

"Hail to the Lions"

Sam's Song

By SAM PROCOPIO
Collegian Sports Editor



Open Letter to Charlie Speidel:
Dear Charlie:

Like all good things, Penn State's winning dual meet streak came to an end last Saturday at Navy, but it took one of the finest wrestling aggregations in the East to do it. We knew that your team could be beaten, Doc, but then we discovered more.

Under a great coach a team is willing to work for the University and the sport. Your boys did. They never gave up. Your boys gave to us and the more than 1000 capacity crowd at McDonough Hall one of the greatest wrestling exhibitions ever seen. Now that the winning streak pressure no longer exists, we can expect even greater things from your boys. And it can be said that your boys are not supermen. Yes, Doc, maybe it's a good thing your team lost.

Since the day when you stepped into the picture, and that began in 1926, the Nittany Lions have been the East's perennial wrestling power. Followers of the wrestling world know that when a Lion matman takes this sport as a collegiate career he wrestles or he doesn't wrestle.

In other words, he's the aggressor at all times. He doesn't wait for the silver platter. He's there to out-smart, to out-think, to out-do, to out-stay, and to out-point his opponent. This year the trusty Penn State wrestler did just that, despite the Navy loss. Thirty-four intercollegiate wrestling matches have gone by the boards before defeat came its way. How did the Lions do it?

The answer is relatively simple, Charlie. Penn State has formulated that winning combination. It comprises: expert coaching, some of the East's finest wrestling material, and the biggest and most important asset—to win for the team first and for himself second.

In the West they have Oklahoma and Oklahoma A&M, in the South they have Maryland, in the Midwest they have Purdue and Michigan, and in the East they have Pitt and Navy, but outside the nation's top wrestling group how can they pick anyone to topple Penn State? Man for man, they may find some great men to supplant the Lions. Weight for weight they may find some greater. But as a team, they are almost unbeatable.

It's true that the Lions have lost—as any champion does at one time or other. But no one ever denied that you knew each one of your "Docs" individually and handled them so that they gave more than they ever suspected they could. Maybe even you didn't realize, Doc, but you and your boys went beyond the honors. They were not satisfied in just being good wrestlers. They were always trying to be better, striving for perfection—the sign of true champions.

We believe your team did a commendable and creditable job at Navy. Navy has a fine team. Its mat knowhow was well-exemplified. Navy can boast of its accomplishments, which it deserves, and can hold its head high with prestige it received. However, Charlie, your boys can stand next to these excellent Midshipmen and show no shame. It was a big and important fight. Your boys lost. But they have two big battles ahead—Pitt and Penn. And two even bigger than those—the Easterns and Nationals.

If your boys can give as much as they did at Navy, your boys will always be a credit to Penn State and the sport. And if there is any better team that can best represent Penn State in winning honors and prestige, we're sure that's you and your team. On to the bigger fights, Doc!

-30-

Gymnasts--

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tanians could only show a 9-7 advantage in that event. This time the Cadets were within reach of overtaking the Lions as the score stood 34½-29½.

The Lions swept the next event, parallel bars, in one-two-three fashion for the second time this year. Co-captain Al Wick proved that his previous wins on the bars were no mistake by picking up the six first place points. Cronstedt and Karl Schwenzfeier followed in the second and third positions.

The sweep once again widened the scoring margin, and the Lions' lead read fifteen points at 47½-32½ to assure a victory in the all-important meet.

In the finals, the flying rings, Schwenzfeier's routine was good for 264 points and a first place. Tony Procopio added four to the Lions' total by taking second place. The Cadets' Carpenter came in third.

The gymnasts next face Temple in Philadelphia Saturday.

Yanks Sign Reynolds

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Feb. 22 (AP)—Allie Reynolds, the Big Chief of the New York Yankees pitching staff, has signed his 1954 contract, general manager George Weiss announced today.

Sophomores Wanted For Tennis Managers

Sophomore candidates for assistant tennis managers may sign up at the Athletic Association Office in 107 Old Main anytime today or tomorrow, according to Dick Jervis, head manager.

IM BASKETBALL RESULTS Friday night

Phi Gamma Delta 26, Alpha Gamma Rho 17
Alpha Tau Omega 27, Phi Kappa Tau 24
Beta Sigma Rho 35, Phi Sigma Kappa 22
Beta Theta Pi 25, Alpha Zeta 13
Sigma Alpha Epsilon 21, Acacia 18
Delta Sigma Phi 29, Alpha Chi Sigma 27
Alpha Phi Alpha 32, Phi Epsilon Pi 19
Sigma Alpha Mu over Kappa Sigma (forfeit)
Alpha Epsilon Pi over Kappa Alpha Psi (forfeit)

Rio Grande OK's Bid

RIO GRANDE, Ohio, Feb. 22 (AP)—Rio Grande College today accepted an invitation to participate in the NIAA basketball sectional playoff.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

(last night's results)
ARMY 82, PITT 72

Floormen Nudged By Syracuse, 71-69

By DICK McDOWELL

It wouldn't be surprising if Elmer Gross sends a thank you letter to the Baton Construction Co. this week. That's the firm that built Rec Hall back in 1929. For the Lion basketball coach is probably very happy to see the friendly building today.

He and his Lion cagers are home for the remainder of the season following three straight losses on the road. The latest upstart was Syracuse, which edged the Nittanians Saturday night, 71-69. The Orange, like Colgate and Pitt, were avenging earlier losses to the Lions. The defeat was the Nittanians' fifth, all of them on foreign courts.

Although finishing second in the final tally, the Lions outplayed Syracuse on the floor. Led by center Jesse Arnelle, they gathered in 56 rebounds while Syracuse grabbed 36. But the big difference in scores came from the foul line. The Lions outshot the Orange from the floor, 26 field goals to 21, but made only 17 out of 33 foul attempts while Syracuse scored 29 charities in 38 tries.

Once again it was Arnelle, teamed this time with guard Ed Haag, who led the Lion offense. Arnelle pushed in 25 points and Haag followed him with 24.

Led by captain Connie Besdin, the Orange opened fast and moved into an 18-15 lead in the first quarter. The Nittanians narrowed the gap in the second frame but still trailed by four, 33-29, at the half.

The Lions slipped back again in the third and trailed 53-46 at the buzzer. Then in the final frame, with Arnelle and Haag leading the way, State caught fire and began to catch the Orange. With seconds remaining in the contest, forward Earl Fields cut for the basket and scored from underneath, narrowing the margin to 71-69. He was fouled on the shot and went to the line for one free throw.

His shot bounced off the rim, was tipped back up by Arnelle

and rolled off again as the final buzzer sounded.

Gross sends the floormen into action again tomorrow against Gettysburg, also a Penn State victim in earlier play. The cagers will be making their fourth try for their elusive tenth victory.

The Bullets bowed to the Grossmen, 62-54, at Gettysburg in December after leading throughout the first half of the contest. A smaller quintet than Penn State, they employ a very swift, fast-break offense and are rugged on the backboards.

Following tomorrow's contest, the Nittanians meet Rutgers, Georgetown, and Temple. The Rutgers game is scheduled for Saturday night.

PENN STATE			SYRACUSE		
fg	f	tp	fg	f	tp
Wiedhamer 0	0-0	0	Larned 4	9-5	11
Haag 10	4-5	24	Breland 1	2-4	4
Arnelle 10	5-11	25	Beverly 4	1-1	9
Sherry 2	7-12	11	Besdin 9	15-16	33
Bloeker 1	0-2	2	Gillespie 2	5-6	9
Brewer 1	0-0	2	Jaskot 1	0-2	2
Edwards 0	1-2	1	Scott 0	3-4	3
Rohland 1	0-0	2	Murrock 0	0-0	0
Fields 1	0-1	2			
Totals 26	17-33	69	Totals 21	29-38	71
Penn State		15	14	17	33-69
Syracuse		18	15	20	18-71

St. Francis Accepts Bid

NEW YORK, Feb. 22 (AP)—St. Francis College of Brooklyn today accepted a bid to play in the National Invitation basketball tournament.

Matmen--

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division, he continually took the aggressive attitude. It appeared at times that Shawley would get a pin. But Gattuso was not to be denied. In fact, the Midshipman had Shawley viewing the lights many times but it took 7 minutes and 26 seconds before he was successful with a reversed cradle.

At this point Penn State's chances to win were two pins or a pin and decision for a draw. Joe Krufka won a 5-3 decision over his 177-pound foe, Ed Zabrycki. Both wrestlers were in trouble at times—their shoulders almost flush with the mats. Krufka, however, had more opportunities. In the second period the Lion grappler did score a predicament. His other points came on two reversals and a takedown.

William Holtz, Navy, outpointed Bob Homan, 6-4.
Art Jessor, Navy, outpointed Hal Byers, 8-4.
Dick Lemyre, Penn State, outpointed Paul Fielder, 6-0.
Sid King, Navy, outpointed Jerry Maurey, 3-2.
Doug Frey, Penn State, outpointed Phil Brainerd, 5-2.
Joe Gattuso, Navy, pinned Bill Shawley, reverse cradle, 7:35.
Joe Krufka, Penn State, outpointed Ed Zabrycki, 5-3.
Pete Blair, Navy, pinned Bill Oberly, body press, 4:28.

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