

# Lion Cagers Meet Penn Saturday

The Lion basketball team is back at the practice grind today following its impressive 66-41 win against Washington & Jefferson Saturday night at Rec Hall.

The Nittanians take the road Saturday to meet The University of Pennsylvania in the first of three straight road games. Following their Quaker encounter they tangle with American University and North Carolina State, rated eighth nationally on pre-season dope sheets.

Head Coach Elmer Gross said yesterday that he was "well pleased" with the Lions' showing against the Prexies Saturday. "The boys did very well," he said, "considering that it was their first game."

### Trip To Be Test

However, he called the coming road trip the real test for the quintet. "You can usually tell how good a team is by its performance on the road," he said. "For some reason most basketball teams always look good at home."

Gross called State's new full court press the most influential factor in the win Saturday. The Lion mentor is using the system for the first time. In this type of defense, the front line of the zone presses the offensive guards as they attempt to bring the ball over the mid-court line and then drop back into their zone defense positions.

### Allow Nine Field Goals

Gross had good reason to be pleased. The Lions allowed the Presidents only nine field goals in the contest while they connected on .36 per cent of their shots for 29 field goals.

Gross had praise for all five of his starting players. "Jesse Arnette looks like the Arnette of old," he commented. "He looked much better on the backboards than last year."

The 6-5 center who led the scoring parade with 18 points gathered in 19 rebounds to top that department.

### Weidenhammer Faster

"Sherry and Haag both looked good," Gross said. "Both scored at least ten points and were good on the backboards. Weidenhammer is faster than last year and Marisa, considering that he is only a sophomore, played very well."

He said he believed that the team is further along this year than they were last year in the opening game. "We have more pep and drive this year," he said, "and more speed too."

The W&J opener was the first of 19 contests scheduled for the cagers this season. They won't appear at Rec Hall again until after the holidays when they take on Syracuse Jan. 6 at Rec Hall.

### Group to Discuss Union

"Labor Relations and the Union" will be the topic of discussion at a joint meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Management and the Mining Society at 7:30 tonight in 317 Willard.

### Gridders 24th

Penn State's gridders were rated 24th in the nation in the final poll of 1953.

### Rados First

Tony Rados is the first Nittany Lion griddier in 67 years to win eastern passing honors.

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## Sport SPOTLIGHT

DICK McDOWELL  
Assistant Sports Editor



### BASKETBALL — SWEDISH STYLE

Basketball, America's top indoor sports attraction, has been spreading like wild-fire throughout the world in the last few days. The game has been introduced in Europe and the Far East by American GIs. Its popularity has been increased through the goodwill shenanigans of Abe Saperstein and his famous Harlem Globe Trotters with their world circling tours.

But in Sweden they aren't worried about basketball. They play a game there called Handboll (pronounced "honbol") which compares favorably with our game of basketball. It sounds just as interesting, maybe a little more.

We learned about the game from a young Swedish student, Torsten Bengtson, who is attending a short course session at Penn State. An athlete, former sports writer for a Stockholm paper, and recently a student at the University of British Columbia in Canada, Tor is en route back to his native country after a two year stay in North America.

And one of the first things he wants to do when he gets back is play Handboll.

"The game is terrific," he said, "and I can hardly wait to get another crack at it."

He told us that he started to play the sport, like most other Swedish children, at the age of six. There are organized leagues in the country for athletes of every age, and just about everybody plays it.

Played on a hardwood court, the sport approaches basketball in every sense except that instead of tossing a ten inch ball through a hoop, a score is made by firing a smaller ball into a netted goal, six feet wide, defended by a goalie. Players are permitted to dribble and pass, and body contact, known as "tackling" is used for check offensive players.

The ball used is small enough to hold in one hand and can be fired at the goal like a baseball. Each team uses seven men and is allowed to keep three men on reserve.

"You have to be in very good condition to play well," Tor commented, "since you are moving all the time, and substitution is limited. We only play two periods, each 25 minutes in length."

Because the ball can be thrown with such tremendous power and speed, the offensive player is restricted from entering a certain area surrounding the goal. He must stay outside a 15-foot semi-circle but can cross the line in midair and take his shot before he touches the ground.

"One of the favorite shots used," said Tor, who has taught the game in Canada, "is a back hand shot taken as the player crosses laterally in front of the goal. It's almost impossible to block it and often slips past the goalie."

We asked him about the amount of scoring done and found that the average winning score runs about 20 points, at one point per goal. Some however, are as low as five or six.

Tor told us that teams use either a man-for-man type defense or a "section defense" which would compare to basketball's zone.

The object offensively is for the halfbacks and the center-forward (these could compare with the forwards and the center) to deploy the defense away from the goal and allow the fullback, starting in the backcourt at the middle of the floor, to come up fast and take a running shot at the goal.

Penalty shots are granted from the restriction line in case of a rule violation, corresponding to the basketball free throw.

All in all, the game sounds fascinating and thrilling, combining speed, flashy offensive and defensive play, limited body contact, and fierce competition.

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### WRA Results

**Basketball**  
Alpha Kappa Alpha 26, Kappa Delta, 13  
Zeta Tau Alpha 23, Gamma Phi Beta 15  
Kappa Alpha Theta 44, Co-op 16  
Thompson 3-4 10, Atherton 9  
McAllister 27, Spruce-Pine 11  
Little Lions over Maple-Elm default

### Table Tennis

Theta Sigma Omicron over Alpha Omicron Pi  
Phi Mu over Theta Phi Alpha  
Atherton over Kappa Kappa Gamma  
Alpha Xi Delta over Delta Gamma  
Co-op over McAllister  
Little Lions over Spruce-Pine

### Ring Officials Shun NBA Plan

HARRISBURG, Dec. 8 (AP)—A National Boxing Association plan for a uniform system of scoring prize fights today was turned down by the Pennsylvania Athletic Commission.

"The commission as a whole decided not to change our scoring system at this time," said Chairman Frank Weiner, of Philadelphia.

Under the present scoring system in Pennsylvania, officials determine a winner by the number of rounds he has won over his opponent. If a round winner takes the round by a big margin he is given extra credit.

### Jensen Sent To Red Sox In Major Swap

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (AP)—Washington traded Jackie Jensen to Boston in a major three-man deal today, Commissioner Ford Frick awarded 18-year-old Ralph Terry to the New York Yankees, and the major leagues clammed up on the pension plan hassle.

Jensen, a fleet, strong-armed outfielder with good power who hit 10 homers and drove in 84 runs for Washington despite a disappointing .266 average, went to the Red Sox for lefthanded pitcher Maury McDermott (18-10) and outfielder Tom Umphlett. Umphlett surprised with a .283 rookie season.

The Washington-Boston swap was expected to break the log jam that has blocked trades throughout the winter baseball meetings.

The Philadelphia A's sold second baseman Cass Michaels to the Chicago White Sox, where he played for several years. No price was announced but it was believed close to the \$10,000 waiver limit for the 27-year-old infielder.

Commissioner Frick decided Terry, a right-handed pitcher from Chelsea, Okla., who reportedly agreed to terms with both the Yanks and St. Louis Cards on the same day, belonged to the Yankees.

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