

Panthers take round one

By RICK STARR
Assistant Sports Editor
PITTSBURGH—With more than 16 minutes remaining in the final half yesterday at the Pitt Fieldhouse, Lion center Randy Meister drew foul number five. All 5,300 fans, many of them standing, cheered the happening. It made everything so simple: rebound Knight; shot Knight; good night.

The picture of Meister's departure surely will remain in Lion coach John Bach's memory. The bright lights shining on his hair, framed by the screaming, gyrating fans in the dark stands as he crossed the length of the floor. His head was bent to the right and slightly downward. His expression was under firm control, but it still cursed his luck and the officials.

Penn State lost to a very good ball club from Pitt yesterday afternoon 83-61 as the Panthers justified their Top Twenty ranking by ending the Lions' six game winning streak. That made the Lions 1-1 on their Steel City weekend trip.

Penn State ran past Duquesne 73-63 Saturday at Pittsburgh's Civic Arena.

The win over Duquesne was made easier by an only partially ready Lionel Billings, who ran like he'd just been kicked in the shins by an aggressive little sister.

the daily Collegian sports

8—The Daily Collegian Monday, January 28, 1974

Billings, who'd missed six games with an ankle injury, grew tired late in the game, also.

Still, the Dukes, usually a formidable foe, made a tough showing before the Lions worked past them.

Then there was the Pitt game. Penn State's chance to get rich quick. Pitt's chance to move still higher in the polls. Bach and Pitt coach Charles "Buzz" Ridd and the 5200 Pitt fans and the 100 Lion supporters were set at 2 p.m. to see their starting fives in action. 5201 got their wish. Bach and the PSU rooters spent the afternoon in frustration.

The loss of Meister, Penn State's top scorer despite the fact that he played only 16 minutes out of 40, left the Lions spinning slowly, slowly in the wind. Ron Brown, hampered by four fouls in the stretch, was not his usual self during the times he wasn't on

the bench.

To make a long story short, Pitt sank 25 of 31 free throw attempts. Penn State made three of six. The reactions were varied.

"I had two, maybe three fouls," Meister said. "(Jim) Bolla hooked me as he was blocking me away from the basket. Then he went up for the rebound and it looked like I fouled him."

"You run into things like this," Brown said, "but it's just something you have to put up with."

"We didn't lose because of the officiating," Bach said. "Pitt shot well, hurt us inside and came up with the steals. They have very good downcourt speed and they're not hurt when they go to the bench. They're a nice team, they've earned their wins."

"Only a good, well-poised team will beat them. They make you so down-court conscious that it pulls you

away from the boards. We didn't have board control. Pitt today was a better team."

Penn State, with everybody in the lineup, could have made it a closer game. Certainly it would have been closer than 22 points. Meister's performance was having at least a neutralizing effect on Pitt All-America hopeful Billy Knight.

The Penn State-Pitt rematch on Feb. 23 should be interesting.

The Lions won't be playing Duquesne for at least a year, though, but Bach doesn't think that's so bad.

"Duquesne is a good ballclub," Bach said following that game. "I'd watch out for them, at the end of the season. Billings was out of shape after that long injury rest. The crowd was with him but he ran out of gas. Roland Jones was hurting us outside because we were dropping four men in on Billings."

"The guards (Kevin Burke, Tommy Doaty, Jim Ouder Kirk) were refreshing and Jon Marshall took over the boards."

"In the past we were just a vulture waiting up on the vine—unable to kill anybody."



Lion sophomore Tommy Doaty (21) eyes a prowling Panther

Photo by H.R. Begley II

Chasing after dollars doesn't make sense to Bach

PITTSBURGH—Lion basketball coach John Bach's words on behalf of Mary Alice dresses and greedy TV network producers should be an indication that some of the weekend's best action took place around the court as well as on it.

Most of the excitement took place during the Duquesne contest, which was televised regionally by the TVS network as the ECAC Game of the Week.

The seat of the problem was set up next to the scoreboard operator and was occupied by the gentlemen in charge of coordinating the eight scheduled commercials, of varying lengths, into the game. The idea is to blow the buzzer during a pause in the action, and signal a time out to the refs. The officials then tell the two clubs that they have just called time.

The refs then come over and find out how long the commercial is (45 seconds, one minute, one minute and 15 seconds) and try to keep the teams in the huddle until it's over.

Naturally, everything goes wrong and the teams break up and start wandering around the floor and the fans and the players have to stand there and look at each other for a half a minute before the network returns and play can resume.

For a coach, it creates such problems as how to keep any semblance of momentum running and, more immediately, what to say in a team huddle for a minute and a quarter.

Rick Starr
ass't sports editor



College time outs only last 45 seconds and Bach, like Duquesne coach Red Manning, have learned to organize their thoughts, get everything across to the players and get them back out in 45 seconds.

All that is hairy enough. Now add the element of money. If a network can get away with eight commercials and still have three minutes of playing time left, why not run another one. Or even two, like TVS decided to do.

The ninth time the commercial man signaled time out the refs came over to complain.

"I thought you said that was it?" referee Vince Jacobs complained, feeling the heat the glares of two coaches can generate.

"They said two more," the commercial man replied, flipping his head set up. "That's all they told me."

The ref took out his handkerchief, half to wipe the perspiration away and half to signal a surrender. Any capitalist would have done as much. Bach was annoyed with the whole matter, which isn't surprising.

"It was annoying to me and it must have been annoying to the players. You lose all continuity in the game. Not only do they have so many time outs, they're so long. If that's the only source of income, forget it. I'd rather have what we do at Penn State. This is unfair to the athletes."

"This should happen to the pros, not to the colleges. The only people who like it are the one's making the money."

Bach, who retreated out of the locker room after the Duquesne game due to the rush hour traffic jam, chided Lion forward Jon Marshall for his timid play during a short lapse.

"The first couple times they drove the lane you looked like you were in a tunnel trying to get out of a train's way. I was going to get a Mary Alice dress for you," Bach laughed.

Quick weekend impressions:
Pitt Fieldhouse—Great place to store an airplane, although

it has a redeeming collegiate atmosphere about it.

Pittsburgh—Nice place to live in, lousy to visit.

Pitt All-American hope Billy Knight—Always in the right place at the right time, pulls up cleanly for jumper, one on one opponents are lucky to get away with their shorts.

Lion Ron Brown—Guarded Knight and kept his shorts, good game against Duquesne, invisible on offense at Pitt

Lionel "Big Train" Billings—When the Dukes get it to him underneath it's time to sell the farm.

Randy Meister—Before the fouls came at Pitt he was in charge, shot well in both games, seven of eleven in field goal dept. vs. Panthers.

Lion sophomore Bruce Chase—What he shoots he makes, hung in with Billings and did more than just live to tell about it.

Panthers—Fast, aggressive, confident. As Bach points out, they need the good big center to really crack the top ten, deservedly tournament bound.

PENN STATE (23)					DUQUESNE (60)					
FG	FTA	R	A	P	FG	FTA	R	A	P	
Brown	6-16	22	9	4	2	14				
Marshall	6-17	23	17	1	4	14				
Meister	6-10	0-0	9	1	4	12				
Ouder Kirk	5-11	1-2	1	1	2	11				
Doaty	4-13	0-0	0	6	2	8				
Burke	3-6	0-0	1	0	0	6				
Totals					43	90	1	1	1	8

Halftime—Penn State 33 Duquesne 30
Est. Att.—2,000

PENN STATE (60)					PITTSBURGH (23)					
FG	FTA	R	A	P	FG	FTA	R	A	P	
Brown	18	0-0	5	4	4	6				
Meister	7-11	0-0	12	1	5	14				
Marshall	1-1	0-0	6	2	1	6				
Ouder Kirk	0-5	2-2	1	2	2	2				
Burke	1-6	0-0	1	1	2	6				
Doaty	6-12	0-1	1	4	1	12				
Preston	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	1				
Angstadt	2-4	1-2	1	2	2	5				
Erickson	0-1	0-0	2	1	0	9				
Chase	4-5	0-0	4	0	1	8				
Cadle	0-1	0-1	0	0	0	0				
Team			1							
Totals					29	67	16	38	20	25

Halftime—Pitt 45 Penn State 41
Fouled out—Meister, Penn State
Est. Att.—3,000

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