

The Sportsman



State Basketball Almost Lost Art

By Lou Prato
Sports Editor

Basketball at Penn State is practically a lost art. This statement may astound many of the readers of this column, but nevertheless, it's true.

According to Webster, the word "lost" may mean "offered without making an impression; . . . ruined or destroyed physically; . . . wasted; . . . squandered." That's exactly how we feel about basketball on campus.

Judging from the performance of Nittany cage teams in our four years here, it's hard to believe that Penn State's basketball quintets have been winning 70½ per cent of their games since their inception in 1897. But facts are facts. The all-time record shows 601 wins, 352 losses and one tie.

However, the quality of basketball that we have seen in the last four years seems to have no more finesse and smoothness than a donkey basketball game. Take last Saturday night's tilt with Rutgers for example. Sure, we won (75-56), but that score is not indicative of the type of play that the fan had to endure. It was a sloppy, hap-hazard, wild, clumsy and disgraceful exhibition. There were mistakes galore—i.e. bad passes, missed lay up shots, wild-throwing long set shots, dropped passes, double dribbling, steps, and above all an infinite number of mental errors.

And it's been that way for the last four years, except on a few sporadic occasions when the Lions have played above and beyond their own potential. This has been especially true when the Lions meet West Virginia.

But on the whole, Penn State basketball is not worth the floor it plays on.

It hasn't always been that way, as the records indicate. In fact, Penn State has sent four teams to the NCAA tournaments, including the 1954 squad, which finished third.

The last big year for Penn State basketball was 1955. That year, rookie coach John Egli tutored the Lions into the NCAA regionals with an 18-10 record. (Two of those defeats were in post-season competition.) But since 1955, the Lions cage teams have floundered badly. The record was 12-14 in 1956, 15-10 in 1957, 8-11 last winter and 8-6 thus far this season with several "tough" games left to play.

We have to admit that this year's team is drawing more fan support than the three previous aggregations that we have seen. But there is only one reason—Mark "The Magician" DuMars. The "little man" from Sharon is by far the best player we have seen in a Penn State uniform. And only a serious misfortune can keep him from becoming one of the best cagers in Penn State history—and maybe an All-American.

Where can we put blame for basketball's sad state on campus? Maybe it's in John Egli's coaching? Some people think so. These castigators claim he hasn't got the most out of his men. Or maybe it's the quality of players that come to State? We're not knocking the current crop of Lions for their devotion, time and energy spent out on the court. But let's face it, how many of them have the potential or have reached the potential of playing for a basketball power such as Kentucky, North Carolina State, West Virginia, etc.

And a University of our size—11th in enrollment in the nation—should be up among the country's best in sports.

What must we need then, is either more scholarships or a new coach—maybe both. Most of the players on this year's team have only partial scholarships, i.e. tuition and/or room and board. DuMars has both. Wally Collender pays his own out-of-state tuition. Tom Hancock pays half of his own room and board. Ted Kubista pays all of his room and board.

In fact, no player out of the 12 from the varsity and freshman clubs who receive aid has a "free ride" under NCAA rules. That is, fees, room and board, and \$15 a month for laundry.

And if it weren't for the fraternity aid on housing, the scholarship program would be practically nil. The fraternities pay part of the athletes' room and board—the University pays the other half.

We have no idea what will be done in the future to get basketball back on its feet. But if something doesn't happen quick, Penn State basketball will lose its fans as well as its art.

Phi Kappa's Yuska Leads Bowling Win

In Fraternity League A Tuesday night, Phi Kappa won its twelfth straight point in defeating Pi Kappa Phi. Joe Yuska had high series for the night with a 505.

In other action, Phi Delta Theta beat Theta Chi, 3-1; Theta Kappa Phi took Alpha Rho Chi, 3-1; Phi Kappa Psi beat Phi Epsilon Pi 3-1; Alpha Epsilon Pi took Delta Tau Delta, 3-1 and Sigma Alpha Epsilon beat Phi Mu Delta, 4-0.

In Independent League A action Monday night, the McKee Aces, led by Jim Rhodes, swamped the Harts, 4-0. Rhodes bowled a 208 game to take the honors for the night.

In other league action, the Poncos beat the Terrors, 3-1; Glenn Road trounced the Watts Warriors, 4-0; Thompson won over the Holy Rollers, 3-1; the Splinters took the Zeros, 4-0; and the All-Stars beat the Sparks, 3-1.

DU, PhiKPsi Triumph In IM Swimming Meets

Despite the loss of Adie Stevens and Ogie Norris through graduation, Delta Upsilon started off strongly in its bid for a second consecutive intramural swimming championship yesterday by trouncing Alpha Phi Delta, 37-2, at Glennland Pool.

Delta Upsilon swept the 60-yard backstroke behind Ralph Kemmerer and Tom Edwards in 42.0 time. Delta Upsilon also swept the 60-yard breaststroke, paced by Ray Hoopes and Kemmerer.

The quartet of Tom Edwards, Grover Albright, Hoopes, and Rick Hammond took the 120-yard relay in the time of 1:04.6.

Alpha Phi Delta could only muster points in the 60-yard free style and in diving, placing third in both cases. Dave Dulaney and Mike Robbins combined for eight Delta Upsilon points in the 60-yard free style in 37.5 time; Rich Cenedella scored one of Alpha Phi Delta's points in this event. Jim Fenstermacher and Dulaney finished first and second, respectively, in diving; Larry Seiders scored Alpha Phi Delta's other point by taking third in diving.

Phi Kappa Psi, swimming for the second time in intramural competition, defeated a game Pi Kappa Phi team, 25-16. The only sweep of the contest went to Pi Kappa Phi in the 120-yard relay, as the combination of Ted Schuler, Jim Allen, and Harvey Baine proved too much for Jack Barbier, Bill Russ and Tom Pauley. The only other match to go to Pi Kappa Phi was the 60-yard backstroke, as Jim Allen placed first in the time of 46.5.

Phi Kappa Psi took the 60-yard style event behind Bob MacDonnell and Tom Pauley in 36.7 time.



—Daily Collegian Photo by Marty Scherr
EXECUTING THE PIKE in a double sommy, James Fenstermacher copped the diving part of the intramural swim meet last night at Glennland swimming pool.

Bob Passmore finished first in the 60-yard breaststroke, with a time of 47.5. Tim Booker and Passmore finished one-two for Phi Kappa Psi in diving.

Alpha Sigma Phi defeated Phi Sigma Delta in the final event 27-10. Alpha Sig recorded two sweeps in the contest, winning the 60-yard breaststroke behind Jim McMillan in 47.5 time. The 120-yard relay also

went to Alpha Sig, in the time of 1:08.6, as Al Caffrey, Steve Smack, John Grosch, and Jack Buckley led the way.

Alpha Sig also took the 60-yard free style behind Buckley and Caffrey at 35.6. They also took the 60-yard breaststroke, won by Gleason Cliff and Smack, in 47.5 time. Diving went to Lou Silverheart and Gerry Abrams of Phi Sig.

Kunkel, Githens Feature Opening Play in Handball

Eleven matches marked the beginning of the fraternity handball tournament Tuesday night.

Charles Kunkel, Lambda Chi Alpha, turned in the best score of the first flight with 21-0, 21-6 over Charles Plankenhorn of Beaver House. Jim Hockenbrock of Theta Delta Chi won over John Morton of Chi Phi; Earl Kolhaas of Delta Tau Delta beat Dan Maddigan of Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Tom Harmon of Phi Gamma Delta took a forfeit from Jim Hepler of Delta Chi to complete flight one action.

The second flight featured the closest match of the night as Kappa Sigma's Sam Githens edged Bob Lackey of Phi Lambda Phi, 9-21, 21-19, 21-13. In three other matches of flight two, Bob

Sternor, Delta Sigma Phi, won over Larry Dodds of Alpha Chi Rho. Steve Nitzberg of Sigma Alpha Mu beat Ed Scherlis of Zeta Beta Tau, and Beta Theta Pi's Everett Barber trimmed Bruce Weintraub of Beta Sigma Rho.

Flight three saw only two matches in action. In the first match, Dennis Uhrin of Phi Kappa defeated Glenn Zepp of Alpha Zeta, 21-8, 21-10. Joe Synkonis of Alpha Chi Sigma took the second match by beating Henry Oppermann of Phi Kappa Sigma in another close match, 21-18, 21-17.

Individual flight winners will be determined on March 16. Championship matches will begin the next day and continue until March 19.

An Important Reminder
Les and Larry Elgart
are featured at the
IFC-PANHEL BALL
Friday, March 13
Rec Hall 9 to 1
semi-formal
\$5.00 per couple

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