

Cagers, Gymnasts in Twin Bill

Lions Try For 15th Win Against Pitt

The Lion cagers have faced better men before and played teams with better records, but still tonight's opponent will be the toughest and the most important one of the season. For they will be playing the Pitt Panthers, their oldest and bitterest foe, and the rivalry factor will make the statistics nothing but a list of meaningless figures.

A win tonight for either team will mean a successful season, but more so for the Panthers because this is the last game of the season—a not so good season with a 12-10 log—and what could be more fitting than to bow out with a win over the Lions?

They already own one victory over their country cousins, 57-56, and a complete sweep of the series, especially when it would mean snapping the 24 home game win streak of the Lions, would be sweet revenge for the three beatings they took last year.

Panther Big Three

The Panthers have a strong first string with plenty of material to draw from the bench. At forward will be Captain Mickey Zernick, 6-3 senior from Aliquippa who was the most sought after high school player in 1949. At the other forward position will be one of the best play-makers Pitt has ever seen—Dutch Burch. His passing and ball handling in the last Pitt-Penn State game was a major factor in the victory. He was high scorer against the Lions with 13.

The three big men of the starting five are Art Boyd, 6-4; Don Virostek, 6-4; and Dick Dietrich at 6-4. Virostek leads the team in rebounding with an average of 20 per game, giving him fifth ranking in that department in the nation (19 games statistics). Alternating in the backfield will be Dave Duessel, a 6-5 sophomore from Pittsburgh.

May Use Freeze

He pushed in 10 points against the Lions and all were made just when the Panthers needed them the most. Other substitutes likely to see action tonight are Bernie Artman, who sank the winning two points against the Lions, Chester Palesko, and Jim Canahan.

Rounding out the Panthers' team is the most important figure of all—Coach Doc Carlson. The Doc has a knack for coming up with the unusual, and it will be interesting to see if he'll use the same freeze tactics as last year.

For the Lions, who have won five out of their last six games, it will be Captain Herm Sledzik (playing his last Rec Hall game), Jesse Arnelle, Jack Sherry, Ronnie Weidenhammer, and Ed Haag. Game time is immediately after the gym meet between the Lions and Temple.



JIM HAZEN, the top performer on the Nittany flying rings, will again be working the key ring position tonight against Temple. Hazen is a senior majoring in physical education and is working in his third year on the squad. Starting time is 7 tonight.

Between the Lions

By TED SOENS
Assistant Sports Editor

A win over the Panthers tonight will be a very big one, for not only will it be sweet revenge over the city cousins but would also be a fitting way to close the playing career of senior Herm Sledzik.

Big, amiable Herm, the only senior on the starting five, has been playing three years for Penn State and in that time has amassed a total of 672 points. His present output is the best of those years, for with an average of 15 a game he has put in 331 points.

Herm graduated from a little high school in Indiana county named Elders Ridge where he was a four letter man starring in football, baseball, track and of course, basketball. The 6-4 Herm set a scoring record for the school and also for the county when he dumped in 512 points in his senior year—the record is still standing. For this feat the newspaper men and coaches picked him to third string all-State and all-WPIAL in 1949.

Three scouts from West Virginia, St. Bonaventure, and Purdue offered scholarships but the influence of a Penn State grad from Indiana told the story and Herm matriculated at Penn State.

Farmed out to DuBois center, Herm quickly grabbed a berth on the starting five and just as quickly went about setting a new record of 330 points. He also had a very good 89% in foul shooting.

Great things were expected of this freshman when he came to State, however, in his sophomore semester a broken wrist put Herm out of action for most of the season. But he was still able to put in 100 points for the remaining few games—and still with his cast on.

In his junior year he put in 212 points in the regular season and added 29 more points to this total in the NCAA playoffs. He had 12 against Kentucky and 17 against North Carolina.

A greatly improved Herm started off this last year averaging



Herm Sledzik

well over 17 points a game. Scoring most of his points on a hard-driving jump shot, he has been able to keep within the double figure column in most of the games. His greatest playing was done in the Holiday tournament when he was averaging 20 some points against such teams as Western Kentucky, Bowling Green, and the Oklahoma Aggies.

But while basketball has taken up a lot of time, Herm has been able to maintain an all-college average of 1.8 and was recently honored by gaining a "berth" in Who's Who in American Colleges. Other activities include — Parmi Nous (senior men's honorary), Druids (athletic honorary), Phi Epsilon Kappa (Phys Ed honorary), and vice president of the Athletic Association.

Sports Briefs

Whitfield to Try For 5 Records Tonight

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (AP)—Mal Whitfield's iron man triple assignment, in which he'll go for five world records, promises the main excitement tomorrow in the Knights of Columbus games, closing the indoor track and field season at Madison Square Garden.

Niagara in NCAA's

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (AP)—Niagara University became the ninth team today to accept a bid to the National Invitation Basketball Tournament and there were indications the 12-team field would be completed tomorrow.

Gym Men to Face Owls In First Home Contest

By GEORGE BAIREY

The Penn State gymnastics squad, riding high on the crest of a seven dual meet winning streak over a two-season span, will show its wares at 7 tonight for the first time this year at Rec Hall when it meets the Owls of Temple in an EIGA meet.

For Coach Gene Wettstone's unbeaten crew, the meet will mark the first home appearance in five dual meet starts this season.

Grapplers To Engage Pitt Tonight

Winning streaks galore have been put on the line whenever Coach Charlie Speidel's wrestlers have taken to the mat. Tonight's dual meet set for 9 p.m. in Pittsburgh's Field House will be no different.

At least eight untouched records will face a crucial test. The most influential skein will be Penn State's 27th and Pitt's 16th consecutive victories.

Although Pitt (like Maryland) is not in the EIWA league and the Nittany Lions defeated the Panthers, 23-5 last year, Penn State's reputation will be endangered.

Homan, Peery to Clash

Should the heavyweight match be the deciding factor as it was in the Cornell and Maryland dual meets, Penn State's pressure boy, Hud Samson, will have a test on his hands. Pitt's usual unlimited class starter, Harold Hunter, with a 2-4-1 record, will be replaced by Pitt's All-American footballer, Eldred Kraemer. Earlier in the season, the grid star underwent treatment for the removal of two cysts, but in his first outing this season he decided his foe, 9-3.

Bob Homan, who has given the Lions at least a three-point lead in five of the five meets he opened, will be out to make it six straight in the 123-pound division against Rex Peery. State's sensational sophomore will endeavor to turn back Peery, who possesses 22 wins in a row in collegiate competition. Pitt's ace has one decision against him—that at the hands of Homan.

Seeking his 12th successive win, Dick Lemyre will face John George, who sports a fine 8-1-1 log. State's 130-pound EIWA champ and Homan are the only two starting wrestlers who remain among the Lions' unbeaten.

Don Frey Meets Cook

Jerry Maurey will be out for his fifth pin in seven matches when he meets Pitt's Bill Kozy in the 137 spot. Kozy has a 4-1-1 record.

The Frey brothers, Don and Doug, will tackle two outstanding wrestlers in Bob Cook and Charley Uram. Don's foe, 147-pounder Cook (7-1), is one of Coach Rex Peery's talented matmen. Doug's opponent, Uram, who narrowly lost out last year in the national tournament, will be in quest of his eighth triumph in the 157-pound class.

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Between the movies

On the road the gym Lions thumped Illinois and Michigan State, and Eastern foes Navy and Syracuse. The Nittany contingent is the last of the undefeated EIGA clubs this season.

Only Temple and three-time defending king Army stand in the way of the Lions' perfect dual meet season and the Eastern team crown. Army will come to Rec Hall next Saturday to wrap up the dual meet season.

Owls Lack Depth

Temple will bring a leaner-than-average squad to Rec Hall tonight with regard to team depth, a quality that Wettstone's crew has much of. The Lions have taken the meet the past two seasons, in 1952 by nine points, 52½-43½, and in 1951 by eight, 52-44.

Beyond their first men in each event, the Owls are on the weak side. Big men John Jengo, John McCarthy, Gene Scholl, Bill Cocco, and Bob Selesnki will probably give some form of trouble, but after that the talent that Coach Max Younger has to work with is practically nil.

Jengo is the fair-haired boy in the Owl attack. An all-or-nothing performer on the horizontal bar, Jengo is also at home on the flying rings and the parallel bars.

Scholl Clocked at 3.8

The Jengo-Cronstedt pairing on the horizontal bar will be one of the two top individual duels tonight. The second race for individual honors, but by no means secondary to the H-bar, will be in the rope climb, where Nittany Dave Schultz will lay on the line his undefeated slate in his match with Owl Gene Scholl. Scholl's best official intercollegiate clocking at 3.8 is .1 better than Schultz's.

The Horizontal bar duel between Jengo and Cronstedt will be the fourth meeting between the two, Jengo winning two. Their meeting will pit the "try anything" type of performer in Jengo against the steady, form H-bar worker in Cronstedt.

Other first-line Lion starters
(Continued on page seven)

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Boxers to Face Virginia

If the Cavalier boxers prove as mild as the cigarette bearing the same name, Penn State's ring squad should make off with its first victory of the season when it squares off with Virginia University in Charlottesville today.

Despite defeats in four successive starts, the Lions are slight favorites to repeat last season's 5½-2½, victory over the Virginians.

On season record Virginia (2-2-1) has done much better, but State has met a far rougher schedule. Against mutual foe Syracuse, State bowed 5-3, and the Cavaliers went down, 6½-2½.

Nichols vs. Ahern

Virginia's efforts to thwart State's first-win bid will depend on two big guns in the 156 and 165 pound classes. In the lower weight the Cavaliers will send Pete Potter against Nittany Hank Arnold. Potter lays a two-season unbeaten dual record on the line. Last year the Virginia junior was 5-0-2 and so far this season hasn't even drawn in five bouts.

At 165 Virginia will throw EIBA runnerup Estel Nichols

against State's only new face in this week's lineup, Dick Ahern. Nichols, who upset State's rugged Lou Kosarek in the EIBA semifinals, is 3-1-1 this season.

On the other hand Nittany hopes rest on three veterans, Sam Marino, Adam Kois, and Tony Flore, winning along with two of Coach Eddie Sulkowski's five first-year fighters.

Lineups:

Penn State	Virginia
Marino (2-1-1) 125	(2-1-1) Banerdt
Butler (0-2-0) 132	(1-2-0) Rush
Flore (2-0-1) 139	(2-1-2) Fite
Melmeck (0-2-0) 147	(1-1-1) Whitely
Arnold (1-2-0) 156	(5-0-0) Potter
Ahern (0-0-0) 165	(3-1-1) Nichols
Kois (3-0-1) 176	(1-3-0) Roberts
Andresevic (1-1-2) Hwt.	(0-1-0) Garner