

**Grandstand Views**



**WVa Deserves NCAA Spot**

By Sandy Padwa  
Collegian Sports Editor

It's hard to believe that West Virginia won't be in the NCAA basketball tournament this year.

The Mounties lost their chance Friday night in the Southern Conference Tourney semi-finals when William & Mary came through with an 88-76 upset win at Richmond, Va.

Then Saturday night George Washington turned around and upset William & Mary to earn the NCAA spot.

Saturday's win gave the Colonials a final record of 9-16 compared to 23-4 for West Virginia, which had won 13 straight before running into William & Mary.

Maybe the Colonials will surprise everyone and go all the way to the NCAA finals at Kansas City, March 24-25, but right now the experts figure they'll have trouble getting past Princeton in the opening round at New York next Tuesday.

The whole situation points out how ridiculous post-season conference tournaments are.

When one upset deprives the regular-season champion from going to a tournament, league officials should re-examine their present policies and do away with post-season play, even if it hurts the pocket book a little.

**An Athlete-Editor-Intellect Speaks**

The air can't be too rarified where Dale Peters pole vaults, so we wonder how he comes up with a statement that most athletes are "dunderheads."

Peters, who dabbles in athletics when he isn't occupied with Froth, considers himself an intellectual and apparently bemoans the fact that few of his fellow athletes can amuse him on road trips by discussing Sartre's Existentialism.

To set the facts straight about these "dunderheads," let's take a look at the fall averages of Penn State's athletic teams.

Football had a 2.43; basketball, 2.80; baseball, 2.72; cross country, 2.57; golf, 2.89; gym, 2.80; lacrosse, 2.41; soccer, 2.65; tennis, 2.41; wrestling, 2.53; and track, 2.30.

Peters, an LA student with a 2.30 all-university average, argues that most of the athletes — especially football players — are in physical education and "are being pushed through." That, in his opinion, is why the averages are so high.

Of the 119 letterwinners, 29 per cent were in physical education. The rest came from nearly every curriculum offered.

It's too bad that Peters can't get as "high up" as he is "way out" because if he could, Don Bragg wouldn't stand a chance.

**Phillips Had Highest Average**

John Phillips, who lettered in basketball and baseball, had the highest academic average of all Penn State athletes, a 3.89.

John Egli, Phillips' basketball coach, says the Lion junior missed a perfect average because of a "C" in swimming.

"When he told me that I couldn't understand it," Egli said. "I told him that I would have drowned myself if that happened to me. So you know what he says. 'Coach, I darn near did every time I got in the water.'"

**NIT Sets Dates For Openers**

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Invitation Tournament Committee yesterday seeded four teams for the annual basketball event opening March 16 at Madison Square Garden, and announced opening round games.

Dayton, Memphis State, Niagara and either Utah or Colorado State University were seeded and drew byes into the quarter-finals.

Utah and Colorado State University will meet Saturday at Provo, Utah, to play off for the Skyline Conference championship, with the loser entering the NIT as the twelfth team. The winner will go to the NCAA Tournament.

Earlier in the day the committee announced that St. Louis (18-8) will compete as the 11th team. St. Louis will meet Miami of Florida on opening night, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross plays Detroit at 9:15 p.m.

**Basketball Scores**

NBA  
Boston 124 Cincinnati 119  
College  
NAIA District 38  
Semi-Finals  
Mansfield 57 Alliance 49  
Westminster 68 Geneva 55

**Disappointed Swedish Coach Pays Rod Thorn Packs Bags**

Special to the Collegian  
Morgantown, W.Va., March 7

Rod Thorn, West Virginia's sophomore scoring star, left the University today amid rumors that he was depressed over his showing in the Southern Conference Basketball Tournament.

Sources close to Thorn said he plans to return to classes during the summer.

Thorn's father picked him up shortly after noon and they drove back to their home in Princeton, W.Va.

Friends reported that Thorn was depressed and unhappy about his showing during the latter part of the season.

If a 20-point per game man can have troubles, Thorn's must have started when he was bedded down with the flu Feb. 14. He missed a game that night against Penn State.

Despite his weakened state, he played against Pitt the following Saturday and twisted his ankle.

That forced him to miss another game with Penn State at University Park, Pa., Feb. 21.

He also sat out the final game of the season against George Washington.

Then in the Southern Conference Tournament at Richmond, Va., the Mounties got off to a good start, beating VMI, 89-71, with Thorn netting 15 points.

But last Friday, West Virginia and Thorn were the victims of a major upset when William & Mary posted an 88-76 victory.

Thorn was held scoreless as the Mounties lost a chance for their seventh straight conference crown.

Authoritative sources also reported that Thorn, a straight A high school student, was dissatisfied with his studies. He is in pre-med.

**IM Handball Entries**

All handball-doubles entries must be turned in at the IM office in Rec Hall by 4:30 p.m., March 14.

Sweden isn't standing still, it's starting preparations for the 1964 Olympics now.

Gustaf Laurell, Sweden's track coach, is currently touring the leading track schools in the United States hoping to gain an insight into U.S. track and field techniques.

He has been spending the week at Penn State and plans to go to New York with the Lions for the IC4A championships Saturday.

Laurell and Lion coach Chick Werner have renewed an old friendship that began when Werner took a State Department tour to Finland in 1955. Laurell acted as Werner's interpreter on the tour.

The Swedish coach will leave for Michigan after the IC4As, visiting three other Big Ten schools before heading to the west coast. He expects his tour to last until the end of June.

Laurell said that Sweden has much to learn if it wants to improve on its track and field showing in the 1960 Olympics. He said his country was particularly weak in the sprints, hurdles, shot put and discus.

He said Sweden's best event is the high jump with the javelin second. "We have one seven-foot jumper and two or three others that can reach 6-9," he said.

Laurell had some interesting views on the recent high-jump duel between Russia's Valeri Brumel and Boston University's John Thomas.

"Thomas still has much to learn," Laurell said, "but when he learns the fast approach he will go very, very high—higher than Brumel."

Brumel, who won all three of his recent battles with Thomas, runs very fast when he approaches the bar. Now Thomas has started to use the fast approach too.



Gustaf Laurell

**Lavagetto Sees Better Season**

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

**Minnesota Twins**

By **COOKIE LAVAGETTO**  
ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Most everyone was surprised when we finished fifth in Washington last season. I felt all along that we had a good, interesting team and I feel we're going to show fans in Minneapolis and St. Paul an even better one this season.

As for the individual positions, there will be very few changes. We'll probably have Harmon Killebrew at first base, Billy Gardner at second, Zorro Versalles at short and Reno Bertoia at third.

The outfield is pretty well set with Jim Lemon in left, Lenny Green in center and Bob Allison in right.

There should be no difficulty with catching. Earl Battey is one of the best in the business.

The pitching could stand improvement, although we have Pedro Ramos and Camilo Pascual, two of the top men in the league.

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