

"Always"

# Sam's Song

By SAM PROCOPIO  
Collegian Sports Editor



There's no justice in polls—basketball, football, or whatever sport it may be. Some days the nationally ranked teams can't buy a notch. Some days they're loaded.

Take for example Kansas' basketball team. Most quintets in the early poll had at least two games under their belts. This is not unusual. Ranking fifth in the nation with five first place votes was Kansas. Well, this isn't unusual for a team either. But, did you know that at the time Kansas had a 0-0 record?

Every year the bowl outcomes make the news services' ratings look sickening. This year the case of ulcers remained. West Virginia, defeated decisively by South Carolina (ranked nowhere), was still invited to a bowl game despite its flimsy schedule. Listed tenth in the nation by the Associated Press, the Mountaineers were victims of the worse—the highest score rolled up against any Sugar Bowl opponent.

Maryland, the nation's number one team, was defeated by the Sooners of Oklahoma, not only in the score, but in the statistics.

Here at Penn State we find an excellent example of poor selections made by the news services. Two years ago, one of our predecessors—Ernie Moore—wrote the following column which can be applied to many cases where publicity is lacking and where teams are handed mythical championships on silver platters.

"Some days you can't make a nickel," Moore wrote.

"Take the case of Penn State's basketball team. Last Wednesday night, the Lions defeated West Virginia on the Rec Hall court, 84-65. The loss was only the third suffered by the Mountaineers all season, but it was the second defeat hung on them by the Lions.

"On Saturday, the Lions hardly worked up a sweat in turning back Pittsburgh, 24-9 (game that Doc Carlson put on his famed freeze) for their second win of the week.

"The Associated Press came out with their final weekly basketball poll yesterday and what happens? Penn State drops two places to 23rd. West Virginia moves up a notch to ninth.

"A West Virginia fan would say, 'Well, State was lucky because Workman didn't play much. West Virginia has a better team than Penn State!'

"So what. Like the guy from Missouri, you have to show us. You've heard the phrase, 'A man is innocent until proven guilty.' Well, in our way of thinking Penn State has a better basketball team than West Virginia until West Virginia proves otherwise. Remember, Penn State defeated the Mountaineers twice—once in Morgantown.

"Yet, in the poll, West Virginia is ninth; Penn State is 23rd.

"But there is a method behind this poll madness. The AP ratings are determined by votes of member newspapers. Morgantown is a fairly big city and there are many large towns in the vicinity. Therefore, there are a lot of newspapers.

"Besides, West Virginia has one big basketball school—West Virginia University. The local votes aren't disturbed among a lot of schools. The result? West Virginia U. has a large vote backing.

"Who votes for Penn State? The Centre Daily Times and possibly a few newspapers around the central part of the state. What about Pittsburgh and Philadelphia papers? Pittsburgh worries about Pitt and Duquesne, Philadelphia worries about St. Joseph, Villanova, Temple, and Penn.

"What's the result? West Virginia ninth; Penn State 23rd," Moore concluded.

What's the overall result? There's no justice in polls—barring none.

-30-

## Basketball Coach

Elmer Gross, Penn State basketball chief and World War II Purple Heart veteran, is in his fifth year as head coach.

## Virginia Boxing Tilt Changed

Penn State athletic officials have agreed to switch the scheduled boxing meet with the University of Virginia from State College to Charlottesville Feb. 27.

The Virginia boxing match was originally one of three home contests for the Nittany boxing squad. The Lions will be hosts to Michigan State, in the season opener Jan. 30, and to Syracuse two weeks later, Feb. 16.

Harold R. Gilbert, assistant director of athletics, said a series of cancellations left Virginia with only one home meet and Cavalier officials asked for the change to build interest in the Eastern title tournament slated for Charlottesville in March.

Gilbert pointed out that the change will detract from the home schedule in 1954 but improve the centennial slate in 1955. The Cavaliers readily agreed to the latter switch.

## IM Schedule Is Resumed

With the arrival of a new year and the continuation of the present semester, Penn State's intramural program continues in full swing.

Prior to the holiday vacation, a very successful boxing campaign was concluded with the finals—held on the night of Dec. 17 at Rec Hall.

Eight fraternity champions were crowned and three independent pugilists also gained the coveted positions.

The basketball program is currently nearing its completion, with the finals probably to be held in the early part of March. At the present, all eyes are focused on last year's champs—the Sinkers and Phi Sigma Delta. The Sinkers have ruled the independent court scene for two seasons and are out to lay claims to a third.

IM wrestling is slated to get underway at the start of the spring semester. Last years fraternity champions, Sigma Nu, although pressed closely by Pi Kappa Phi and Chi Phi, will be out to repeat last years performance.

# Cornell Will Test New Lion Talent

As the curtain goes up on the 1954 collegiate wrestling drama, all eyes will be focused on the release of new talent in Penn State's heavier weights. The setting is Rec Hall where two of the finest teams in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association's history—Penn State and Cornell—will perform.

The dual meet Saturday night will mark the Nittany Lions '54 debut, while for the matmen of Cornell it will be their fourth of the campaign.

As one scrutinizes Penn State's wrestling roster, he finds that it is in the heavier divisions that Coach Speidel was weakened via graduation. His losses include NCAA champion, Hud Samson, and Co-captains Joe Lemyre and Don Frey. All three had much to say

for the Lions' outstanding achievements.

## EIWA Champs

If Speidel were making out his yearly profit and loss statements, the lighter weight wrestlers would undoubtedly fit nicely on the asset side. For it would include matmen like EIWA and Co-captains Dick Lemyre and Jerry Maurey, Bob Homan, Larry Fornicola, and Doug Frey.

Against Cornell Saturday, Speidel will have to depend upon the aforementioned standbys. Because of the Christmas holidays, the Lions couldn't have any intra-squad competition.

In the 123-pound division Homan finds his competition in Hal Byers and Bill Cramp. Cramp wrestled last year in the National's 115-pound class.

## Fornicola Unbeaten

Fornicola is capable of substituting for Lemyre and Maurey in the 130 and 137-pound divisions, respectively. Bellefonte's Fornicola wrestled against Navy, Penn, and Syracuse last year and was triumphant in each endeavor.

The 147-pounders find Pete Huey, Ted Klein, Bill Krebs and regular starter Doug Frey. George Dvorozniak is the only regular in the 167 class, and is only eligible for three dual meets. He will graduate this semester.

## Heavier Classes Undecided

From the 157 to the heavyweight class the Nittany Lion mentor will have to juggle his aspirants. Frank MacIntire, Bob Grubb, Bob Winters, and Ted Ruckett will be seeking 157-pound berths. Dick McFeely, Bob Snyder, and Doug Melvin are in search of the 177-pound position.

In the heavyweight class, where Penn State has been outstanding throughout its wrestling history, will find three sophomores—Bill Oberly, Frank Olney, and Jim Harding.

# One-Platoon Not Likely To Change

CINCINNATI, Jan. 4 (AP)—In spite of the pained expressions worn by some die-hard coaches here, there is little likelihood that a change in the football substitution rule will be recommended this year by the American Football Coaches Association.

Tomorrow's all-day session of the AFCA rules committee, which is empowered only to make recommendations to the national committee, is the first big event of the week of meetings which has drawn more than 1200 college athletic leaders here.

Meanwhile, Lou Little of Columbia, chairman of the coaches rules committee, came in with the news that a questionnaire circulated among the coaches had brought an "overwhelming" response in favor of the 1953 limited substitution.

Final tabulation of the replies was to be made tonight, but Little said that more than 80 answers had been received from about 1000 eligible coaches and that a large majority favored retaining the rule as it now stands.

A good many favored some modification—such as allowing two or three substitutions at a time but no platoons—and others favored eliminating the four-minute period at the end of each half.

Whether the ethics committee, headed by Bill Murray of Duke, will decide that the much-discussed "fake" injuries come under its jurisdiction is doubtful.

# Cagers To Battle Syracuse

(Continued from page six)  
tated 23 points, nine of them coming from the foul line, and Ronnie Shavlick who added 22 more to the Wolfpack attack.

Syracuse Improved  
In tomorrow night's contest, the Lions will face one of the most improved teams in the East. After winning only seven of 20 contests last season, including two losses at the hands of the Nittanies, Coach Marc Guley's quintet already boasts a 6-3 record. Last season the Lions mauled the New York club, 71-62, and then edged it in the second contest, 78-74.

Six lettermen form the nucleus of Guley's, including forward Mel Besdin and center Dave Kline, both of whom scored over 250 points last season. Kline, a 6-5 junior, is a top-rate rebounder. Besdin stands at 6-3. Rounding out the first five will be Ron Kilpatrick, 6-3, and Jack Larned, 5-11, at the guards, and Manny Breland, 6-2, at the other forward.

Arnelle Top Scorer  
The Lions will once again be looking to Arnelle for the biggest share of the scoring punch, although Weidenhammer, Sherry, and Haag, have all shown that they can step in and take up the slack. Arnelle leads the individual scoring after four games with 72 points and an 18 point per game average. Haag is second, averaging 12.2. Weidenhammer is third with 11 markers per contest, and Sherry rounds out the top four with a 9.7 average.

The Grossmen have scored a total of 277 points for a 69 point average and have held their opponents to 62.2 points per game.

Penn State				American U.			
fg	f	t	fg	f	t	fg	f
Weid'h.r.g	3	2-3	8	Greenf.d.g	7	9-11	23
Edwards.g	2	1-1	5	Parker.g	0	4-7	4
Haag.g	3	0-1	6	Daly.g	2	4-6	8
Brewer.g	1	4-6	6	Williams.c	4	0-0	8
Arnelle.c	5	3-6	13	Selby.c	2	4-6	8
Rohland.c	0	3-4	3	Hevener.f	7	6-8	20
Sherry.f	6	0-2	12	McPherson.f	0	0-0	0
Christ'nf	1	1-3	3	Baer.g	0	1-2	1
Bloeker.f	4	0-0	8	Ryland.f	0	0-0	0
Marisa.f	0	1-4	1				
Totals	25	15-30	65	Totals	16	20-30	52
Penn State	15	21	17-65				
American U.	12	14	9-17-52				

  

Penn State				North Carolina			
fg	f	t	fg	f	t	fg	f
Weid'h.r.g	3	0-0	16	Thompson.g	7	9-11	23
Edwards.g	1	0-0	2	Tyler.g	5	2-6	12
Haag.g	7	3-5	17	Shavlick.g	9	4-7	22
Brewer.g	3	3-3	9	Gotkin.f	6	5-9	17
Arnelle.c	7	1-3	15	Molodet.f	4	3-8	11
Rohland.c	0	0-0	0	Bell.f	2	0-0	4
Sherry.f	4	2-3	10	Applebaun.f	0	0-0	0
Bloeker.f	1	2-4	4				
Marisa.f	0	1-1	1				
Totals	31	11-19	74	Totals	33	23-41	89
Penn State	17	18	26-13-74				
North Carolina	21	24	21-23-89				

## Twins Are Co-Captains

Only twins ever to serve as co-captains of a Penn State athletic team, Al and Frank Wick, will share leadership of the 1954 gymnastics team.

**NEW**  
**College Diner**

Sidewalk Counter Service  
for  
**FREEZER FRESH**  
**ICE CREAM**  
Between The Movies

# SALE

## WINTER CLEARANCE

## SWEATERS

\$9.95 Value ..... Now \$5.97

## WINTER JACKETS

### 25% Off Original

## Drastic Reductions

also in

Suits      Sportcoats  
                 Sportshirts  
                 Trousers  
                 Ties

*Levine Bros. Men's Shop*

STATE COLLEGE