

### Lions favored to take 2nd straight crown

# Netmen open defense of Eastern title

By BILL GUTHLEIN  
Collegian Senior Reporter  
A well-rested Penn State tennis team defends its Eastern Championship title today through Saturday at Rochester College. The Lions appear favorites again with only nine universities sending full teams.

The netters have been inactive since their 7-2 triumph over Navy May 16. Practices on the Holiday Inn hard courts have been sporadic because of the incessant rains and indoor practices were disrupted by

the PIAA championships held over the weekend. Penn State coach Holmes Cathrall expects the layoff to effect the team's timing but hopes all the competing squads have been suffering similar woes.

The Easterns are divided into four separate events: the Class A singles and doubles, and Class B singles and doubles. The top two singles players and number one doubles team of each school are entered in the A category. Other team regulars are placed in the B division.

The A singles should be the most hotly contested division with Penn Staters dominating the seedings in the other divisions. Lion head netter Jan Bortner earned a third seeding in the talent-laden field with teammate Walker Shivar ranked seventh.

Heading the seeding list is Cornell's Eric Scheduling, followed by Maryland's John Lucas. Bortner opened his season with a thin-as-a-dime, three-set loss to the Terp frosh.

The score could well be reversed if the two meet each

other again. Bortner's game has undergone a metamorphosis of sorts between an unexpected loss against Army and a surprisingly easy win against Navy.

"Right after Army I took a couple of days off," Bortner said, "I came back eager to play, but relaxed. I started playing a whole new game. I was playing really good tennis all year but then I started playing real smart tennis."

Bortner showed off his new game to a Penn State crowd and unhappy Midshipman Craig Dawson. The Lion sophomore has mixed powerful groundstrokes with a dash of a net game and a pinch of innovation to come up with a winning recipe. He could burn a few unsuspecting netters this week.

Seeded fourth in the A singles is Bob Odasz of Columbia. He soundly defeated Lion Tom Wright after dropping the first set. Number five seed is Mike Pouces of Brown, Delaware's Jeff Dumansky is sixth, and Penn's Andy Finn is eighth.

Missing from the seeds is Maryland's Bob Garmony. The Terp two man apparently

slipped by the seeding committee. Garmony crushed Lion freshman Miguel Murtua 6-1, 6-1 in their regular season encounter.

"Garmony could beat anyone who has been seeded," Cathrall said, "I'll tell you one thing, the number one seed (Scheduling) has no chance of winning it. I think we have a good chance all-around, especially in the B divisions."

In the B singles Tom Wright enters as defending champ and top seed in the tourney. The Lions clearly dominate the division with Murtua, Bruce Issadore, and John Karr ranked third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

The B doubles seedings reads like the Penn State roster with Murtua and Bortner, Issadore and Karr the only teams seeded of 25 entries. Shivar and Wright

will defend their Eastern doubles crown against more credible challengers. Lucas and Garmony of Maryland, Odasz and Karl Moritz of Columbia both could dethrone the Lion duo, especially since the two-time champs have been having trouble winning lately.

The following are Penn State's first round draws in the Eastern Intercollegiate Tennis Championships

- Class A Singles: Jan Bortner (PS) vs Jeff Reuben (Lehigh); Walker Shivar (PS) vs Jeff Oakes (Princeton)
- Class B Singles: Tom Wright (PS) vs Scott Merrill (Maine); Miguel Murtua (PS) vs Keith Kopeck (Lehigh); Bruce Issadore (PS) vs Steve Rosenthal (Hunter); John Karr (PS) vs Greg Herbitz (Maine)
- Class A Doubles: Shivar and Wright (PS) vs Dilton and Schmidt (RIT)
- Class B Doubles: Bortner and Murtua (PS) vs Sharpe and McMaster (Virginia); Issadore and Karr (PS) vs Malro and Pappas (New England)



Murtua practices in Eastern tune-up

Photo by H.R. Begley II

## Meters inch into sports

CINCINNATI (AP) — Imagine Henry Aaron slamming a home run over the center field fence at the 123.13-meter mark. Or Howard Cosell commenting on a key "third and centimeters" situation in football.

Brace yourself sports fans. The metric system could make the slide rule a necessity for reading the sports pages.

The prospects of feet and inches being abolished promise to hit the sports fan where it hurts — in the record book.

The Cincinnati Reds of the National League, in a move apparently designed to show their feelings for the American League's newly-

introduced designated hitter, converted outfield distances to metric figures at Riverfront Stadium and waited for baseball's first "metric home run" or "hometer."

The baseball fan's reaction to the gimmick could be measured in yawns.

Baseball would be least affected by a change to the metric system, but some diehards might not take to the idea of reading about a tape-measure home run of 172 meters instead of 600 feet.

And how will Bear Bryant accept referring to football as "a game of decimeters?"

Will Woody Hayes sputter when his offense is changed to "2.8 meters and a cloud of dust?"

What about the Indianapolis 500? Is it soon to be a kilometer classic?

The changes would be minimal for basketball, hockey and golf. The biggest need would be some math refreshers for sports announcers who would be called upon to quickly describe the distance of a Jerry West jumper, a Bobby Hull slapshot or a Jack Nicklaus drive.

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## Indy Speedway prepares for round three

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indianapolis 500-mile race, plagued by rain and already marred by a spectacular crash, was postponed a second time yesterday when officials said the famed track was not safe.

Chief Steward Harlan Fengler, probably the busiest man at the ancient race course he has ruled for 16 years, announced that the third attempt to get the \$1-million classic under way will be made at 10 a.m. EDT today.

He had told the 175,000 spectators, most of whom were huddled under umbrellas and plastic tarpaulins, that rain had made the 2.5-mile Indianapolis Motor Speedway unsafe.

The 57th running of America's oldest and richest auto race had been set for a noon EDT start Monday.

But three rain delays set it back for four hours before Fengler and other officials decided the asphalt was not dry enough to provide traction for the 190 mile-an-hour cars.

The 33 starters actually were sent on their way Monday at 4:05 p.m., but most of them had gone only 100 yards before more than a dozen cars were involved in a massive pileup on the front straightaway.

Driver David "Salt" Walther, a 25-year-old comparative new-comer from Dayton, Ohio, apparently lost control of his machine and climbed the homestretch fence separating the track from the spectator area.

His car became a ball of fire, spraying flames and debris on people occupying expensive box seats just 20 feet from the track.

Other drivers became involved and, in the end, two of them were treated for minor injuries. Walther was hospitalized with serious burns. His condition still was listed as serious yesterday.

Nine spectators also were hospitalized, most for burns and some for eye injuries. An even heavier shower, the fourth of the day, forced a postponement until Tuesday.

But the 24-hour delay didn't help. Intermittent rains began. At one point, the cars were lined up and actually took one parade lap and part of the pace lap before starter Pat Vidan displayed a red flag indicating a halt to the proceedings as a drizzle began to fall.

After that, cars and drivers remained on the front straight for three more hours before Fengler finally sent the racers back into their garages until today.

Earlier, Fengler fined three drivers \$100 each for improving their positions before Monday's aborted start.

They were Steve Krisloff of Parsippany, N.J., the seventh-place starter; Peter Revson of New York City, whose McLaren will go off 10th; and three-time winner A. J. Foyt, whose 23rd position was the worst he has ever had in 16 starts at Indy. It was the only time in the Speedway's 57-year race history that an event has been postponed more than once.

## Wood's knuckler baffles American League hitters

CHICAGO (AP) — Wilbur Wood is excused from worrying about the Tigers. The Detroit Tigers arrived yesterday in Chicago for a two-game set, but there didn't appear to be a way for Wood to get into action against them.

The master of the fluttering, wobbling knuckleball that has baffled American League hitters again this year, got his twin victories Monday night. He pitched the last five innings of a game, which previously had been suspended. The Sox won 6-3 in the 21st inning, and then Wood came right back to pitch a four-hit shutout.

It wasn't the first time he won a pair in a single day, either. He did it in 1969 while he worked exclusively as a relief pitcher. Since turning to a starting role, Wood has won 22 and 24 games in the last two seasons.

His shutout was his fourth this year and lowered his earned run average to 1.71.

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