

From This Angle...

By DICK McDOWELL
Collegian Sports Editor



CAGE DEBUT SATURDAY

Penn State sports fans move indoors this Saturday night for the first event of another extensive winter sports program. John Egli's basketball team leads off the indoor season against Dickinson—the first of 25 scheduled games in line for the cagers.

Egli will be getting his first crack as a head coach at Penn State and he is probably in as tough a spot as any coach in the country right now.

He will be putting a team on the floor that grabbed a lot of headlines last season with an astounding surge from an unknown to the nation's hottest team in the National Collegiate basketball playoffs.

Under Elmer Gross, the Nittanians swept to four whirlwind victories in the tournament after finishing the season with a 14-5 record. They whipped Toledo, Louisiana State, and Notre Dame on the road to the semi-finals at Kansas City and finally bowed to the eventual champion—powerful LaSalle College. Then they bounced back to whip Southern California in the consolation match.

It was a team that almost cracked at mid-season after beating some pretty good teams in early season play. But in the end the Lions thoroughly proved that it was going to take a darn good team to beat them.

That will undoubtedly be in the minds of the four or five thousand fans who turn out for the opener Saturday night.

Everybody is expecting a repeat performance and Egli knows it as well as anybody. But he also knows that three of the 1953 team's finest players are gone. Ed Haag, who scored 204 points last season, and Jim Brewer, a swift guard who tallied 147 markers and played a major role in the NCAA climb, have been graduated.

Then there's Jack Sherry, one of the most dependable basketball players that ever put on a Penn State uniform. Ruled ineligible last week, because he played two freshman games in the spring semester of 1951, he'll be forced to sit this one out. Sherry is scheduled to graduate in February, but he would have been available 17 games. His loss might make the difference.

Of course the big guy—Jesse Arnelle—is still in harness and he is certain to make his presence known. And Ron Weidenhammer and Jim Blocker will join him to form a solid trio of veterans.

That leaves two vacancies to be filled. It might not be a hard job at all. Rugged Bob Rohland, 6-2 forward, who developed rapidly at the tail end of the 1953 campaign, is back, along with Earl Fields, Rudy Marisa, Dave Edwards, and Bob Hoffman. They're all good ball players and any one of them could get the starting berth.

Egli is also looking hard at 6-7 Bob Ramsey and 6-3 Joe Hartnett, a pair of sophomores who have worked themselves into serious contention during the last month of practice. They could be the key to success or failure.

Gross' success story last year was told on his bench where he had a solid line of reserve strength. Should Hartnett and Ramsey prove capable, then the bench could be there again.

The schedule, however, cannot be ignored. In most cases it's going to be tougher than last year. North Carolina State—perennial southern power—comes about two weeks earlier and the Wolfpack is always tough at home. Michigan State has been added, and the Motor City tournament will be a real test.

Navy and Penn come to State College this year and that should be a help, especially against the Middies—as tough at home as any team can get.

Traditional opponents Syracuse, Colgate, Pitt, and West Virginia return, along with the usual assortment of good teams from around the state.

Speidel's 29th Season

Wrestler's Prep for 1954-55 Card

Remnants of Penn State's wrestling team which posted a 6-2 record, and surprise second-place showing in the EIWA tourney, plus placing third in the NCAA tournament last year, are fast preparing to open their 1954-55 card.

The Lions, always at home on any mat and equally at ease against the large majority of wrestling squads of the nation, will again be piloted by Coach Charlie Speidel.

Speidel, in opening his 29th season at the Helm of the Nittanians, has long been respected as one of the masterminds of the mats. He owns a sparkling spot in the coaching ranks of collegiate wrestling.

The Lions' four-game home card, included in their seven-game schedule, will give local fans an opportunity to see four of the East's top mat squads.

The 1954-55 wrestling card shows Cornell (away) Jan. 8; Syracuse (away) Jan. 12; Maryland (home) Jan. 18; Navy (home) Jan. 29; Army (home) Feb. 19; Lehigh (home) Feb. 26; and Pitt (away) March 5.

Also included on the wrestling activities at Rec Hall is the annual EIWA (Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association) tourney March 11 and 12. The National Collegiate Athletic Association competitions will be March 25 and 26 at Ithaca, New York, home of the Big Red of Cornell.

Last fall Penn State breezed through its first five opponents by scoring three times as many points as their opponents.

The Lions drubbed Cornell, 20-6, Lehigh, 19-7, Army, 21-9, Maryland, 22-6, and Syracuse, 23-6. Then Navy sharpened its razor when the Lions stormed

into Annapolis, Md., for their sixth match.

Navy handily stopped the Lions 19-9 to snap a 34-match victory streak to slap the Lions with their first mat defeat in four years.

Pitt, which finally went on to nail first place honors in the EIWA tourney at Ithaca, N.Y., by edging the second-place Lions, 37-25, visited Rec Hall after the Navy loss and dropped the slipping matmen, 22-8. In the final contest against Penn, who is not on the Lions' card this year, the Quakers were humbled, 28-0.

During the past two years Speidel has lost several outstanding wrestlers, including Don Frey, Joe Lemyre, and Hud Samson from the 1952-53 squad and Dick Lemyre, Jerry Maurey, and Doug Frey from his 1953-54 team.

Grid Conference May Be Discussed

The attitude of Penn State, Pitt, and Colgate, three institutions which previously have shown little interest in joining a conference, will have a great bearing on whether the Eastern College Conference discussions will come to life again.

According to an Associated Press release last night, plans for the much-talked-about conference will be a part of the approaching winter meetings at which most of the work of organization will have to be done.

But Jack Coffey, athletic director at Fordham, one of the "key" institutions, said yesterday he "isn't sure" it will be formed. A great deal depends on the attitudes of the three aforementioned schools.

Definitely interested are Fordham, Boston College, Boston University, Holy Cross, and Syracuse. It is possible that if Penn State, Pitt, and Colgate fail to come in, the other five will band together and hope to pick up other members later.

Livestock Team Ties for 4th Place

The University livestock judging team tied for fourth place out of 37 teams competing at the International Livestock Exposition at Chicago last weekend. Dr. William L. Henning, head of the animal husbandry department, has announced.

Henning also said this was the best over-all judging record ever made by a University team. Oklahoma A&M won the intercollegiate meet, with Missouri and Illinois ahead of the University in that order.

Football Bowl Odds Set

NEW YORK, Dec. 1 (AP)—Football bowl odds quotations made their first appearance along Broadway today with Navy and Georgia Tech listed as three-point favorites over Mississippi and Arkansas respectively.

The Middies and Mississippi are booked for New Orleans' Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1 while Tech and Arkansas play the same day in Dallas' Cotton Bowl.

Ohio State is a 13-point favorite over Southern California in the Rose Bowl. Duke is 13½ over Nebraska in the Orange Bowl.

A 25½ pound salmon won a fishing derby in Eureka, Calif. It was caught by J. E. Fish.

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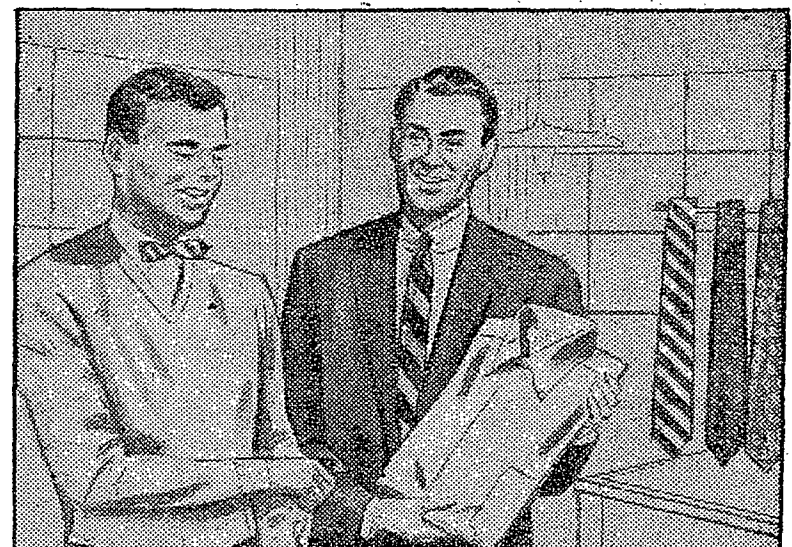
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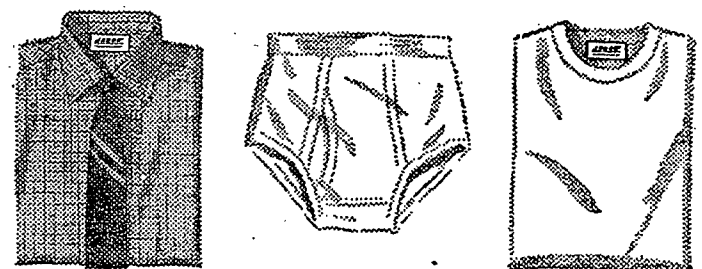
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Gym Ticket Sale To Begin Tuesday

Tickets for the Swedish gymnastic exhibition Jan. 15 at Recreation Hall will go on sale at the Rec Hall ticket office Tuesday, instead of Monday, as was erroneously stated in Tuesday's Collegian.

Prices are \$1 for unreserved bleacher seats, and \$2 for reserved balcony seats.



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