

'Silent John' Regains Spot on Starting Five

By SANDY PADWE

Silent John Phillips can stop worrying now—at least for a while.

The balding junior, who waited patiently for the opportunity to earn a starting berth on the Penn State basketball team, is firmly entrenched at the top thanks to a 17-point splurge against Bucknell Tuesday.



JOHN PHILLIPS

... back on top

The strong, silent type, Phillips suffered alone during the first half of the campaign, wondering if he ever would get the chance to regain the starting berth he held for nine games last year.

Then Tuesday Lion coach John Egli decided to start him and Phillips came through with the top performance of his collegiate career.

He connected on 8 of 13 field goal attempts and converted an important free throw near the end of the game as the Lions (8-7) won, 65-63.

In addition to his excellent offensive performance, Phillips pulled down nine rebounds.

"John gave it all he had and did an outstanding job," Egli said. "He was aggressive and helped take charge when Mark (DuMars) hurt his ankle."

Phillips, who hasn't uttered 200 words all year, shrugged his shoulders and flashed a big smile when asked about his sudden good fortune.

"I knew I had a good opportunity when I found out I was going to start," he said. "I guess I just wanted to make the best of it."

A year ago, Phillips had visions of an outstanding collegiate career after he finished the campaign as State's top shooter.

But things didn't break right for him during early season practices last fall and he came down with a cold that slowed him up just before the opener.

"I just wasn't putting out then," he admitted. "It was my own fault."

Meanwhile sophomore Earl Hoffman had been looking good and Egli decided to go with him in the early season games. Hoffman got progressively better and Phillips found himself in the role of "sixth man."

"I didn't mind sitting on the

Houston Accepts NCAA Cage Bid

NEW YORK (AP)—The University of Houston yesterday accepted an invitation to compete as an at large representative in the Midwest regionals of the NCAA basketball championships.

Roy (Spec) Keene, Oregon State Athletic director and chairman of the Western Selection Committee, announced the choice through the NCAA Service Bureau. The site and exact dates — March 13, 14 or 15 — of the regionals will be announced later.

Houston is the fourth team to be selected for NCAA play. The others are St. Bonaventure, St. John's, in the East, and Louisville, in the Midwest.

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Braves' Pilot Thinks Club Is Improved

(Another in a series of major league team prospects written under the managers' own by-lines)

Milwaukee Braves
By CHUCK DRESSEN
LOS ANGELES (AP)—I don't think it's any secret that I was disappointed with the Braves' overall showing last season. But considering some of our weak spots I guess we didn't do too badly in finishing second.

I'm sure we went a long way in ironing out those weak points during the winter and I'm confident we'll have a stronger club this season.

Our major addition was Frank Bolling, the second baseman who did a capable job for Detroit for several years. Second base was the position where we needed help the most and with Bolling around there no longer are any worries.

Another fellow I'm happy to see join our club is Roy McMillan. With Cincinnati, he showed he was one of the best fielding shortstops in the game. Johnny Logan, who has been the Milwaukee shortstop for quite a while, had one of his poorest years in 1960.

Still, I'm not counting him out and if he can beat McMillan out all well and good. Johnny is the better hitter of the two.

The rest of the infield is set with Joe Adcock at first base and Eddie Mathews at third. Whether McMillan or Logan wins the regular job, there's little doubt in my mind that we'll have the best defensive infield in the National League. And it shapes up as a pretty good hitting infield too.

With Billy Bruton moving to Detroit in the Bolling deal, it leaves a vacancy in center field. But my present plans call for Hank Aaron to shift there from right field. I'm also looking for Hank to lift his batting average back to the .330 or .340 mark.

Wes Covington is set in left field if he can show us he's recovered from the leg injuries that slowed him down the past two seasons. Lee Maye and Al Spangler will fight it out for the regular right field job.

Varsity 'S' Club

The Varsity "S" club will hold a meeting at 10 p.m. Sunday at Alpha Gamma Rho.

Tough Opener

Eastern champion Navy will provide the opposition in Penn State's 1961 football opener. The game will be played in Penn State's 44,000-capacity Beaver Stadium.

bench when we were winning," the former Washington, Pa., high star said, "but when we were losing those close ones you wonder if you could have helped in some way."

"Now all I'm worried about is staying in there the rest of the way," Phillips said.

Egli had the answer to that one: "It's hard to get him out of there if he plays like that all the time."

Mark DuMars, who suffered a sprained ankle Tuesday, took a light workout last night. The Lion medical corps says the injury didn't improve much overnight.

Basketball Scores

NBA

Syracuse 130 Boston 108
Detroit 125 Philadelphia 123

College

New Hampshire 91 Connecticut 84
South Carolina 89 North Carolina 82
Pitt 87 Carnegie Tech 85
Army 67 Rider 55
LaSalle 67 Gettysburg 62
Bowdoin 69 Maine 62
Vermont 79 St. Michael's 65
Air Force 90 W. Colorado State 71
W.V. 88 Allegheny 44
Waynesburg 91 California (Pa.) 63
Navy 69 William and Mary 67
Evansville 92 Butler 74

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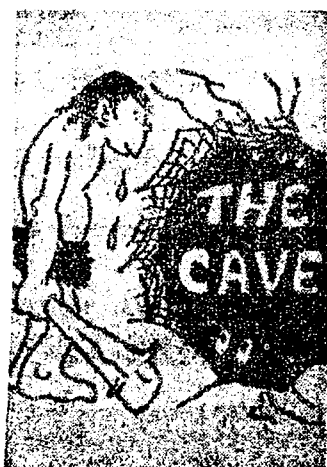
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ACROSS FROM THE GLENNLAND ON PUGH ST.

Wettstone Predicts Stardom for Sophs

By JOHN MORRIS

Penn State gym coach Gene Wettstone, with an 87-29 lifetime record, knows talent when he sees it and the veteran mentor has a special gleam in his eye when he talks about the sophomores on this year's squad.

State, 2-1 for the season, is having an off year by Wettstone's standards.

But the Lions have eight sophomores on their 18-man roster and Wettstone predicts a quick rise to stardom for his young phenoms.

"We have a basically young team," Wettstone said, "but they are developing fast and are becoming a well-knit unit."

"Of course a young team looks to the good all-around men for leadership," the lanky coach continued.

The Lions have two good all-around men on the squad this year.

One is junior Greg Weiss, the high scorer for the Lions. The other is sophomore Tommy Seward.

Seward has been looking good in practice all week, after being limited to two third places in last week's 58½-37½ loss to Navy.

"He has been hitting real well," Wettstone said. "If he hits that way this Saturday, it might make the difference."

Seward will compete on the horizontal bar, the parallel bars and in tumbling against Army Saturday.

Seward is just one of five sophomores who might hold the key to State's fortunes for the remainder of the season.

Tom Page, George Williams, George Sayre and Gene Harlacher have held down starting

spots on the team all year.

Page is one of the few gymnasts on the team who didn't compete until he came to Penn State.

Wettstone spotted him in a physical education class and this is his first year of competition.

Williams won his rope-climbing position early in practice and is a consistent performer for the Lions.

Right now Williams holds down the second spot, behind team captain Bob Mumau.

Sayre, the Lions' second man on the side horse, is one of the strongest men on the team. Wettstone feels that he just needs more experience to be an outstanding performer.

Harlacher, the other soph in Wettstone's starting lineup, is a very good performer in free calisthenics, but competes on the side horse for the Lions in dual meets.

The other three sophomores on the squad are Larry Wolfe, Lee Saylor and Ray Cherry.

Saylor is a rope climber, while Wolfe and Cherry compete on the high bar and side horse.

"These boys are all coming along," Wettstone said, "and they will be great when they're seniors."

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