

Sport SPOTLIGHT

By **DICK McDOWELL**
Assistant Sports Editor



GUS PRAISES CAGERS

My old friend Gus Fan dropped in yesterday. He usually makes an appearance about this time every year, just when Penn State's winter athletes are winding up their seasons with the heavy bombardment of spring tournaments.

With the Lion gymnastic, wrestling, and boxing teams in the midst of their usual Eastern fights, Gus is just as happy as ever, analyzing each team and presenting his expert opinion as to how each will fare in their respective tourneys.

But this year Gus is really in a dither. He hasn't forgotten about the other three, but he's concentrating on basketball this week, keeping a watchful eye on Elmer Gross' surprising basketball team.

"You know," he commented, "this team is actually a lot better than their season record indicates. That 14-5 record could just as well be 17-2 or even 18-1."

About this time I perked up to the philosophical words my little visitor was blurting and began to listen with more care.

"Take that Navy game for instance," he continued, "we had an 11 point lead on that team when the second half began, but something got into the Middies. I have never seen a team get so hot, so fast. They just couldn't miss in the third quarter. About the only way Penn State could have stopped Clune on that pivot shot of his would have been by putting a lid on the basket."

"What about Pitt?" I asked.

"Well, Pitt did play a terrific game against us in Pittsburgh. But the odds were all in their favor. We had beaten them earlier, coming from behind three times before we won it in the third overtime period. So naturally they were out to get us in that one."

But the big factor in that game, I feel, was the article that by some strange reason appeared in a Pittsburgh paper on the day of the game. According to the story, the Lions were a 'certainty' to get an NCAA playoff bid if they beat the Panthers. I'd bet my white 'bucks' that the story gave Pitt an added boost.

"Gus," I said, "you have a couple of good points there, but remember the games have been played and you, nor I, nor Elmer Gross can do a thing about them now."

"Don't interrupt me now," he replied, "I'm not finished yet."

"Okay Gus, shoot."

"The Colgate and Syracuse games on the road—those two were heartbreakers," he said. "The team just had bad nights. We beat both of them at Rec Hall, and they didn't even give us a contest. I know that neither one of those two can match us man-for-man."

"You might be right there Gus," I answered, "but remember, the best of them lose, especially in this basketball business. Take a look at Duquesne. The Dukes were flying high, an undefeated season right under their noses—then bingo, two losses on two consecutive nights."

"Then this week Kansas was booted right out of the NCAA records when Missouri, obviously a poorer team according to records whipped them. As I said before it happens to the best of them."

"Well, I'm still damn happy about the outcome of this basketball season, particularly the game last Tuesday with Toledo. That was the finest fourth quarter exhibition that team has shown all year, and Gross handled his players perfectly throughout the entire game."

By this time Gus was edging toward the door, probably late for his four o'clock.

"I still think Elmer's coaching a great ball club," he remarked as he backed into the hall.

Agreed, Gus, agreed!

Pitt Advances 8 Men

(Continued from page one)
The first period but lost a pinning hold. In another attempt, Ray escaped and then Maurey secured a body press in 2:02.

Frey and Lou Mentillo of Army both went scoreless in a dull first period but then in the second frame the Lion 147-pounder began to manhandle the Cadet. He had a pinning hold but slipped off the mat. Frey scored a reverse in the final period and added two minutes on time advantage for a 4-0 win.

After a touch and go tussle in every period, Art Noe, Penn, finally decided Penn State's 157-pound entry, Bill Shawley, 12-9. Noe led the attack in the first period with a takedown. In the second period, with Shawley in temporary command, Noe finally escaped. Shawley, however, rebounded to take the takedown.

The third period offered the most action of the afternoon. Noe took two takedowns after an escape each time by Shawley. Noe's second takedown resulted in a near fall. Shawley then reversed his Penn opponent, who in turn reversed the Lion. Shawley put on a final burst in the closing third period with an escape and a takedown over Penn's matman.

Pitt's Joe Solomon handed Joe Humphreys a 6-1 drubbing in the 167-pound class, after losing the first-period takedown. Solomon, however, rode the Lion for the entire second period. In the third stanza, Solomon combined two minutes riding time, a takedown, and a reversal to wrap up his preliminary victory.

Joe Krufka returned to his pre-season mat performance yesterday afternoon when he dumped Ed Rowland of Brown, 6-0. The cautious Lion took two takedowns in the first period, and then strengthened his lead with a third period reversal and two minutes riding time. Krufka also obtained riding time in the second period while missing several times in near-pinning attempts.

Penn State's outstanding Lion heavyweight, Bill Oberly, pinned Rox Ride, Rutgers, with the cradle at 2:31 of the first period, after winning the takedown.

Hugh Peery, Pitt's two-time NCAA 115-pound champ, scored an unimpressive win over Jerry Yoder of Franklin and Marshall, 7-3, in a 123-pound tussle.

Thirty falls were registered in the afternoon session, with Lemyre's pin being, the second fastest.

Lions Upset Louisiana In Tourney

(Continued from page one)
smooth shifting zone defense held the taller Bengals in check.

Captain Jack Sherry, Jim Blocker, and Ron Weidenhammer backed Arnelle with 31 points between them. Sherry and Blocker each had 11 and Weidenhammer, playing his usual fine floor game, hit for nine.

The Lions trailed 19-14 after one period but then opened up their offensive guns for the final three. They scored 20 in the second, 20 more in the third and then cut the cords for 23 markers in the final canto.

Trailing 51-49 late in the third period, Earl Fields' foul point and two successive field goals by Ed Haag put State in the lead, 54-51, and from there in they were never headed. The Tigers rebounded early in the fourth period to tie the score at 59-59 but a quick jump shot by Jim Blocker brought them the lead again, and then they started to widen the gap. Consecutive baskets by Blocker, Arnelle, and Weidenhammer moved the count to 65-59.

Bengals Close Gap
But the fighting Bengals, who had lost only three games previously, came back, keeping the margin low, and with three minutes remaining the Lions led by only three, 71-68.

At this point the Nittanians slowed their offense and the anxious Tigers pressed hard for the ball. They fouled heavily in the process and with time running out the Lions scored five foul points to put the game on ice. Jim Blocker's jump shot in the closing seconds struck the final blow.

The most important point in the game, however, may have been the Nittanians' roaring comeback in the second period. After staying neck-and-neck with LSU in the first quarter, State began to sag in the second canto as Pettit began to hit from underneath. They soon found themselves trailing 29-22.

Tide Changes
But the tide changed abruptly. Suddenly finding their shooting eye, the Lions exploded for 11 straight points and shot into the lead 33-29. And from that point the stunned Bengals were never able to rebuild their lead. Arnelle, playing one of his finest games this season, took control of the rebounds and kept the scoring tempo alive.

Pettit alone kept the Bengals in the ball game. The alert Nittany defense stymied the LSU offensive pattern but the big All-American, using his height to advantage, kept up his point barrage.

But in the end, it was Penn State on top, winning their second consecutive NCAA victory. Tonight they meet the winner of the Notre Dame-Indiana Game in the regional finals. The winner will qualify for the finals scheduled for Kansas City next Friday and Saturday.

PENN STATE		LSU	
fg	f tp	fg	f tp
Sherry, f	1 9-13 11	Clark, f	3 2-4 3
Rowland, f	0 2-4 2	Belcher, f	3 0-0 6
Blocker, f	5 1-1 11	McNeely, f	0 2-2 2
Marisa, f	0 0-0 0	Sabastian, f	0 0-0 0
Arnelle, c	10 4-7 24	Pettit, c	13 8-9 34
Weid'hamer, g	4 1-2 9	Freshlie, c	0 0-0 0
Haag, g	3 1-3 7	McArdle, g	5 4-6 14
Fields, g	3 1-2 7	Magee, g	2 2-3 6
Brewer, g	3 1-2 7		
Totals	29 20-34 78	Totals	26 18-24 70

Dukes, Holy Cross To Battle in Final

NEW YORK, March 12 (AP)—Duquesne, perhaps the best defensive team in major college basketball but an unsteady performer right now, and blazing-hot Holy Cross, one of the top scoring teams, meet tomorrow night in the final game of the 17th National Invitation basketball tournament.

Western Kentucky and Niagara, the losers in Thursday's semifinals, clash in a preliminary to decide third place. With the upset-seeking Crusaders as the big attraction, Madison Square Garden is likely to be packed to its 18,000 capacity for the first time this season.

Army Shows House 'Value of the Dollar'

LAKELAND, Fla., March 12 (AP)—After two years of army life, Frank House, Detroit's \$75,000 bonus catcher, thinks he now realizes the value of a dollar.

House, 24, is on terminal leave as he works out with the Tigers. He will report back to camp for separation from the service April 16, three days after the season opener.

"I'm a lot more serious now," he said. "This year I have a good chance to make the ball club." The youngster smiled pleasantly as he talked about the changes the Army had made.

At Fort Jackson
"When you're in the service, you realize what it meant to play baseball for a living. When I went in, there was heavy fighting in Korea. Nobody knew but that he might be going tomorrow morning. I didn't go. I stayed at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina. But I realize the value of a dollar more now. They don't come easy in the Army."

How about the \$75,000? Wasn't there any left?
"Uncle Sam got over half of it in taxes," he said. "Sure, there's some left. But no \$75,000."

House was only 18 when he got his big bonus and two new cars from Detroit. They signed him to a Flint, Mich., contract in the Central League so he had a chance to play one year in the minors under the bonus rule then in operation. He caught 107 games for Flint, hitting .261 and reports of his carefree attitude filtered back to headquarters.

'Was Just a Kid'
"I was just a kid with a lot of money in my pocket," he said. "I didn't like the game any less than I do now. But maybe I didn't bear down so much."

Freddie Hutchison, who succeeded Red Rolfe as manager while House was in service, said:

Mrs. Gehrig Dies

MILFORD, Conn., March 12 (AP)—Mrs. Christina Gehrig, 72-year-old mother of the later Lou Gehrig, great New York Yankee first baseman and slugger in the 1930s, died today in Milford Hospital. She had hoped to live long enough to see the Yankees open the 1954 baseball season. She suffered a stroke Wednesday.

PIAA Mat, Tank Finals Here Today

Some 150 schoolboy mat and tank stars close Pennsylvania's 1954 wrestling and swimming seasons tomorrow in competition for state championships.

The University campus will be the scene of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Assn. meets. They will draw wrestlers and swimmers who qualified in last week's regional meets around the state.

In the absence of an official team scoring system, interest in wrestling will focus on three of last year's individual winners seeking 1954 championships.

York, defending its team title in swimming, will find itself in a stern five-way battle with Erie Strong Vincent, Lancaster, Coatesville and Allentown. The Bearcats will also defend two relay championships. No individual winners in the 1953 meet are returning.

Erie Strong Vincent, by virtue of its big margin of victory in the PIAA Western regional swim, rules a slight favorite. York was nosed out by a point and a half by Lancaster and tied by Coatesville in the Eastern regional.

The three returning wrestling champions all are competing in heavier weight groups than last year.

They include Nick Petronke, Washington, now in the 138-pound group; Joe Shook, Washington Trinity, 112 pounds, and Phil Bock, Philipsburg, 103 pounds.

Washington Trinity has four entrants in the state meet, largest number from any one school.

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