

Lion NCAA Hopes Rest on 3 Lion Boxers



Sam Marino
119 Pounder



Tony Flore
139 Pounder



Adam Kois
178 Pounder

Nittany Boxers Bid For NCAA Titles

By JAKE HIGHTON

Their imaginations fired by the pre-Easter national championship winning efforts of Penn State gymnastics and wrestling teams, three Lion boxers begin their bids for NCAA boxing crowns today in Pocatello, Idaho.

Eastern champions Sam Marino and Adam Kois and unbeaten dual season campaigner Tony Flore—the best the East has in their respective weights—will be attempting to win for Penn State its first individual NCAA mitt title since 1950. The heavyweight Chuck Drazenovich nabbed the honor.

Quarterfinal action begins at 1:30 p.m. today and continues at 8 p.m. tonight. Tomorrow the semi-finals will be held at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 8 p.m. the championship bouts will be decided. (Idaho time starting times should be figured two hours behind Eastern Standard Time.)

Team Chances Slim

At latest report a total of 16 schools had entered 65 boxers. Some of the powerhouses are Wisconsin, Louisiana State, Idaho State, Michigan State, Minnesota, San Jose State, and Idaho.

Although it is highly possible that any one of the three Nittany leather craftsmen can bring back NCAA individual honors, it is quite unlikely that Penn State as a team can cash in on the title. It would take a highly improbable twin sweep and one runnerup for State to snap defending champion Wisconsin's most frequent titlists.

This tournament, the 16th annual, has only seen Penn State victorious once. That once was in 1932 in the first NCAA boxing tourney ever held—a meet which saw Penn State and its renowned Coach Leo Houck as host.

Marino Chances Good

As to individual champions, State has gained six. In addition to Drazenovich, Dave Stoop (1932), Al Lewis (1932), Frank Goodman (1936), Paul Scally (1941), and Glenn Hawthorne (1947), won crowns for State.

Marino, two-time EIBA champion and NCAA runnerup, is figured as good a chance as any to win the 119 pound title. With 125 pounds the lowest weight class in operation during dual meets, Marino often spotted foes as high as eight pounds. However, 119 is neatly tailored to Sam's size.

State's other EIBA titleholder, Kois (178) packs the heavy guns which could win a title. Adam was unbeaten on the dual season even against two topnotch Western opponents from Wisconsin and Michigan State.

Despite his upset in the EIBA semi-finals, Flore has the class to win against the rough 139 pound division. Flore's biggest obstacle is his own inability to be at his best in tourney competition. However, during dual meets he is just about as stylish a fighter as colleges produce.

Lacrossers to Play

Penn State's 1953 lacrosse team will play its first two games on foreign soil, meeting Swarthmore at Swarthmore tomorrow, and Navy at Annapolis Saturday.

Penn State's Eastern and National Collegiate all-around gymnastics champion, Jean Cronstedt, is a Finnish orphan.

Thinclads to Engage In 7 Meets in 1953

The Lion track squad will compete in seven meets this season, starting with the famed Penn Relays April 24-25, and ending with the IC4A's, May 29-30.

The 59th annual Penn Relays will be held in Philadelphia's Franklin Field. Last year State's top two-miler, Lamont Smith, finished second to favored Dick Shea of Army. Red Hollen finished seventh in the 47-man two-mile field.

Nittany Notes

Baseball Season Opens

Three games in five days will test the mettle of Penn State's 1953 baseball team as it ushers in the new campaign against Lehigh tomorrow. Villanova will be the opponent Saturday and Western Maryland on April 14.

Sherry is Court Captain

Jack Sherry, of Philadelphia, who gained distinction in football and basketball during the past year, has been elected captain of the 1954 Penn State basketball team. Sherry came to the campus unheralded as a schoolboy.

Gymnasts Score Triumph

Penn State, for the second time in six years, scored a smashing "triple" in intercollegiate gymnastics. Gene Wettstone's 1953 gymnasts were unbeaten in dual competition, and won Eastern and National Collegiate titles.

Knickerbocker Forward Lost for NBA Playoffs

NEW YORK, April 8 (AP)—Al McGuire, New York Knickerbockers' flashy forward, will be lost to the Eastern division winners for the remainder of the National Basketball Association championship playoffs.

McGuire, who fractured his jaw in an auto accident last Feb. 17, was examined by Dr. Vincent Nardiello, who said the jaw had not healed sufficiently to permit McGuire to play. The wire protection will not be removed for another two weeks.

Knickerbocker Coach Joe Lapchick said McGuire's place would be taken by Jerry Fleischman, recently released by the Philadelphia Warriors.

Penn State's National championship wrestling team will lose three starters from its unbeaten 1952 team.

Stickmen Face Garnet, Middies

By BOB DUNN

Coach Glenn (Nick) Thiel's Penn State lacrosse team boards a bus at 3:30 this afternoon on the first leg of its weekend trip which will open its season by battling Swarthmore and Navy.

With the forthcoming tilt tomorrow afternoon with the Garnet, the Lions will be starting their 40th lacrosse year. By the same token, this is Thiel's 18th season as Lion mentor. The congenial coach shows a record of 67 wins, and 85 losses over that span.

Five lettermen are returning to the Nittany fold this year. They include Captain Wayne Hockersmith, New Cumberland; Dave Arnold, Athens; Dick Rostmeyer, Baltimore; Tom Goldsworthy, Secane; and Dick Schaefer, Yeadon.

Opposition Has Improved

Coach Thiel, after watching his boys work out since February, is hoping the Lions can improve on their 2-6 log of last year, but is not overly optimistic.

"We're pretty green and rough in spots," he said yesterday. "Our schedule is much the same as last year, but every one of our opponents, with the possible exception of Hobart, seems to be improved."

"For the first time in quite a while, we'll have to rely a lot on sophomores in the lineup. Dick Klein on attack and defenseman Jim Hay are two second-year men I plan to start against Swarthmore," Thiel said.

Midfielders To See Much Action

The Lion's opening lineup seems set as of the moment. Hockersmith, Arnold, and senior Bob Pawloski will carry the brunt of the load at the midfield position, with Rostmeyer, Klein and Goldsworthy on attack, Jim Dean will help out Schaefer and Hay on defense, and Bill McCollough at goal.

Jim DeVoe, and sophomores John Steinmuller and Luke Girard, midfielders, will probably see plenty of action. Attackmen Joe Erwin, Ron Youtz, and George Bickelhaupt are front-line reserves, while reserve defensemen Horb Horikawa, Everett Weidner, and Jack Hogan are also being counted on heavily.

The main weakness is attack defense and goal, according to Thiel. "Dick Schaefer is our only veteran on defense," he said. "We were counting on Burt Houseworth at goal but he is ineligible. We're fairly strong in other spots, and we may do all right if we can overcome our inexperience at defense."

Travel To Annapolis

Last year's Lion record, while not impressive, is somewhat deceiving. The Nittanies defeated Washington and Lee, 7-6, and Penn, 10-6. But two of their setbacks were by but one point. Rutgers edged them, 16-15, in an overtime thriller, and Hobart emerged victorious, 9-8. Other losses were to Navy, Loyola of Baltimore, Cornell, and Syracuse.

After engaging Swarthmore tomorrow, the Lions travel to Annapolis for a Saturday tilt with always powerful Navy. The first home match will be April 18 with Hobart. The team is home for the next two Saturdays, meeting Pennsylvania and Syracuse.

Rutgers on May 9, and Cornell on May 16 will be away games. The Lions will close the season on May 23 against Loyola of Baltimore.

Ex-Lion Gridder Named Assistant to 'Ike' Gilbert

Edward M. Czekaj, a member of Penn State's unbeaten Cotton Bowl football team, was named assistant to H. R. Gilbert on the administrative staff of the College's intercollegiate athletic program recently.

In his new role, the Mt. Pleasant native succeeds W. R. Hosterman, Jr., who resigned to accept a position with the Sylvania Corporation at Winchester, Ky. Czekaj, for the past few months, had been pursuing graduate study at his alma mater.

A veteran of World War II and Korea, the 31-year-old Czekaj first came to the Penn State campus as a Marine Corps trainee, played on the 1943 football team, and then returned to complete his education in 1946 and 1947. He booted 32 extra points in 1947 to set a new Lion record in this department.

After his graduation in February, 1943, he spent three years at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore as physical education instructor, baseball coach, and football line coach. Recalled to service, he was promoted from

first lieutenant to captain while on duty with the Marines in Korea for 8½ months.

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