

# West Virginia Romps, 89-73

By DEAN BILLICK  
Sports Editor

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., Jan. 18 —A young, but scrappy, Penn State basketball team fought tooth and nail with 9th-ranked West Virginia through the first 35 minutes here tonight, but couldn't cope with the Mountaineers' fast break and dropped its third game in 12 starts, 89-73.

Led by the shooting of Earl Hoffman, Bob Weiss and Tom Malinchak, the Lions drove within three points of the Mounties, 70-67, with 6:16 remaining. But West Virginia iced the game on three fast breaks and a long one-hander by Mike Wolfe, who led both teams with 28 points.

"IT WAS a much closer game than the final score indicated," Mountie coach George King said in the locker room after the game. "Penn State had a bigger and better team than I expected."

"We expected a real scrap and we got it. Egli has that team coming along real well. They have real good

size and that Hoffman can really shoot.

"From what I saw here tonight our game in Rec Hall is going to be a real cliff hanger. I expect it to be as close as two or three points."

Lion coach John Egli wasn't disappointed by his team's showing.

"I thought it was a well-played game," Egli said. "I think that this is as good a West Virginia team as I've ever seen. The fact is, we are better than usual. The other teams are coming up to West Virginia and the fans are just going to have to become reconciled to it."

The win was the Mounties' 11th consecutive over the Lions and moved their season record to 11-3.

It was on the boards and with a fast break that West Virginia sub-

dued the Lions in this, the graveyard for opposing teams. The Mounties have lost only two games in seven years here and the last time State did it was in 1955.

The Mounties outrebounded State 64-50 and posted more field goals, 37-31.

BUT IT WAS a game Lion team that didn't quit tonight that almost pulled the upset no one thought was possible.

Behind as many as 15 points in the second half, the Lions clawed their way within the three-point margin on a basket by Hoffman, but that was as close as State could get.

Hoffman was high man for the Nittanians with 22 points, followed by Weiss with 19 and Malinchak with 18.

Ron Avillion with one point and Bob Donato with six points had "off nights" or else State just might have done it.

Rod Thorn was held to 18 points, six under his average, but Wolfe took

up the slack with his long jumpers from the corner.

West Virginia held a 67-53 lead midway through the second half when the Lions made their big move.

With Hoffman and Weiss leading the way, the Lions closed the gap to 70-65 with 7:10 remaining. A minute later, Hoffman swished a jumper and State was within three of closing the gap.

The Lions had the ball a moment later with a chance to pull within one, but shots by Hoffman, Malinchak and Avillion all missed.

Thorn hit three straight jumpers and Wolfe hit two others and the Lions were out of the contest.

PENN STATE			WEST VIRGINIA		
	FG	F T		FG	F T
Hoffman	10	22	Catlett	3	6
Avillion	0	1	Wolfe	9	22
Malinchak	7	18	Lowry	6	13
Weiss	9	19	Thorn	9	18
Donato	2	6	McCormick	6	13
Hoover	2	5	Maphis	4	10
Ludwig	1	2	Weir	0	1
			Shuck	0	0
Totals	31	73	Totals	37	89
Halftime score:					
			West Virginia 46, Penn State 38		



Hoffman

## Wrestling Dynasty Rises in Syracuse

By JIM BUKATA

A new wrestling dynasty is developing in the East, one that may last for at least three years.

The perennial powerhouses, Pitt, Lehigh and Penn State, now have to take a back seat to Syracuse, the East's top wrestling team.

Coached by Joe Scandura, the Orange have swept to four consecutive victories with a team predominantly made up of sophomores and juniors.

ALREADY THIS season, they have crushed Lehigh and Pitt, both considered to be the leading contenders.

With the wrestling season nearing the half-way point, six of the Orange wrestlers still remain unbeaten.

Heading the list is Bethel Greenhalgh, a 130-pounder. Greenhalgh defeated Eastern Champion Pat Smartt of Lehigh and drew with Mike Johnson, Pitt's great sophomore.

Gary Sirota at 157 and Dick Slutsky at 167 are other returning lettermen who remain unbeaten. Sirota placed fourth in the Easterns last year.

THE BIG REASON the Orange are "riding high" is the performance of their sophomores!

Terry Haise (123), Gerry Everling (191) and Jim Nance (Hwt) have strengthened the Syracuse lineup this season.

While Syracuse dominates as the strong team of the East, many individuals are making a name for themselves with outstanding wrestling.

DESPITE A LOSS at the hands of Maryland's Bob Kopnisky, NCAA champion Mike Natvig of Army looks like the top threat for the 157-pound Eastern championship. His main opposition



JOE SCANDURA  
... Syracuse coach  
\* \* \*

should come from Tom Carr of Pitt, Harley Ferguson of Lehigh, and Sirota.

Merriam, Haise and Fred Crawford of Navy should battle it out for the 123-pound title.

Off early season performances, the 130-pound class could de-

velop as the best in the Easterns, which will be held this year at Navy.

JIM MELDRIM of Cornell, Haney, Johnson, Greenhalgh and Smartt all shape up as strong contenders.

Haney, still unbeaten for the Lions, must face Meldrim, Johnson and Greenhalgh in dual meet competition.

The other unbeaten State wrestler, George Edwards, should face his stiffest competition in the 147-pound class from Slutsky and Dom DeMeo of Cornell. Edwards and DeMeo wrestle each other this week at Cornell.

The 167-pound class, for the third consecutive year, is being dominated by Kirk Pendleton of Lehigh. The two-time Eastern champion has beaten everyone he has faced in decisive fashion.

A real scramble should take place at 177-pounds, where no one is outstanding.

With Ray Nickla of Army, Den Focht of Rutgers, Ed Pohland of State, and Everling leading the way, the 191-pound class shapes up as a top weight class, and the heavyweight division should be a two-man battle between Nance and defending Eastern champion Ed Scharer of Rutgers.

## NBA Rejects Franchise Bids From Philadelphia, Kansas City

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The National Basketball Association's board of governors rejected yesterday applications for franchises in Philadelphia and Kansas City.

The governors tabled an application by Irwin and Israel Feldt for a franchise in Baltimore. It is scheduled for further consideration at the board's next meeting in New York.

Howard L. Marks and Carl D. Glickman formally withdrew their application for a franchise in Cleveland, the governors said. Kenneth Krueger had applied on behalf of Kansas City. Nicho-

las Troilo had asked the franchise in Philadelphia.

A move to eliminate the territorial draft rule failed to gain two-thirds approval. The draft rule lets a team, no matter what its place in the standings, have first claim on players within a 50-mile radius.

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