

Baseball Vets Prep for Opener



IT'S A CINCH these holdovers from the 1952 edition of the Nittany baseball team that finished third in the College World Series last June aren't going to be farmed out to the Salt and Pepper League for more seasoning.

The six vets are getting all their seasoning in this pepper game in preparation for the Lion's '53 campaign. Left to right, they are Captain Sil Cerchie, Bill Leonard, Keith Vesling, Jack Rhoda, Dewey Krumrine, and Bob Schoellkopf.

Record Entry for NCAA's at Rec Hall; Joe Lemyre Among Defending Titlists

Unlike the Eastern Intercollegiate wrestling tournament, the NCAA tourney will possess only three 1952 titlists in the starting field when a record entry of 210 of the nation's top collegians from 57 colleges vie for individual and team honors in Rec Hall next Friday and Saturday.

Returning 1952 winners are Hugh Peery, son of the Pitt coach, Rex Peery—a three-time titlist in the '30's—Gene Nicks, Oklahoma A&M, and Penn State's Co-captain Joe Lemyre. Peery, who has been wrestling in the 123-pound class this season, won the 115-pound championship last year, while Nicks carried the 130-pound honors.

State's First Champ

Coach Charlie Speidel's 167-pounder, who last year brought the Nittany Lions their first NCAA crown in 17 years, will endeavor to become the third Penn State matman to achieve this honor since the Lions organized wrestling.

Penn State's first national champion was Howard "Red" Johnston. To win, he faced Port Robertson, coach of Oklahoma's champions. Johnston clashed in the 165-pound finals 18 years ago and scored an early takedown to win a narrow decision over Robertson.

The fact that the Nittany Lions have not won an NCAA title and have had only two individual champions may appear illogical since the Lions have captured 12 EIWA championships and are well-known in the wrestling circles as "the team to beat."

Scrutinizing the record books, however, one would observe the fantastic monopoly held by Oklahoma University and Oklahoma A&M.

In fact, out of the 22 national championships, the latter Big Seven teams have shared the crown 19 times. Oklahoma Aggies copped the title 16 of the 19 times.

'Big Seven' Winner Four Times

Robertson's Oklahoma Sooners, twice defending national champions in the last two years, are currently sporting a 25 consecutive dual meet winning skein. (Penn State has the biggest consecutive victory mark today with 29.)

Then too, the Sooners, who won Big Seven honors four of the last five years, boast one champion, one runnerup, and a third-place winner from last year's title team.

Robertson, who returned to his alma mater to coach in 1947, has won 41 meets while losing only 16. His team cracked Oklahoma A&M's winning streak of 26 straight matches in 1951 and now owns six successive dual meet triumphs over the once-unbeaten Aggies.

Nevertheless, the Sooners will be without the services of his 147-pound champion, Tommy Evans, who was forced out of competition early this season because of a knee injury. Evans was voted as the tourney's outstanding wrestler last year.

The NCAA's defending 157-pounder, Bill Weick, of Iowa State Teachers, left college to enter the armed services.

Indiana Named Top Hoop Team

NEW YORK, March 20 (AP)—The Hoosiers of Indiana University, victors in the finals of the NCAA basketball tournament this week at Kansas City, were voted the No. 1 college basketball team of the 1953 season today in the final weekly Associated Press poll.

Coach Branch McCracken's Bloomington team, champions of the Big Ten and a 69-68 winner over Kansas in the NCAA championship game, ran away with the 14th and last nationwide poll of the season.

Of 159 ballots received from sports writers and sportscasters, Indiana received 128 votes.

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Sports Briefs

Kentucky's Rupp in Federal Lawsuit

LEXINGTON, Ky., March 20 (AP)—A Federal Court lawsuit asking triple damages of more than half a million dollars for alleged gambling losses today named as co-defendants University of Kentucky basketball Coach Adolph Rupp, gambler Frank Costello and Ed Curd, reputed former Lexington bookmaker.

Rupp, Kentucky's coach for 24 years, immediately branded the suit a "smear campaign" and asserted his innocence of any connection with gambling.

Costello, spotlighted during the Senate Crime Committee investigation, is now in the federal correctional institution at Milan, Mich., serving 18 months for contempt of Congress. He also is under indictment for income tax evasion.

Gernert's Blast Helps

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., March 20 (AP)—Dick Gernert's two-out home run off pitcher Joe Coleman tied the game in the ninth and then two errors by the Philadelphia Athletics in the 10th handed the Boston Red Sox a 5 to 4 Grapefruit League victory here today.

Yanks Top Phils, 8-3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 20 (AP)—The New York Yankees shelled three rookie hurlers for 16 hits today and trimmed the Philadelphia Phillies, 8-3. The champs, in enjoying their best hitting afternoon of the spring, blasted a total of 27 bases.

Gene Woodling led the attack with three safeties and Yogi Berra boomed a homer.

Milwaukee Wins First

BRADENTON, Fla., March 20 (AP)—Winning their first game as the Milwaukee Braves, Manager Charlie Grimm's lads swung away for 17 hits today to hand the St. Louis Cardinals their worst defeat of a losing spring, 11-2.

Biggest blow in the Braves' attack was a three-run home run hit by rookie Bob Mainzer off pitcher Bob Tiefenauer in the eighth inning.

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