

Cagers Nurse Tourney Hopes

Lions Face 'Must Game' With Bisons

By JIM KARL
Sports Editor

After all that John Egli's cagers have been through this season—the dropout of Wayne Lundy, injuries to key personnel, an unmerciful schedule—it seems almost impossible that only two games separate Penn State from a possible at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

Aided by Gene Harris' deadly shooting and rebounding the Lions have won five of their last six games to bring their record to 10-7.

They go for number 11 tonight against Bucknell at Lewisburg, Pa., and if they get past the Bisons it will be number 12 against Army at Rec Hall Saturday night.

With the assumption that Duquesne and Villanova will accept bids to the National Invitational Tournament, Egli thinks that State has as good a chance of getting a bid to the NCAA tourney as any other eastern team—provided the Lions win tonight and Saturday.

BIDS FOR at-large berths in the NCAA tourney will be in the mail Monday.

State has three games remaining after that date, West Virginia (away), Pitt (home) and Rutgers (away).

"I'm not thinking of anything but Bucknell and Army right now," Egli said yesterday. "If we get past them, we'll be assured of a winning season, and that's my immediate concern."

STATE DEFEATED Bucknell here, 61-50, Jan. 9, but Egli knows the Bisons are particularly rough in their home territory.

"Their fans are among the worst I've ever seen," Egli said. "When they get going in that bandbox they can really get you down."

Bucknell is having a sub-par year, winning only four of 16 games. However, the Bisons clobbered Navy, a team that beat State by 12 points, Bucknell lost to Pitt Saturday, 70-60.

EGLI IS COUNTING on Harris to spark State again tonight. The Lion captain has been brilliant in recent outings and this week was named to the ECAC All-East team along with Billy Hoy (St. Joseph's), Miles Aiken (St. Bonaventure), Vinny Ernst (Providence) and Roger Twitchell (Massachusetts).

John Mitchell, John Phillips, Earl Hoffman and Ulo Kart will be Egli's other starters. A freshman game will precede the varsity contest.

Pifer, Myer Lead Matmen Rout Over VPI, 27-2

By DEAN BILLICK

Assistant Sports Editor
VPI coach Frank Teske is probably wondering today why he picked Penn State as an "experience getter" for his Gobbler matmen.

"We scheduled State so our boys could get some experience wrestling a good team; but we sure took a beating in the process," Teske explained in the locker room at Rec Hall Saturday night after his grapplers had lost to the Lions, 27-2.

"WE'VE DONE most of our wrestling in the Southern Conference and the competition just isn't as rough as it is up here," Teske added. "Even though we got beat by a big score, I think we gained a lot of good experience."

Lion coach Charlie Speidel, who watched his grapplers roar to their fifth win in seven starts, had a possible explanation for the rout.

"We were trying to make up for the Army loss and took out our vengeance on VPI," Speidel said. State lost to the Cadets, 21-6, a week ago.

Whatever the explanation, Lion wrestlers had a relatively easy time. Ron Pifer and Phil Myer chalked up pins and Denny Slattery, the only Lion not to win, held unbeaten Ernie Venturino to a 5-5 tie.

Pifer brought the fans to their feet with State's quickest pin of the season. The senior co-captain flattened Henry Smith in 49 seconds with a reverse nelson and arm bar in the 157-pound bout. The win gave Pifer a 5-2 record.

MYER, State's other co-captain, took a little longer but the results were the same. Myer fell behind Wayne Simmons, 5-0, in the 177-pound bout before he pinned the Gobbler with a cradle at 4:24.

Unbeaten Bob Haney ran his streak to seven with a 6-4 win over previously undefeated Mike Granstaff at 1:30.

Steve Erber copped his second

win of the season at 1:37 when he escaped in the second period to beat Towner Smith, 1-0.

At 147 George Edwards won his sixth in seven tries by scoring three points in the last period to top Tom Ellerman, 3-0. Edwards had a reversal and riding time.

JOHN BARONE accumulated three minutes riding time to beat Bob Hatcher, 5-4, in the 167-pound bout. Barone had a take-down and reversal while Hatcher managed an escape, reversal and penalty point.

Heavyweight Ed Pohland scored a takedown with four seconds to go and beat Gene Breen, 3-1. Breen led, 1-0, going into the final period but Pohland escaped and then managed the takedown for his fourth win.

State's freshman grapplers whipped previously unbeaten Stevens Trade School, 15-12, in a preliminary match. The win gave the frosh a 2-1 record.

STATE 27 VPI 2

- 123—Slattery (PS) and Venturino, drew, 5-5.
- 130—Haney (PS) dec. Grandstaff, 7-4.
- 137—Erber (PS) dec. T. Smith, 1-0.
- 147—Edwards (PS) dec. Ellerman, 3-0.
- 157—Pifer (PS) pinned H. Smith, :49.
- 167—Barone (PS) dec. Hatcher, 5-4.
- 177—Myer (PS) pinned Simmons, 4:24.
- Hwt.—Pohland (PS) dec. Breen, 3-1.
- Referee: Mike Bakyak.

FROSH 15 STEVENS 12

- 123—Pittman (PS) dec. McCarthy, 4-3.
- 130—O'Dell, Stevens Trade, dec. Ludwig, 10-2.
- 137—Rhoades, Stevens Trade, dec. Catalano, 8-7.
- 147—Gellis (PS) dec. Claar, 5-0.
- 157—Zabatta (PS) dec. Maruschak, 4-3.
- 167—Fochtman, Stevens Trade, dec. Dunne, 4-2.
- 177—Gill (PS) dec. McKendree, 1-0.
- 191—Burd (PS) dec. Tepper, 7-2.
- Hwt.—Reed, Stevens Trade, dec. Moen, 8-2.
- Referee: Art Weiss.



DOWN BOY! State's John Barone prepares to slam VPI's Bob Hatcher to the mat in their 167-pound bout Saturday night in Rec Hall. The Lions won the match, 27-2, and so did Barone, 5-4, but Hatcher was awarded a reversal for the illegal slam.



John Phillips

Syracuse Stops Lion Swordmen With Late Rally

By IRA MILLER

Winning five of the final six bouts, Syracuse came from behind Saturday to pin a 14-13 setback on Penn State's fencers before 500 fans in Rec Hall.

State was ahead 12-9 after the third round of sabre competition, but the Orange swept through the foil and epee virtually unchallenged to pull a victory out of the fire.

Syracuse's Bob Fornaro defeated Joe Bubinak, 5-2, in the day's final foil bout to tie the meet at 13. Al Rosenberg, an Orange sub, then rallied from a 2-0 deficit to upset State captain Bob Oliver, 5-3, in the final epee bout and give Syracuse the meet.

Syracuse 14, Penn State 13

- SABRE
- Penn State 6, Syracuse 3
- Chamberlain (PS) defeated Hollander, 5-3; defeated Dauenhauer, 5-3; defeated Dake, 5-2.
- LaKier (PS) lost to Dake, 3-5; lost to Hollander, 2-5; defeated Dauenhauer, 3-4.
- Peole (PS) defeated Dauenhauer, 5-2; lost to Dake, 2-5; defeated Hollander, 5-4.
- EPEE
- Syracuse 6, Penn State 2
- Lewis (PS) lost to Hacker, 1-5; defeated Stone, 5-2; lost to Siedlich, 2-5.
- Oliver (PS) defeated Siedlich, 5-4; lost to Hacker, 2-5; lost to Rosenberg, 3-5.
- Smith (PS) defeated Stone, 5-2; lost to Siedlich, 2-5; lost to Jacker, 1-5.
- FOIL
- Syracuse 5, Penn State 4
- Faller (PS) defeated Shepard, 1-4; defeated Fornaro, 5-4; defeated Cohen, 5-3.
- Bubinak (PS) lost to Cohen, 2-5; lost to Shepard, 1-5; lost to Fornaro, 2-5.
- Buzsaki (PS) lost to Fornaro, 2-5; defeated Cohen, 5-2; lost to Shepard, 2-5.

Handball Finals

Four IM champions were crowned last night after the final round of the paddleball and handball singles tournament at Rec Hall.

Bruce Blanning copped the independent handball title for the second straight year by defeating Bill Brightfield 21-6 and 21-5. The fraternity crown was won by Vernon Zeltz (Phi Epsilon Pi) who squeezed by Triangle's Jim Bush, 15-21, 21-7, and 21-4. It was a heart breaker for Bush, who also lost in the handball finals last year.

In paddle action Jim Baker (Theta Delta Chi) nosed out Sigma Chi's Dave Lehmer, 8-21, 21-17 and 21-13 for the fraternity title, and Larry Greenberg defeated Dave Gibbs (Watts I), 21-7 and 21-7 for the independent championship.

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