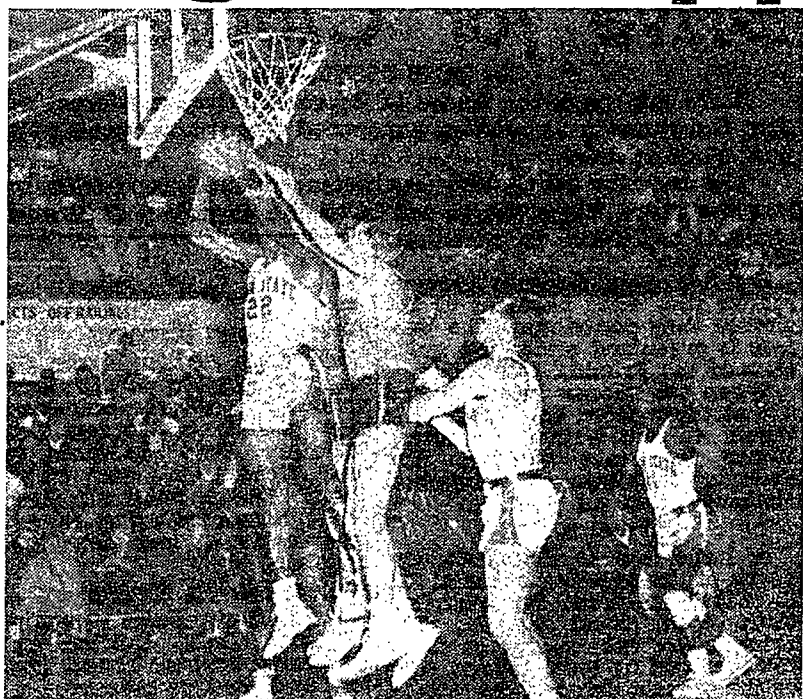


Cagers Topple Syracuse, 77-63



—Photo by Kiehl
JESSE ARNELLE, Penn State center, and Syracuse's Ronnie Gillespie go after a rebound in last night's game with Syracuse University. Looking on are the Lion's Jack Sherry and Jim Brewer (background). The Lions won the game, their fourth of the season, 77-63.

Arnelle Paces Scorers; 67 Free Throws Awarded

By DICK McDOWELL

Elmer Gross' once beaten basketball team won its fourth victory of the season last night, defeating Syracuse at Rec Hall, 77-63, in a wild and wooly, foul happy contest. Both teams combined to take 67 shots from the free throw line.

With big Jesse Arnelle pacing the Nittany scoring attack, the Lion quintet overcame an early Syracuse lead in the first quarter. The Lions built their lead considerably and saw it slip dangerously in the second half. But then Penn State put the pressure on in the final minutes of the contest to win with ease. Arnelle tallied 21 points.

The game, second home appearance of the Lions this year, began normally but soon developed into a battle for loose balls, rough body contact, and heavy scoring from the foul line. The Nittanians went to the free throw line 41 times, converting successfully on 33 attempts, while Syracuse's Coach Marc Guley's cagers converted 13 for 26 from the line.

Orange Score First

The Orange opened fast when guard Jack Larned took the opening tip-off and drove in for a quick basket. Arnelle hit on a foul shot, Larned added two free throws for Syracuse, and the Orange had a 4-1 lead. However, two quick baskets by Arnelle after Besdin's fast break lay up, and a foul point and field goal by the Lion's Ed Haag, gave the Nittanians an 8-6 lead that they never relinquished.

Arnelle and Haag combined their efforts for 12 points in the first frame to pace the Lions to an 18-9 lead.

Arnelle Leads Attack

Then in the second frame the big center continued his scoring barrage, while the Lions' pressing-zone defense bottled up the Syracuse attack and State increased the margin to 33-19. Haag creased the margin to 33-19.

Syracuse looked pathetic in the first half as they tried vainly to crack the Nittany 3-2 defense. Most of their shots had to come from the back court and the corners and few were accurate.

However, in the second half, the New York ball club suddenly came to life. Its offense began to click and its defense was able to apply the breaks to the Lions' furious first half offense. Reserve guards August Castellini, and Dick Jasgot, who came into the game early in the third period, began to find the range from outside the Nittany wall and forward

(Continued on page seven)

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Wrestlers Open 28th Campaign, Seek 30th Win

Penn State's unbeaten and National Collegiate wrestling champions will launch their 28th campaign under veteran and colorful coach, Charlie Speidel, when they open the 1954 campaign against once-beaten Cornell Saturday night.

The Nittany Lions, who will be seeking their 30th straight win, will open the first part of a scheduled doubleheader at 7 p.m. The Penn State-Colgate basketball game will follow.

Like the Lions, Cornell has been weakened via graduation—much more so. Lost are its two Eastern and NCAA champions—Frank Bettucci, 157-pounder, and Don Dickinson, 167-pounder. Nevertheless, the Big Red were strong enough to post two wins thus far this season.

The Cornell matmen pinned Cortland 21-10 and Rutgers, 16-12. Their only loss was against always strong Lehigh, 17-8.

Before the Big Red actually had its season underway, there was much talk that its '54 campaign would be hampered by the loss of Bettucci and Dickinson. However, the talk was quickly changed to a murmur with one report:

"The team has sufficient manpower to fill these gaps."

When the Big Red faces the Lions Saturday, they will be led by co-captain Paul Steiger and Bruce Blackman.

Dick Soars, however, who has wrestled both 177 and heavy-weight is one of the few wrestlers unbeaten on the Cornell mat squad. In last year's battle, in which Penn State finally won out, 18-10, Soars was decisoned by Speidel's "Pressure Boy," Hud Samson, 191-pound NCAA champ.

Coach Erie Miller, who had a 7-4 won and lost record last year, has juggled his lineup against his first three competitors. It is more than likely that Miller will do the same when he matches his grapplers with the Lions.

Against Cortland and Lehigh Coach Miller shifted his wrestlers in the 130-pound, 137-pound, and 167-pound classes. It is in the aforementioned weights that the Lions are strong.

Spearheading the Nittany Lions, who last year won nine meets before winning the Eastern and National Collegiate team honors, will be two Eastern titlists and '54 Co-captains—Dick Lemyre and Jerry Maurey.

The other major returnees who will aid Penn State are Bob Homan, Eastern 123-pound champion in 1952, Doug Frey, twin brother of Don Frey, who shared the 1953 captaincy with Joe Lemyre; and George Dvorozniak, 167-pounder who will be available for the season's first three meets.

Ben Hogan Named 'Athlete of Year'

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (AP)—Ben Hogan, called by many the greatest golfer who ever lived after he captured the British Open championship with a record-smashing final round last summer, was voted "male athlete of the year" for 1953 today in the 23rd annual year-end Associated Press poll.

The mighty Texas shotmaker, who won golfdom's triple crown in 1953—the U.S. and British Open championships, and the Augusta Masters—was an overwhelming choice in the nationwide poll of sports writers and sportscasters.

The 41-year-old Bantam Ben received 67 first place votes out of the 129 ballots cast, and rolled up 229 points on a 3-2-1 basis. For the second straight year, Rocky Marciano, world's heavyweight champion, was in the runner-up spot. Marciano, who was second to Bob Mathias, twice Olympic decathlon champion in the 1952 poll, received 12 first place votes this time and had a total of 80 points.

Third in the 1953 poll was Willie Shoemaker, the year's champion jockey who rode 485 winners, more than any other rider in one season in racing history.

Two college football stars were fourth and fifth, respectively, Johnny Lattner of Notre Dame and Minnesota's Paul Giel. Following in order were Roy Cam-

panella, the Brooklyn Dodgers catcher and National League most valuable player; Mal Whitfield, two-time Olympic 800 meters champion; Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox slugger who returned late in the season from the Marine Corps and started banging homers again; and Wes Santee of Kansas, who set an American mile record of 4:02.4 last June 5. Hogan is the first golfer to be named male athlete of the year since Bryon Nelson was voted the honor in both 1944 and 1945. Only one other golfer was chosen, Gene Sarazen in 1932—second year of the poll.

Phi Kappa Sigma Tops Intramural Race For Crown

By ROD FELIX

As the annual sportsfest for the Penn State University Fraternity Athletic championship approaches the half-way mark for the 1953-54 year of competition there are twelve competing houses within striking distance of the crown.

With Phi Kappa Sigma leading the way, the 12 squads, due to a five-way tie for the final spot, fill the top eight positions.

Phi Kappa Sigma's 260 points give them a 15 point bulge over the athletes of Acacia. Beta Theta Pi has a slim five point lead over Phi Sigma Kappa, 200 to 195.

Rounding out the top seven are Delta Sigma Phi, with 175 points, Sigma Nu, last year's title-winners with 160, and Delta Upsilon, the Sigs' runnerup with 140.

Tied for the eighth position with 115 markers apiece are Beta Sigma Rho, Phi Kappa Psi, Sigma Chi, Sigma Phi Sigma, and last year's third placers Theta Xi.

The leaders piled up their 260 points via a boxing championship worth 180, 25 in touch football, 35 in swimming, and 20 in the golf medal tournament.

Acacia tallied 155 markers while winning the touch football crown, 30 in swimming, 40 in boxing and 10 in golf. Third place Beta Theta Pi annexed the swimming title and 130 points there, 40 points in football, 20 in the IM ring, and 10 in golf.

Phi Sigma Kappa holds down fourth place via a second slot finish in boxing 135 points, football 25, swimming 25, golf 10. Delta Sigma Phi captured the fifth slot via a 110 effort in touch football, 35 in swimming, and 30 in the boxing tourney.

Other heavy scorers in various sports include Sigma Nu, 75 in boxing, Sigma Chi, 90 in swimming, and Sigma Phi Sigma with the golf medal tournament champion accounting for 60 points.

A look to the future: In IM basketball play several of these top 12 are turning in winning performances. Some of these are: Phi Kappa Sigma, the leader—a 3-1 log, Sigma Nu, a 4-0 record, and Sigma Chi, Sigma Phi Sigma, and Theta Xi, all with 3-1 marks.

Mittmen Open Season

Penn State's boxers open the new season Jan. 30 in a home meet against Michigan State. Other dual meets will pit the Nittany Lions against Maryland, Syracuse, Wisconsin, Army, Virginia, and Louisiana State.



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