

Lion cagers topple Rutgers

By WARREN PATTON
Collegian Senior Reporter
Once again, a fine guard led his team into Penn State. As usual, Jim Dashiield had to cover him. And, typically, the fine guard's team lost.

Such was the scene at Rec Hall last Saturday, one which has not been without precedent this year. One by one Brian Taylor, Wilbert Robinson, Greg Kohls, Barry Parkhill and finally Rutgers' John Somogyi ventured into the Nittany Valley and every one of them went home losers.

Of the aforementioned, only Robinson of West Virginia reached his season's scoring average in Rec Hall and that owed more to the quantity than to the quality of his shots. And the chief practitioner of all this frustration, Dashiield, is only beginning to realize his prowess as a defensive player.

"He really ran me ragged out there," Dashiield puffed of Somogyi following Penn State's 77-66 victory over Rutgers. "He got by me a few times but somebody else was always there to back me up."

Somogyi, the Scarlet Knights' leading scorer, freed himself long enough for only 11 shots, eight less than his norm. He also totaled but 20 points, somewhat under the 23.6 average he brought with him from New Jersey.

Thus was a successful finish achieved in John Bach's experiment in the transformation of his transfer guard from Robert Morris Junior College.

"I've never really been able to remain the same basketball player from one year to the next," Dashiield joked. "My first year in college, my coach wanted me to be a shooting guard. Then, the next year he wanted me to be the assist man so I passed more. When I came here, I learned that now I was going to be concentrating on defense."

Unfortunately, Dashiield's defensive efforts went largely unnoticed alongside the offensive side of the game, much of it flagrant. Vince Roundtree, Rutgers' strongman forward almost decapitated a Lion underneath the boards with a whirlwind of forearm play. The crowd hooted, but no foul ensued.

"The ref said he didn't see

his elbows move more than once," Bach concluded lightly.

Another time, Ron Brown and Gene Armstead went up for a rebound, each coming down hard with a piece of each other.

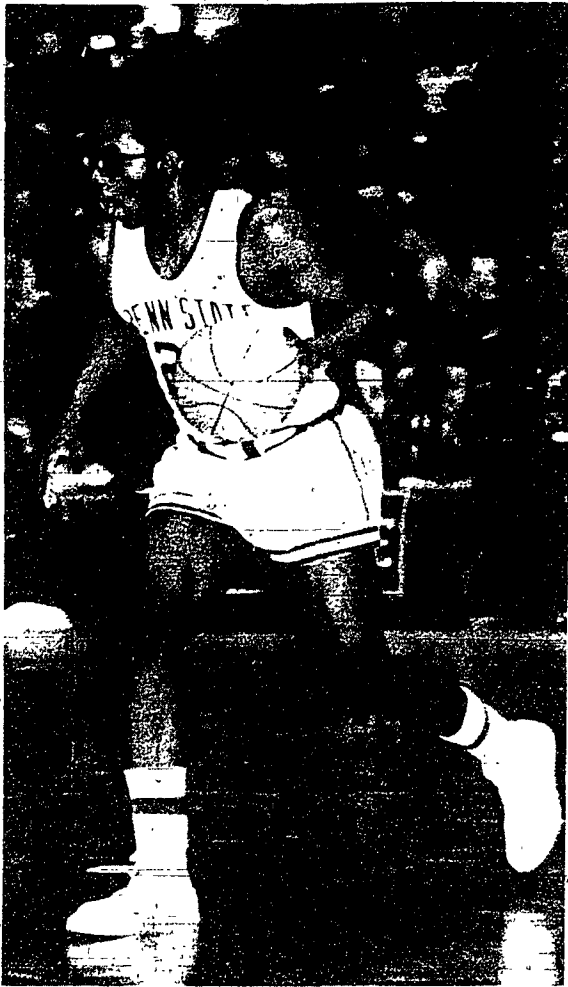
A pileup collected around the foul line, from which Brown emerged minus his glasses and not completely in control of himself. "I got a little mad at some of the things which were going on," he explained.

One of those things was a well-placed shove from Roundtree, resulting in a technical foul mistakenly awarded to Armstead. "How could you give it to me?" the big center pleaded to the scorer's table. "We don't even look alike."

FREE THROWS — The Lions finished the season with a record of 17-8, which was the third highest win total in school history. They were 9-2 at home, 8-6 on the road.

Ed Chubb broke the school record for field goal percentage, shooting .531 for the season.

Ron Brown's sophomore statistics read 434 points scored, for a team leading average of 18 points per game. He also set the Penn State mark for assists in a season with 110. Chuck Crist also dished out 100, making the two the best passing combination to wear the Penn State blue and white.



Soph touch

RON BROWN, Penn State's outstanding sophomore, gunned the Lions past Rutgers, 77-66, Saturday in Rec Hall. His 25 points gave him 434 for the season, the most ever by a sophomore at Penn State. He also set a single season assist record with 110.

Bach NIT-picking

By GLENN SHEELEY
Assistant Sports Editor

"Ben, did you see the game?" an anxious John Bach inquired of NIT committee chairman Ben Carnevale yesterday.

Carnevale, who was viewing the late season action at Madison Square Garden, admitted to the Penn State coach, his long-time friend, that he had not been tuned into the ECAC Game-of-the-Week.

He quickly calmed Bach down assuring him the remarks from other persons on the committee were "favorable."

Bach was hoping to gather some good news from Carnevale as to whether or not the Nittany Lions had played their last game of the season. They had just beaten a strong Rutgers team, 77-66 — culminating a season Bach feels is worthy of a spot in the NIT tournament.

"He told me we would definitely be one of the six or seven teams to be given consideration," Bach said late yesterday afternoon. According to Carnevale, the majority of today's committee deliberation will be focused on the conference teams. By tomorrow or Wednesday, the time devoted toward independent teams and their chances for an NIT berth, Bach will learn the fate of his 17-8 Penn State cagers.

One of Bach's problems at this point is receiving "a frank appraisal" of the Lions' credentials from Carnevale. "I know they don't like personal calls," Bach said earlier in the afternoon while trying to reach Carnevale at his New York home. Carnevale later returned the call to Bach, who was sitting by the telephone all afternoon.

After the Rutgers game Saturday Bach told reporters he would attempt to discover what might be on the minds of the committee. "I'm going to call my friends on the committee, the guys I grew up with," Bach said. "I don't want to influence them as a friend but as a team we feel deserves being looked at."

After the call, personal or not, the Penn State coach didn't know much more than he did before. The committee had informed Bach that the Lions' chances rode on their performance against Rutgers. If they emerged with their 17th win they would be "given consideration." So, now the consideration process is beginning.

"He wouldn't speculate on our chances,"

Bach said. "But it's rumored there are two or three independent spots still at large. I was satisfied when he said we have a chance. As long as there's a chance I'll just have to wait patiently by the telephone."

Television contests have not been the most fortunate things for Penn State teams in recent years as the football team discovered two years ago in Colorado and last season in Tennessee.

Bach's situation was considerably more pleasant. Although Penn State did not play its most flawless game of the year, it still terminated with the Lions on top — the chief statistic the NIT committee was watching.

"I thought the television exposure went over well," Bach said, "although we hoped for a packed house." (The attendance was 4,000).

Penn State Sports Information John Morris assisted in mailing the happy news to the members of the committee, statistics and the like, to what Bach terms "plead our case." He hopes the package will be received today.

"I feel we shouldn't be overlooked on the basis of what we've done," Bach said.

Bach's point is well taken. His team has won 17 games this year, the third highest total in Penn State basketball history. They have won 12 of their last 15 games, adequately fulfilling the "finishing strong" category the NIT demands of its competitors.

Duquesne's 19-4 squad is the one many feel will fill the berth the Lions are hoping to step into. The NCAA committee may have skipped over the Dukes due to the Dave Ruddy case. Ruddy had been lifted from the Duquesne roster midway in the season for being ineligible under NCAA rules.

"Each committee looks at it differently," Bach said. "When you have a situation like that — it always stirs up conjecture. Duquesne's record is in itself impressive although most of their wins have come at home."

Penn State, a team which during the beginning of its season had numerous road problems, rallied to finish with an 8-6 card away from Rec Hall.

Bach, an amateur pilot, said "I won't buzz the field but you may see me flying around at 2,500 feet." That would have been the case had the news from Carnevale been a little more definite. As it is, Bach's plane is still in the hangar.

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