

Lack of Games Hampers Lions' Playoff Chances

By JOHN MORRIS

Navy practically clinched a bid to the NCAA District 2 playoffs with its 4-3 win over Penn State Tuesday, and the Lions aren't out of contention yet.

The Middies (18-0) have the top record in the East, but might not accept a bid to play in the District playoffs unless they beat traditional rival Army in their last regular season game.

Joe Bedenk's Nittanies (4-2) have played only six games compared with Navy's 18, and their inactivity could affect chances for a bid.

"We've got a good chance to make the District playoffs if we get some games under our belts," Bedenk said.

The Lions have been weathered out of six games, but they could qualify for the playoffs and a possible trip to the College World Series in Omaha, Neb., by doing well in the ten remaining contests.

"Right now I'd say that Colgate, Villanova, Delaware and, of course, Navy are the leading teams in the East," Bedenk said yesterday as the Lions worked out on Beaver Field.

"We don't really know how good we are," he said, "and we won't know until we start playing regularly."

State goes from one extreme to the other. Tomorrow's game at Colgate is the first of seven games in an eight day period.

The Nittanies travel to Syracuse for a doubleheader with the Orange Saturday, then return home for twinbills with Bucknell and Pittsburgh May 18 and 20.

Bedenk hopes that the tight schedule will help some of the Nittany power swingers regain their batting eyes.

"Regular play would help all of our players," Bedenk said, "but it will really help heavy hitters like (A1) Gursky and (John) Phillips get started."

Seven games in eight days is a strain on any pitching staff, but Bedenk has the pitchers.

Tom Durbin will probably start on the hill against the Red Raiders with Ed Kikla and Bob Fenton ready for the Orange.

Fenton, a curve-balling sophomore, earned a starting nod with a brilliant two-hit relief effort in the 6th innings he pitched against Navy.

Cleveland Gets Nieman In Trade With Cards

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The St. Louis Cardinals yesterday traded outfielder Bob Nieman to the Cleveland Indians for infielder-outfielder Joe Morgan and a minor league player to be named later.

Katz Pledges Title Fight For Liston

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Boxing's No. 1 contender for the heavyweight title, Charles Sonny Liston, yesterday named George Katz his new manager with the indirect blessings of Sen. Estes Kefauver and his Senate investigating committee.

Katz pledged to get Liston a title fight with champion Floyd Patterson.

"I do not believe," said Katz, a fight manager in these parts since 1928, "that there should be any obstacle in my procuring for Sonny Liston his rightful opportunity to obtain the match with Floyd Patterson for the heavyweight championship."

Liston told a news conference that with Katz as his manager he had in effect "cleaned his house" of what the Senate committee and Patterson described as an undesirable element in the challenger's management.



JOHN PHILLIPS

Colgate's Court Control Baffles Nittany Netters

By JIM WELSH

Colgate's steady and un spectacular attack outclassed a frustrated Penn State tennis team yesterday on the Jordan Courts, 9-0.

The mastermind of Colgate's unusual style is Coach Perry Rockafellow, who prior to this year had coached his teams to 293 wins in 374 starts over a 25-year span.

Rockafellow has a single explanation for his fantastic success.

"From the first day of practice my players drill on returning the ball," he says. "We start at a given goal of consecutive returns and gradually raise the goal."

"Our idea is that if we keep returning the ball, sooner or later the opposing player will be forced into a mistake."

The Lion netters made plenty

of mistakes against the Red Raiders. They failed to win a set in the entire match. State's Whit Gray, playing number five, came closest to capturing a set. The bespectacled junior blew two opportunities to break Colgate's mastery.

He held leads of 5-2 in the first set, and 5-1 in the second set of his match with Colgate Captain Gene Doo. However, Doo came back to nip the Lion netter in both sets, 7-5, 7-5.

Jim Baker, who returned to his number one slot after missing two matches, was outlasted by Wade Rockafellow, 6-4, 6-0.

The other Lion singles losers in playing order were John Blanck, Vance Rea, Don McCartney, and Don Benner.



Jim Baker

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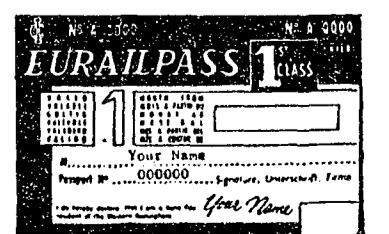
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