

Pifer, Johnston Triumph In NCAA Mat Tourney

Special to the Collegian
CORVALLIS, Ore., March 23
—Ron Pifer scored a pin and Dan Johnston won by a decision in the opening round of the NCAA wrestling tournament here this afternoon.

Pifer wasted little time in pinning Lynne Mathews of Oregon in 2:01 in the 147-pound division.

Johnston outpointed Frank Addleman of Long Beach State, 4-1, in a 137-pound battle.

(At press time no results were available on Johnston Oberly's match in the heavyweight division.)

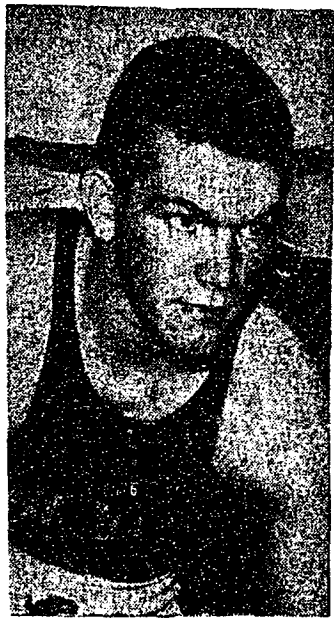
In other early round action, Pitt's John Zolikoff decided Walter Parker of Cornell (Iowa), 5-2.

Larry Lauchle, another Pitt entrant and two-time runner-up in the nationals, scored an opening round victory over Utah's Bob Hubbard, 9-2. Panther Jim Harrison was defeated by Harold Thompson of Nebraska in a 157-pound match.

Doug Baillie, Lehigh's 130-pounder, edged Al Johnston of Minnesota, 4-3.

Another Lehigh grappler, Kirk Pendleton, scored an 8-2 decision over Western Colorado State's Gene Bower at 157.

Coach Gerry Leeman's Engineers have entered a nine-man team in the tourney and represent the East's top threat for the team title. Pitt has five entries and Penn State and Lock Haven State have three each. Two Big 8 teams, Oklahoma and



DAN JOHNSTON

Oklahoma State, are the pre-meet favorites.

Oklahoma State has won the team title 21 times in the meet's 30-year history.

Last year they dropped to fifth and Oklahoma took over as the reigning champion. But State beat the Sooners for the Big 8 crown this year, and must be considered the team to beat.

Competition will continue tonight on the five mats at Oregon State's 11,500 capacity Gill Coliseum. The quarterfinals are scheduled for tomorrow with the semifinals and finals on tap for Saturday.

St. Louis, Friars Post NIT Wins

NEW YORK (AP) — St. Louis University smothered Dayton with a superb defense last night and gained a 67-60 victory in the first semifinal of the National Invitation Basketball Tournament.

Providence beat Holy Cross, 90-83, in overtime in the second game before a near capacity crowd of 18,000 in Madison Square Garden. The Friars now meet St. Louis in tomorrow's final.

St. Louis, a low-scoring team which specializes in defense, led from start to finish and piled up its highest total in three games of the tournament. Dayton, the last surviving seeded team, could not work its way in close for sure shots and could not hit on its few efforts from outside.

St. Louis jumped to an eight-point lead in the first few minutes, survived a brief Dayton rally and went on to lead 35-23 at half time.

Tom Hatton was the high scorer for Dayton with 16 points and teammate Pat Allen had 14. For St. Louis, Glen Mankowski was the leader with 15. Gordon Hartweger had 14.

Johnston Resigns As Warrior Coach

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Neil Johnston resigned yesterday as coach of the Philadelphia Warriors in the National Basketball Association. He said it was best for all concerned, but he didn't say why.

Johnston submitted his resignation to Eddie Gottlieb, owner of the team, at a brief meeting with Gottlieb.

Gottlieb said he did not try to dissuade Johnston, who has coached the Warriors to two second-place finishes in the NBA.

"I simply accepted his resignation," Gottlieb said.

Johnston ended an outstanding playing career as center for the Warriors to become coach of the team two years ago. Last season the Warriors were eliminated by Boston in the Eastern Division playoffs. Last week Syracuse defeated Philadelphia 3-0 in a best-of-five series to determine which of the teams would meet Boston for the Eastern division title.

Johnston steadfastly refused to elaborate. He said he did not want to put any blame on anyone, adding that the decision was entirely his own.

Repeat Champ

Penn State's Greg Weiss won the Eastern Intercollegiate all-around gymnastics championship the past two years. He is a junior.

Bedenk Must Plug Big Gaps in Infield

By JOHN MORRIS
(This is the first in a series on the Penn State baseball team. Tomorrow, the outfield.)

Joe Bedenk has to come up with an infield in less than two weeks and the veteran coach hardly knows where to start.

The Lions lost three-fourths of last year's starting quartet and Bedenk is faced with the task of filling the holes.

Captain Dick Landis, leading hitter Larry Fegley and first baseman Bill Benton and Larry Beighey all graduated, leaving only shortstop Bob Hrobak.

"We're starting all over," Bedenk said yesterday, "and with this snow it's hard to tell how things will work out."

"We have Hrobak at short. He played pretty much last year but doesn't hit too well," Bedenk said.

Hrobak hit .131 last season as the Nittanies' regular shortstop.

Junior Bill Burkhardt, who is getting a close look from Bedenk, has been pressing Hrobak for a starting position this spring. The rangy infielder appeared in only one game last year, hitting home run in three trips.

Landis was the Lions third sacker and leadoff man last season he hit only .191, but drew plenty of walks.

Junior Don Robinson, who appeared in several games last year, is the leading candidate for Landis' spot.

Second base presents the biggest problem for Bedenk. Fegley hit .375 last year and was an all-District choice.

Bart Brodtkin and Carl DeCasper are after Fegley's spot.

Brodtkin, a stocky sophomore, hit .287 for the freshman team last year and has looked sharp in practice. DeCasper is a converted outfielder. A junior, he was on the roster last year but didn't see any action.

Beighey and Benton gave Bedenk a strong duo at first last season.

Benton started the season, but the pair split the duties almost equally in the second half of the campaign. Beighey batted .348 with 7 RBI and Benton hit .240 with 9 RBI.

Sophomore Bob Rodenhaver and junior Eric Whorral are the leading candidates for the gateway position.

Rodenhaver didn't play last year, but seems to be rounding into shape despite the snow.

Whorral was carried on the roster last season, but couldn't break into the lineup.

"The whole team could use a few days outside," Bedenk said.

"They're all new and we've got a lot to do before we'll know where we stand."

"Once we get outside, we'll know better how we're doing. Right now we're just guessing and hoping," he said.

Buccos Sock 20 Hits To Rip Philadelphia, 15-9

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — The Pittsburgh Pirates slugged Philadelphia pitchers Ruben Gomez, Paul Brown and Wight Siebler for 20 hits yesterday and won the exhibition game 15-9.

Joe Christopher led the Pirates' attack with a pair of singles, a triple and a home run in four official trips to the plate.

The Phils hit the Pirates' pitching freely, collecting a total of 13 hits. The Phils got seven of their runs and 10 hits off starter Vernon Law.

Homering for the Phils were Jim Coker, with two on; Bobby Malkmus, Johnny Callison and Bob Sadowski. Four of the homers were off Law, a 20-game winner last season.

Basketball Scores

NBA
Eastern Division Playoffs
Boston 133 Syracuse 110 (Celtics lead best of seven series, 2-1)

NIT
At New York
Semi-Finals
St. Louis 67 Dayton 60
Providence 90 Holy Cross 83

Wettstone Drops Seward For Disciplinary Reasons

Tommy Seward has been dropped from the Penn State gym team for disciplinary reasons.

Coach Gene Wettstone said yesterday that he dropped the sophomore for training violations.

The loss of Seward practically eliminates the Lions from the running for their third straight NCAA championship. The national tourney will be held in Champaign, Ill., April 6-8.

"We're out of it now as far as the NCAA title goes," Wettstone said. "But I'm sure we'll make a fine showing anyway."

Seward had been the Nittanies' second highest scorer all year and finished second to teammate Greg Weiss in the Eastern tourney earlier this month.

Seward came to Penn State billed as the latest in a long line of gym greats but he was inconsistent in his performances all year.

Seward scored well as a freshman last year and impressed the experts with fine showings in the Pan-American games and Olympic tryouts.

"He was definitely considered Olympic material," Wettstone said.

"Although this hurts our team chances the boys are still working hard to make up for his loss," he said.

Weiss is a top contender for the All-Around crown and junior Gerry Schaefer is a favorite on the flying rings.

Wettstone indicated that there isn't much possibility of Seward getting back on the team.

"Any consideration of his return will depend if he can prove he's worthy of a spot on the team."

—John Morris

Donovan Honored

NEW YORK (AP) — Eddie Donovan of St. Bonaventure has been named college basketball's "Coach of the Year" by the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association.

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