

a dean's view



Spell It With a Capital B

By DEAN BILLICK
Sports Editor

Down in the hills of West Virginia, Basketball is king, and that's spelled with a capital B, please. The country folks live and die with the fortunes of the West Virginia Mountaineers and for the past 18 years the graveyards have been relatively empty.

The Mounties haven't had a losing season since 1944 and have been ranked among the top twenty teams in the country since 1952. (They are ninth ranked this week.) There is a good reason for this. Simply stated it is that Basketball is treated Big Time—spell that with capital letters, please. At State basketball is a minor sport—spell that with a small letter, please.

WEST VIRGINIA Basketball makes money and it doesn't have to take a back seat to football. At State, Football is king. It pays the bills, so basketball takes the rear seat. This may be good or it may be bad, but in any case it is the truth.

Comparing the West Virginia Basketball program with that of State's, it becomes very obvious why the Lions haven't beaten the Mounties in 11 straight games. It also is apparent why Basketball has become one of West Virginia's great traditions and why

here in the Nittany Mountains, we haven't had a real team since 1954.

In fact, based on the two different programs, it is a tribute to Lion coach John Egli that his teams have even made a respectable showing against the class of the Mountaineers.

Behind that astronomical West Virginia record is a hard-nosed recruiting system more efficient than an IBM machine. And behind that is an athletic administration that realizes the sacrifices that must be made to have such a program.

The first such sacrifice is money—in the form of athletic aid. On this year's 15-man squad, West Virginia coach George King has 14 full scholarships. His freshman team has four boys on full aid. Egli, on the other hand, has way less than half that number on full aid on the Lion varsity.

THIS YEAR'S State freshman team is the exception and herein lies the ray of sunshine. The administration, gave basketball additional aid for this year's frosh, and the result is the best freshman team in history. After watching the West Virginia frosh Wednesday night, it is my opinion that Egli and assistant coach Snowy Simpson out-recruited the Mountaineers. If this continues, State will no longer need to take a kick in the face every time it



GEORGE KING
... Mountaineer coach

faces the Mounties. The second sacrifice is that everyone backs the Basketball program. The scheduling is made intelligently with the good of the team in mind.

Everything points toward the winning of Basketball games.

Little things like the printing of a basketball brochure that fans purchase by the hundreds for \$1. Little things like making traveling arrangements for the Mounties to arrive at away games the night before so they will be well rested. It's these little things that go together to make the big thing—Mountaineer Basketball.

Then there is the fan interest and the great traditions. West Virginia has lost only two games in seven years at Morgantown and 18 in the last 19 years. Part of the reason for this is the tremendous fan support. At Morgantown they have a band, they have cheerleaders (eight of them at Wednesday's game with State), they have a Mountaineer mascot and they have spirit.

Before the game a huge, blue carpet with a gold WVA, initialed in it is rolled onto the court. The lights are dimmed and as the players are introduced, a spotlight follows them to the center of the court as they walk out on the thick carpet. A coon-skinned Mountaineer with his trusty musket shakes hands with each of them and then turns to the opposing team and fires a couple of shots—blanks of course.

THE BAND starts blaring away and the cheerleaders take up the chant. If you think this doesn't "psych-up" a team for a game, you've got another think coming.

At State we have no cheerleaders, no band, no mascot and consequently little spirit. Here again though, there is some hope. A pep band is being organized and a charter is being written. The cheerleaders may make their first appearance next Saturday night after being prodded by USG to show some spirit.

Oh, certainly these are small things, but they all go toward making a winning program.

WEST VIRGINIA pays for its program by scheduling top notch teams which draw the crowds, and by putting 4,000 reserved seats at \$2.50 each on sale for every home game. The WVA fieldhouse seats 6,800 so this means only 2,800 students can attend each game. This is accomplished by permitting a student to attend every third game.

This, then, is part of the story of West Virginia's success. Ed Barrett, the Mounties' likable sports publicity director, summed up Penn State's situation like this: "You could have a real good team up there if you just spent the money. With a school that big, it's just a matter of where the emphasis is placed."

In the past the emphasis definitely has been on football. There are signs though, that the future may hold something better for Penn State Basketball—and spell that with a capital B please.

State Barbell Club To Sponsor Open Weightlifting Meet Sunday

By JOHN LOTT

Coeds: If you're one of those gals who naturally swoons at the sight of a muscular male, then stock up on smelling salts and head for Rec Hall Sunday afternoon.

That's when the Penn State Barbell Club will sponsor its second weightlifting contest in the past month. The meet is scheduled for 2 p.m. with the weigh-in at 1:30.

The competition, which is open to anyone, is being held to stimulate interest in weightlifting as a varsity sport at Penn State.

THE WEIGHTLIFTERS will perform the three official Olympic lifts: the military press, the two-hand snatch and the two-hand clean and jerk. Seven weight classes, ranging from 123 pounds to heavyweight, will be represented.

Each contestant is given three attempts at each lift. First-place honors in each weight class go to

the man with the highest weight total for his three lifts. In the case of a tie, the person who is the lighter-weight is declared the winner.

Norm Gordon, faculty sponsor of the Barbell Club, explains that the meets are being held as "preliminary contests to the formation of a weightlifting team.

"Several schools have been contacted about the possibility of dual weightlifting meets, but nothing is definite at the present time," Gordon said. "We'd like to stay in the collegiate realm if we can, but if that's not possible, we may schedule competition with various weightlifting clubs."

GORDON MENTIONED that it probably wouldn't be too difficult to set up meets with YMCA groups or organized weightlifting clubs in cities like Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Harrisburg or York.

The main objective, however, is to form a nucleus for a squad from the contestants in the open meets here.

"We're hoping to get some pleasant surprises — somebody

who can really do something," Gordon said.

Gordon noted that his own group consists of several outstanding boys, especially in the heavier weight classes. He mentioned Bill Bardwell, Brian Young, Warren Seleckman, Joe Felice and Terry Sari as some of his top prospects.

"But we're really aching in the lighter weights," he lamented. "It's tough to find fellows that small (120-140 pounds) anymore, so there's not much talent in those classes."

A FEW YEARS AGO the group reached a high mark when it was able to secure competition from several schools and organizations. But then interest lagged, and it was not until this season that Gordon felt enough boys showed promise to warrant an attempt to schedule meets with other schools.

The weightlifting season runs approximately from January to April, so there is a definite possibility of dual meets this year. Gordon has written to Pitt, Maryland and West Chester, but as yet has not received word from the schools.

Rozelle Questions Lions' Karras

NEW YORK (AP)—Alex Karras, star tackle of the Detroit Lions, underwent a severe grilling by National Football League Commissioner Pete Rozelle at a secret rendezvous yesterday after his admission that he had bet on games.

The 250-pound All-Pro defensive lineman arrived by air yesterday morning, along with teammate Wayne Walker, to confer with the commissioner in the latest development of the pro football betting investigation.

Walker's session lasted 10 minutes but Karras, who said his wagers were limited to "a pack of cigarettes and a couple of cigars," was called back in the afternoon for a second grilling after having undergone a morning session that lasted 90 minutes.

"They didn't say anything to me but I feel I am in the clear," said Walker, the Lions' linebacker and placement kicker. "And believe me, it's wonderful."

"A thing like this makes you stop and think. Thank goodness I've never done anything wrong. Still I came within a whisker of getting into a lot of trouble. I'll sure be more careful from now on," referring to his earlier admission that he had met persons of somewhat shady character. But he insisted he had never discussed football with them nor had he ever made a bet on a game.

MEN!
SHARPEN UP THAT WARDROBE!
Levine Bros. Semi-Annual Sale
Now In Progress
YOU CAN SECURE SUITS,
SPORTSOATS, AND OTHER
FURNISHINGS AT GREAT SAVINGS
SHOP NOW AND SAVE.
LEVINE BROS. MENS SHOP
STATE COLLEGE

Nittany Dell
home of delicious sandwiches
Lox and Bagels
Served Sunday Till 2 P.M.
across from girls dorms

AUTO PARTS and ACCESSORIES
Western Auto
112 S. FRAZIER ST.
AD 7-7992

JAMMY
Sponsored by TIM Council
Sunday, January 20
featuring the fabulous
"THUNDERBOLTS"
2-5 P.M. HUB Ballroom
Everyone Welcome