

W.Va. Streak at Stake; Booters Seek Fourth Win

Harriers Stand Even With MSC

Lions Hold Grid Series Edge, 14-4

Penn State, the strongest threat to West Virginia's long football winning streak, will endeavor to continue its mastery of the Mountaineers tomorrow at Beaver Field. The Lions were last to defeat the Mountaineers.

Kickoff time is set for 1:30 p.m. In the last seven years, West Virginia has beaten Pitt three times but has never defeated Penn State. The Nittany Lions own a 14-4-1 record over the Mountaineers in their overall series.

"Greatest Game"
Last year Coach Art Lewis' Mountaineers lost 35-21 to a Penn State team which Rip Engle said played the greatest game of any team he ever coached. West Virginia easily knocked over Pitt, 16-0, and repeated the achievement again this year, 17-7. A victory for Penn State or West Virginia will boost the winners in the national rankings.

A West Virginia victory, however, means more than just a win. If they win, the Mountaineers' 302nd triumph of all time will go down as one of their most important.

Seek First Title
It not only is the key to an undefeated season and sustaining the nation's longest winning streak (11), but also will assure West Virginia's first undisputed Big Three championship. (The Big Three includes Pitt, State and West Virginia). Never before have the Mountaineers beaten Pitt and Penn State in the same season. The best year that the Mountaineers have had was in 1923 when they beat Pitt but had to settle with a tie against Penn State.

Although the aforementioned records appear to favor the Nittany Lions, there is always the first time. And to the many sportswriters who will go out on the limb with predictions believe that this is West Virginia's year.

"Good Backs"
Lion scout, Sever Toretti, said: "The Mountaineers have more good backs than any team I've seen this year." Those he named were Freddie Wyant, Joe Marconi, Carl Norman, Jack Stone and Tommy Allman.

Allman also receives praise from his coach, Lewis, who called him the "best blocking fullback I've ever watched, pro or college." It is said that he makes the West Virginia's famed pitchout 'go' with his magnificent blocking. He is a "hell-for-leather football player who is destructive but indestructable on defense." In three years he has been stopped for a loss only three times.

The Mountaineers with an average of 36 points per game are expected to submit Penn State's defense to its most severe test—a test which has not been answered as yet.

Mountaineers Gunning

West Virginia, which is bidding for its first unbeaten season since 1922, last defeated Penn State in 1944. Jimmy Walthall was the hero as the Mountaineers edged the Lions, 28-27. The two rivals met here again Saturday in a prospective thriller.

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"Faith Can Move Mountains"

Sam's Song

By SAM PROCOPIO
Collegian Sports Editor



Several days ago we received a press release from Morgantown, W. Va., which read:

"For those who aren't already aware, West Virginia defeated Pitt at Pittsburgh by ten points. The current national leader, Notre Dame, defeated Pitt at South Bend by nine points, coming from behind. The defending national champion, Oklahoma, tied Pitt. The Panthers were 'up' for all three.

"Who says West Virginia doesn't belong in the Top Ten?"

Although we may have to eat our words tomorrow, we feel that a team which has beaten only one major (outstanding) college team does not belong in the Top Ten. Purdue beat Michigan State. They're not in the first ten.

There is no more convincing evidence of powerhouse than may be found in statistics. That is if they are employed correctly. In West Virginia's case—where statistics really flatter them—they are misleading.

What are the statistics?

The West Virginia football team ranks among the national leaders in total offense and rushing offense, and recently joined the top ten in another department of play—rushing defense. The Mountaineers are first nationally in total offense and second in rushing.

If those statistics look good, the wire-service national ratings are even better. West Virginia is rated fifth in the nation by the Associated Press. Certainly, the Mountaineers would not be favored over such teams like Michigan State, Georgia Tech, and Southern California if they met. Nevertheless, the aforementioned teams are below West Virginia in the ratings.

Why are the statistics misleading?

First of all we should scrutinize the Mountaineers' football schedule. They have beaten Pittsburgh. Fine. After that it was Waynesburg, Washington & Lee, George Washington, and last weekend VMI. Not very enlightening? Waynesburg is not having a winning season. Washington & Lee won one and dropped five. The latter school did beat Shepherd, 47-0.

George Washington has won two of its five games thus far. VMI is not much better with a 2-4 won and lost record.

If those statistics—though few—don't prove our point, we say "Wait until tomorrow and see how many touchdowns they can produce." For a team that is not even mentioned in the national ratings, West Virginia should run away with the Nittany Lions. But the experts—who will be jumping off high buildings in droves if West Virginia doesn't win—pick the Mountaineers as only six point favorites. Why? They're not too sure of themselves.

Let's say West Virginia will win. They will probably move up to third place—possibly higher. But what happens if Penn State wins. The experts will say: "We overrated West Virginia." They will likely drop the Mountaineers out of the top 20 and move Penn State up one notch.

Don't laugh. It's true. Whenever Penn State loses it moves up; when the Lions win, they drop. Logic? There isn't any.

In concluding we would like to clarify one statement. West Virginia does have a good team. It has a potential team. But whether or not they should be rated in the top ten, the answer is NO. What West Virginia needs is a schedule like Penn State. Then if they go unbeaten the Mountaineers can sit back and proudly ask the question:

"Who says West Virginia doesn't belong in the Top Ten?"

-30-

Host Duke Soccermen Tomorrow

On the eve of the Nittany booters fifth match of an eight-game season card, the plague of injuries may give Coach Ken Hosterman something to think about. The Lion's will be out to cop their second straight win of the season, and their fourth in five starts.

Emil Borra, senior fullback from Beadling, may be sidelined for the Duke encounter because of a chipped bone in his foot. Borra also is nursing a black eye, the result of a player collision in the Colgate contest.

Captain Hap Irvin, also a senior fullback, has been suffering from a displaced vertebra in his neck. Irvin has played, however, despite a stiff neck, and Hosterman "thinks" he will be ready to play Saturday.

Lineup Changes
Knees have been troublesome to the Lion squad during the entire season, as Paul Dierks and Hubie Kline have been slowed down by similar ailments. Dierks, junior center halfback, and Kline, outside left lineman, however, haven't missed any varsity play to date.

Lineup changes for the Duke encounter are very possible. Three line positions definitely will be occupied by two seniors and one junior. Kline will be at his usual outside left wing slot, and Senlor Bill Norcik at the outside right of the line. Pinezich will be at his usual spot of inside left.

Inside Right Undecided
The center forward slot, stronghold of the Nittany scoring power, and the inside right position are still questionable in Hosterman's mind. Sophomore Dick Packer, leading team scorer with seven markers, or Mert Springer who notched his only goal, but a very valued one, against Colgate last Saturday will be starters.

Dick Matacia, another scoring threat for the Lions, or Joe Mirjares, veteran lineman from Bill Jeffrey's squad last year, will face the Blue Devils at the inside right slot at kickoff time.

Playing its first game on its home course, the Lion eleven faces a perennial "toughie" from the Southland's soccer squads. "Duke was loaded with sophomores last year, when State trimmed them, 4-1. We expect to see an experienced group of players tomorrow," Hosterman said.

Lakers to Meet Hawks in Pro Court Opener

MILWAUKEE, Oct. 29 (AP)—The Milwaukee Lakers, who want to stay where they usually are on top, meet the Milwaukee Hawks, who have no place to go except up, in the National Basketball Association season's opener tomorrow night at the Milwaukee Arena.

Since 1949 the Spartans of Michigan State and the Nittany Lions have split even in four cross-country meets.

Four years ago the Spartans came out on top, 22-35. The Lions finished with a record of three wins and two losses and wound up the season by placing fifth in the IC4A championship meet and one notch higher in NCAA competition.

In 1950 the Blue and White "ran all over" the Michigan Staters, 19-43, as they went on to what was probably the greatest season in the annals of Nittany cross-country. Chick Werner, Nittany coach, concluded the campaign by guiding the harriers to the IC4A and NCAA championships.

Balance was the key word in the Nittany win skein. Bill Ashenfelter was the No. 1 man, but he got plenty of support from his brother Don, as well as from such standouts as Bob Freebairn, Al Porto, Jack St. Clair and Dudley Foster.

The following season the Lions posted a five and one log and copped the IC4A title again. However, the team slipped to fourth in the NCAA run for the roses. Bill Ashenfelter and Foster were the only returnees from the great team of the preceding year. It was during the same campaign that Red Hollen, then a sophomore, and Lamont Smith, a freshman at the time, burst upon the scene. Hollen and Smith are now two of the top runners in the east.

Last year's hill-and-dalers had a four and one slate, losing only to the Spartans in a triangular meet. The runners placed fourth in both the IC4A and NCAA runs.

At present the Nittany have won four consecutive meets. The harriers turned back NYU and Manhattan to finish last season's schedule and have won their first two meets this season.

Three Season Records Set in IM Swimming

Sigma Alpha Epsilon swamped Lambda Chi Alpha, 33-5, Phi Epsilon Pi outdistanced Alpha Sigma Phi, 29-11, and Delta Sigma Phi outswam Chi Phi, 23-14, in yesterday's Intramural swimming meets.

The best marks of the season were registered in three events. Cohen, Phi Epsilon Pi, chalked up a 32.4 seconds mark in the 60-yard freestyle, while his teammate Rosenthal completed the 60-yard backstroke course in 39.7. Shields scored 27.7 points to win the diving event and help Delta Sigma Phi top Chi Phi.

Penn State posted unbeaten records in golf, gymnastics, and wrestling during the 1953 sports season.

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