits swarmed all over Sleds. Hacking, hammering and almost carrying State's captain goalward, the Pitts stole the ball and scored simultaneous with the final buzzer.

The weird finish was stunning, to coin a phrase. First, naturally enough, because State appeared an impossible loser just seconds previous; second, because Mihalic never called the play even though it may have been in Zerilla's court jurisdiction.

If it were not for such a black and blue finish—Sledzik's arms—Pitt deserved to win just as much as State. It was close all the way with neither team ever ahead more than four points. The Panthers played well and plainly showed Nittany Coach Elmer Gross' worst fears—his Lions apparently are not up to last year's team.

A year ago State had fairly well perfected the formula for an excellent season since they were winning on the road. Twice they whipped the Pitts in the Smoky City, and once very handily.

But now, here's what the loss to Pitt did: It made State's record read, 6-3, rather than 7-2; it robbed the Lions of what might have been an impetus to another top season, which is what the Steel Bowl win over Pitt produced last year; and it tipped off the fact that State faces a rough time in future road games—where you spot a team as many as eight points advantage.

The last point is the worst. State is in an unpleasant situation for the remainder of the year. It has eight away games—where State has lost three of five to date—against teams like Navy, Penn. Temple, and West Virginia which are better than Pitt. What's more, State seldom beats Syracuse and Colgate on the cruel, cruel road.

On the other hand, State has only six games left in Rec Hall where they have won their last 23 games. It's necessary for a sweep of all six to make sure the season is at least a winner. Maybe one shouldn't be so overly depressed about one loss to Pitt, except that later on they become better than the Panthers.

What's the matter with the cagers? "They're all right" roar back the fans across the way. Sledzik is at the top of his game and hitting 40 percent of his shots. Ballhawking Jack Sherry is on top of the play and always drives hard—the only way to score consistently since you either tally or draw fouls. Joe Piorkowski is tough defensively and has been hitting amazingly well.

But then the echo comes back to the question, "except Jess Arnelle isn't up to his phenomenal freshman performance last year." Which is exactly where the trouble comes in. Jess, Gross calls him the "best rebounder he ever saw last year," is having a tough time living up to his clippings and advance notices which every foreign paper gives him. With this pressure on him, Jess, as conscientious as they come, has been trying too hard. His timing is off and he has been hitting only 20 per cent of his shots—not too good for a big man, shooting so close to the hoop. (Yesterday Gross said Jess would come around. The prophecy appeared true against Gettysburg last night as Jess rebounded as of old, and hit more often.)

WEEKEND POST-MORTEM: Always deliberate affairs without exceptionally high scoring, the Pitt-State game with 113 points Saturday was highest in 77 game history. . . . Pitt refused to shoot from outside the tight zone, but drove in well. Dutch Burch was sensational although he only scored one field goal. He faked State out of their shoes and passed well. . . . Unbeaten in seven starts before last night, Gettysburg put on the best visiting performance in Rec Hall all year. Good at every position, the Bullets faked and passed brilliantly to the cheers of the largest delegation of opposition fans in Rec Hall in recent years.

To Meet Spartans

A two-day trip into Big Ten territory will mark the opening of Penn State's 1953 gymnastics campaign. The Lion gymnasts face Michigan State at East Lansing Jan. 30, and the University of Illinois at Champaign Jan. 31.

Started in State

Three of Penn State's assistant football coaches — Jim O'Hara, Earl Bruce and Sever Toretto—served their apprenticeship in Pennsylvania high school coaching jobs.

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Frosh Cagers Nab 4th, Defeat Sigma Chi, 57-38

By DICK McDOWELL

The freshman basketball team grabbed its fourth straight win of the season last night, defeating an outclassed Sigma Chi quintet, 57-38. The frosh held a commanding 10-0 lead minutes after the opening gun, and never were threatened during the remainder of the contest.

With Jim Brennen cutting the net from outside, and Earl Fields hitting from inside, the frosh kept up a constant scoring offense. Brennen took 11 set shots, and hit on seven of them, adding one free throw, for 15 points. Fields tallied ten on three field goals and four foul points.

Before the contest was half over, the frosh had rocketed their lead to 20 points and kept it at just about that for the remainder of the game.

Although the frosh did score 19 field goals against 15 for the losers, their performance on the foul line accounted for the wide margin of victory. The yearlings sank 19 of 23 free throws; while Sigma Chi could make only eight of 23.

Repeating their past performances, guards Hugo Mori and Hal Brown kept the freshman offense moving with their fine ball handling and fastbreaking.

The frosh have at least four more games to play before they wind up their campaign. They will meet the Bucknell freshmen, Lycoming jayvees, the Sinkers, 1951 independent IM champs, and another game has been carded with the Penn State jayvee squad.

Summary:

Freshmen	Fg	Ft	Fp	Tp
Fields	3	4	4	10
Holm.f	0	0	0	0
Maris.f	4	5	1	9
Waincott.f	1	0	0	2
Lang.c	1	3	2	4
Dowrick.c	0	2	1	1
Brown.g	1	2	1	3
Mori.g	1	6	6	8
Brennen.g	7	1	1	15
Rudier.g	1	3	3	5
Christianson.g	0	0	0	0
Totals	19	23	19	57

Sigma Chi	Fg	Ft	Fp	Tp
Christensen.f	1	5	2	4
Riggs.f	3	1	1	7
Lewis.f	1	2	1	3
Mitsos.c	0	0	0	0
Ross.c	1	0	0	2
Rich.c	5	8	2	12
Hawk.g	4	2	1	9
Banner.g	0	5	1	1
Totals	15	23	8	28

Score by Quarters:
Freshmen 17 27 40-57
Sigma Chi 7 16 22-38

AP Picks N.Y. Yankees As 'Team of Year'

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (AP)—New York Yankees, who weren't supposed to cop their fourth straight American League flag and then blasted their way to an incredible fourth consecutive World Series triumph, were picked today as the outstanding team of 1952. It was the third straight year the Yankees had been accorded the "team of the year" honor.

In a point battle with the unbeaten Michigan State Spartans, the No. 1 college football team last season, the Yankees won out in the annual Associated Press year-end poll.

Greek Court Tilts Show Close Scores

By TOM WERNER

Cries of anguish and the gnashing of teeth rent Rec Hall Friday night as five of the nine interfraternity basketball games played were decided by a thin three-point margin, or less. Two of the tilts were decided by a single point, while one was forced into a double overtime period.

Alpha Phi Delta gave its final death shudder, 19-16, in the second overtime period of a game that saw it locked up tight with a straining Pi Kappa Phi five at the end of the official time and first extra period, 16-16. Walt Imboden paced the winning side with 11 tallies.

Alpha Sigma Phi managed to outlast a desperate Theta Kappa Phi quintet and staggered home with the bacon, 24-23. Roger Henderson headed the triumphant Alpha Sig delegation with an 11-point total.

Alpha Zeta was sorely troubled when, after trailing at half-time, 13-9, it could finish with no better than 22 points against Alpha Chi Rho's 23.

Joe Strasser with 14 markers brought along four other men from Tau Phi Delta and eked out a victory over Theta Xi, 27-25.

Sigma Chi showed the best five pair of shooting eyes of the night as it trampled an ineffective Sigma Pi team, 34-11. Lou Riggs was head trampler with eight points.

Another one of the harrowing tales was the Phi Delta Theta victory over Alpha Gamma Rho, 24-21. Losing at the end of the half, 13-8, the Phi Deltas came on with a vengeance in the second period of play to win by three points at the final whistle.

After trailing at half's end, 12-6, Sigma Alpha Mu could score only one point throughout the second half, bowing to Sigma Phi Alpha, 28-7.

Beta Theta Pi had little trouble with Alpha Chi Sigma, walking off with a convincing 28-12 victory.

Acacia could do no better than 16 points against Phi Kappa Psi's 27.

Herm 'Most Improved'

Herm Sledzik, of Clune, who has been hitting the cords at a 17-point-per-game clip, is rated Penn State's most improved basketball player. Coach Elmer Gross describes his improvement as "exceptional."

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It's A Fact

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