

Hard Driving Lion Forward



Jack Sherry

Lion Cagers Just Hitting Stride, Gross Comments

By TED SOENS

"We are just hitting our stride," Coach Elmer Gross commented last night when asked about the team's performance the past week. "The team in general has improved, and since the Colgate game, the squad has been playing on par with last year's team."

(Since the Red Raider's loss, the Lions have averaged 76 points a game and in the past week have taken West Virginia and Pittsburgh by 20 points.)

"Dunkel's ratings in the Press (Pittsburgh) had us 56 out of the 60 best teams in the nation," Gross said. "This was the ratings up to February 25th and included the West Virginia game. I don't know where we are now since the Pitt contest."

As for a reason why the recent upsurge in playing, Gross couldn't offer an explanation "except, maybe we've had a chance to rest up!"

Last night the Lions scrimmaged the freshman team in probably the last scrimmages on home court. They'll close their season this Saturday against the Temple

Owls in Philadelphia.

Latest statistics from the NCAA place the Nittany five as 25th in the country in team defense. This rating was based on 21 games at which time the Lions were holding their opponents to 61.4 a game. These statistics don't include the last two games in which the opponents were held to 57 and 53 points.

Present average for State's opponents is 60.8 a game on a total of 1399. Leading the defensive teams was Oklahoma A&M who allowed only 53.5 points averaged against them. They were also the leaders last year on defense with 45.4. In the College tournament over Christmas the Lions managed 61 points against the Aggies. Four Penn State opponents have accepted bids to the annual basketball tournaments. The National Invitation tourney has taken in Western Kentucky and Georgetown, while the NCAA has signed the Aggies and Navy.

The Lions only managed one win out of the above four and that was over Georgetown, 73-70. They lost to Western Kentucky, 78-91; Aggies, 61-68; and Navy, 53-77.

IM Wrestling Begins Monday

Intramural fraternity wrestling will get under way Monday and independent wrestling will begin Tuesday, March 17.

All matches are scheduled for 7:30 p.m., but opponents who weigh in first will wrestle first.

Weigh-ins will begin at 7 each night. Those wrestlers not weighed-in by 7:45 p.m. will forfeit their match.

Physical examination cards must be presented at the first weigh-in.

The intramural department has advised that sweat suits be worn, rings taken off and finger nails kept short.

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Matmen Face Army In Season's Finale

By SAM PROCOPIO

Dick Lemyre, State's slippery and agile 130-pound wrestler, is Coach Charlie Speidel's only unbeaten starting grappler as the mat mentor's Eastern Intercollegiate champions prep for the season's closing dual meet against ever-strong Army.

The dual meet is set for 8:30 p.m. Saturday in Rec Hall.

Lemyre, who sports a 5-0 log for the season and an unblemished record of 14-0 over a two-year period, will seek his 15th dual meet verdict against Army's John Eckhardt.

With Jerry Maurey and Co-captain Joe Lemyre getting back into the victory circle, the Nittany Lions will be almost at their peak for the strong West Point matmen.

Pitt, Orange Beat Cadets

Army's season record of seven wins and two losses does not reveal the obstacle which confronts the power-laden Lions. In fact, the two losses spotting Army's record were accomplished only because Coach Lloyd Appleton was minus his dependable wrestlers.

Pitt and Syracuse were responsible for both defeats. The Panthers drubbed the West Pointers,

20-6, while the Orangemen squeezed by 15-11. With its regular matmen taking to the mats, however, Army whitewashed Penn, 32-0, bested Yale, 16-10, handed Columbia and Harvard identical setbacks, 24-8, and pinned Brown University.

Army's other two triumphs, nevertheless, are telling. Appleton's matmen upset always-strong Lehigh, 18-6. (The Engineers were beaten by the Lions, 18-8). Tackling a tough Cornell squad, the West Pointers won every bout but one—that to Cornell's EIWA champ, Frank Bettucci, who has been unbeaten in two years of competition. The final score read Army 25, Cornell 3.

Brother Act

It was this same Cornell team which put a scare into the Lions, holding Speidel's matmen to an 18-10 victory.

Included in Appleton's fine team is a brother act, Bob and Jim Karns; a 177-pound EIWA champ, Al Paulekas; and one of the East's best 167-pound wrestlers, Jerry Tebben. The Karns brothers will wrestle in the 123 and 137-pound classes.

Of course, Speidel can fight fire with fire. He has a double brother act—the Freys and Lemyres—and three EIWA champions, Bob Homan, and the two Lemyres.

Inexperience Problem Troubles Army — Next Lion Boxing Foe

Army's boxing team, last Nittany foe before the Eastern Intercollegiate, comes to Rec Hall Saturday with much the same problem that has bothered Penn State all season—inexperience.

The Cadets have only two veteran performers on their squad and as a consequence have found the victory formula almost as hard to solve as have the Lions.

However, Army has been more successful than State's 0-5 record, even though the Lions have three veterans to rely on. The West Pointers have won twice in six starts and hold decisions over Catholic U. and City College of New York.

Lost 2 Champs

Coincidentally, Army has been beaten by four of the five teams that tripped the Nittanies. West Point bowed to Michigan State, 5½-2½, Syracuse, 6-2, Maryland, 5-3, and Virginia, 5½-2½. In most cases, Penn State losses were by nearly identical scores.

Although Army has lost EIBA champs Jim McInerney, 176, and Jerry Hughes, 165, they have one hotshot returning in Jim McGee, 132 pound Eastern runnerup last year.

Then in the EIBA preliminary round last year, McGee also picked up a win over Sam Butler, State's other 132 pound battler.

One Other Returnee

Army's only other experienced returnee is heavyweight Frank Hicks. Hicks alternated at the starting position from week to week last year with Mike Heplar, EIBA participant.

Otherwise, the Cadets will not be overly ring-wise. At 125 they will use either Stan Beck or Tom Turner. In the 139 pound division the Cadets will send either Baron Hendricks or Haywood Hansell into the ring against Nittany Tony Flore.

The 147 division for Army will have Andy Malohey. At 156 it will be either Don Rundle or Harry Ruhf. Going at 165 will be Clyde Massey and against unbeaten Adam Kojs in the 176 division it will be Ed Mendell.

Five individual titlists and Norristown's team champions will defend in the 1953 renewal of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association swimming championships, in the Glennland Pool here Saturday. Several records are predicted.

Joe Robinson, of Homestead, and Al Wiggins, of Pittsburgh Alderdice, are two-time winners and will defend in the 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard backstroke, respectively.

Bill Myers, of Norristown, who established the current State record in the 50-yard freestyle last year, duplicated the feat in the regionals and also carried off sectional honors in the 100-yard freestyle. His teammate, Bill Berardelli, won 100-yard breaststroke honors last year and repeated the achievement in the 1953 regionals.

The fifth defending titlist, John Grabowski, of Erie East, may encounter difficulty since he relinquished his diving leadership in the regionals to Giles Holtzman, of Pittsburgh Alderdice.

WRA Results

BADMINTON

- Zeta Tau Alpha over Delta Delta
- Theta Phi Alpha over Alpha Chi Omega
- Phi Mu over Alpha Omicron Pi
- Kappa Alpha Theta over Alpha Xi Delta
- Gamma Phi Beta over Kappa Delta
- Kappa Kappa Gamma over Delta Zeta
- Phi Sigma Sigma over Alpha Epsilon Phi
- Leonides over Atherton West (forfeit)

BOWLING

- MacAllister over Philotes
- Chi Omega over Ionians
- Beta Sigma Omicron over Little Lions (forfeit)

BRIDGE

- N-S—Sigma Delta Tau
- E-W—Zeta Tau Alpha

Track Managers

Candidates for assistant managership of track are asked to report to Chick Werner or Norm Gordon after 4 p.m. today at Rec Hall.

HOME-BAKED COOKIES and coffee or hot chocolate

10c

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DUTCH PANTRY

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