

Memphis State, 17-4, Boasts .420 Shooting Average

Penn State, determined not to let its Wednesday loss to Penn sour spirits, turns to nearing tournament action today, and the Lions are readying themselves for a tough foe.

Coach John Egli's quintet, which opens its NCAA tourney drive for the third time in four seasons Tuesday, will face one of the nation's best small college teams in Memphis State College.

Penn State meets the Tigers in the opening round of the eastern regional eliminations of the 24-team national tournament in Lexington, Ky.

Memphis State's remarkable accuracy from the field appears to be the biggest problem the Lions will have to lick. The Tigers have been connecting at a 42 per cent clip in compiling a 17-4 record to date. Dr. Gene Lambert's team had a 16-game winning streak snapped this week when it lost to Centenary, 70-68.

Four in Double Figures

Each of the Tiger regulars is hitting at better than 41 per cent from the field and four of the five starting five are averaging in the double figures.

Moreover, all the Tiger cagers have shown that they can hit the high figures on any given night. Their ace, forward-center Forest Arneold, who is averaging 19.7 points per game, has reached into the thirties several times this season and center Millard Davis, averaging 14.8, hit 31 points in one game.

Guard Ken Caldwell, averaging 15.9, hit for 30, 28, 26, and 24 points at various stages of the season. In addition, the Tigers' other two frontliners, Hoover Scott and Elmer Fortner, have both reached the 20-point mark at times. Scott is averaging 13.7 points per game and Fortner is hitting at nine points.

Topped Texas Tech

Among the Tigers' many victims this year have been such mid and southwest powers as 1954 NCAA entry Texas Tech, Murray State, Nebraska, and Mississippi.

Only Dayton, Xavier, Morehead and Centenary hold victories over Lampert's team. Dayton is an NIT entry, Xavier conquered Furman, 130-117, and Morehead was barely edged by Kentucky in their encounter, an indication that the Tigers have plenty.

Lambert also has been finding remarkable success with his reserve strength this season. He has been able to call on five good men from the bench.

Graham Faces Vejar In Comeback Attempt

NEW YORK, March 3 (AP)—Billy Graham, the old boxing master of the welterweight division, will make one final try tomorrow night to see if he has anything left when he faces ambitious Chico Vejar in Madison Square Garden.

The 32-year-old New Yorker, idle five months, is given an even chance in the betting against the 23-year-old NYU junior from Stamford, Conn. The 10-rounder will get under way at 10 p.m. (EST), and will be broadcast and telecast (NBC).

National League batting champion Willie Mays hit .348 against right handers and .337 against lefties in compiling his .345 average.

4 Veterans Top Orange Gym Team

Coach Paul Romeo will have a plentiful supply of veteran gymnasts to throw against Penn State's acrobats when the Lions invade the Orangemen of Syracuse tomorrow afternoon.

Four front-line Syracuse performers, all of whom appeared against the Nittanians last year, will be backed by a host of newcomers who provide the Orange with a great deal of depth.

From the outset of the season, co-captains Corky Sebbo and Milan Trnka, along with Dan Traficante and Andy Felice comprised a foursome around which Romeo could develop a formidable squad.

Trnka is the Orange's top man on the horizontal bar, parallels, and flying rings. On the H-bar he stands as one of the East's best, averaging around the 270 mark. Chuck Lutinger and George Gore back him on the horizontal. Bill Hogeboom and Nick Monocchio are two-three on the twin bars, and Traficante and Hogeboom are second and third on the rings.

Strong on Parallels

The Orange is strong in all three events, but the Nittanians will probably find their toughest battle on the parallel bars.

Sebbo, one-time NCAA champ in tumbling, has done nothing but improve on his route the past year, and looms as a sure bet to cop another mat victory tomorrow. He's been consistently going the route about 25 points better than Bill Paxton, Lion entry on the mats.

Syracuse probably will hold an upper hand on the side horse, with Traficante leading the pack and getting able support from Paul Barkal and Felice. All three must be considered threats, and can take first, second and third in any order.

Hold Decided Advantage

The Nittanians will hold a decided advantage on the rope, with Lion Skeets Haag, who leads the East with a 3.4 clocking against Temple, at least seven notches better than anything the Orange has to offer.

Felice has been putting in a regular 4.2 effort with Hogeboom and Monocchio scaling the 20-foot hemp around the five second mark.

With the Lions holding the upper hand on the rope, and Syracuse strong on the parallels, tomorrow's winner will no doubt be decided on the outcome of the final four events, which could go either way.

Matmen Visit Pitt Tomorrow In EIWA Tourney Tuneup

Right now, with the Lions set to meet Pitt in the season finale, the battle for top dog in the East looks like it's going to revolve around four teams—Lehigh, Pitt, Navy, and the Lions.

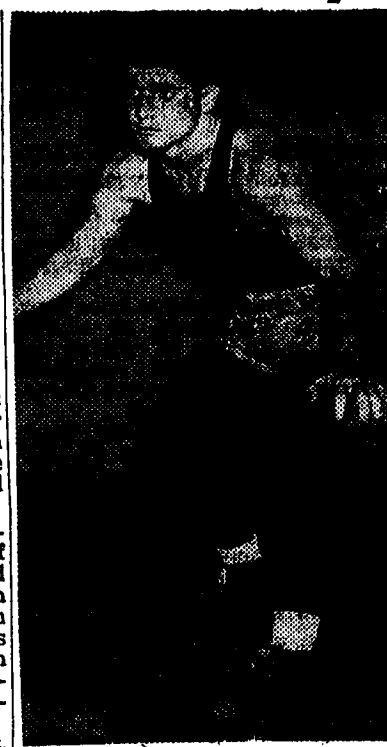
Lehigh, previous winner over Pitt and one of the Lions' victims, meets Navy this weekend on its home mats. Pitt, the Lions' weekend companion, was dropped by Lehigh, 14-12.

The results of this weekend's action on the mats of these four teams should give an indication of what can be expected in the Eastern tourney set for Rec Hall one week from today.

On paper the Lions could easily come out the "top" team—if such a team can be designated now. Since Lehigh has beaten Pitt, and Penn State has beaten Lehigh the position of the Lions in the four-horse race hinges on not only the outcome of the Pitt-Lion match but also on the Lehigh-Navy scrap in Bethlehem.

The Lions need to whip Pitt, and Lehigh must clip Navy to throw the spotlight on coach Charlie Speidel's Nittany eight. Penn State would then be on top of the heap by virtue of a formula that included such ingredients as Lehigh beating Pitt, Navy beating the Lions, the Lions whipping Lehigh and Pitt, and Lehigh doing the expected by stopping Navy.

Pitt can be and has been beaten, and although it has three undefeated men, the Lions far outclass their Steel City rivals.



Bob Cook
Pitt's 147 Pounder

Coach Rex Peery of Pitt must rely on Ed, his son, Joe Solomon, and Ed DeWitt to get the bulk of his points. Whether Peery can pin Captain Bob Homan at 130 and Joe Solomon can duplicate the action against Joe Krufka is a matter that will be worked out on the mats.

If one, or any, of Peery's three top power men are beaten how-

ever, the Lions will be quick to have a heavy advantage. Peery's five men who round out the remainder of the Pitt mat outfit cannot stack up against such men as Sid Nodland, Dave Adams, Ed Pasko, Joe Humphreys, Larry Fornicola, and Bill Oberly.

In losing to Lehigh, Pitt lost the 137-, 147-, 157-pound, and the heavyweight bouts. The Lions copped a draw at 157 and took the heavy battle in defeating Lehigh.

Solomon cornered three points for Pitt when he stopped Dave Gallaher, 5-3, in a match that came two weeks after the season opened. Krufka, four weeks later at Rec Hall, pinned Gallaher.

Ed DeWitt, the strongest link in Pitt's eight-man chain in comparison to the Lions' roundup of men for the 167-pound work, whitewashed Rog Taylor, 5-0, for three more points against Lehigh.

After Peery defeated Parker Mangus, 8-1, at 130 and Bill Hulings dropped 123-pounder Steve Wisocker, 7-1. Lehigh's fearsome three of Dave Bates (137), Ken Fuast (147), and Ed Eichelberger (157) took their bouts to set the stage for the three final heavier battles and Lehigh's eventual victory.

'Hometown' Grapplers

Two "hometown" boys will bid for titles when the Eastern intercollegiate wrestling championships are held at the University March 11-12. Rated top contenders in their weights are Larry Fornicola, 137 pounds, and Dave Adams, 147 pounds, both graduates of nearby Bellefonte High School.

'Dead-Pan' Fields Almost Fooled Fans

Sleepy-eyed Earl Fields, Penn State's versatile junior forward, has been proving himself a fine basketball player for three years at Penn State, but it took a concentrated effort against Pitt last week to make Penn State fans conscious of his abilities.

Fields' dead pan, nonchalant methods on the basketball court make him one of those players who goes forever unnoticed and this season he's been averaging an unnoticed 9.8 points per game. However, when he cleaned the cords with six consecutive one-handed set shots in the first half of the Panther game Saturday, Nittany fans suddenly realized that they had been missing something.

Fields has been a consistent performer all season for the Lions, particularly on defense where he uses an uncanny second sense to break up passes, and usually turns them into Penn State scores.

In addition, he has shown consistently that he can rebound with any man of his own height, a sturdy 6-1.

But because of his "non-emotional" play, the swift left-hander always seemed to be overlooked by the thrill-seeking public.

Almost Fooled Egli

Coach John Egli, who tutored Fields as a freshman, said the same thing almost happened to him.

"He almost fooled us when he came out for basketball three years ago," said Egli, "He can be playing his hardest and still look like he's loafing. He's that type of player."

"But we soon realized that the will was there, and that accurate left-handed set shot sold us on

him from the start." Fields has been getting the most out of that shot this season. Most of his 236 points have resulted from his outside shot, but he has scored consistently from around the foul line.

Egli attributes his defensive superiority to a pair of quick eyes and even quicker hands.

Fits Lions' Defense

"He's a perfect man for our system of defense," said the Lion coach, "and it's a pleasure to watch him work on that front line."

Fields was a work-horse reserve last season and began to come into his own during the Lion campaign in the National Collegiate tournament.

Egli, of course will be glad to have another experienced hand around when his team opens its tourney bid this year, and Fields appears to be at his peak at the moment. He'll be a big helper in the tough tournament grind.

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