

Cagers Humiliate 'Mounties', 80-65

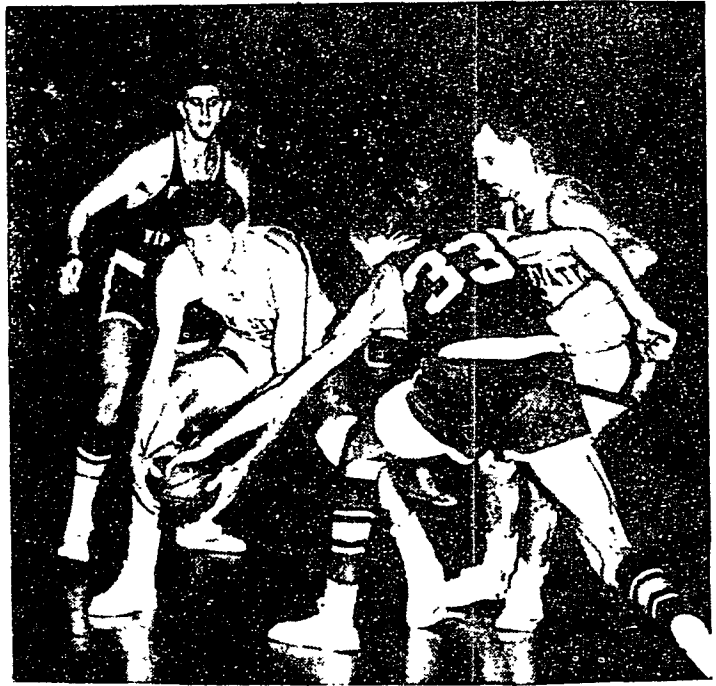
By VINCE CAROCCI

Penn State's basketball team proved to Hot Rod Hundley and the West Virginia Mountaineers that there isn't room enough for both a clown and a Lion under the same roof, whether it be a circus big top or a basketball arena, Saturday night at Recreation Hall.

The surprising Lion cagers, in no mood for clowning antics of any sort following a dismal showing at Penn the night before, handed the highly-touted Mounties a humiliating defeat, 80-65, before approximately 6000 fans in one of the major cage upsets of the year.



—Daily Collegian Photo by George Harrison
NOW CALM DOWN, HOT ROD! Referee Mike Jacobs succeeds in calming West Virginia's Hot Rod Hundley after a minor dispute over a referee's call. The Hot Rod seems to be disappointed with the turn of events—wonder why?



LION CAGE CENTER: Bob Ramsay is caught in the middle by West Virginia's two stand-outs, Rod Hundley (33) and Lloyd Sharrer (behind Ramsay) during the exciting Nittany win Saturday night. Lion Steve Baidy moves in to help Ramsay if possible.

Hundley, the clown prince of the modern court era, had no opportunity to display his famed court antics before the partial Nittany crowd as the Lions simply refused to bow before the awesome West Virginia ability and record—the loss was the Mounties first in their last 12 games, an almost complete reversal of an earlier West Virginia-Penn State clash.

What made the win even more surprising was that the Lions had returned to University Park only five hours before gametime following a 77-68 loss to Penn. But they were surprisingly ready, very willing, and most certainly able Saturday night to turn in their best performance of the year.

"Those kids played the best game I've ever seen them play," Coach John Egli said after the game. "You could tell that nobody was going to beat them."

The Lions played their type of game Saturday night, waiting for the good shot instead of running with the Mountaineers as they did at Morgantown earlier this year. "We waited for the good shot . . . didn't take a foolish shot in the second half," Egli said.

The Lions shot an amazing 61 per cent in the second half, hitting for a creditable 47 per cent average over-all.

It was that second-half drive that proved the difference. Trailing, 34-29, at halftime, the cagers brought the home fans to their feet as they took a 35-34 lead in the first minute and 45 seconds of play in the period.

The Mounties bounced back to take a 40-38 lead before two fouls by Ron Rainey and a basket by Steve Baidy gave the Lions a two-point advantage with 16 minutes left. Once in motion, the Lion offense never stalled.

Bob Edwards, who scored 27 points for the highest individual Nittany performance of the year, began to hit with amazing consistency from the pivot to boost the Lion lead, 58-45.

At this point, Coach Fred Schaus was forced to revert to a full-court press, a press which completely befuddled the Lions at Penn. But the strategy never fazed the hot-handed cagers.

Rainey and Edwards found the man-to-man defense to their liking and began scoring consistently. Meanwhile, the Mountaineers fell apart—the game was lost.

In winning, the Lions kept Hundley in check. Although he led the Mountie scorers with 23 points, he was not the fabulous Hundley everyone raved so much about. He couldn't be—he never had the chance to show the abil-

(Continued on page ten)

Saxton Will Attempt To Outbox Basilio

CLEVELAND, Feb. 18 (AP)—It may not please the fight crowd, but Johnny Saxton is going to attempt to outbox welterweight champion Carmen Basilio in their 15-round title fight here Friday night.

"I have to box to win," Saxton said here today. "I can't think about the fans this time."

He was referring to the September battle with Syracuse, when he attempted to outslug Basilio and was knocked out in the ninth round.

Speaking of their first meeting in Chicago, when he outpointed the champion in a much disputed decision, Saxton said, "I don't like to hear the fans boo as they did in Chicago when I outboxed him but I can't think about the fans this time. I have to think about Johnny Saxton and keep those pay checks rolling in."

Saxton is reported in top form. He hopes to outspeed Basilio and outpunch him, not so much in the power of his blows but in the number he can deliver.

Basilio, on the other hand, says he's ready to take on Saxton regardless of which style he uses. As for Saxton's speed, the champion figures a few well aimed body blows will take some of the steam out of the lightning fast challenger.

Basilio, who keeps moving in and likes the rough house kind of fight, is the odds on favorite to retain the title.

The title affair will be on radio and television (NBC) with a local television blackout.

Neiger Coaching Pitt

Gene Wettstone, Penn State and Olympic gymnastics coach, regards Pitt as the most improved team in the East. The Panthers, a comparative newcomer to the sport, are coached by Warren Neiger, native Philadelphian and former Penn State gymnast.



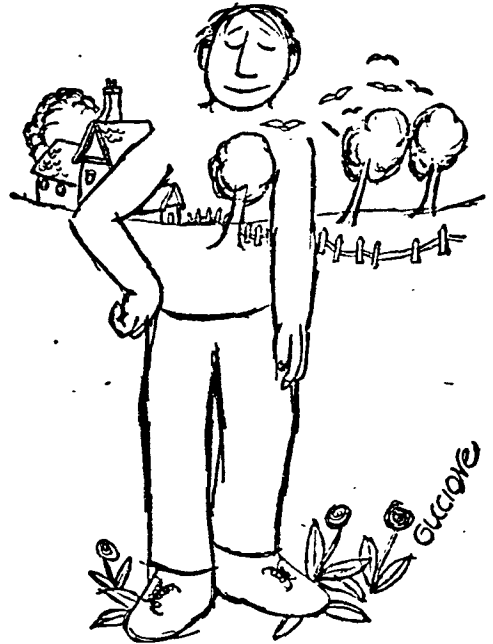
CARMEN BASILIO

Dayton, 'Cincy' Accept NIT Bids

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (AP)—The University of Dayton Flyers, beaten finalists in four of the last five National Invitation Basketball Tournaments, and the University of Cincinnati, today accepted bids to the 1957 NIT starting at Madison Square Garden March 16.

The NIT now has four teams in the fold for the 12-team field. Seattle University and Memphis State previously accepted invitations.

Dayton has a 15-7 record with four games left.



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