

Cagers Just Miss Upset, 74-71

W.Va. Rally Overcomes Lion Lead

By VINCE CAROCCI
Sports Editor

The Mountaineers were a shaky group when they left Recreation Hall Saturday night. And rightly so — they barely escaped the Penn State confines with their 20th win in 21 contests.

The Penn State basketball team barely missed crashing the national collegiate cage headlines by dropping a scant three-point decision to West Virginia, 74-71.

West Virginia, the number two collegiate team in the country, was extended to the final buzzer before walking off the court the victor—a shaky victor, to be sure.

The loss was a bitter pill for Coach John Egli and his club to swallow. For more than one-half of the contest, the Lions had its capacity-packed, partisan audience smelling roses—the sweet roses of an upset.

Completely out-defending the mighty Mounties, the Lions drove to a surprisingly easy 33-23 half-time advantage. Even in the second period, the Lions stayed in the lead until the 11:40 mark. During this time even West Virginians themselves were beginning to admit that the situation looked bleak.

But the Mountaineers, proving themselves to be every bit the basketball team they were reputed to be, were just too sharp to be stopped. Hitting on 16 of 27 shots in the second half, West Virginia went ahead for the first time in the ballgame at the 11:40 mark, 44-42, on two fouls by sophomore Jerry West.

For the next seven minutes, the score bounced around like a crazy volleyball. Ted Kubista sent the Lions to the lead once again, 45-44, with three foul shots. But, Bob Smith hit on a jump from the corner and Bob Clousson converted twice from the foul line to give the Mounties a 48-45 advantage.

Steve Baidy scored on a jump for the Lions and Smith hit from the corner again for the Mountaineers to make the score, 50-47.

Lion sophomore Wally Colender then hit on two consecutive jump shots—the second attempt was good when Smith was called for goal-tending—and Ron Rainey tallied a goal to give the Nittanians a 53-50 lead.

West, who proved his All-America potential by scoring 21 points in the last half, then scored two consecutive baskets on a drive and a tap for a 54-53 Mountie margin.

Kubista tied it up on a foul and Baidy gave the home forces their last lead on a basket with 6:40 left. West and Hancock traded



—Daily Collegian photo by Joe Patton
OVER THEIR HEADS . . . goes the ball, but West Virginia's Jerry West (44) displays some of the extra fine defensive work that marked the action Saturday night in Recreation Hall. The Lion's Wally Colender (10) is doing the shooting with Steve Baidy (15) and Paul Sweetland (22) looking on.

Sixth Victory By Nittany 25 Paces IM Cage

Nittany 25 continued its unbeaten ways Friday night in intramural basketball at Recreation Hall as they defeated the Nimble Mountians, 21-19. The win was the victors' sixth compared to no victories for the losers.

In another close game, the Shieks edged the Yellow Jackets, 18-17, for its fourth win.

Kappa Delta Rho defeated Sigma Pi, 39-23; Sigma Phi Epsilon beat Sigma Nu, 29-15; and Phi Kappa Psi won over Triangle, 33-21 in Greek loop games.

In other indie action, the Celtics beat Dorm 21, 27-17; Nittany 44 defeated Nittany 22, 35-23; Nittany 23 won over Nittany 24, 24-18; and the Fierce Frosh won over Lucky 13, 2-0 by forfeit.

Three men were tied for first place in the individual scoring race. Ralph Shaffer, Kappa Delta Rho, George Huffman, the Celtics, and Gerald Becker, Nittany 22, each scored 14 points.

PENN STATE				W. VIRGINIA			
Player	FG	F	TP	Player	FG	F	TP
Rainey	7	6	20	Smith	6	2	14
Baidy	4	1	9	West	6	8	24
Edwards	6	0	12	Sharrar	1	5	7
Colender	8	0	16	Gardner	3	2	3
Sweetland	1	0	2	Vincent	6	0	12
Hancock	3	1	7	Repton	0	2	2
Kubista	0	5	5	Akers	1	1	3
				Clousson	1	2	4
Totals	29	13	71	Totals	26	22	74
Halftime:							
Penn State 53; West Virginia 53							



A Glance at . . .

SPORTS

By VINCE CAROCCI
Sports Editor

PITTSBURGH DROPS THE BALL AGAIN:

Well, the University of Pittsburgh did it again. It added another black mark to its already shady athletic record last week when it announced—rather embarrassingly, we venture to say—that it had an ineligible basketball player on its roster in 11 of its 13 winning games.

The player: guard Don Woznicki. The violation: an Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference rule that states all players must complete their eligibility within five years after enrolling in school. Woznicki is now in his sixth year of schooling.

This announcement brings two questions to our mind:

1. What kind of athletic department are they running at Pittsburgh?

2. Should the Panthers now receive a tournament bid?

To the first question, we can only answer: very negligent. We can't imagine either Athletic Director Tom Hamilton or Pitt cage coach Bob Timmons not knowing about Woznicki's eligibility status. Isn't that part of their jobs?

The mistake may very well have been an honest mistake. We don't know. But, it is a mistake that should never have happened. The only reason we can see for it is pure negligence on Hamilton's or Timmons'—or both, for that matter—part.

It's absurd to think that a school with Pitt's aspirations wouldn't know whether or not all of its players were eligible. Evidently, though, they didn't. If this occurred at Penn State—or most any other school, for that matter—we feel certain somebody would be out of a job.

As for a Panther post-season bid to either the NCAA or NIT tourneys, we can only relate our opinion: NO! True, Woznicki was only a reserve and didn't figure in any of the Panther wins.

But the very fact that he was on the team is enough for us to feel that some sort of penalty must be rendered. And, the best penalty possible for such an unexplainable error is to keep Pitt out of a tournament.

Dayton, Bonnies Accept NIT Bids

NEW YORK, Feb. 17 (AP) — The National Invitation Tournament today grabbed off two leading "independent" college basketball teams after losing one prospect to the National Collegiate championships.

Dayton (20-2) and St. Bonaventure accepted the invitations to play in the NIT at Madison Square Garden March 12-22.

Last Saturday, Oklahoma State, a team in which the NIT sponsors were very much interested, accepted an "at large" spot.



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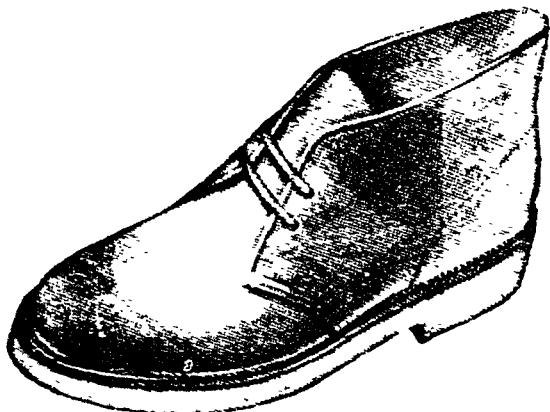
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