

# Lions Leave Today For LaSalle Battle

By DICK McDOWELL

A title-hopeful Penn State basketball team leaves for Kansas City this afternoon where it will meet LaSalle College in the first of two semi-final games in the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball tourney.

The two teams square off at Municipal Auditorium Friday night at 9 p.m. (EST). Bradley and the University of Southern California meet in the nightcap.

A win for the Lions would bring them the eastern crown and put them within one game of the national championship.

All four semi-finalists are expected to arrive in Kansas City tonight and tomorrow.

## 7 Eliminated In Handball Singles Tourney

Seven contestants in the intramural handball singles tournament were eliminated in games played last Monday at Rec Hall.

Scores of the contests were: Huber Kline, Beta Theta Pi, defeated Ed Tezekjian, Phi Kappa Tau, 21-4 and 21-2.

Don Ziegler, Pi Kappa Phi, won over Russ Provenzano, Delta Sigma Phi, 21-11, 21-11.

Bill Frengel, Lambda Chi Alpha, beat John Iddon, Alpha Chi Sigma, 21-8 and 21-15.

Gerry Gillispie, Tau Kappa Epsilon, defeated Stan Dore, Alpha Tau Omega, 21-3 and 21-7.

A forfeit game was won by Dick Longo, Theta Kappa Phi, over Ron Weidenhammer, Alpha Chi Rho.

Joe Pitoniak, Phi Kappa, also won a forfeit from Jim Lewis, Sigma Chi.

The third forfeit of the night was won by Don Miller, Alpha Zeta, over John Rautine, Theta Xi.

## WRA Results

### VOLLEYBALL

Alpha Omicron Pi over Alpha Xi Delta

Atherton over Beta Sigma O. Woman's Building over Pi Beta Phi by forfeit

Thompson over Delta Gamma Theta Phi Alpha over Phi Mu Co-op over Phi Sigma Sigma Alpha Epsilon Phi over Philotes

### BOWLING

Delta Delta Delta over Thompson 1-2

Zeta Tau Alpha over Kappa Kappa Gamma

Gamma Phi Beta over Chi Omega

site of five of the 16 past NCAA finals. The Lions will probably work out sometime tomorrow and then rest until gametime Friday night.

### Have 24-4 Mark

LaSalle, coached by former Penn Stater Ken Loeffler, breezes into town with a 24-4 record. The explorers are averaging 75 team points per game and have held their opposition to a 63.1 average.

Ironically, LaSalle beat two Penn State conquerors in their end of the Eastern Regional eliminations to gain a spot in the semi-finals. North Carolina State and Navy bowed to the Explorers in Philadelphia last week. Navy dropped the Lions, 62-58, and North Carolina dumped the Nit-tanians, 89-74.

### Face Third All-American

For the third straight game the sensational Lions, who have astounded the whole nation with their upsetting tournament play, will be facing an all-American performer. This time it's Tom Gola, 6-6 scoring ace who is currently cutting the cords at a 23.3 point pace per game. On top of his scoring feats, the big forward is averaging 22 rebounds a game.

Gola made the consensus All-American team last year as a sophomore and repeated again this season. He has remarkable speed and co-ordination and has been described as the "coachable" type player.

### Heavy Favorites

With the big forward in the lead, the powerful Explorers are firmly seated in the favorite's role Friday and have been picked to go on and win the championship.

That makes Penn State the underdog for their fourth straight contest since they entered tourney competition in the 24-team field March 9. The Lions' opening round victory against Toledo was not too much of a surprise, but when they toppled Louisiana State and Notre Dame in the east-



**TOM GOLA, LaSalle's All-American forward who will lead the Explorers against Penn State in the NCAA semi-finals Friday night. Gola is currently averaging 22.3 points per game.**

ern regionals, tournament followers did a double-take.

The upstart Pennsylvanians, the last "at large" choice in the tourney, became the most startling team in the upset-filled tournament. The three wins at Iowa City and Fort Wayne boosted the Penn State record to 17-5.

Ever since the Friday pairings were determined, Loeffler has been working his team against the zone defense in practices. Lion Coach Elmer Gross credits the zone, combined with a pressing man-for-man, as the key to the Penn State success in the mid-west.

### Willis Quits Pro Ball

CLEVELAND, March 16 (AP)—Bill Willis, a star guard for the Cleveland Browns since the club was formed in 1946, quit professional football today to become first assistant city recreation director.

The European starling was first introduced into the Americas in the 1890s.

# Lion Wrestlers, Cagers to Fly

Penn State's basketball and wrestling teams will take to the air to travel to Kansas City, Mo., and to Norman, Okla.

Elmer Gross and his fabulous cagers will travel by Trans-World Airline to the NCAA finals Friday and Saturday.

According to Edward M. Czekaj, assistant business manager of athletics, the basketball squad, which is being hailed as the rags-to-riches team, will leave State College this evening by station wagon. The 16-man traveling party will arrive in Pittsburgh by 10 p.m. and will spend the night there.

At 10:25 a.m. tomorrow the Lions will board a plane that will have them in Kansas City by 3:45 p.m.

### Leave K.C. Sunday

The basketball team will leave Kansas City at 9:50 a.m. Sunday and will arrive in Pittsburgh by 4:35 p.m. Czekaj said the team will arrive in State College at about 10:30 or 11 p.m. Sunday.

Making the trip besides Gross will be ten players; John Egli, assistant coach, Chuck Medlar, trainer; Ernest B. McCoy, director of athletics; James H. Coogan, assistant director of public information; and John Chemsak, manager.

On March 25 the wrestling team will fly to Norman for the national collegiate wrestling tournament March 26-27.

The Lions will be accompanied by teams from Pitt and Lehigh. Gilbert said the plane will make one stop—at Indianapolis, Ind.

### Speidel Taking Six

Wrestling Coach Charlie Speidel will take six men to Norman to defend the national title which the Lions won last year.

The six grapplers who will make the trip are Bob Homan, 123; Dick Lemyre, 130; Jerry Maurey, 137; Doug Frey, 147; Joe Krufka, 177; and Bill Oberly, 191. Medlar and Ronald Lench, manager, will also make the trip.

Gilbert said this is not the first time State teams have taken to the air. In 1952 the basketball team flew to Raleigh, N.C. for the NCAA tournament, Gilbert said. He pointed out that Nittany teams have also flown to Tacoma, Wash., Lincoln, Neb., and Boston, Mass., for football games.

## Board Named For 'Engineer'

The new managing board of the Penn State Engineer has been announced by Harry Leshner, promotions manager.

On the new board are editor, Albert Harman; business manager, William Happersett; managing editor, Edward Miller; features editor, Robert Hennessy; national advertisements manager, Hester Anskis; and photography editors, Sheldon Brown, Dean Vesling.

Circulation manager, Charles Brooks; illustrations manager, Robert Kendra; promotions managers, John O'Hara, Harry Leshner; business accountant, David Shoop; office manager, Helen Charvat.

# Penn State Cagers Ranked 9th In Nation; Kentucky Leads Poll

NEW YORK, March 16 (AP)—Going into the final stage of the 1954 basketball season, Kentucky's undefeated Wildcats are rated as the nation's No. 1 college team by the sports writers and broadcasters participating in the Associated Press ranking poll. And they appeared to be heading for a final top ranking for the fourth time in six years.

Kentucky wasn't affected by the upsets that marked the big end-of-season tournaments, although a few voters counted it against the Wildcats that they refused to play in the NCAA championship. And with most of their leading rivals already knocked out of tournament competition, there appeared to be no one in sight to displace Kentucky.

After beating Louisiana State in a playoff for the Southeastern Conference title to complete a 25-0 season, Kentucky declined the NCAA tournament nomination because three post-graduate players were not eligible. LSU took the job and was knocked out of the tournament—and out of top ten ranking—in the first round.

### On Top 10th Time

As a result, Kentucky was returned to the top place in the poll for the 10th time in 14 weeks. The Wildcats were named first on 47 out of 70 ballots and received 574 points on the basis of ten for each first place vote, nine for second, etc.

The final championship poll will be taken next week, after the end of the NCAA tournament. In five previous years, Kentucky has finished on top three times, was third in 1950 and did not compete last year because of a NCAA-imposed suspension.

Indiana, upset by Notre Dame

in the NCAA tournament, held onto second place in the poll with 420 points and Holy Cross, the surprise winner of the National Invitation Tournament, moved up from ninth to third with 389 points.

Although Notre Dame was an upset victim, losing to Penn State the night after beating Indiana, the Irish moved up two notches to fourth place as the voters apparently gave more importance to the Indiana victory and a 22-3 final record than to that one loss.

### Lions Take 9th

Penn State, however, got plenty of credit for its two tournament successes as the rankings received a thorough shuffling. The Nittany Lions, who never had showed among the leaders all season, turned up in ninth place with a 143 point total.

Others in the first ten were 5, Duquesne, the NIT runner-up; 6, LaSalle, one of four teams to reach the NCAA finals; 7, George Washington, 8, Western Kentucky and 10, Oklahoma A. and M.

The other two NCAA survivors, Southern California and Bradley, filled the 11th and 12th spots.

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# Who Would Win, Gagne Or Marciano?

NEW YORK, March 16 (AP)—If Rocky Marciano and Verne Gagne met in a dark alley some night, which one do you suppose would come out the other end?

Why Gagne, of course, says Gagne—in less than five minutes. Gagne, pronounced Gain-ya, is the newest darling of television wrestling fans. He is called the symbol of a new trend in the groan-and-grimace industry—a trend away from gimmicks and toward oldtime science.

He wears a jewel-studded belt proclaiming him "Heavyweight Champion of the United States." He is a boyish, 27-year-old former Minnesota football player.

Even his muscles have muscles and, as a \$100,000-a-year man, his billfold has bulges he hasn't seen yet.

He is sure he could whip the heavyweight boxing champion in an old-fashioned free-for-all. And, if you want him to start tearing phone books in half, just mention that pro wrestlers are thespians, not gladiators.

"That one really gets me," said the unbeaten bone twister as he sipped morning coffee in his swank suite at the Waldorf-Astoria.

"I played four years of college football; I played with the pro Green Bay Packers. I wrestled amateur for several years and went to the 1948 Olympics. Let me tell you, I've undergone more damage in four years of pro wrestling than I did in all the years doing other things . . .

"Just to show the cynics, I have challenged Marciano to a mixed match, any way or any place he wants it. He hasn't accepted . . ."

### Golf Managers

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

### Barbell Club to Meet

The Penn State Barbell Club will show movies on weight lifting and body building at 7:30 tonight in 102 Willard and will discuss a club picture, Bill Pearce, club president, said yesterday.

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