

a dean's view



John Egli Confesses: 'I Never Made It'

By DEAN BILLYCK
Sports Editor

John Egli isn't any Cassius Clay or Bob Prince when it comes to verbal utterances or silver-tongued oratories, but the Lion basketball coach has a story to tell that could top the best banquet circuit offerings of either the fast talking Clay or Prince.

In fact Egli's story is more of a confession — a confession that the likeable mentor has been secretly harboring since 1952.

That was the year Egli was assistant basketball coach under Elmer Gross, who now teaches in the State Phys-Ed department. The Lions, who were led by honorable mention All-American center Jesse Arnette, were en route to a 20-4 record and a NCAA bid.

Further south, the West Virginia Mountaineers were also kicking up some dust with their All-American center Mark Workman. The Mounties were to end up with a 22-3 chart and a ninth-ranked position in the nation.

ANYHOW, the story goes like this. The arch-rival clubs were rolling over foe after foe and pointing toward their game with each other. State was roaring to a 17-4 chart and West Virginia to a 21-2 mark for the big encounter.

Two weeks before the clash Gross assigned Egli to scout the Mounties in their game with VPI in Blacksburg, Va. Gross told Egli he wanted a comprehensive scouting report on all the Mountaineer players and sketches of the Mountie offense and defense.

At this point it is probably better to let Egli confess:

"The day of the game I started the long drive to Blacksburg. In those days we didn't have a 'University' car pool like we do today, so I had to drive my own car. Well, coaches weren't too highly paid, so I owned an old wooden Buick station wagon. I guess maybe I had paid two or three hundred dollars for it, but it was near the end of its usefulness.

"I started driving down through all those hills and backwoods and it seemed the longer I drove, the further I was getting from Blacksburg. Pretty soon I noticed that it was starting to get dark and I still wasn't sure where I was.

"THEN IT HAPPENED. The oil line on that old Buick just gave way and there I was, out in nowhere and with the game fast approaching.

"Somehow I got the line patched-up after a while and began driving around those hills again. Finally I looked down at my watch and the game was scheduled to start in five or ten minutes. Just then I passed a sign that said: Blacksburg—100 miles.

"My stomach just about dropped and I didn't know what to do. I knew it was useless to go any further, but I also knew what Elmer would say if I told him I missed the game.

"So I pulled over to the side of the road and turned on my radio. As I turned my dial, into the speaker blared the start of the West Virginia - VPI game.

"Jack Fleming was announcing the game that night and in my opinion he is the best in the business. I turned on the dome light inside the car and from his description of the game, I wrote my scouting report. (West Virginia won, 99-82)

"I TOOK THE REPORT back to Elmer and he read it over and told me it was one of the better scouting reports. I really scared them to death with the report. I wrote about what great shots the West Virginia players were and how they rebounded well and played a great defensive game. I outlined their offense and sketched their defensive moves.

"Elmer thought it was a great job and it must have been. We went down there and beat them, 84-65, and after the win Elmer thought it was an even greater report.

"Even after the win I was scared to tell Elmer what had happened, and to this day he doesn't know that I wrote it from a radio report. If he reads the paper, he'll learn about it for the first time."

EGLI NEVER DID make it to Blacksburg that night and for anyone who is brave enough to attempt the trip, he has a few words of advice.

"Charlie Speidel is going down there for a wrestling match Saturday and I can give him some words of wisdom. Start plenty early. It'll take at least three days to get there!"

They say that confession is good for the soul, so Egli ought to sleep soundly tonight.

IT'S YOUR TURN CASSIUS!



JOHN EGLI

... a confession

Gymnasts May Be in Trouble If History Plans To Repeat Itself

By JOE GRATA

If history repeats itself this weekend, the results of the Penn State - Army gymnastics meet may not be good news. The battle is set for 8 p.m. Saturday in Rec Hall.

Last year at this time, the Nittany Lions sported a record identical to their present one — three wins against no losses. But Feb. 10, 1962, was a dismal day for Coach Gene Wettstone and his gymnasts.

That's when the Cadets handed last year's squad its only defeat in six dual-meets (54-42) and marred State's chances for an Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastic League title.

Again this year the situation is almost the same. Both teams have several strong performers and powerful reserve strength. About the only thing different will be the setting. Last year's meet was at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point; this year the Lions may gain a slight advantage when they perform before traditionally loyal home fans.

THROUGHOUT the years, Army has handled the Nittany gymnasts in rather rough fashion. In the all-time series that began in 1932, the Cadets hold the edge with 18 wins, 10 losses and one tie.

Saturday, Army dropped its only meet of the season when it lost a nip-and-tuck battle to Syracuse, 48 1/2 to 47 1/2. The scores were unusually high with performers from both teams scoring in the high 80's placing only fourth, fifth or last.

Meanwhile the Lion gym delegates were getting prepared for Saturday's showdown with a 62-34 tuneup against Navy at Annapolis, Md.

Navy coach Chet Phillips took it upon himself to do a little prognosticating after his Midshipmen were defeated in such convincing fashion.

"YOU SHOULD wallop Army," Phillips remarked. "I base this on



GENE HARLACHER

... adds valuable depth to Lion gym team

a scouting report sent to us on the Pitt-Army meet. I think that you have the edge on Army in depth and balance."

The veteran Navy coach explained that even his Navy contingent "expects to beat Army." But, more than likely, this was merely a bit of uncensored Army propoganda cast towards its traditional rival.

But Wettstone, although he's confident, isn't as optimistic as Phillips and has taken a wait-and-see attitude.

"We should be at full strength for Army," he said yesterday. "If our sophomores and reserves can come through with their best performances, we can beat this team."

State's three wins this season have been over Springfield (54-

42), Temple (55-41) and Navy. Syracuse (away) and Pitt (home) wrap up the Lions' dual-meet season.

STATE'S gymnasts battle the Army Plebes in the only other home sports event this weekend. The Lion freshmen are unbeaten in two starts with victories over Queens College and the Navy freshmen.

This will mark the first time that any Army Plebe squad has left the West Point academy to compete in an athletic event. The new policy adopted by the Army "brass" states that any of Army's freshmen sports teams may make one away trip each year.

The freshman meet is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

BREAKFAST SPECIAL

2 Eggs—Any Style

3 Strips Bacon
Toast & Jelly 39c
Coffee Free

Rea and Derick

121 - S. Allen St.

The Daily Collegian's Business Staff Candidate School for Winter Term will begin



TUESDAY

February 12, 1963

7:00 P.M.

117 Sackett

JACK HARPER

THE

ORIGINAL

State College

\$DAYS\$

TOMORROW

9:00 A.M.

FOR MEN—

- One group of Suits 1/2 price
- Corduroy Slacks 1/2 price
- Sweaters and Sport Shirts 1/2 price
- Lambs Wool Socks, Turtleneck Sweaters and Belts \$1

FOR WOMEN—

- Bermuda Shorts 1/2 price
- Skirts 1/2 price
- Shirts 1/2 price
- Sweaters 1/2 price
- Knee length madras
- Head Scarves and Belts \$1

Many other items at these reduced prices.

Closed Today!

ALL SALES CASH AND FINAL

Dick Harper

West College Avenue. State College
Around the Corner from Bostonian Ltd.