



Gymnasts Win, 58-38; Pitt Edges Cagers, 61-59

Matmen Upset Pitt, 14-11

Mullen, Foht Clinch Win For Lions

By MATT MATHEWS
"Thank God for the rope climbers," sighed a tense crowd witnessing what could have been one of the biggest upsets in Lion gymnastics annals yesterday afternoon. With the Panthers only two slim points behind at the intermission mark, 25-23, and the Lion athletes breaking in nearly every routine, the crowd had plenty of reason to expect an upset.

But the rope climbers headed by the speedy new bridegroom, Phil Mullen, came through as expected for the Lions and "climbed" the 28-foot climb, 13-2. That put Coach Gene Wetstone's charges in a comfortable 38-26 lead, but still not completely out of reach of the determined Panthers.

Captain Bob Foht applied the clincher in the next event—the parallel bars. "The pressure was really on Foht with the way your boys were breaking," commented Pitt coach Warren Neiger. "And I had heard that he has broken under pressure before. But he didn't," Neiger sighed.

It was close, but the experienced senior came through in the clutch. Pitt's Don Shima had preceded him with a very smooth routine on the bars and picked up a 255 score. Foht, although rushing through his double cross-over handstand slightly off-balance, picked up a winning 259—four points above runnerup Shima.

The off-form Gold-dust Twins picked up third and fourth on the p-bars. Werner had a disappointing 230 in which he broke on his opening move and set his whole day off on the wrong foot. He had to force himself into the difficult handstand that followed up to his under the bar lead. He did it, but looked very bad.

On the other hand, sophomore teammate Lee Cunningham completed a simple routine for a 228, good enough to place him high in the all-around competition of the Easterns this weekend. It was Cunningham's first work out on

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CAPTAIN BOB FOHT
... in the clutch



RAY POTTIOS
... Leads Mat Upset

Pottios Wins Last Match By 4-2 Score

By LOU PRATO
You can stop crucifying Lion heavyweight Ray Pottios for his lack of desire. The oft-jeered Nittany grappler silenced all his critics last night with a 4-2 decision over Pitt's Tony Vucolo that gave Penn State its second straight upset victory over the highly-rated Panthers, 14-11.

Maybe Pottios wasn't the only hero of the evening, but the 26-year-old matman sure came through in the clutch. He literally stole the hearts of the 5000 partisans who had gone to Recreation Hall expecting to see another Penn State loss to a heavily-favored Steel City aggregation.

It was quite a surprising night to most of the Nittany supporters; perhaps even shocking for they had never expected a close score let alone a Penn State victory. But Pottios and company proved otherwise.

The victory was almost identical to the one the Lions gained over the Panthers last season at the Pitt Field House. There again, an underdog Penn State mat team sent a powerful Pitt team down to defeat by a 14-11 count.

The score was tied at 11-all when Pottios reached for what was to result in his supreme performance. Most fans felt like heading for the exits but hardly anyone made a move. The consensus was that the best Pottios could do would be draw—and some felt even that was almost out of the question.

Pottios gave a brief sign of life in the first period when he reached Vucolo for a takedown. But the Pitt matman quickly reversed Pottios and then began a stretch of riding time which carried halfway into the second stanza. Pottios escaped then, but the real action was to come in the final period. It was here that Pottios looked like a heavyweight of the Penn State tradition.

He completely overwhelmed Vucolo, riding the Pitt man out—holding him on the mat and countering every possible escape move. It was a fitting tribute when Pottios' teammates lifted him on their shoulders following the final buzzer.

But even the modest Pottios will admit that he wasn't fully responsible for the victory. Credit is due to the other Lion winners—Captain Johnny Johnston, Dan Johnston, and Sam Minor—and also to sophomore Guy Guccione, who pulled off the biggest individual surprise of the evening by tying Pitt's experienced national contender Vic DeFelice, 2-2. And you can't forget Gordon Danks, Dan Gray and George Gray—who, even in defeat, helped make the win possible.

Although the Pottios-Vucolo encounter was the decisive match of the night, Dan Johnston's 7-4 win over Sherm Moyer was perhaps the most crucial. A win by Moyer would have undoubtedly demoralized the Speidel outfit and eventually, the Pottios victory—if there had been one—would have been rather meaningless.

But Johnston, who has been the most surprising wrestler this season to most observers (but not to his teammates), came through

Pitt Comes From Behind On Hookshot At Buzzer

By VINCE CAROCCI
Sports Editor

PITTSBURGH, March 1 — A hook shot by Dave Sawyer at the buzzer sent the Pitt Panthers to a narrow 61-59 victory over a die-hard Penn State five last night here at the Pitt Field House before a crowd of 3528 fans.

Sawyer's shot gave the Panthers the lead for the first time in the ball game and never did they need a lead so badly. The buzzer went off before the Lions could get the ball back in play.

And so, the Panthers enter the second consecutive NCAA Tour-

ney with their best record in 23 years—18-6—to match the 1934-35 Pitt mark.

If nothing else, the game proved one thing: as goes Don Hennon, so go the Panthers. Holding the dead-eye wizard to only eight points in the first half, the Lions held as much as a 15-point lead twice in the period.

But in the second half, Hennon came back—his shooting eye better than ever—to score 16 points to break Bob Lazor's year-old record for total points in a career (1175) by one point.

Down 40-31 at the end of the half, the Panthers bounced back like wounded beasts of the jungle to cut the Lion lead to one-point,



Ron Rainey
... leading scorer with 18

56-55, at the 6:48 mark.

And there—or near abouts—is where the lead stayed the rest of the way. But the story of the game was told in the final minutes.

Having three or four opportunities to tie the score, the pesky Sawyer finally did the job with a rebound of a Hennon shot, 59-59, with 2:22 remaining.

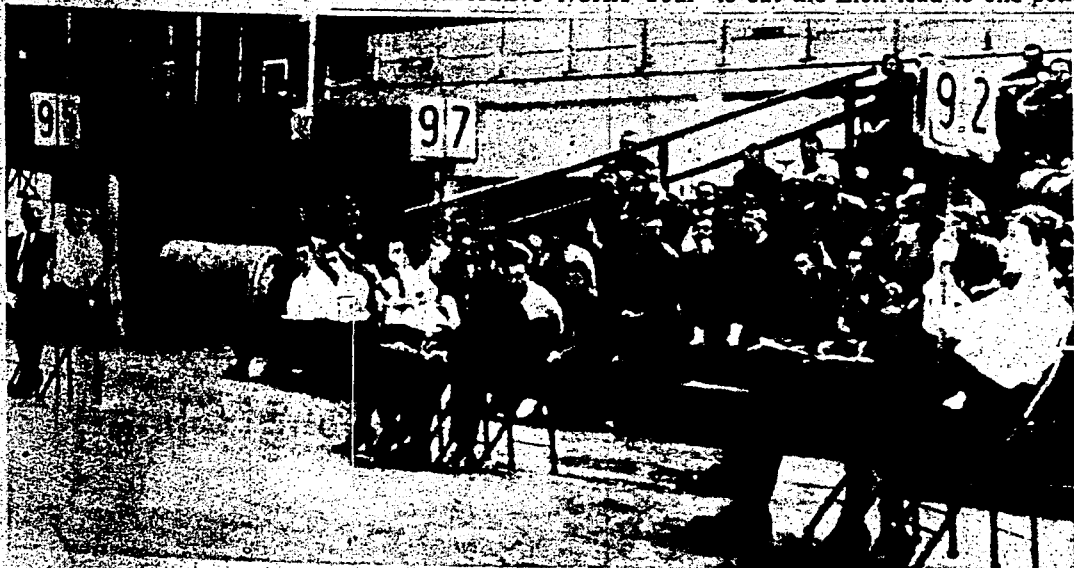
After the Lions missed, the Panthers controlled the ball, and following Coach Bob Timmons' strategy, went into a freeze for the last shot.

Substitute guard Lloyd Simpson took the shot with approxi-

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Phil Mullen



Daily Collegian photo by Bob Thompson

THE FINAL SCORE of the gym meet pictured above belongs to flying ring champ, Tom Darling of Pitt.