

Cagers Meet Scarlet Tonight

By VINCE CAROCCI
Sports Editor

Penn State may fashion a new 1958 basketball look when the cagers host a winless Rutgers five at 8 tonight at Recreation Hall—the first game for the Nittany Lions since their Dec. 14 win over Colgate on the home hardwoods.

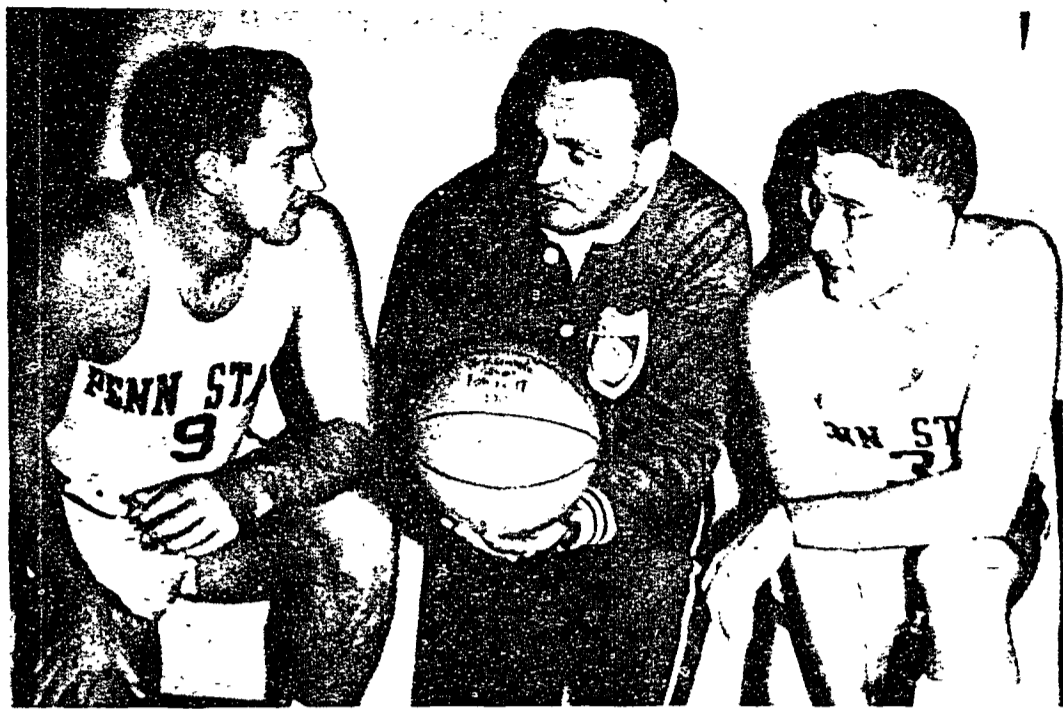
The game offers the Lions their first opportunity to better the .500 won-lost mark since the season began. The basketballers have split four games to date, losing to North Carolina State (80-62), defeating Carnegie Tech (47-35), losing to West Virginia—now the number one team in the country—(84-50) and beating Colgate (71-58).

Coach John Egli will pin his hopes of cashing in on the opportunity on his standard starting five: Co-Captains Steve Baidy and Ron Rainey at guards; Bob Edwards at center; and Tom Hancock and Ted Kubista at forward.

Egli's top two reserves, Wally Colender and Paul Sweetland, and reserves John Bozick, Larry Freedman, Dick Schwendeman, Paul Bauer and Cal Emery complete the Lion dressing roster.

As for the new look, well, Egli had the opportunity to iron out a few kinks in the Lion offense during the respite—and, if the team's performance the past two days is any indication of the result, he may have succeeded.

Egli had two objectives in



Co-Captains Steve Baidy (l) and Ron Rainey (r) and Coach John Egli ... talking about tonight and Rutgers

mind after the Colgate game: 1. to improve the Lion ball handling and 2. to increase the tempo of the club's offense.

He put the team through a rigorous training program during the past week, holding practices twice a day from Monday through

Thursday. It was probably the team's most concentrated practice session of the season.

Asked of the results of the pro- ... we're starting to hit that open

man. We're beginning to look a little better."

Egli said that despite the emphasis placed on a speedier offense, the Lions will "go faster against only the teams we can. We can't outrun teams like West Virginia and Temple," he conceded.

Although the average fan probably won't be looking for it, Egli has also changed his defensive alignment during the vacation. Rainey moves to the center forward spot in the Lion zone defense in place of Edwards, who takes Rainey's place on the side.

Of the switch Egli said, "He (Rainey) looks pretty good but he's an aggressive kid and sometimes gets suckered out of position. That's our big problem there."

Despite Rutgers' 0-5 record, Egli is not taking the Scarlet lightly. What coach is ever over-optimistic? "They could just upset somebody," he said with an air of a "I-hope-it-isn't-us" attitude.

Rutgers, suffering from a height deficiency, has lost to Muhlenberg (63-59), Connecticut (73-63), Penn (73-64), Princeton (80-47) and CCNY (64-56). With a review of these scores, Egli said cautiously, "They haven't lost too many games by wide margins."—a sign that the Scarlet may not be as bad as the record indicates.

Werner Recognized As Best Olympic Bet

Coach Gene Wettstone's sensational sophomore gymnast Jay Werner had an off-day at the World Gymnastic Tryouts during the Christmas lull, yet he was chosen the "Most Promising Prospect for the 1960 Olympics."

The tournament was held at Sarasota, Fla., with 800 of Uncle Sam's best gymnasts competing.

Although he only finished third in the Junior National AAU All-Arounds, Wettstone said it was easy for the participating coaches and officials to honor Werner. "Although he was not sharp, they (the voting officials) saw the natural ability in him that only an olympic gymnast possesses," praised the Lion mentor.

"Of course you must consider that Jay, Lee (Cunningham), and Armando (Vega) were experimenting with routines which they probably won't perfect until the end of the year," explained Wettstone. "This was a highly successful experimental clinic and for my boys, it was more of an expose to pressure."

Besides the "outstanding"



Jay Werner ... Lion Olympic talent award. Werner took firsts in the long horse and flying rings. (Continued on page four)

Underdog Lion Wrestlers Visit Tough Illini Tonight

An undefeated but underdog Penn State wrestling team makes its second start of the 1958 campaign this evening against Big Ten power Illinois at Champaign.

The Lions had an easy time in the season opener with Colgate (winning 17-8) but things will undoubtedly be different in the Midwest tonight.

Illinois, according to Amateur Wrestling News—the "Official Publication of American Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association"—is one of the top-ranked teams in the nation. Coach Pat Patterson's Illini are expected to battle defending champion Minnesota and Michigan for top Big Ten honors this winter.

And why not with four men returning who won places in last year's NCAA tournament, including national heavyweight titlist Bob Norman. Backing Norman are Dave Moore fourth at 115; Bill Muther, fourth at 137, and Werner Holzer, third at 147.

Coach Charlie Speidel will have a revamped starting lineup going against the Illini, including two seniors who didn't wrestle against

Colgate. They are John Rusnak at 177 and footballer Ray Pottios at heavyweight.

Pottios replaces the injured Andy Stynchula at heavy while Rusnak moves into a starting berth because of a "not-unusual" Speidel weight shift. The rest of the Nittany starting array finds Gordon Danks at 123, Johnny Johnston at 130, Guy Guccione at 137, Earl Poust at 147, Sam Minor at 157 and George Gray at 167.

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