

halftime

Hill People Take Basketball Seriously

By JIM KARI, Sports Editor

Down in the hill country of West Virginia wrestling is something to occupy the time of schoolyard urchins, gymnastics are the antics little Tom Sawyers use to impress their girl friends, and basketball is king.

At Morgantown, where West Virginia University huddles high on the banks of the Monongahela, the local populace lives and dies with the fortunes of the Mountaineers. And for the past 22 years, the graveyards have been relatively empty.

West Virginia hasn't had a losing season since 1939. The 79-60 win over Penn State Tuesday assured the Mounties of their sixth straight 20-win season.

In fact, over the past five years West Virginia has been the winningest team in the nation. The Mountaineers have a 129-21 record for that period — a percentage of .860. Cincinnati is second with 121-21 for a percentage of .852.

This year, for the first time in six years, the Mountaineers will not be among the nation's top ten basketball teams.

With a record of 20-6 and just one game remaining on its regular schedule, West Virginia is ranked 16th in this week's UPI poll.

OBVIOUSLY, WEST VIRGINIA did not become a year in and year out basketball powerhouse through a whim of the Gods. Behind that astronomical record is a hard-nosed recruiting system more efficient than an IBM machine.

Ed Barrett, WVU's likeable sports publicity director, is a first hand observer of the Mountaineer "system."

"Other schools give more scholarships than we do," Barrett said between halves of the Penn State game. "But other schools take risks. We don't. We are absolutely certain that every boy we get here is going to play ball for us. George Washington gives 21 scholarships. They take risks. We usually give 12 scholarships, and that's all we need."

WEST VIRGINIA HAS ONLY three scholarship players on its freshman team, mainly because it is "red-shirting" three boys (holding them out of competition for a year so that they will retain their eligibility) and has an adequate

number of good sophomore and junior players with scholarships.

Another secret of West Virginia's "system" is the man who does the recruiting — coach George King. "Fred Schaus (now coach of the Los Angeles Lakers) was a good recruiter when he was here," Barrett said, "but King is even better." In fact, you might even say that basketball is king at West Virginia, and King is basketball.

But the Mountaineers had been patronizing the roundball sport long before the current coach stepped in in 1960, and there's no reason to believe they won't continue winning after he's gone.

SPEAKING OF BASKETBALL powerhouses, Snowy Simpson tells this story about Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp. "Adolph is holding court in the locker room after a game one night and this cocky reporter walks up to him and says, 'Mr. Rupp, how many scholarships do you have?'"

"Adolph looks at him kind of funny and says, 'I'm sorry, son, I didn't understand your question.' The reporter, who is no dumbell, thinks a minute and then asks, 'Well then, sir, how many do you advocate?'"

"Adolph smiles and says, 'Now I understand you, son. I advocate as many scholarships as I need to win every game on my schedule.'"

It looks as though Rupp miscounted by two scholarships this year. Kentucky is currently ranked third in the nation with a 17-2 record.

SOME VARSITY COACHES are dissatisfied with the plans to spend \$1.3 million to enlarge Rec Hall. Dartmouth is in the process of building an ultra-modern fieldhouse for \$1.5 million. As one coach put it "If Rec Hall gets any more wings, it will go into orbit."

Cage coach John Egli and trainer Chuck Medlar were discussing how to get more money for Egli's scholarship fund at breakfast in Morgantown yesterday. Medlar came up with a sure-fire money-getter. "You and I can wear gym suits," Medlar said to Egli, "and put on a free exercise exhibition at halftime."

2 Lion-Thinclads May Miss Meet

When Penn State's thinclads meet Ohio State Saturday at Columbus, they may be without the services of Howie Deardorff and captain Steve Moorhead. Both distance stars are nursing the flu.

Moorhead broke the Navy Field House mile record in 4:13.9 and also ran on the winning two-mile relay team at Annapolis two weeks ago. Last week he finished second to Michigan's Ergas Lepa in a triangular meet at Ann Arbor, Mich.

Deardorff is also a top point-getter for the Lions. He copped first place in the 1000-yard run at Navy and took seconds in the 1000 and 850 in the Michigan meet.

But the loss of Moorhead and Deardorff is not the only thing that will thin out State's chances. Included in the Ohio meets are two events (300-yd. and 440-yd. dashes) that State usually does not run.

In the absence of Moorhead and Deardorff, coach Chick Werner will have to call on Gerry Norman, Bob and Mike Miller, Ernie Noll and Lionel Bassett for extra duty.



Steve Moorhead

Dayton Sixth NIT Choice

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dayton has been tapped for the National Invitation Basketball Tournament at Madison Square Garden, leaving only eight spots open in the top two cage tournament fields.

The NIT has filled half of its dozen slots. The NCAA Tournament, which settles the national championship, has only two places left and one of those will be offered to the Ivy League winner.

Dayton is 15-6 on the year. The Ohio team has been runner-up five times, but never a winner of the NIT, scheduled for March 15-24.

Defending Providence, Duquesne, Houston, Loyola of Chicago and St. John's of Brooklyn are the other selections for the NIT.

The NCAA announced yesterday sites and dates for three first-round games. The Air Force, an at-large entry, will meet the Southwest Conference winner on the latter's home court March 12.

In the Far West division, the Seattle-Oregon State contest will be at Corvallis, Ore., March 13, and Arizona State will face the Skyline Conference winner at Tempe, Ariz., March 12.

Soccer All-Americans

Penn State has had two three-time All-American soccer players. J. W. Bielicki made it from 1933-35 and W. W. McEwan was an All-American from 1934-38.

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