

# Wrestlers Win Opener, 23-8

## Cagers Beat Colgate, 51-44



—Daily Collegian Photo by Joe Patton

SENIOR GEORGE SMITH, making only his second start of his college wrestling career, applies the pressure to Colgate's Bob Skripak seconds before he pinned the 130-pounder Saturday night at Recreation Hall. Smith's fall was the third for the Lions in a 23-8 victory.

### Nodland, Smith, Pepe Gain Falls; Two Others Win

By LOU PRATO

Strength in the upper weight classes has been typical of the Penn State wrestling team for the last three seasons but the strength was missing Saturday night when Coach Charley Speidel's matmen opened the 1956-57 campaign with a 23-8 victory over Colgate at Recreation Hall.

The Lions, who for the first time since the 1954 season are without the services of 177-pound Joe Krufka and heavyweight Bill Oberly, displayed the expected power in the lower weight divisions by sweeping the first five matches from the Red Raiders—three by falls.

But the tide turned in the next three events as Coach Harvey Potter's grapplers won the 167 and 177 pound matches on decisions and picked up a split in the unlimited class.

Inexperience was actually the downfall of the three upper weight men—Dick Phelan, 167; Bruce Gilmore, 177; and Sam Markle, heavyweight—for they were wrestling in their first varsity match.

Sid Nodland, last year's 123-pound Eastern titlist, brought the 6000 partisan fans to their feet before they even had time to get settled when he pinned Paul Martin in 45 seconds of the first period with a cradle.

State College's George Smith, making his first varsity start before hometown fans, followed Nodland's example and pinned Bob Skripak with a body press at 1:27 of the final period. Smith was leading 10-3 at the time of his fall.

Letterman Johnny Johnston moved from the 130-pound spot, where he won the Eastern championship last year, to the 137-pound berth and found Colgate's Frank McCarthy a little too strong to pin. However, the Clearfield junior was in control

### Lions Play Best Game Defensively

Home courts are handy, especially on off nights. The Nittany cagers, playing their worst offensive game of the year before the home fans, defeated a scrappy Colgate quintet, 51-44, Saturday night at Recreation Hall.

Fortunately for the Lions, their defense was at its best, holding Colgate to its lowest point total in 14 years.

Offensively, however, both teams had poor nights. The Lions had only a 28.1 shooting average—their lowest on the Rec Hall court this year—while the Red Raiders had a mere 24.5 percentage.

Colgate jumped into an early 13-8 lead in the first half only to have the Lions tie it 13-13 on Captain Bob Leisher's set shot with 11 minutes gone. Steve Baidy's one-handed push and another Leisher set put the Lions into a 17-13 lead, a lead which they never lost.

Both clubs traded baskets in the early minutes of the second half before the Lions finally surged to a 39-30 lead midway through the period.

Two baskets each by center Bob Ramsay and forward Ron Rainey were the big tallies in the drive. Colgate's Russ Brummer's drive cut the lead to seven before two foul shots by Leisher and a Carm Palmiero tap-in gave the Nittanians a 43-32 lead.

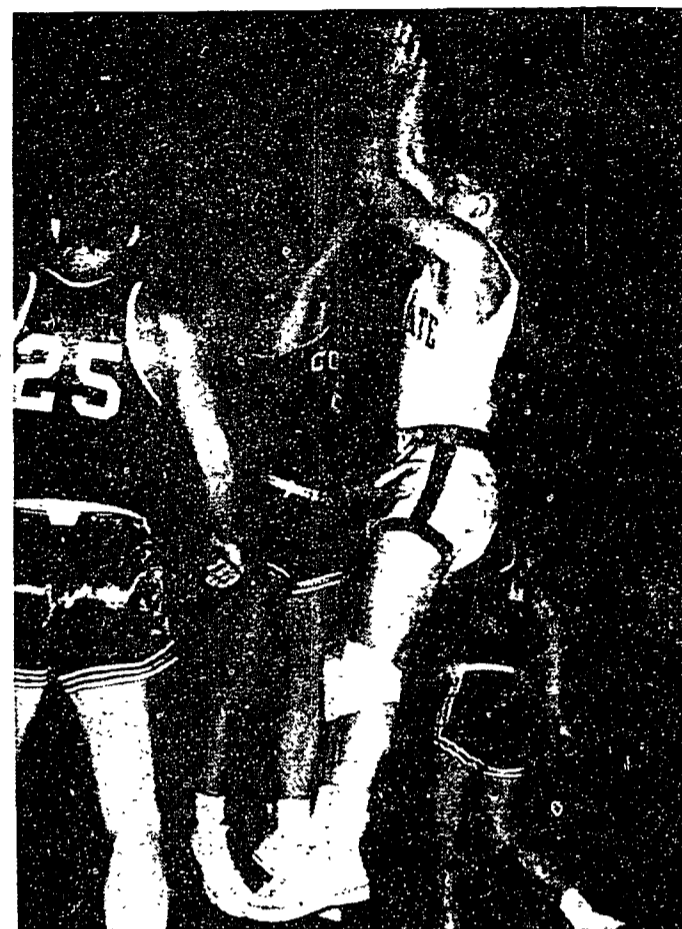
Colgate's Jack Nichols, probably the best all-round player on the court, then led a belated, but unsuccessful last effort comeback to cut the Lion margin, 48-42, with six minutes left.

From that point on, the Lions began to play possession ball with Colgate pressing to gain control. The strategy worked with the Lions scoring only three points and Colgate two in the time remaining.

Defense, an oft forgotten art in the modern court game, was the only bright spot in both club's play. The Lions, using its standard 3-2 sliding zone, never gave Colgate the opening it was looking for—even on the Raider fast break, its most potent offensive weapon.

Colgate, on the other hand, played a tight man to man defense which prevented the Nittanians from setting up their offensive patterns.

The Red Raider defense was especially tough on Ramsay, holding the big center to only three shots in the first half. The visitors collapsed on Ramsay whenever he took his post




—Daily Collegian Photo by Marty Scherr

FORWARD RON RAINEY gets his jump shot off despite the vain efforts of Colgate's Tom Giordano, Bill Allen (25) watches the ball in its flight. Rainey led the Lion scorers for the third consecutive game with 15 points.

at the foul line, preventing the Lions from unleashing the pivot plays which Coach John Egli had emphasized in pre-game practices.

After the game, Egli said that it seemed as though Colgate knew exactly what his team was going to do to stop all plays off the pivot.

With no games scheduled this week, Egli will drill his squad in preparation for the Christmas Tourney at Richmond. After the Colgate game, he certainly found enough mistakes to eliminate before the tourney opener.



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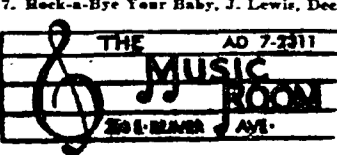
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