

Dissension Rumors Fly In Panthers' Grid Lair

By JOHN MORRIS
Sports Editor

There has been a great deal of furor in the past week about a column in the Pitt News by that paper's sports editor, Jim O'Brien.

O'Brien wrote a column entitled "Mutiny on the Bounty," in which he reported that there was dissension on the Pitt football team.

In particular, the Pitt writer noted that Panther quarterback Jim Traficant "got fed up with the adverse remarks about his play" and "squared off with the coaches."

"An argument with quarterback coach Lou (Bimbo) Cecconi is now general knowledge among many students," O'Brien reported.

O'Brien went on to list quarterback Fred Mazurek, tackle Ernie Borghetti and linebacker Bernie LaQuinta as other unhappy Panthers.

"THERE HAS been much dissension among players who felt that outstanding performances weren't being rewarded with advancement," O'Brien wrote.

The column, appearing in the Nov. 14 edition of the Pitt News, brought a quick denial from the coaching staff.

Cecconi said that he and Traficant had a "man-to-man talk" and head coach John Michelosen said the reports of dissension were exaggerated.

Traficant and Mazurek have shared the quarterback chores for the Panthers in recent games, but Traficant has had the job to himself for most of the year.

O'Brien's report of dissension came as a surprise to many observers. Cecconi, Traficant and



JIM TRAFICANT

center of controversy

Michelosen had exchanged pleasantries earlier in the season.

"Jim has played some excellent football," Michelosen said after Traficant had led the Panthers to a 26-24 victory over California. "He has gained confidence and the team looks up to him as a real leader."

Cecconi also filed membership in the Traficant fan club, saying, "He did everything well in the last two games. He didn't pass that much but when he did, he made it count."

IN TURN, Traficant praised Cecconi: "Everything has gone well the past few weeks," quoth James. "One of the big reasons for my improvement is Bimbo.

He has stuck with me even when things weren't going right for me. He's the best."

But, according to O'Brien, the Panthers' one big happy family is having its share of squabbles.

All reports or thoughts of dissension can be forgotten this week. The Panthers would rather beat the Lions than argue with the coaches.

Saturday's game is reminiscent of the situation in 1959 when bowl-bound Penn State (8-1) played Pitt (5-4). The Panthers came out on top 22-7 in that one.

The records are the same this year and once again the Lions are under consideration for a bowl. It could be disastrous.

Egli Hopes Hoffman Becomes 'Glue Man'

By JIM BUKATA

(This is the ninth in a series of articles on members of the 1962-63 Penn State basketball team. Next and last is John Mitchell.)

Earl Hoffman, one of the two seniors on the Penn State basketball team, is being counted on by coach John Egli to be the "glue man" of the squad.

As co-captain of the squad, along with John Mitchell, it will be his job to steady down the sophomores who are getting their first rack at varsity competition.

Hoffman will also be counted on by Egli as a top scorer and rebounder.

"TM COUNTING on Earl to help these young boys," Egli said. "After all, he has two years of varsity competition behind him and is adjusted to top-notch ball."

Hoffman, a 6-5, 190-pound senior from Steelton, averaged 11.6 points a game last season as a starting forward.

He came into his own after the Lions put a play into their offense that allowed Hoffman to take a jump shot from the corner behind a double screen.

Hoffman's big problem up to that time was getting a shot for himself. His moves to the left were poor and most defenders wouldn't fall for his fakes.

HOFFMAN HAS been working on this problem and seems to be moving better to his left.

"If he can get that move to the left perfected," Egli said,



EARL HOFFMAN

"then I would call him a complete ballplayer."

Although he is not heavy by present day basketball standards for a forward, Hoffman will not hurt the Lions on the boards.

"He's learned how to get position under the boards and that helps him a great deal," Egli added.

On defense, Hoffman ranks as probably the best on the squad. Much of this is due to the fact that he has played four years under the Penn State zone system and knows all the moves a defensive man must master.

Booters Face Pitt in Finale Saturday

By IRA MILLER

Penn State's soccer team will close out its fourth straight losing season when it meets Pitt Saturday morning in Pittsburgh.

The Nittanies (2-6) will be up against a team they haven't beaten since 1958 — which, incidentally, was the last time the Lion booters won more games than they lost.

Leo Bemis' Panthers, who were eliminated from the NCAA play-offs by Maryland Monday, come into the game with a 7-1-2 mark.

STATE HOLDS a 4-3 lead in the series between the teams, but the Panthers have won the last three games.

Two Lion seniors, Val Djurdjevic and Jay Stormer, will close

out their three-year varsity careers in Saturday's game.

Stormer, the Lion captain, played a full game for the first time this season in last week's 3-1 triumph over Gettysburg. He has been hampered by ailments of one sort or another throughout his varsity career, missing two full games last year and one this season.

Djurdjevic is the only Lion forward who has started every game this season. Playing at inside right, he has missed just one game in his three varsity campaigns.

Coach Ken Hosterman is considering a switch on the left side of the line with Stormer and Ted Jones. Stormer has been starting at left wing, Jones at inside left.

Hosterman is also considering a change in the goal where Jay Robins has been the number one

man since the season's third game.

"I may put Al Shuss back in the goal," Hosterman said yesterday. Shuss started the season in the nets and played the West Chester and Colgate games.

Despite the Lions' showing this season, Hosterman refuses to give up on his team.

"I think we can beat Pitt if we play the kind of game we did against Gettysburg," he said.

Lions at AT&FF Meet

Four State harriers — sophomores Ernie Johnson, Jim Young and Steve Gill and junior Mike Sheedy — will represent the Lions today at the first cross-country meet sponsored by the American Track and Field Federation. The event is set for 11:30 a.m. on the 6 1/4-mile course at Ohio State University in Columbus.



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