



A Glance at . . . SPORTS

By VINCE CAROCCI
Sports Editor

JIM SNYDER—WE LIKED HIM

Jim Snyder, sports editor of the Centre Daily Times, is dead. For us, that's almost as hard to write as it is to believe. Probably not too many of you knew Jim Snyder—he wasn't what is sometimes referred to as a big man about campus. But, on the Penn State sports front—his beat for the past year and a half—Jim was as popular as President Eisenhower. And for good reason—he was that type of guy.

For those of you who haven't already heard, Jim was killed Dec. 21 in an auto accident on his way from State College to Dushore to visit his parents. Apparently he fell asleep at the wheel of his car and ran into a truck coming in the opposite direction. He was killed instantly.

It's a little over two weeks since his death so this column can't exactly be called timely. Yet, Jim Snyder was one of our most respected friends and we wouldn't feel right unless we said a word or two about him.

As Paul Poorman, City Editor of the Centre Daily Times and one of Jim's closest friends, said at Rec Hall Saturday night, it's probably the toughest writing assignment around to try and tell people about someone you knew so well. We're finding that true right now.

Jim Snyder was as conscientious a reporter as can be found. Although he had ideas of eventually turning from sports to city writing—we think he once specifically mentioned foreign affairs writing to us—he was devoted to the game. He did an excellent job in sports coverage for the State College populace.

As a writer, Jim was excellent. He definitely had the potential to someday crash the metropolitan field and make a name for himself. He was a clever writer with an uncanny ability to analyze the news and come up with interesting reports. His style was better, we felt, than some of the known metropolitan writers of today.

But, we don't want to get over-technical on this. Let's leave it with this: he was as good a writer as you'll find in most places—better, in fact.

As a man, we haven't seen many who could win friends and obtain their respect at the same time as easily as Jim Snyder could. We liked him the first time we met him, a year ago last September. And it was that way with countless others. We have yet to hear anyone say he didn't like Jim Snyder.

We admired him and often asked his opinion on any problem we encountered in covering Penn State sports. Never did he refuse to give us suggestions—even if it meant delaying his work for a half hour or so. Jim Snyder was that type of man, always willing to be helpful whenever possible. To us, he was a great help many times. And to our "thank you's," he always answered—"Anytime." He meant that.

Jim was a graduate of Holy Cross and did post-graduate work at Columbia. We can't remember seeing him happier than he was when he returned to the Holy Cross campus to cover the Lion-Crusader football game this past fall. "This hasn't changed much," or "that hasn't changed much," we remember hearing him say quite often. Jim Snyder was home and happy to be back.

Now, Jim Snyder is gone. As we said, it's hard to put the words down about someone you liked so much. We tried but they just didn't come out the way we would've liked them to. In our book, Jim Snyder was an "O.K. Joe" from the word go. We're going to miss him. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family—they certainly had a man they could be proud of. We're certainly proud we knew him.

Johnston, Poust Win But Matmen Lose, 19-8

By LOU PRATO

It must have been disheartening for Penn State's wrestling coach Charlie Speidel to watch his matmen in a losing battle with Illinois Saturday afternoon in Champaign.

For the powerful fighting Illini, rated as one of the best teams in the NCAA this year, handed the perennially tough Lions one of their worst lickings in years, 19-8. And to top it off, only two of the eight Nittany starters could record a victory.

Of course the vaunted Big Ten powerhouse had seven veterans in its lineup, including four men who placed in last year's national tourney, but Penn State has met and conquered many such obstacles in the past.

Captain Johnny Johnston, the defending 130-pound NCAA champion, and the veteran 147-pound Earl Poust were the only bright lights in a dark day for the Lions. Both copped decision victories. Johnston rapped Rex Whitlatch, 12-6, and Poust edged Tom Gabbard, 2-1.

George Gray, the Lions' 167-pound starter, didn't do too bad, managing a 3-3 draw with Bill Gabbard, brother of Poust's victim.

But for the other five Lion grapplers, it was a dismal trip. Gordon Danks lost a 6-0 decision



Earl Poust
... wins 2nd straight

to Tom Moore at 123; Guy Guccione dropped his first wrestling match in six years since his career started as a freshman at a Long Island, N.Y. high school losing to Bill Muther, 7-5, at 137; Sam Minor fell to Wayne Holzer, 10-2, at 157; John Rusnak

was nipped by Don Pierre, 3-2, at 177; and Ray Pottios was flattened by the Illini's defending NCAA heavyweight king Bob Norman.

Of these losing bouts, the Pottios-Norman affair was probably the most impressive on the Penn State side. Pottios, making his first start of the year and his second as a Penn State wrestler, gave way more than 30 pounds to Norman but was trailing by only 2-0 (gained on a second period reversal) when he was pinned at the 7:05 mark with a half nelson and crotch.

The loss was the first of the season for the Lions after thumping Colgate, 18-8, in the campaign lidlifter. It was the Illini's second straight win. They tripped NCAA top-ranked Iowa, 14-12, in their opener.

Penn State's next test comes Saturday night against EIWA favorite Lehigh at Bethlehem.

THE SUMMARY: Illinois 19; Penn State 8
123—Tom Moore (Ill) dec. Gordon Danks, 6-0

130—Johnny Johnston (PS) dec. Rex Whitlatch, 12-6

137—Bill Mather (Ill) dec. Guy Guccione, 7-5

147—Earl Poust (PS) dec. Tom Gabbard, 2-1

157—Werner Holzer (Ill) dec. Sam Minor, 10-2

167—George Gray (PS) drew with Bill Gabbard, 3-3

177—Don Pierre (Ill) dec. John Rusnak, 3-2

Hwt—Bob Norman (Ill) pinned Ray Pottios, 7:05 with half-nelson and crotch

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