

# Ball Control Seen Key To Lion Cage Future

Good ball control—that's what Coach John Egli looks to as the key to future Lion basketball successes as his Nittany cagers went through preparations for the Penn game tomorrow night at Recreation Hall.

Egli feels that if the Lions are to do anything—and by anything he meant winning—in their remaining eight games, they must control the ball. He blamed poor ball control as a major factor in previous Lion losses.

He pointed to the Lions' good ball control as the difference in his team's winning performance Saturday night at Gettysburg and its losing efforts against Rutgers, Pittsburgh and Navy.

"We weren't throwing it away there (Gettysburg)," he said. "We took good care of that ball. This (poor ball control) hurt us against Rutgers, Pitt and Navy." He called the Lions' Gettysburg performance their best of the year as far as ball-handling went.

With this in mind, Egli sent the cagers through their regular routines with the emphasis on accurate passing. He feels that the Lions have begun to improve greatly in this phase since the layoff between semesters.

Individually, Egli expressed satisfaction with the performances of junior Tom Hancock and sophomores Wally Collender and Paul Sweetland.

Of Hancock, Egli said: "It looks as though he has finally caught on to the tricks of this game." Hancock, who is the Lions' leading rebounder, has shown enough improvement in his offensive game to regain his starting position.

Collender, who has shown great potential all season, seems to have solved Egli's problem of finding a playmaker. "Wally's catching on and starting to set them up . . . he's looking better every day," Egli said. If Collender is the floor man Egli is looking for, this would leave co-captain Ron Rainey open to concentrate on the best part of his game—shooting.

Sweetland, on the other hand, shows his best strength under the boards. He led the Lions against Gettysburg with 13. Egli feels that he can definitely give the Lions a boost in getting that ball—and remember you need the ball to win.

All three, plus co-captains Rainey and Steve Baidy figure to be in the Lion opening lineup tomorrow night.

**DOUBLE DRIBBLES:** It seems as though Pitt Coach Bob Timmons was complaining over the treatment his cagers received in their Rec Hall visit, Jan. 25. He was quoted in a Pittsburgh paper as saying, "I didn't know whether we were in a wrestling match, a football game or a basketball game. I had all I could do to keep my boys playing basketball. It seems as though State was out to get Hennon and Pegues."

Egli, in flatly denying the validity of the charge, answered: "If he didn't know whether he was in a football game or a basketball game, it was because we were just defending ourselves against their roughhouse tactics. I thought they were going to push us out of the building."



UP THE MIDDLE . . . goes junior Tom Hancock during last night's Nittany cage practice at Recreation Hall. The Lions were sharpening their offensive work for tomorrow night's contest with Penn.

# Frosh Cagers to Meet Altoona Center Tomorrow

The Penn State basketball yearlings, with a 1-2 record, will meet the Altoona Center five for the second time this year tomorrow night at Recreation Hall.

The Lion yearlings won their first game with the Altoona center, 87-54, Jan. 24 at Altoona. John Stanford led the romp when he made all of his eight shots from the floor. He added two foul shots to make his total for the night 18 points.

It will be the Nittany cubs first home encounter during class sessions. In their first home test on Jan. 25 they lost to Pitt, 60-52. In the Pitt game the frosh faltered in the second half, after being tied at half-time.

Don Wilson led the scoring for the losers with 16 points. Wilson will not be in uniform tomorrow night due to scholastic difficulties.

Last Tuesday, the frosh lost to Navy, 67-51, at Annapolis, Md. Navy was outscored from the floor by six baskets but won the game from the foul line. The Middle Plebes made 32 out of 45 foul shots, whereas the Lions were only able to score on three out of five fouls. John Musser scored 14 points to lead the cub attack.

Aside from the scoring combinations of Wilson, Stanford

and Musser, the play of Mark Dumars, Biff Naylor and Bob Gross has pleased frosh coach Don Swegan. Dumars is a fine ball handler and has been shooting well. Naylor, 6' 4", has been doing a fine job on defense. Gross has been one of the leading rebounders.

The Altoona-Penn State frosh game will proceed the varsity tilt between Penn and the Nittany Lions.

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# Vega Withdraws From University

By VINCE CAROCCI  
Sports Editor

Armando Vega, one of the greatest gymnasts in Penn State's history, has withdrawn from the University, it was learned yesterday.

Vega's withdrawal was verified by Dean Ernest B. McCoy, dean of the College of Physical Education and Athletics, and Gene Wettstone, varsity gym coach.

Vega could not be contacted yesterday for comment. His plans for the future are not known at present.

McCoy, in verifying the withdrawal, emphasized that Vega did not fail out of school. He said that the action was solely Vega's, that as far as University requirements were concerned, he was still academically qualified to stay in school.

McCoy explained that Vega had simply placed himself on probation when he failed to make a 1.7 All-University average last semester. Any athlete who fails to make a 1.7 average for the semester is ineligible to receive athletic aid or to compete in varsity tests.

Wettstone had no comment to make on the matter except to verify Vega's leaving.

Vega was not competing in gymnastics this season because he wanted to save his last year of eligibility for his senior year. He was scheduled to graduate in June, 1959. He was, however, training at Recreation Hall for the World Championships to be held this summer at Moscow.

For Vega to be eligible for competition next season, he would have to attend summer sessions to overcome his last semester's probationary average. Wettstone did not know whether or not Vega planned to do this.

Last season, Vega captured both the Eastern and National Gymnastic All-Round titles in post-season competition.



Armando Vega . . . leaves school

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