

Cagers Face W. Virginia

The Penn State cagers, on the rebound from a poor first half of the season's schedule, will be at top strength tonight with the return of co-captain Earl Fields as they go after their fourth straight win in a return engagement with the West Virginia Mountaineers at Recreation Hall.

Game time is 8 p.m.

Fields, who had been declared scholastically ineligible and was not in uniform for the Lehigh encounter Monday,

was the victim of a clerical mis-cue and has been reinstated, according to Lion coach John Egli.

The Mountaineers will also be at full strength for the contest, complete with their "clown" prince "Hot Rod" Hundley. The men from below the Mason-Dixon line already own one victory over the Lions this year, and pose a tough hurdle for the Nittanians in their drive to rise above the .500 mark. WVU edged past the Lions 81-79 in a game in which Hundley and Lion forward Rudy Marisa battled for scoring honors, with "Hot Rod" coming out on top 28-27.

Hundley Is Versatile

Hundley's fabulous exploits on basketball courts have gained him national prominence for his clowning ability, but what is more damaging to his opponents is his ability to play serious basketball. This is supported by the



Ron Rainey
Sophomore Understudy

fact that he leads the Mountaineers in every offensive department and possesses a game average of approximately 26 points.

The 6-4 junior holds the team's individual high mark for one game this season with his 40 point effort against George Washington. He owns single game records for the most number of field goals at 18, the most free throws at 14, the highest number of rebounds at 26, and the most number of assists, 9.

The only chance Penn State fans have had the opportunity to watch Hundley in action was in last year's home encounter when he was in no mood to put on his clowning routine. The Blue and White cagers put the clobber on WVU that night, 84-58.

Mountaineer coach Paul Schaus will probably stick with the combination which has been successful for him this season. This will be Hundley and Willie Bergines, 6-6, at the forwards, 6-foot 10-inch Lloyd Sharrar at center, and Joedy Gardner, 6-1, and Don Vincent, 6-1, at the guard posts. Gary Mullins, 6-4, Paul Witting, 6-7, and Don Eddy, 6-5, will also see plenty of action.

Coach Egli plans to send co-captains Bob Hoffman and Earl Fields to the guard positions, Bob Ramsey at the pivot, and Rudy Marisa and Bob Leisher at forwards. Egli was pleased with the showing of sophomore Ron Rainey in his first starting role Monday and said he should see plenty of action against WVU. The bespectacled guard racked up 12 points, all in the first half, as he replaced the absent Fields.

Rope Climber Set for Debut

By VINCE CAROCCI

When the Penn State gymnastic team makes its home debut in intercollegiate competition against Syracuse Saturday night at Recreation Hall, special interest will center on the rope climbing event where a sophomore will make his first varsity appearance before the home crowd.



PHIL MULLEN climbs the 20-foot rope in preparation for his first varsity appearance at Rec Hall Saturday night.

That sophomore, Phil Mullen, is listed as the top rope climber on the Lion squad despite the fact that he performs with the aid of an artificial leg.

Mullen lost his left leg below the knee after an attack of osteomyelitis early in his childhood.

However, the 20-year old gymnast—who copped a first against West Virginia and finished in a tie for first against Temple—has emerged from the shadows to become one of the outstanding point scorers on the Nittany club.

What makes his story more interesting is the fact that he began his rope climbing escapades without the use of his artificial limb.

Coach Changes Ideas

As a freshman, Mullen made the 20-foot climb without his limb in the belief that the lightened load helped him. However, under the advice of his coach, Gene Wettstone, Mullen decided to don his leg when climbing.

Almost immediately he began to make a better showing each time he performed, bringing smiles to Wettstone's face.

As time progressed, Mullen became convinced that it was the smartest move he made in his still young gymnastic career.

"I'm convinced that the coach is right," he says. "Now, my balance is better and I climb faster. Everything seems more natural to me."

Aiming for 3.6

And what does Wettstone think of his protege's progress? The Lion mentor believes that Mullen can steadily cut his present time of 3.9 seconds, and perhaps eventually better the Eastern record of 3.6 seconds.

No one could be happier about his accomplishments than Mullen himself. And rightly so. "Rope climbing is a dream come true," he said. "I've always liked athletics, and here is a chance for me to participate on a varsity basis. I shall ever be grateful for the opportunity."

Stickmen To Begin Practice Tomorrow

High-scoring captain Bob Hamel and defenseman Bob Bullock will head the list of five returning lettermen when Nick Thiel's 1956 lacrosse squad holds its initial workout tomorrow.

Frank Locotos, Andy Bergesen and Jeff Bostock are the other returning veterans.

The Lion stickmen will be severely hampered by the loss of last year's captain and goalie Don Bell, Joe Erwin, Ron Youtz, Herb Horikawa, and George Bicklehaupt.

The graduation of the five regulars has left the team somewhat depleted. They combined last year to help the stickmen to one of its finest seasons in years. Their record of seven wins and five losses, in fact, represents the first time the team had finished above .500 since 1950.

However, Coach Thiel has a fine crop of sophomores coming up from the freshman team, and they could help.

The list of newcomers is headed by former high school All America Bill Hess, and includes Chris Kuebler, Frank Markland, John Bonner, and Dick Weeden.

Thiel will also be able to count on the services of returning servicemen John Steinmuller and Lou Girard who played lacrosse two years ago before entering the service.

Last year the Lions won their first effort against Adelphia, but then lost four in succession to New Hampshire, Hofstra, Navy, and Rutgers before getting on the right side against Loyola.

They got hot down the stretch, however, and won five of the last six outings. The only loss during this time was sustained against Cornell 11-8. They sandwiched this with wins over Colgate and Syracuse. The last three games, against Swarthmore, Hobart and Pennsylvania were easily won.

Bedenk Calls Meeting For Pitchers, Catchers

Pitchers and catchers of the varsity baseball team will meet at 5:00 p.m. today in 241 Recreation Hall, Joe Bedenk, baseball coach, has announced.

Sophomores Sought For Baseball Managers

Candidates for assistant managerships in baseball should report to room 249 Recreation Hall tomorrow. Candidates should be sophomores.

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