

Sports Thru The Lion's Eye

By JAKE HIGHTON
Collegian Sports Editor



There's no place like home—especially for a basketball team. And still more especially for Penn State's undefeated quintet. Yes, the Lion cagers are unbeaten, at home, and haven't been licked in Rec Hall since Colgate found the formula in the middle of the 1950-51 season, 20 consecutive home games ago.

In familiar, friendly Rec Hall State's five is without loss in six starts this season. However, the Lions' road shows have been considerably less successful than roadmasters Hope and Crosby. Five out of seven times State has lost on foreign courts.

Now the cagers are engaged in a great road trip testing whether the season is to be a winner or simply a break-even. Penn already put the skids under the trip Saturday, and Navy figures to help the skidding today. The Middies, who show a striking parallel to State's performance this year, also are unbeaten—at home. Nine times the Swabbies have won on their own court, yet when they strayed from the banks of the Severn they have lost three out of four.

It must be remembered that State took the Navy's measure at Annapolis last year—but apparently times have changed. A basketball team must win away from home to be better than average. The Lions' NCAA playoff team had that away-winning knack last year, but this year it is conspicuously absent. The personnel is practically the same, yet the team isn't a resemblance away from home.

Of course, in Rec Hall the difference between last season and this isn't noticeable. Or, at least it wasn't the night of the Ithaca game, Jan. 17. A hot-handed, score-infected team hitting a phenomenal 45 per cent of shots doubled up the Ithacans, 105-47, to rack up the highest point total in 57 years of State cage history.

Fittingly, it was Joe Piorkowski, playing his last home game, who hit the magic figures—to the insane delight of the sadistic Nittany fans cheering the slaughter of a sacrificial lamb. With three minutes left, "Perk" hit with a one-hander for State's 91st point which cracked the 34-year-old high of 89. Two minutes later in his glorious bow, Perk snapped the cords for the 100th point, naturally another Nittany "first." Hey, maybe you couldn't blame the crowd for being bloodthirsty over such historic deeds!

OF INJUSTICE AND CHRIST:

There were two injustices apparent Saturday night during the Lion-Maryland boxing bout. Injustices which would have been injustices even if State had won 8-0, instead of getting nipped, 4½-3½. One, of course, is the Eastern Intercollegiate Boxing regulation calling a fight a draw if one of the fighters is badly injured in the first round. In Eastern wrestling, a participant who is injured and unable to finish defaults. His team loses five points. So it should be in the EIBA.

When Nittany heavyweight boxer Bill Andreševic's opponent was forced to quit because of a cut eye, Bill should have been the winner. A draw in the situation is like naming a champion runner the winner simply because he "would have won" if he hadn't pulled a muscle. Or, for a more pugilistic analogy, last summer Sugar Ray Robinson did everything to Joey Maxim except take his trunks off in the ring. But the extreme heat made Sugar Ray collapse and he failed to finish. Everyone knew who "won" the fight, yet you will find in Nat Fleischer's Bible: Maxim, TKO winner.

The second injustice—and one which didn't hurt State if some think these remarks on the patriotic Penn State side—concerns the Bob Christenberry system of scoring. In EIBA dual meets only the referee does the judging—a matter in which too many cooks don't spoil the broth. Even though most of the EIBA refs are former intercollegiate boxers, none can have the omniscience of New York's Bob Christ to be relied on alone.

SUNDRY SHOTS IN DIVERS DIRECTIONS:

Grigger Al Bowden, who suffered a broken leg last fall, is back on campus albeit with cast and crutches. Soccer halfback Frank Follmer became the 10th recipient of the Eddie Mandel trophy for being the most valuable Nittany booter last season. State's EIWA champion matmen have picked up an extra meet against Maryland, Feb. 25. However, the match gives the Lions three weight-making days within a space of a week. And brother, if fans could only appreciate the struggle most of the grapplers wage with the scales. The Nittany gym win over Illinois takes on tremendous magnitude when you consider that the Illini were third in the nation last year and scholarship gymnasts.

Williams in Korea

PEARL HARBOR, (P) — Fleet Marine Headquarters said yesterday Capt. Ted Williams, the former Boston Red Sox star, arrived in Korea Monday. Williams has been assigned to a Panther jet squadron in Marine Air Group 33.

Three-Time Winner

Charlie Ridenour, one of two Penn State wrestlers to win three successive Eastern titles, now is head coach of the sport at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

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Gross Wins Greek Ping-Pong Tourney

Beta Sigma Rho's Dick Gross, a letterman on Sherm Fogg's varsity tennis squad, won the first attempt at a fraternity ping-pong singles tourney recently by outshooting Dick Robinson, Theta Xi, in straight games, 21-19, 21-19, 21-16.



DICK GROSS, Beta Sigma Rho, (left) receives congratulations from Navy Lt. John E. Carr, after winning the first unofficial College ping-pong singles tourney. Runnerup and tournament head Dick Robinson, Theta Xi, looks on. The semifinal and final round matches were played between semesters at Theta Xi.

Robinson, chairman of the tourney committee and number-one man on the tennis team, said he was highly pleased with the responses to this initial tournament on the part of the fraternities. The tournament is not officially sanctioned by the IM department. By that token no house points toward the all-year fraternity trophy were awarded.

The tournament will be run again next fall, Robinson said, even though it is doubtful that house points will be awarded at that time. Robinson expressed hope that sometime in the future the tourney will be recognized by the IM department, and points will be distributed.

Lt. John E. Carr, widely-known U.S. Navy ping-pong enthusiast, presented the winner and runner-up trophies to Gross and Robinson. Carr, '51 San Diego city champ, put on a best-of-five exhibition with Gross, winning in four games, 21-17, 21-10, 18-21, 21-19. During the war Carr put on ping-pong exhibitions with tennis pro and promoter Bobby Riggs at Guam and Midway.

Gross, formerly number-one man on his Central High (Phila.) ping-pong team, ousted Paul Lizza, Sigma Phi Sigma, in the semis, 21-19, 21-16, 21-13. Robinson beat Leon Lefkowitz, Phi Sigma Delta, in their semi match, 21-19, 21-18, 21-15.

Alpha Xi Wins WRA Ping-Pong

Alpha Xi Delta, former League II champions, copped the women's ping-pong finals last night after winning two out of three sets over Alpha Gamma Delta, League IV champions.

In the first singles match, Martha Sarantopoulos, Alpha Gamma Delta, won two games 21-12 and 21-8 over Barbara Rice, Alpha Xi Delta, who won the second game 21-18. Patricia Lively, Alpha Xi Delta, won the first two games 21-18 and 21-11 in the second singles match against Alpha Gamma Delta Jane Bishop.

Nancy Mayhew and Mary Jo Ryerson of Alpha Xi Delta took the first game in the doubles match 21-11, but Alpha Gamma Delta's Amber Hassinger and Nancy Phillips retaliated in the second game to win 22-20. Miss Mayhew and Miss Ryerson then won the third game to become winners of the finals with a score of 22-20 over Alpha Gamma Delta.

In the first interclass women's basketball game of the week the senior team won over the juniors 23-14. Nell Hayes set the pace for the game by scoring two baskets and one foul shot in the first minutes for the juniors to make the score 5-4 at the end of the first quarter. Cass Caraway, high scorer of the evening with 11 points, aided the senior attack in the second quarter to bring the score to 12-9 at the half in favor of the seniors. The seniors continued the lead throughout the second half to become winners of the game.

Playing for the senior class were Aneta Tyler, Pat Lively, Miss Caraway, Carroll Borden, Dolores D'Onofrio, Barbara Charles, and Mary Ann Wertman. Members of the junior class team included Pat Colgan, Ethel Wilson, Joy Schiller, Miss Hayes, Nancy Fisher, Alison Rogers, Carole Kowallis, and Pat Hughes.

The freshmen-sophomore game to be played tonight was postponed until Monday night.

Baseball Candidates
Varsity baseball candidates are to report to Joseph Bedenk at 301 Rec Hall this week.

Sports Briefs

Vessels in Canada?

BALTIMORE, (P)—The Baltimore Colts said yesterday they heard halfback Billy Vessels, their No. 1 draft choice from Oklahoma University, has been offered \$14,000 to play professional football in Canada.

Vessels was due back to Oklahoma University yesterday from a Canadian trip to start the second semester, but the speedy halfback reportedly failed to appear.

Bloomsburg Leads League

JOHNSTOWN, (P) — Bloomsburg, riding high on a five-game winning streak, took the lead yesterday in the Pennsylvania State Teachers Colleges Basketball Conference with 153 points.

Bloomsburg wrestled the top berth from Millersville with a 73-69 victory over the weekend.

Joe Ondrula of Johnstown and Bob Gerhard of Palmerton showed the way for the winners.

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