

Penn State Quintet Faces West Virginia Tonight

Mounties Have Poor 4-5 Record

By DICK McDOWELL

The Nittany Lion basketball team goes after win number six tonight when it battles a dangerous West Virginia University quintet at Morgantown, W. Va.

The Lions, sporting a 5-1 record, meet the Mountaineers in the first of three away games. The Nittanians travel to Annapolis and Bucknell before returning to Rec Hall.

Coach Elmer Gross' cagers face a team which, although owning only a modest 4-5 record, has averaged better than 80 points per game and stands 13th in the nation offensively. The Mounties own wins over Carnegie Tech, Washington and Lee, Maryland, and William and Mary and have lost to George Washington, Duke, Columbia, Richmond, and St. John's.

Even with this mediocre record West Virginia stands as a tall barrier for Gross' quintet to hurdle. Led by big Eddie Becker, the Mountaineers are the same team that beat the Lions last year, 82-72. The Nittanians retaliated in the return match, whipping the Mounties, 77-57.

Becker has averaged 23.6 points per game, enough to rank him 23rd among the nation's scorers. However, the big guard has been just about the whole show in the first nine contests. As a team the southerners have been unable to click, despite their terrific scoring totals.

Defensively the Mounties have been very poor, and offensively Becker has had to carry the burden too often. However, their fast breaking, snappy passing game enables them to get a big total of field goal tries, and when they are hitting, they are almost unbeatable.

Rounding out the rest of the Mountie squad will be Mack Isner (6-4) at the other guard, Red Holmes (6-3) and either Willie Bergines or Paul Witting (6-7) at the forwards. Pete White (6-5) will be at center.

Gross indicated yesterday that he is not planning any lineup changes although he said he might possibly start sophomore Rudy Marisa at forward in place of Jim Blocker. However, Gross plans to (Continued on page seven)

Phils' Stars Refuse Pacts

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 12 (AP)—Headaches piled up today for President Bob Carpenter of the Philadelphia Phillies. First, pitcher Robin Roberts, a 23-game winner, said absolutely no to a proposed pay cut. Then, Richie Ashburn, the club's top hitter at .330, said no thank you to a slight increase.

Roberts, 27-year-old right-hander acclaimed by most experts as the top pitcher in baseball, classified himself as a definite holdout. "I have no intention of signing that contract," he said of the pact offered him by Carpenter.

Ashburn, who is wintering at his Tilden, Neb., home, mailed back his unsigned contract with a friendly, but firm note. A club spokesman quoted the outfielder as saying he had a good season and expected more of a raise than he was offered.

At home with his wife and two sons, Roberts declined to discuss the figures on the contract, except to say, "We're far apart."

It is believed the Springfield, Ill., native received in the neighborhood of \$40,000 last year.

Sport SPOTLIGHT

By DICK McDOWELL Assistant Sports Editor



A NEW FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Ernest McCoy, Penn State's ambitious Director of Athletics, returns this week from Cincinnati, O., where he and college athletic brass have been meeting for the past week.

At the present time McCoy, along with Pitt's Tom Hamilton are key figures in a proposed football conference that, if it ever comes into existence, could strengthen college football to a considerable degree.

State and Pitt have been named as possible members of a new league that would grasp such national gridiron names as Army, Notre Dame, Navy, Duke, North Carolina, and possibly Fordham and Oklahoma. McCoy is reported to be interested, as is Hamilton. And it is natural that they should be. First of all, both schools are capable of playing such calibre of football. In fact both have been doing it for some time.

Secondly, such a league, if formed would rank on an even par with both the Big-Ten and the Southwestern Conference—now regarded as the conference powers of the nation.

Thirdly, it is evident that such a conference is a dire necessity right now. We predict that after the pathetic showing Syracuse made in the 1953 Orange Bowl, and the equally poor performance that West Virginia gave in the Sugar Bowl this year, these tournament committees will follow the Rose Bowl example in the future and seek only conference champions for their post-season extravaganzas. The trend has been pointing strongly in that direction for the past few years.

Then of course there is a matter of prestige. A team that can claim a conference championship in such a league as the one proposed would be recognized with respect—respect for the obvious grid strength it would have to possess. If you can beat teams like Notre Dame, Pitt, Army, and Navy all in one season, brother you've got a ball club that is worthy of chest beating. A winner in this conference could not possibly be denied its just due.

Membership in such a conference would also facilitate the always troublesome scheduling difficulties. An attractive home line up could easily be obtained and there would still be room for the scheduling of traditional rivals such as West Virginia and Penn. And a breather could still be injected when the need is felt.

The whole idea appears to have come about with the Ivy League announcement of its proposed round-robin schedule, cutting out some of the traditional attractions in the east. Army and Navy always drew heavily on Ivy League opponents while Penn liked the big ones from the mid-west such as Notre Dame.

The nice part of the whole outlook is that for once it isn't just idle talk. McCoy and Hamilton are both seriously considering the proposal, and we'll bet both are keeping their fingers crossed over what will be the big and deciding question: Will Army and Navy join the parade? The answer may make or break the new plan.

Both service schools are popular opponents and seemingly have found little difficulties in procuring a satisfactory schedule each season. And again, being service schools, government officials might balk at the thoughts of tying the teams into a conference charter. However, as members of the conference they could still be able to schedule three or four non-conference games, depending on the scheduling policies that might be set up.

Both McCoy and Hamilton are sitting tight, waiting for the unknown developments that might occur. Any indications from the two academies that they are interested might bring concrete plans to the front.

The two men, both of whom have been on the top rung of the business for many years, undoubtedly see the tremendous boost such a conference would give the two schools and eastern football. If the opportunity comes for Penn State to jump on the bandwagon, it certainly will be a wagon worth jumping.

AP Selects '53 Top Thrills

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (AP)—The gallery of some 10,000 fans pressing closely around the final hole of the Tam O'Shanter World golf tournament in Chicago last Aug. 9 conceded the \$25,000 first prize to Chandler Harper.

The 39-year-old veteran from Portsmouth, Va., had just pitched a No. 9 iron shot 20 inches from the cup for a cinch birdie 3 to finish with a 70 for a 72-hole total of 279, nine under par.

Television and newsreel cameras were trained on Harper. Radio commentators were praising his game, as the crowd cheered.

Then, in one of the most dramatic and fantastic endings in golf history it happened. Playing right behind Harper was Lew Worsham, 1947 U.S. Open champion from Oakmont, Pa.

Worsham, the first round leader with a 65, had just dropped a 7-foot putt for a birdie 3 on the 71st hole and needed another birdie 3

on the 410-yard 72nd to tie Harper and send the match into a sudden death playoff.

Lew slammed a terrific drive that left him about 140 yards short of the pin. As the crowd swarmed around, Worsham drew out a sand wedge, looked at the hole ahead, (Continued on page seven)

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Ex-Baseball Greats Vie For Honors

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (AP)—At least one, and perhaps three or four, players may enter baseball's Hall of Fame this year.

The annual balloting hasn't yet been concluded and the results won't be known until a week from tomorrow. But based off the 1953 elections and the rule changes barring all players inactive after 1928, Bill Terry figures to become the 65th player to join the game's immortals at Cooperstown, N.Y.

Along with Terry, such former great stars as Joe DiMaggio, Bill Dickey and the late Walter (Rabbit) Maranville, may make it. Only two players—Dizzy Dean and Al Simmons—were elected last year, getting the required 75 per cent of the votes of the Baseball Writers Assn. of America.

In order to qualify for the Hall of Fame, a player must have been inactive in baseball for at least five years. However, there are exceptions. Those who received 100 or more votes in the '53 election are exempted from the five-year rule. Included in the list of 100-plus vote getters last year were Dabby Vance, Ted Lyons, Gabby Hartnett and Chief Bender.

NCAA Studies Football Rules

SARASOTA, Fla., Jan. 12 (AP)—College football rules may be rewritten in an effort to get rid of such problems as the "sucker shift," the fake injury and interference from the bench such as Alabama back Tommy Lewis' tackle in the Cotton Bowl Jan. 1.

The football rules committee of the National Collegiate Athletic Assn. tackled these matters today.

"I think it is safe to say that some action will be taken on all three of these things in our final meeting tomorrow," said E. E. Weiman, committee secretary from the University of Denver.

Satterfield, Ez Charles Bout Tonight

CHICAGO, Jan. 12 (AP)—Ezzard Charles, former heavyweight champion close to a shot at Rocky Marciano's title, is a 3-1 favorite to dispose of dangerous Bob Satterfield in a 10-rounder which seems unlikely to go the distance at the Chicago Stadium tomorrow night.

Satterfield, as much a boxing enigma as his fellow Chicagoan Johnny Bratton, is a belter who either knocks out his man, or gets knocked out himself in a hurry. The nationally-televvised bout starting at 10 p.m. EST reportedly would put a victorious Charles in the ring against Marciano in a June title bout at New York or San Francisco.

But Charles must win convincingly to stay ahead of Dan Bucceroni or Nino Valdes as Marciano's next possible foe.

Betting is comparatively light on the fray which is tabbed to end abruptly with Satterfield swinging from the opening bell in hopes of a knockout before the far better-boxing Charles hammers him groggy as he did young Coley Wallace recently.

Satterfield has a 32-14-2 record with 25 knockout victories and being knocked out 9 times himself. Of his 48 pro fights, only 14 went the route.

Charles, at 32, is about as near a chance for a bout with Marciano as he will ever be. The Cincinnati Negro at 188 will have a six pound weight pull over the 182-pound Satterfield, listed as a light heavyweight.

Conceivably, Satterfield could get into the chase after Marciano's crown by blasting Charles, but it's been the 175-pound title of Archie Moore he has been pursuing throughout his spotty career.

Charles, rated the No. 1 contender in the latest National Boxing Association ratings, nearly wandered completely out of the title picture last year when he lost successive decisions to Valdes and Harold Johnson. But his Dec. 16 TKO in the 10th over Wallace boomed his stock.

Charles has been knocked out only twice in a pro career dating from 1940. The first kayo, by Lloyd Marshall, came in 1943 when he was fresh out of the Army. The second cost him the heavyweight title when old Jersey Joe Walcott nailed him with a paralyzing left hook July 18, 1951.

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