

sports of sorts

# Gunfight at the RH Corral

By LEW THOMPSON  
Assistant Sports Editor



When Gene Weststone arrived at Penn State 23 years ago, gymnastics and Weststone had no place to go but up. Today, in 1966, the former Big Ten champion from the University of Iowa and his Nittany Lion gymnasts have nowhere to go but down, for the Lions are the "Kings of the Hill" on the American college gymnastics scene.

It isn't always easy being the reigning NCAA champion, because the title-winning team becomes Public Target No. 1 the following season, and this is especially true for the Penn State gymnasts.

Let's face it, the Lions gathered in all the gymnastic marbles in 1965—the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastic League championship, the Eastern Regional title and finally the top NCAA prize.

And it wasn't only the fact that the Lions won; it was the way that they won—big!

Even in the NCAA elimination tournament leading up to the title meet at Carbondale, Ill., the Lions came up on top with embarrassing ease: 94-23 over West Virginia, 66 1/2-53 1/2 against Southern Illinois, and a 68 1/2-51 1/2 triumph over Washington to cop the national crown.

And to add salt to the wounds suffered by a lot of good coaches and a lot of good gym teams, that NCAA title was the eighth for Penn State and coach Weststone, the most ever captured by a single school.

So, now Weststone finds himself and his team in a precarious position. The Lions will be the team every opponent on the schedule will be pointing for. That makes Weststone the gymnastic equivalent of Johnny Ringo, the top gun that every upstart and brash young gunslinger would like to knock off in hopes of building up a big reputation.

The Lions cleared the first hurdle in defense of their NCAA championship last Saturday night by walloping the University of Massachusetts, 184.05-149.05. It wasn't a difficult victory, Weststone won his initial 1966 gunfight needing little more than a derringer.

This Saturday, he's going to need at least a .45 and maybe a sawed-off shotgun to avoid being carted off to boothill when Springfield College invades Rec Hall at 2:30 p.m.

Coach Frank Wolcott's Springfield squad is primed for a do-or-die struggle that could turn the floor of Rec Hall into a modern day Dodge City—with the winner taking all and the loser heading for the gymnastic graveyard.

Saturday Springfield defeated a tough Army outfit, 181.35-173.50, to increase their season's slate to 3-0. And there is nothing Wolcott would like better than to add another notch to his six-shooter against Penn State.

He has the horses to do it, too. All-around man Bob Cargill should be set to lock horns in a personal duel with the Lions' Steve Cohen, while Jay Otto, Ken Henderson, Tom Auchterlone and Lou Riccietello are Springfield specialists capable of giving the best Penn State has a real battle.

Using the fallacy-filled process of comparing scores, the Lions should win by two points off their Saturday night point total of 184.05 and the visitors' 181.35 aggregate on that afternoon against the Black Knights.

However, Weststone scouted Springfield in their win over the Cadets and he came away from Memorial Fieldhouse in Springfield, Mass., with nothing but respect for this weekend's opponent.

The long-time dean of American gymnastics is aware that it will be a matter of Springfield's veterans against the Lions' sophomores. He plans to use Steve Cohen in the all-around and team captain Ed Isabelle in an unlimited number of events to get as much experience as he can in the lineup. But the ultimate outcome of the meet will depend upon the performance of the Nittany sops. They must do as well, if not better, against Springfield as they did against UMass, or the Lions' hopes of repeating at the nationals will die in the dust.

The first-year men did well against the Redmen, but the pressure they faced in Boyden Gym was minute compared to what it will be Saturday in Rec Hall before 6,000 witnesses. And sophomores have been known to fold up in crucial shoot-outs.

Dennis Paoletti was laughing in the Penn State locker room after the UMass meet. One of the judges added up the deductions for Dennis' side horse routine and they came to 5.6 of a point, giving him a 9.40 for the exercise.

Mistakenly, the official recorded an 8.40, and Dennis laughed about the incident. You can laugh at things like that when you win big.

There won't be any laughing Saturday. People don't laugh at funerals.

# Face Lions in Rec Hall Bucknell Here Tonight

By ALEX WARD  
Collegian Sports Editor

Bucknell's basketball team, fresh from an 80-74 victory over American University Monday night and winner of its last four games, makes its annual trip to Rec Hall today to play Penn State. Game time is 8 p.m.

Coach Don Smith's Bisons, after a rather disastrous start, have beaten Gettysburg, Westminster, Scranton and Lafayette in the last few weeks, raising a pitiful, 2-5 record to a respectable 6-5.

"It's the first time this season our ball club has been over .500," said Bucknell sports publicist Dean Billick yesterday. "And the team is playing better than it has all year."

On paper, Smith's biggest problem appears to be a decided lack of height. His pivot man and one forward measure 6-6 each, but they're the biggest men on the team by a long shot.

### Bisons Young

One factor Smith does have on his side, however, is youth. As Billick explained, "right now we're starting only one senior, captain Larry Kozella. Matt McMonigle and John Rodgers, the two big men, are juniors and John Murphy and Jerry Bartley are just sophomores."

Besides being the biggest men on the team physically, McMonigle and Rodgers lead Bucknell in scoring and rebounding. Rodgers, who scored 27 points in Monday's game, is the team's highest scorer with a 17-point average. McMonigle trails him by a fraction.

To make ample use of these two and to compensate for his team's general smallness, Smith uses a double post, much the same as the Lions did a year ago with Ray Saunders and Carver Clinton.

According to Billick, Smith's strategy is sound. "American University had a 7-1 center and a couple of other fellows over 6'7," he said. "Yet with McMonigle and Rodgers, both on the post we out-rebounded them, 44-41."

Even so, Bucknell's chances of beating the Lions tonight seem about the same as they were a year ago, if not less. State's 8-2 record competition than the Bisons have seen this year.

### Looking Ahead?

However, the very fact that the Lions have a tougher schedule could work in Bucknell's favor. On Saturday Egli takes his players to West Virginia and there is always the possibility the Lions could be thinking ahead to the Mountaineers tonight.

Another thing that has bothered Egli lately is the lack of opportunity the Lions have had to practice. The last three weeks has been spent on the road where Egli contends "It's awfully hard to get in a decent workout."

But the Lion coach, like most others in his profession, is a disciple of the win-at-all-costs, of ego, philosophy and it is likely his players feel the same way.

Egli will stay with his usual starting lineup of Clinton and Saunders at the forwards, Jim Reed and Jeff Persson the guards and Paul Mickey at center.

Persson, a 6-3 sophomore, is a barrage of hip fakes and jump shots, mostly of the successful variety. His offensive punch (a 10-point average) has moved him ahead of Gerry Roseboro.

NITTANY NOTES: After the West Virginia game, the Lions will have a week off before playing Pitt in Rec Hall. . . Bucknell's McMonigle is shooting almost 50 per cent from the floor this year.

# Rifle Team Opens Season at Cornell

By DICK LIPPIN

Collegian Sports Writer  
Penn State's rifle team opens the 1966 season at Cornell University Jan. 15, and the job of preparing a group of promising sophomores will be left in the hands of a new coach, Sgt. John Smith.

Coach Smith, who succeeds Sgt. Rod Washburn, will have the responsibility of reshaping a squad which finished with a 5-3 record but lost three of the top five scorers through graduation. Sgt. Washburn relinquished his duties but will remain active as assistant to Smith.

Two seniors will form the nucleus of this year's squad, they are Gary Dunning and Philip Kevin. Dunning did a fine job last season topping the year off with an individual triumph at the Merchant Marine Academy sections. Kevin, also a consistent marksman, placed second in the National Navy ROTC tournament.

Coach Smith expressed his hope for a successful season. "We're looking for a better record this year," he said. "The number of boys who have turned out has increased over last year and the interest is more intensive. "One thing in

our favor," Smith added, "is the fact that all our important matches will be at home where in 1965 they were all on the road."

Some of the big contests that Smith was referring to were matches against Army, Navy and West Virginia, all of whom served to mar the State record last year. But these were all on the road.

Roundout of the team's schedule will be matches against Carnegie Tech, Indiana State College, Lehigh, Villanova and the two pre-season tournaments, the IFA and the P.L.A.A. which will be held at Penn State.

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# Southern 5's Dominate Basketball's Top Ten

By The Associated Press

That tune they're playing in college basketball is Dixie.

Three Southern teams are running well ahead of the rest of the field in this week's Associated Press rankings. Duke, Kentucky and Vanderbilt gathered in 43 of the 44 first-place votes cast by the AP's nationwide panel of experts, with the Blue Devils keeping a good grip on the top with 32.

After the top three came St. Joseph's of Pennsylvania, Bradley and Providence—all retaining last week's positions. Brigham Young moved in seventh, Texas Western up to eighth and UCLA up to ninth.

Kentucky, 11-0 after Monday night's 69-65 double overtime victory over Georgia, and Texas Western, 12-0, are the only unbeaten teams.

Vanderbilt swamped Mississippi, 106-58, and Kansas beat Oklahoma, 89-68, in other games Monday night involving the Top Ten. Bradley topped the Polish national team, 81-77, in an exhibition.

The Top Ten with won-loss records through games of Jan. 8, and total points on a 10-9-8 etc. basis:

1. Duke (11-1) 405
2. Kentucky (10-0) 365
3. Vanderbilt (12-1) 338
4. St. Joseph's Pa. (10-2) 238
5. Bradley (13-1) 236
6. Providence (10-1) 174
7. Brigham Young (10-1) 149
8. Texas Western (12-0) 120
9. UCLA (9-3) 103
10. Kansas (11-2) 47

### IM Announcement

Due to a change in the varsity basketball team's practice schedule, all intramural basketball games originally set for 10:30 p.m. in the main gym will be moved up to 8 p.m.

This change applies only to fraternities and dormitory games. The schedule for independent teams, which play in the auxiliary gym, will remain the same.

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