

Mounties Edge Cagers, 71-68

Late Lion Comeback Falls 3 Points Short

By SANDY PADWE

West Virginia found the going rough without Rod Thorn last night but the ninth-ranked Mounties had just enough to squeeze past Penn State, 71-68.

Without their leading scorer who was sidelined with an ankle injury, West Virginia had to survive a last ditch rally by the Lions for their 21st win against three losses.

Last night's Rec Hall thriller was a typical West Virginia-Penn State game and the outcome was in doubt right to the end.

"Rebounding made the difference," a disappointed John Egli said after the game.

"We really fought hard, but they were just too big for us," he said, pointing to a statistics sheet which showed West Virginia in front in rebounding, 52-31.

Even with their height advantage, the Mounties really didn't get rolling until the latter part of the second half.

With 7:40 left Paul Miller, the game's top scorer with 23 points, gave West Virginia a 56-55 lead.

From there, the Mounties reeled off five more quick points for a 61-55 edge.

They eventually built their lead to 11, 69-58, with three minutes left and then Penn State made its bid.

The Lions scored six straight points and with 1:30 remaining West Virginia found its lead cut to five, 69-64.

Then Jim Ritchie broke through Penn State's zone press for a two-pointer but Earl Hoffman and Mark DuMars countered for State to make it 71-68 with 30 seconds to go.

After DuMars' shot, the

Mounties gained possession and managed to hold the ball for the remaining time.

Sophomore John Mitchell, who had one of the best nights of his young career, was State's top scorer with 22 points.

He thrilled the crowd of 4000 with his ball-hawking and fast breaks and he repeatedly kept the Lions in the game when West Virginia appeared to be pulling away.

Gene Harris had 13 for State, Hoffman had 12 and DuMars 10.

Ritchie was runner-up to Miller for West Virginia with 16 points and Jim McCormick had 13.

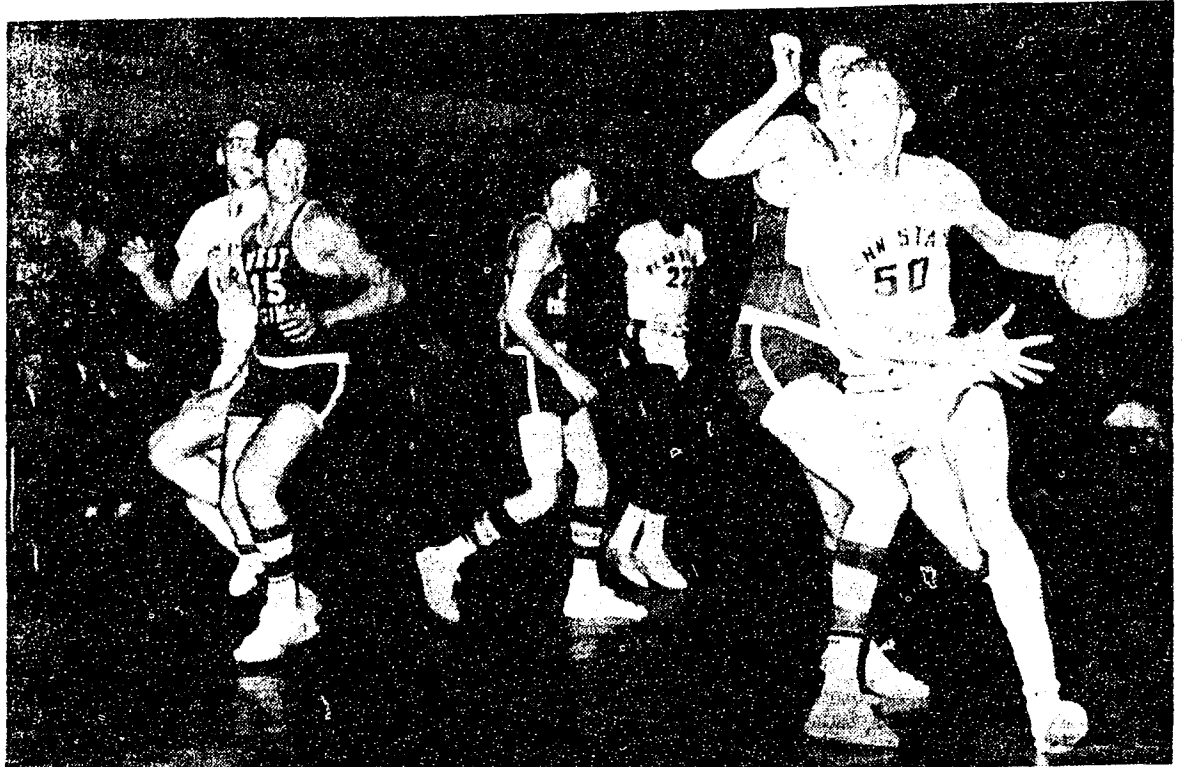
Last night's loss was the second heartbreaker the Lions dropped to West Virginia within a week.

At Morgantown Feb. 14, the Mounties won 80-78 on a last second jump shot.

State now has a 9-11 mark with four games remaining. The Lions will be at Pitt Saturday and return home to face tournament-hopeful Temple next Tuesday.

PENN STATE (68)		W. VIRGINIA (71)	
FG	F TP	FG	F TP
Hoffman	6 0-0 12	McCormick	6 1-2 13
Harris	5 3-5 13	Patrone	2 3-3 7
Mitchell	4 4-5 23	Ward	3 1-1 7
Phillips	2 2-4 6	Miller	8 7-8 23
Trueblood	2 1-3 5	Ritchie	8 0-2 16
DuMars	4 2-4 10	Posch	0 0-0 0
		Visnie	1 0-0 2
		DuBois	1 1-2 3

Totals 28 12-21 68 Totals 29 13-18 71
Halftime: Penn State 33 West Virginia 32



BASKET BOUND—Penn State's Jake Trueblood (50) drives past West Virginia's Joe Posch during Penn State-West Virginia game in Rec Hall last night. Trueblood scored, but it didn't help as West Virginia won, 71-68.

Frosh Cagers Down Ogontz

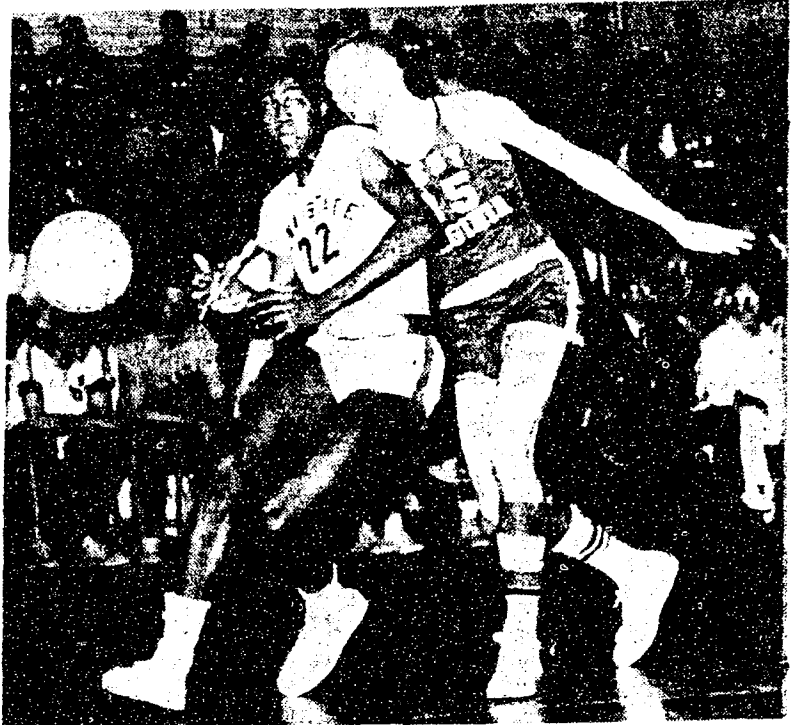
Penn State's freshman basketball team moved into position to finish the campaign with a .500 record by defeating the Ogontz Center, 68-49, in Rec Hall last night.

The win gave Wally Colender's cagers a 3-4 mark with one game—Altoona Center, next Tuesday—left on the schedule.

John Barie with 18 and Bob Donato with 16 were high for the Lions who have now beaten Ogontz twice this year.

PENN STATE (68)		OGONTZ (49)	
fg	f pts	fg	f pts
Kart	0 2-5 2	Pugliese	4 5-6 13
Donato	8 0-1 16	Benninger	2 2-3 6
Robbins	3 0-1 6	Preske	2 5-6 9
Barie	8 2-3 18	McKernan	3 1-3 7
Dunn	2 0-0 4	Sichestiel	3 6-7 12
Noe	1 0-1 2	Knorr	1 0-0 2
First	2 0-0 4		
Bohmuel'r	1 1-1 3		
Lionetti	2 0-0 4		
Greskovich	3 1-3 7		
Rubinski	1 0-0 2		
Moffitt	0 0-0 0		
Tompkins	0 0-0 0		

Totals 31 6-15 68 Totals 15 19-25 49



WEST VIRGINIA'S Jim Ritchie (35) slips in from behind to stop a Gene Harris (22) drive during last night's West Virginia-Penn State game in Rec Hall. The Mounties won, 71-68.

Buckeyes Need 3 Victories For Perfect Regular Season

By The Associated Press
The Ohio State Buckeyes are within three victories of a perfect regular season today while maintaining a firm grip on the top of the Associated Press basketball poll.

The Buckeyes posted victory No. 21 Monday night, defeating Indiana 73-69. This latest triumph came on the heels of Ohio State's come-from behind success against Iowa, 62-61, Saturday.

It was the Iowa game that kept the Buckeyes in first place in the poll for the 11th straight week.

Voting was based on games through Saturday and Ohio State for the 10th week in a row was a unanimous choice of the special panel of sports writers and broadcasters, getting 36 votes.

Unanimity was the order of the week as St. Bonaventure, with a 20-1 mark, grabbed all the votes for the runner-up spot. The Bonnies, beaten only by Ohio State, turned back Providence and DePaul last week.

There were no newcomers in the top 10, although there was a mild shakeup of position. Cincinnati moved up one place to third and Bradley advanced a notch to fourth.

The Bearcats whipped Wichita and Tulsa and the Peoria, Ill., Braves won over Notre Dame, Houston and North Texas.

Iowa climbed from ninth to fifth on the strength of its fine showing against Ohio State and a victory over Wisconsin. Duke fell three places to sixth. The Blue Devils lost to Wake Forest and Maryland.

North Carolina, Kansas State, West Virginia and Southern California round out the first 10. Kansas State slumped two places, as did Southern California. West Virginia, winner over Penn State and Pitt, moved up one position, while North Carolina stayed put.

Ohio State's remaining games are against Wisconsin Saturday, Michigan State March 4 and Illinois March 11.

The top ten, with won-lost records through Saturday and first place votes in parentheses:

1. Ohio State (36) (20-0)	360
2. St. Bonaventure (20-1)	324
3. Cincinnati (19-3)	254
4. Bradley (19-4)	191
5. Iowa (14-4)	153
6. Duke (18-4)	150
7. North Carolina (18-4)	144
8. Kansas State (16-4)	118
9. West Virginia (20-3)	104
10. Southern California (16-4)	72

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