

# Cagers 'Stagger' to 11th Victory

By DEAN BILICK  
Sports Editor

The Penn State basketball team boosted its chances for a post-season tourney bid last night in Rec Hall with a 75-64 win over Carnegie Tech, but it's a good thing there wasn't anyone from the selection committees watching the game.

In short, while the Lions did win their eleventh in fourteen starts, the manner in which they did it wasn't too impressive. The cagers staggered and sputtered against an undermanned Tech team that shouldn't have even been on the same floor.

STATE TOOK a brief 3-0 lead and then sat back and watched while the Tartans played a ball control game that jumped them into a 16-9 lead.

Tech held the lead until 3:19 remaining in the first half when the Nittanies finally edged into the lead on two foul shots by Earl Hoffman for a 22-21 margin.

While State didn't impress too many of the 3,000 fans that attended the game, Tech coach Mel Cratsley liked what he saw of the Lions.

"This is probably the best Penn State team that I've seen in my 14

years at Tech," Cratsley said in the locker room. "You probably had your poorest game and we had our best one and still you beat us by 10 or 11 points. Your club is young and they're going to get better."

While joking about it, the Tech coach admitted he felt the only way the Tartans could have won was to play complete ball control.

"We figured we'd have to shoot around 100 per cent from the field to win," Cratsley said. "I told the boys not to shoot unless they thought they had a 75 per cent chance of nailing it. I know the crowd didn't like it, but we didn't come here to play a game for the crowd."

CRATSLEY SAID he felt the Lions' Hoffman was the big difference in the game. Hoffman scored 26 points.

"He is the best shot we've played against this year," the Tartan coach said. "Every time we thought we were getting close, he'd pop one of

those jumpers in from outside. It's kinda hard to stop shooting like that."

The Lion co-captain hit on 11 of 20 shots to up his shooting percentage to near the 50 per cent mark. State, as a team, shot 47.5 per cent from the field. Tech hit on 45.4 per cent.

While Tech played the old-fashion, slow-down type ball, it was State's fast break and superior height advantage that was the deciding factor.

Time and again the Lions would clear the boards and fast break with either Bobby Donato, Bob Weiss or Hoffman at the scoring end of the break. Donato had one of his best nights with 17 points and Weiss was third high scorer with 14.

George Frazier was the top point-getter for Tech with 15 points. Sam Cupps, the stocky but aggressive Tartan center, was next with 13.

THE LOSS for Tech was their eighth against five wins.

State's biggest lead of the night was a 72-58 margin, but most of the game was played within the 10-point mark. The Lions led just 32-29 at halftime and with only 7:50 remaining in the game the lead was just, 51-47.

But Weiss, Terry Hoover and Hoffman hit on successive shots on the end of State's fast breaks to ice the game.

"We threw a couple of bad passes toward the end and it might have meant the difference in the game," Cratsley reasoned after the game. "Our boys panicked a couple of times and that was it."

State won't play again until Feb. 9 at Navy when the drive for a post-season tourney bid begins in earnest.

The summaries:

| PENN STATE |          | CARNEGIE TECH |          |
|------------|----------|---------------|----------|
|            | FG F TP  |               | FG F TP  |
| Donato     | 6 5 17   | Cupps         | 4 6 13   |
| Weiss      | 6 2 14   | Morrison      | 1 0 8    |
| Hoffman    | 11 1 26  | Frazier       | 6 3 15   |
| Avillion   | 2 0 1    | Laird         | 4 3 11   |
| Mullinback | 2 3 7    | Niedra        | 3 2 8    |
| Hoover     | 1 3 5    | Weronen       | 2 0 1    |
| Caro       | 1 0 2    | Borkowski     | 2 0 4    |
| Ludwig     | 0 0 0    | McGeary       | 0 0 0    |
|            |          | Ritchie       | 0 1 1    |
| Totals     | 29 17 75 | Total         | 25 11 64 |

Halftime score:  
Penn State 32; Carnegie Tech 29



Hoffman



Donato



—Collegian Photo by Den Coleman

BULLS-EYE—Lion co-captain Earl Hoffman arches one of his patented jump shots toward the hoop during last night's 75-64 win over Carnegie

Tech in Rec Hall. Hoffman scored 26 points as State won its 11th in 14 starts.

## Freshmen Crush Altoona For 4th Straight Victory

After a sluggish start, the Penn State freshman basketball team rolled to its fourth straight win of the season last night in Rec Hall with a 93-59 over the Altoona Center.

The Altoona team took an early 8-6 lead in the game as the Lion frosh were cold from the field.

Then, led by the hot outside shooting of guard Jim Reed and good playmaking by Jerry Roseboro, the frosh slowly pulled away to a comfortable 48-23 half-time lead.

HIGH SCORING Carver Clinton and Ray Saunders controlled the boards in the first half and also chipped in with key points. The frosh built up a 41-16 lead with 4:00 remaining before coach Snowy Simpson pulled his starting five.

Some sloppy defensive play by the frosh early in the second half kept the Altoona team in the game as they took advantage of the loose play to score easy buckets.

However, as soon as Altoona looked like they were making a comeback, Reed went to work hitting his long, high-arching 20-foot jump shot.

When the Altoona zone defense moved out to cover Reed, Clinton and Saunders started hitting for the key hole and the corners.

Midway through the second half, Simpson cleared the bench and let his reserves play the remainder of the game.

Reed led all scorers with 23 points while Clinton had 19 and Saunders 18.

Mike McCoy topped the Altoona team with 16 points.



JIM REED

| ALTOONA  |          | PENN STATE |         |
|----------|----------|------------|---------|
|          | FG F TP  |            | FG F TP |
| Watkins  | 6 0 12   | Clinton    | 9 1 19  |
| McCoy    | 5 6 16   | Neumayr    | 1 0 8   |
| Robuck   | 6 3 15   | Saunders   | 7 4 18  |
| Irwin    | 2 7 11   | Roseboro   | 5 0 10  |
| Calerie  | 0 0 0    | Reed       | 10 3 23 |
| McGeary  | 1 0 2    | Tedrow     | 2 1 5   |
| Johnson  | 0 1 1    | Bussman    | 1 0 2   |
| Lichtner | 1 0 2    | Rilly      | 1 0 2   |
|          |          | Schiff     | 1 0 2   |
|          |          | Blythe     | 1 0 2   |
|          |          | Strickman  | 1 0 2   |
| Totals   | 21 17 59 | Totals     | 42 9 93 |

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