

# Pifer Feels Slow Start Due to Weight-Jump

By DEAN BILICK

You're a 1961 Eastern Intercollegiate wrestling champion and the NCAA runner-up. You've wrestled three years of varsity competition and as a senior you are co-captain of the team. In high school you did pretty well. You won the state PIAA title twice.

Your achievements are well known around wrestling circles and you are one of the most respected grapplers in the nation.

**YOUR NAME** is Ron Pifer and you're Penn State's exciting 157-pounder. You lost the national title last year to Iowa State's three-time champ, Larry Hayes, and won the EIWA 147-pound title.

You started this season with the hopes of taking everything but somehow the breaks haven't quite gone your way. Your record to date is just 5-2, far short of a champion's chart.

Are you discouraged by the

relatively poor record and slow start?

"I'm disappointed for the team's sake because my losses cost the team a couple of wins, but I am hoping I'll do better in the future," Pifer explained yesterday before hitting the mats for an hour and half of practice.

**THE GOOD-NATURED** grappler wasn't speaking through his hat either. His reasoning goes like this.

"I expect to move down to the 147-pound class for the easterns and nationals and I'm sure I can do a better job there than at 157. I never was a real strong person and to compensate for that I count on my legs and speed to get me through."

Both of Pifer's losses this year came at 167, a weight class that the former Bellefonte high school star says he would rather not wrestle. He lost to Army's Buzz Kreisel, 3-2, and Lehigh's Dave Angell, 6-4.

"Angell and Kreisel were too big for me to reach and pull-in

I just wasn't strong enough to muscle it with them and get the takedown. They both had warnings for running away, but I couldn't get them down because of their strength."

**PIFER DOESN'T** figure that all wrestlers are better if they lose. A lot of weight to make a lower division. In fact, the lean Lion senior figures two of his teammates wrestle better in the heavier weight classes.

"Ed Pohland and Phil Myer do a better job against bigger fellas because they can rely on their strength," Pifer explains.

Pohland, who is the regular 191-pounder, has moved-up to heavy-weight twice and won both times, 19-6 once and 3-1 the other time. Myer went from his 177-pound post to 191 and pinned his man. At heavyweight, Myer won his only bout, a 5-3 victory over previously unbeaten John Burns of Lehigh.

Losing weight so he can wrestle in the 147-pound class isn't the

easiest thing in the world for State's eastern champ. "It is really hard to keep my weight down once I make it. I don't eat much at all and when I do, it's just about always poached eggs."

**LAST YEAR** Pifer dropped to 147 for the Pitt match and kept

that weight for the easterns and nationals.

There is no doubt that the leg-wrestling Lion is more effective at 147. So when he makes his drop, opponents had better beware — the eastern champion and NCAA runner-up, is in his class.

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## Bubble, Bubble Toil and Trouble

By JIM KARL

The days of witches, wizards, sorcerers and necromancers went out with King Arthur and his Court.

But even in this age of missiles and hula hoops, events occur which stir the red corpuscles and cause people to harbor various notions and superstitions.

So don't be too surprised if you see John Egli cackling over boiling cauldrons and murmuring incantations.

Egli should be excused for anything short of suicide after

his cagers lost by one point Tuesday night to a Bucknell team which previously had won only 4 of 16 games.

Going into the game at Lewisburg, Pa., State had won five of its last six games and was jockeying for a berth in the NCAA tournament.

Egli put up a good front yesterday (Gene Wettstone to Egli: "You're in a good mood today") but you could tell he was still boiling from the defeat (Egli to Wettstone: "I only look that way").

"Sure, we should have won," Egli said, "but we didn't look sharp—and at times we didn't hustle.

**"OUR PLAYS WEREN'T** working and we were hesitating before taking our shots. If you hesitate when you slide into home plate you may end up with a broken leg. When you hesitate in basketball you just lose the game." Gene Harris, State's leading

scorer and rebounder, finished the game with 17 points, but he had only two going into the final 10 minutes.

In the first half it looked as if Harris and Bucknell's Bill Fry were more concerned with engaging in hand-to-hand combat than playing basketball, but Harris said that wasn't the case.

"I was more concerned with myself than with Fry," Harris said. "I've never really gotten mad at another player. I just didn't have a good night."

**WITHOUT REALIZING** it, Harris paid himself a compliment. Not many players can have a bad night and still score 17 points.

In fact, the Lion captain almost was the hero of the game. With 20 seconds left he scored on a twisting drive from underneath to give State a 68-67 lead. But the bucket was nullified by Fry, who hit a one-hand push shot from 30 feet with eight seconds to go.

State will shoot for its eleventh win against eight defeats against Army at Rec Hall Saturday. The Cadets are 9-10, losing last night to Amherst, 75-58.



John Egli

## Bradley Loses Soph Cage Star

PEORIA, Ill. (AP) — Bradley University announced yesterday that sophomore basketball star Joe Strawder of Belle Glade, Fla., and two freshman players, Ed Moore and Ray Banks, had been dismissed from school.

They were dismissed, the announcement said, for actions not in the best interest of Bradley University.

Bradley's basketball team is currently ranked fifth in the Associated Press national college poll.

The university said the dismissals had nothing to do with the Bradley basketball program.

The loss of Strawder was a blow to Bradley's hopes of winning the Missouri Valley Conference title and a possible bid to the NCAA tournament.

Bradley plays at Cincinnati Monday night in a contest billed as a title game. Bradley leads the conference with a 9-1 record, with Cincinnati a game behind.

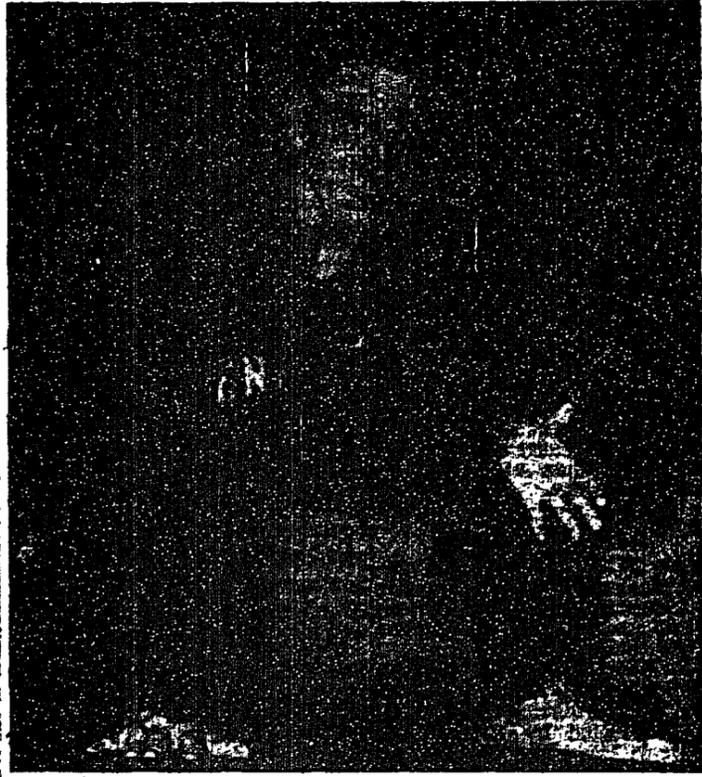
## Tighe Linked to Colonels

DETROIT (AP) — Jack Tighe, former manager of the Detroit Tigers, will become the new manager of the Louisville Colonels of the American Association, it was learned yesterday.

A reliable source said that Tighe, 48, will replace Bill Adair, who was moved from Louisville to the parent Milwaukee Braves earlier yesterday.

## BASKETBALL SCORES

- College
- Navy 77, Rutgers 59
- Amherst 75, Army 58
- Virginia Tech 85, Virginia Military 71
- Miami (Ohio) 75, Pitt 72
- Air Force 75, Colorado Coll. 44
- LaSalle 73, Canisius 63
- North Carolina St. 85, North Carolina 87
- Xavier (Ohio) 79, Louisville 67
- Delaware 76, Lehigh 64
- Fordham 84, Queens (NY) 68
- West Michigan 69, Toledo 64



RON PIFER



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