

# NHL, WHA to agree

MONTREAL (AP)—The National Hockey League's Board of Governors will meet in Chicago today and is expected to ratify terms of an agreement that would end a \$50-million litigation fight with the rival World Hockey Association.

Brian O'Neill, executive-

director of the NHL, said yesterday that governors for all 16 teams will be represented at the Chicago meeting, accompanied by legal counsel.

"It looks very promising that we might come up with something," O'Neill said.

Lawyers have been working on a brief that was to have been submitted to Judge A. Leon Higginbotham of Philadelphia. The judge has set March 28 as trial date for the antitrust suits the NHL has brought against the WHA.

He has granted both sides several postponements to pre-trial meetings in an effort to have the two parties reach an equitable out-of-court settlement.

In earlier meetings in

Chicago and Philadelphia the NHL governors failed to obtain the unanimous consent required for such a settlement, although the WHA trustees had already agreed to terms.

The peace proposal offered by the WHA would have the NHL pay the \$1.9 million legal fees incurred by the new league in its fight against the NHL.

The new league also proposed 96 exhibition games between the two leagues, and it in turn would stop its raiding of NHL players after Aug. 1 and respect the new NHL option clause which gives a player freedom to move to another team only after he has played an option year beyond the terms of his contract.

## 38 eye rich Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Comeback hopeful Bobby Isaac and strong boy Cale Yarborough won 112.5-mile qualifying races yesterday that sent 38 starters into the \$275,000 Daytona 500, the richest stock car race in

history.

Isaac, who quit the cockpit abruptly during a race in Alabama last August, saying a "voice" had told him to retire, nipped road racing expert George Follmer by three car lengths

## 20th win easy for Pitt cagers

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Billy Knight and Lew Hill each scored 17 points and four others scored in double figures as seventh-ranked Pitt, streaking to its 20th consecutive victory, drubbed Cleveland State 106-55 last night.

## Pavilion closed

The Ice Pavilion will be closed to ice skaters tomorrow night due to Penn State's hockey game. It will be open from 1:00 to 3:30 tomorrow afternoon.

# A 'LOSING' SEASON

## Does MacNeill give a damn?

Editor's note: This is the last in a four-part series on the Penn State swimming team.

When you try finding a window which allows a look into the workings of an athletic team in hopes of diagnosing an ailment, there is a method that usually works.

Take all the information, quotes, opinions, notes, letters and late-night dormitory discussions, and throw it on a soil screen. Then start to shake the theories and ideas and actual facts, and pretty soon the dirt will fall through and only the rocks will be left. These are the inconsistencies, the bugs, the problems.

Penn State's swimming team has two stones left on the screen that just won't go through. They say Lion swimming coach Lou MacNeill is inconsistent in his philosophy, and that he is insensitive to some of his swimmers.

Not all of Penn State's swimmers will agree with that, but many (a half dozen have openly said it) would point to those two problems.

First there are the inconsistencies in his philosophy. Case in point: MacNeill told his team when he cut it originally to 34 swimmers that there would be no more cuts. But in early January the team was trimmed again to 24 swimmers, two swimmers for each swimming lane in the Natatorium.

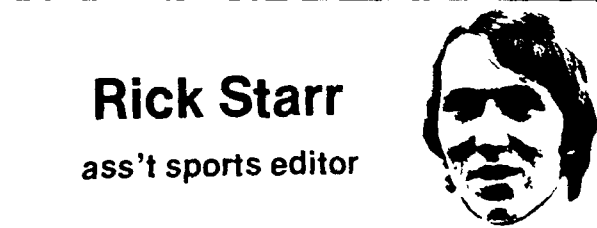
MacNeill says that when he decides who will swim an event he only looks at times — unless he feels someone has been working exceptionally hard and deserves the chance. However, his swimmers point to instance after instance where one swimmer has been passed over for another who was neither a faster swimmer nor a harder worker. Likewise with the decisions on who goes and swims at away meets.

Also, many point to the fact that MacNeill spends most of his time with the swimmers who score points, something that doesn't jive with his stated philosophies on points and winning.

Particularly the low people on the swimming totem pole point out that they are almost ignored by the head coach.

Freshman backstroke Steve Gaydos is an example. "He picks who ever he wants," Gaydos said in reference to the prerequisites for getting into meets. "You can't trust him, he'll just turn around and do what he wants. If you're not a top swimmer, he doesn't give a damn about you. I like to swim, but this has taken all the fun out. He doesn't do what he says he's going to do."

Then there's the matter of not being sensitive to the needs and feelings of his swimmers. They aren't bothered by the fact that he doesn't shoot off cannons and pass out cigars every time they come into the locker room, but some feel they are



Rick Starr  
ass't sports editor

treated like surf boards, non-entities

A swimming coach, like any other coach, has a lot to contend with. This means sometimes individuals are temporarily put aside. It happens in any sport.

But some of his swimmers complain MacNeill "doesn't give a damn," which MacNeill denies. Asked about John Kule, a swimmer who quit last week out of dissatisfaction with his coach, MacNeill simply said "I hope he comes back. I liked John."

But last week against Bucknell there was an incident that further called MacNeill's sensitivity to his swimmers into question.

It was in the 200-yard backstroke event MacNeill told Gaydos he would be swimming the event prior to the race. Then, after Gaydos was in the water, MacNeill pulled him out and replaced him, which is about as illegal as it is humiliating for Gaydos.

"He had me go in, then pulled me out," Gaydos said. "It made me look foolish and made me feel completely humiliated."

For all the talk about not caring about winning and seeking only benefits for the swimmers themselves, Gaydos went home from the Bucknell meet angry, humiliated, hurt to the point where he was considering quitting. Why? Obviously MacNeill didn't yank Gaydos to embarrass him, but what good are excuses to a humiliated freshman? The point is the system isn't running right.

So what now? A campaign to fire MacNeill from a job that he isn't even contracted to do? Pull the plug at the bottom of the pool and fold up the varsity swimming program?

The team isn't splitting apart at the seams. In fact, for every gripe a swimmer will give you, he'll swing right around with a whole litany of good aspects the program owns.

But the swimmers are either misunderstanding MacNeill or he is inconsistent in his behavior toward them. In either case both sides need to get together and compare notes. Hopefully, the swimmers will convince MacNeill to become more personally involved with them individually.

It's refreshing to watch a team that has just been drowned 99-16, cheer for the opposing club after the last event. It's a good program, and it's a shame to see it driving around on a flat tire.

It's funny, but the Lion swimming program has a certain beauty to it: the crime isn't that Penn State is having a "losing" season, it's that nobody is getting any fun or thrillment out of doing it.

## Foreman starts training

HOUSTON (AP)—Heavyweight champion George Foreman, in Houston for a divorce action, will start training here Friday for his March 26 fight with Ken Norton. Foreman's manager Dick Sadler said yesterday.

Sadler said he also will ask for a cancellation of a scheduled 10-round benefit exhibition bout Foreman had scheduled Feb. 25 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"We all deeply regret cancelling this benefit bout but we have no control over it," Sadler said.

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