

Lions Aim for LaSalle Friday

Meet Tough Explorers In NCAA Semi-Finals

By DICK McDOWELL

A tired, but happy band of Penn State basketball players are home for a brief stay before meeting LaSalle in the semi-final round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball championships in Kansas City, Mo., Friday night.

The ten-man Lion squad arrived at State College, early yesterday morning and ran into one of the biggest welcome home rallies ever staged at the University.

An estimated 4000 students mobbed the bus that carried home the current "Cinderella" team of college basketball, Penn State, ignored as a possible contender in the sprawling national tourney, baffled just about everybody last week with three straight upset victories during their mid-west jaunt. Toledo, Louisiana State, and Notre Dame, the latter two heavy favorites, lost to the Lions in two of college basketball's major upsets of the year.

Gola Big Threat

So the Lions have a lot to cheer about. But they also have a lot to think about. When they meet the Explorers Friday they will be facing their third straight ranked opponent. And once again they have to stave off an all-American threat. This one is the biggest—fabulous Tom Gola—called by many the "greatest all-American of the current crop."

Basketball Tickets

A limited number of tickets to the NCAA playoff games Friday and Saturday to be held at Kansas City are on sale today at the first floor ticket booth in Old Main. Tickets can be purchased for both basketball games only. The pair costs \$8.00.

WRA Results

BADMINTON

Women's Building over MacAllister Hall
Thompson 3&4 over Little Lions
Tri Vi over Alpha Kappa Alpha
Phi Mu over Pi Beta Phi
Alpha Gamma Delta over Chi O.
Beta Sigma O. over Delta Gamma

BOWLING

Kappa Delta over Leonides by forfeit
Kappa A. Theta over Delta Zeta
Atherton over Theta Phi Alpha

Red Sox' Williams To Be Released

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., March 15 (AP)—Boston Red Sox outfielder Ted Williams probably will be discharged from Santa Maria Hospital tomorrow, officials said today.

A special brace has been devised to support Williams' left collar bone which he fractured in a tumble March 1 at the Sox training camp in Sarasota, Fla.

The stitches from an operation in which the bone was wired, will be removed Thursday, under present plans.

Golf Managers

Sophomore candidates for second assistant golf managers should report to the caddy house at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dick Bruce, head manager, has announced.

Archers to Meet

The Nittany Bowmen Archery Club will meet at 7:30 tonight in 208 Engineering B. Students interested in archery may attend.

Lion 'Unknown' Wins Eastern Ring Crown

By ROY WILLIAMS

Last week Penn State's Jack Stokes was just another boxer slated to climb through the ropes in the 31st annual Intercollegiate Boxing Association tourney at Charlottesville, Va. This week he is the new 147-pound Eastern champion.

Stokes' victory in capturing the 147-pound IBA crown was the result of a phenomenal rise. He fooled the Collegiate fight fans in the finals Saturday night, and dumped Andy Maloney, Army's defending 1953 champion.

The clever sophomore made his prospective opponents and coaches from opposing Eastern ring teams perk up their ears when his name was mentioned. Art Nelson felt the effectiveness of Stokes' menacing counter-punching style in the semi-finals at the Easterns. Stokes, who drew a bye in the preliminaries, easily handled Nelson in every round, 30-27, 30-25, 30-25.

After winning the individual weight crown Saturday night, the former "unknown" was awarded the tournament's Outstanding Boxing Award.

Stokes was first spotted by Fran Patrick, assistant boxing coach, in a very ordinary manner—in the physical education boxing class. Coach Eddie Sulkowski later picked the quiet-mannered

sophomore for his regular 147-pounder.

That was just six weeks ago. Now Stokes not only has the Eastern crown but boasts a win and lost chart of 4-1-1. Penn State's other Eastern champ, Captain Adam Kois at 178-pounds, is the only man on the Lion team with a season record to equal Stokes'.

Stokes is a veteran of two years in the Army. During that time he fought in nine bouts in addition to his regular service duties. Although he never met the champion of the 300,000 men included under the United State's European Armed Service Theater, he defeated the European runner-up while in the service.

When Stokes entered the IBA ring with hopes of claiming the 147-pound title, he was three pounds under his usual fighting weight. "I couldn't seem to eat when we were in Virginia," Stokes explained. "I forced stock" (Continued on page seven)

"Bewitched"

Sam's Song

By SAM PROCOPIO
Collegian Sports Editor



Fantastic! That's about the only word in the dictionary that aptly describes Penn State's basketball team which qualified for the NCAA semi-finals to be held this weekend at Kansas City. When the Nittany Lion cagers won over Toledo, it was just considered as one of those things—an upset. But when Elmer Gross' cagers defeated LSU and Notre Dame, it was more than man bites dog.

Some people were bewitched. Some were bothered. Some were bewildered. But some are still trying to figure out how Penn State ever got into the tourney!

"Tournament officials," according to an Associated Press release, "took another long and disbelieving look today at the four semi-finalists in the NCAA basketball championships and remarked that it's a good thing the paying public in Kansas City is basketball happy."

"They weren't worried about the class of competition—it's bound to be top notch. It is just that whereas they expected to wind up with LaSalle, Indiana or Kentucky, Oklahoma A&M or Kansas and probably Oregon State or Santa Clara, they got instead LaSalle, Penn State, Bradley, and Southern California. Not one of the four is among the nation's top ten," the release said.

Anyway, we're glad that the Lions did receive the invitation and that they won. It not only will give Penn State prestige, but will help the sport at the University. For the past two seasons the Lion basketball team has rarely filled Rec Hall to capacity. However, if the Lions were to play this weekend at Rec Hall, the number of students would probably exceed 6000—a crowd that a basketball team hasn't had in many years.

Over the past weekend Penn State had more than its share of success. Name the sport and the Lions deserve a round of applause.

Coach Charlie Speidel's matmen took second place in the EIWA tourney at Cornell. There are some fans who may be inclined to believe that the grapplers were a failure. But the fact remains that Penn State was rated below Pitt and Navy, and were given an even chance to top Lehigh for third place. The Lions, however, proved the experts wrong. Then too, two of the four defending champs retained their titles. Both were Penn States: namely, Dick Lemyre and Jerry Maurey. Lemyre was a three-time winner in the 130-pound class, only the third grappler in Penn State's history to accomplish the feat.

An interesting sidelight to the Lemyre triumph is that he wrestled and won despite an injury. During his first bout, which he won by a fall, Lemyre injured a muscle in his ribs. Although it wasn't serious, it was painful. He failed to pin Dave Kline of Penn because of it. With his chest taped, he still decisively won over Dean Oliver of Rutgers and Jim Mahoney of Lehigh.

Coach Gene Wettstone's gymnasts deserve a 21-gun salute for their performances. The unbeaten gymnasts have had to capture the fancy of the judges. And judgment is based on difficulty of exercise, speed and rhythm of action, seeming ease of effort, dismount, and general appearance of competition. That assignment was almost achieved to perfection several times.

Penn State's boxers, under the tutorship of Coach Eddie Sulkowski, came in third in their Eastern tournament, although they had only won one match all season.

Well, the weekend may have been a hectic one as far as sports were concerned, but then there was our trip to Ithaca this weekend. Students who travel on route 45 to State College have no complaint to make. The roads to Ithaca are just as bad. Then too, we found out where Froth (a word that should never be spoken) obtained its photographs of Penn State fraternities in its parody issue. Someone must have traveled to Ithaca recently because the samples shown in the magazine are similar to those along the road.

Five of us, including Abe Schuster, Steve Fishbein, Has Simm, and Jack Apgar, were enroute to Horseheads. The driver, influenced by our day-dreaming navigator, Jack, took a left turn instead of a right and put us on a dirt road fit only for horses. The only trouble was we passed dogs at first. After traveling a mile, we approached an encouraging sign: "Travel at Your Own Risk!"

We did. And we weren't sorry. It's not too often that we look for Horses Heads and find two horses.

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NCAA Sidelights

If all-American honors were passed out for sheer drive and determination, the entire Penn State basketball team would probably get the nod. That's about the consensus of opinion of everybody who saw the Lions in action last week. Coach Elmer Gross and his assistant John Egli credited the success of the trip to just that. Egli commented: "Those kids just refused to give up. I've never seen a team fight so hard."

The team arrived in Altoona by train early yesterday morning and came on to State College by special bus. Settled down for the last leg of their long journey home, everyone appeared somewhat dazed about what they had accomplished. "We're all tired but too happy to feel it right now," came one remark.

The Lions all agreed that LSU's Bob Pettit was the best opponent they faced in the tournament, especially center Jesse Arnelle. "Dick Rosenthal was good too," he said, "but he had a bad night. I learned a lot from both of them."

Seems Jesse made a deal with his teammates to throw his prized hat in the river if Penn State beat Notre Dame. His boys held him to it. On the route back to the hotel following the game, Jesse had the taxi driver stop the car on a bridge. The big pivotman strolled to the railing and flipped the chapeau into the river below.

Captain Jack Sherry's comment on the three-game win skein: "We fought like hell."

As the Lion bus was about to leave the Altoona railroad station Ernest McCoy, director of athletics, stepped into the bus. "Boys, the state, the town, and particularly the Penn State family is proud of you," he said, but remember, there are two more games to be won."

The Lions had no idea that their games were being followed so closely in State College until after the LSU game when they learned of the re-created broadcasts done by station WMAJ. However, a flood of telegrams kept them in contact with the fans at home.

Gross' comment on the triple win trip: "The boys just wanted to play ball. They worked hard and never gave up." He was quick to add, however, "We have to play the same way against LaSalle."

Arnelle's 59 points in the three games brings his season total to 464. . . Jim Blocker, who's deadly hook shot was devastating in the late stages of both regional (Continued on page seven)

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