

Lion Cagers Cop Gator Bowl Trophy

Holiday Road Trip a Success; State Returns with 7-2 Record

By ALEX WARD

Collegian Sports Editor

Back in October Penn State basketball coach John Egli said the Lions' grueling Christmas holiday schedule bothered him more than a little. During the term break Egli and his basketballers had to gallivant up and down the East Coast from upstate New York to Florida to play the likes of Duke, Syracuse and North Carolina State and to fill a Dec. 29 engagement with Alabama in the Gator Bowl tournament.

A schedule like that would worry anyone. "If we get back from that road trip in decent shape," said Egli, "This should be a pretty good season."

In case anyone hasn't heard yet, the Lions made it back in very good shape and Egli can breathe a little easier. His team owns a 7-2 record, a Gator Bowl trophy and probably some stock in Eastern Airlines.

Along the way the State cagers took a few lumps (lopsided losses to top-ranked Duke and Syracuse) but these were largely overshadowed by the Gator Bowl win and a stunning, 70-69 upset of North Carolina State.

In the two-day tournament in Jacksonville, Fla., the Lions nipped 'Bama, 68-66, in the first round and beat Florida 54-52 a day later to win the whole show.

Ray Saunders, who scored 31 points and sparked the Lions defensively in both games, made off with the Most Valuable Player award.

Paul Mickey, the 6-7 center whose play was a big factor in the Lions' third consecutive Christmas tournament win, (the other two were in the Motor City Classic) tried to make off with someone's head in the Alabama game. Fortunately, he was unsuccessful. Mickey was involved in one of those minor disagreements which now and then occur on the court but he was restrained before imparting any damage.

As could be expected, Carver Clinton led the Lion scoring parade over the holidays. Clinton was red-hot against Syracuse, scoring 23 points before fouling out with a few minutes remaining. He also led State against Buffalo (22), and Colgate (25), before cooling off somewhat in the tournament.

The basketballers swing into action again tomorrow night at Carnegie Tech and will entertain Bucknell at Rec Hall next Wednesday night.

Briefly, here's how it's gone so far:

State 65, Maryland 61
Down by eight points late in the first half the Lions, with Clinton providing much of the momentum, rallied to close the gap to 32-30 at the break.

In the second half, State spurred into the lead quickly but the Terps' Gary Ward's hot shooting kept the game close.

Saunders' 15-foot jumper broke a 61-61 tie with a little over a minute to play and when Jim Reed sank a couple of free throws seconds later, Maryland and Ward were out of it.

Penn State	G	F	Pts.	Maryland	G	F	Pts.
Clinton	7	3	17	Williams	0	0	0
Roseboro	0	0	0	Ward	10	2	22
Reed	3	3	9	Brayton	5	3	13
Saunders	5	2	12	Harrington	3	1	7
Mickey	2	3	7	McMillan	5	0	10
Persson	6	1	13	Wise	4	1	9
Mickens	3	1	7				

Totals 26 13 65 Totals 27 7 61
Halftime score: Maryland 32, Penn State 30

State 81, Gettysburg 63
Hardly a contest here. The Lions couldn't miss and the Bullets completely misfired. State's zone defense and 47 per cent shooting average were much too much for Gettysburg.

Four State players scored in double figures and Clinton and Jim Reed shared the scoring honors with 16 apiece.

Egli was pleased with the teamwork in this one and Mickey, who had been tight as a drum against Maryland loosened up for 13 points.

Penn State	G	F	Pts.	Gettysburg	G	F	Pts.
Clinton	7	2	16	Satir	8	1	17
Roseboro	4	0	8	Yates	3	1	7
Reed	5	6	16	Ruck	1	0	2
Saunders	4	1	9	Sirms	6	1	13
Mickey	6	1	13	Richardson	1	0	2
Persson	5	0	10	Faczan	2	1	5
Mickens	3	1	7	Wilson	2	1	5
Hayes	0	2	2	Guers	4	1	9
Longwell	0	1	1	Morris	1	1	3

Totals 34 13 81 Totals 28 7 63
Halftime score: Penn State 43, Gettysburg 26

State 68, Buffalo 60
Eight days after the Gettysburg affair, the Lions packed their bags and took to the road. First stop, Buffalo, N.Y.

The time off robbed the Lions of the fine they reached against Gettysburg. Stagnant less at the start of the game, the cagers sent themselves down by three points, 33-30 at the break.

Nothing happened in the dressing room.



Egli's charges came out and reeled off 11 straight points and Buffalo was all but out of it. Carver hit for 28 points and Gerry Roseboro scored 17 as the Lions made it three in a row.

Penn State	G	F	Pts.	Buffalo	G	F	Pts.
Clinton	10	2	22	Walker	1	1	3
Saunders	1	2	4	Goodwin	7	3	27
Mickey	4	1	9	Barth	8	6	22
Reed	5	3	13	Poe	2	0	4
Roseboro	5	7	17	Goldstein	2	3	7
Persson	0	1	1	Bevilacqua	0	1	1
Mickens	1	0	2	Clubert	2	1	5

Totals 26 16 68 Totals 22 16 60
Halftime score: Buffalo 33, Penn State 30

Syracuse 103, State 79
The refs made straight for the chap-stick after this one. The whistle blew so much the place sounded like a school for traffic cops.

The game was a close one for about 33 minutes. It was tied 23-23 at the half and the Lions stayed with Syracuse' fast break for most of the second period too.

But with 6:17 left to play Mickey fouled out. Then Clinton fouled out. Then Leon Mickens fouled out. And finally Saunders fouled out. It got so that Syracuse would bring the ball down, send a man to the foul line and have him just wait there until the ref gave him a one-and-one.

The Lions scored 33 field goals to 36 for the Orange but were literally murdered at the foul line, 31-13. Carver was high man in the game with 28 points.

Penn State	G	F	Pts.	Syracuse	G	F	Pts.
Clinton	12	4	28	Bing	8	8	24
Mickens	4	0	8	Boehheim	8	2	18
Mickey	5	3	15	Cornwall	0	5	5
Persson	4	4	12	Dean	1	8	10
Reed	4	0	8	Goldsmith	1	2	4
Roseboro	1	0	2	Harper	3	4	10
Saunders	2	2	6	Hicker	8	2	18
Kimble	1	0	2	Nicoletti	3	0	6
				Reid	2	0	4
				Trobridge	2	0	4

Totals 33 13 79 Totals 36 31 103
Halftime score: Penn State 23, Syracuse 23

State 75, Colgate 74
The team got back in the win column in this game but as the score indicates, it wasn't easy. Substitute guard Gary Hayes' field goal put the Lions in the lead with more than two minutes to go. Colgate took a total of six shots in those two minutes and couldn't make one.

Carver's 25 points led all scorers. Jim Reed had 14.

Penn State	G	F	Pts.	Colgate	G	F	Pts.
Clinton	12	1	25	Zamat	3	0	6
Saunders	3	0	6	Dalzell	6	3	15
Mickey	4	0	8	Blangiewicz	8	5	21
Reed	5	4	14	Brown	6	3	15
Roseboro	0	0	0	Vigrass	8	1	17
Persson	3	2	8				
Mickens	4	2	10				
Hayes	2	0	4				

Totals 33 9 75 Totals 31 12 74
Halftime score: Penn State 32, Colgate 25

State 70, NC State 69
The Lions usually don't have too much fun on these annual jaunts to North Carolina but this time was different. The cagers surprised their southern hosts by jumping off to a huge, 26-5 lead early in the first half.

The Wolfpack squared things at 36 apiece at the break but the Lions' tenacious defense and NC State's poor shooting percentage kept things tight from then on. Jeff Persson's 24 and Clinton's 18 points helped too.

Penn State	G	F	Pts.	N. C. State	G	F	Pts.
Clinton	8	2	18	Mattocks	1	0	2
Reed	5	0	10	Worsley	9	0	18
Persson	11	2	24	Moffit	3	0	6
Saunders	4	1	9	Biedenbach	8	5	21
Mickey	2	3	7	Coker	4	5	13
Roseboro	1	0	2	Kretzer	2	1	5
				Gealy	2	0	4

Totals 31 8 70 Totals 29 11 69
Halftime score: Penn State 36, N. C. State 36

State 68, Alabama 66

First game of the Gator Bowl Tournament. Clinton drew three fouls in the first half and had to play it close the rest of the way. It didn't matter because Saunders picked up the slack, scoring 21 points and picking off 17 rebounds.

The Tide had a 32-31 lead at the half and the point spread never did get much wider than that, no matter who was winning.

Clinton's foul shot gave the Lions a 67-65 lead with less than a minute to play. Alabama's Harry Hammonds made one of two free throws seconds later but State controlled the ball till the final buzzer. Saunders was fouled as it went off.

Penn State	G	F	Pts.	Alabama	G	F	Pts.
Clinton	5	3	13	Turner	8	7	23
Saunders	9	3	21	Jones	2	0	4
Mickey	2	4	8	Hammonds	5	4	14
Persson	6	0	12	Moses	2	2	6
Reed	5	3	13	Nordholz	5	2	12
Mickens	0	1	1	Schumacher	3	1	7

Totals 27 14 68 Totals 25 16 66
Halftime score: Alabama 32, Penn State 31

State 54, Florida 52

The Lions had this thing going about close games. Egli's team didn't do much scoring in this one but with the zone defense choking Florida to death, it didn't have to. There were only eight points scored in the last five minutes of play.

The Lions' defense was so stiff that Florida couldn't put anything on the scoreboard the last three minutes of the game. When Mickey scored with 1:07 remaining to put State ahead, that was it. Both teams threw shutout ball from there on and the Lions were the Gator Bowl champs. Saunders was the outstanding player in the tourney and he and Persson were named to the All-Tourney team.

Penn State	G	F	Pts.	Florida	G	F	Pts.
Clinton	3	3	9	Keller	5	6	16
Saunders	3	4	10	Moreton	3	2	8
Mickey	5	7	17	Higley	2	0	4
Persson	6	0	12	Mahoney	1	1	3
Reed	3	0	6	Hoffman	1	0	2
				Winkler	5	0	10
				McElroy	4	1	9

Totals 20 14 54 Totals 21 10 52
Halftime score: Penn State 28, Florida 27

Duke 83, State 58

In the first few weeks of the season Duke catapulted into the nation's number one spot when the Blue Devils tore UCLA's vaunted full-court press to shreds and whopped the Bruins on two successive nights.

Penn State's zone defense isn't quite as renowned as UCLA's press but Duke believes in equal rights for all. The Blue Devils made a shambles of State's defense. State made a shambles of its shooting percentage. And the game was a runaway.

Vic Bubas' team jumped off to an early 9-2 lead and the Lions were out of it already. Jack Marin was the game's high scorer with 25 points but he wasn't accurate as teammate Mike Lewis, who was ten for ten from the floor.

Jim Reed was high man for the Lions with 16.

Penn State	G	F	Pts.	Duke	G	F	Pts.
Clinton	6	1	13	Marin	11	3	25
Saunders	3	1	7	Riedy	0	1	1
Mickey	3	5	11	Lewis	10	1	21
Reed	6	4	16	Verga	8	1	17
Persson	3	0	6	Vacendak	4	0	8
Roseboro	0	2	2	Chapman	1	2	4
Mickens	1	0	2	Liccardo	3	1	7
Kemble	0	1	1				

Totals 22 14 58 Totals 37 9 83
Halftime score: Duke 47, Penn State 27



High Flyin' Lion!

PENN STATE COURT CAPTAIN Carver Clinton leaps high to prevent a shot by North Carolina State's Pete Coker in a game at Raleigh on Dec. 27. Coker didn't get the shot off, but Carver was charged with a personal foul. He and the rest of the Nittany Lions kept their heads out of the clouds long enough to defeat the Wolfpack, 70-69, the first Penn State victory over N.C. State in 12 tries.

Hoopsters Set For Holidays

The 1965-66 season isn't even half over at this point and already the Lions are booked up solid for the 1966 and 1967 holiday seasons.

Coach John Egli's team has received and accepted an invitation to play in the Kentucky Invitational at Lexington, Ky., before Christmas this year.

A week later, the Nittany hoopsters will journey farther south, to Jacksonville, Fla., to defend their title in the Gator Bowl Tournament.

The three other teams which have been invited to the bluegrass court classic are Oregon State, Kansas State and host Kentucky.

Coach Adolph Rupp's Wildcats captured the 1965 Kentucky Invitational crown two weeks ago by defeating Air Force 78-58, in the opening round and Indiana, 81-58, in the finals.

No pairings for the Lexington event have been made.

Oregon State won the Far West Classic last week, the eighth straight year the Beavers have copped that championship, while K-State was participating in the Big Eight tourney.

So far, Penn State is the only team which has been invited to the Gator Bowl championship last week by downing Alabama, 68-66, and Florida, 54-52, on successive nights.

In 1967, the Lions will head for the colder climes at Christmas time to play in the ECAC Holiday Festival at Madison Square Garden.

The tourney, which will be held in the new 20,000-seat Garden, also features Syracuse, St. John's, LaSalle, Columbia, Louisville, West Virginia and Boston College.

Saturday's Sports Schedule

- BASKETBALL
Penn State vs. Carnegie Tech (away)
- WRESTLING
Penn State vs. Lehigh (away)
- GYMNASTICS
Penn State vs. Massachusetts (away)



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