16-The Daily Collegian Thursday, December 5, 1974

Big, Little Lions parading

The Penn State Nittany Lion football team and the State College High School Little Lion football team will be honored Saturday in a "Hail To The Lions" program sponsored by the Back The Lions booster organization and the State College Area Chamber of Commerce.

At 11:00 a.m., the two tootball teams will take part in the borough's annual Christmas parade, sponsored by the Chamber, and featuring the State College

and Penn State marching bands, floats, Christmas carolers, and Santa Claus. The parade will start at College Avenue and Garner Street, and from there move down College Avenue, Burrowes Street, and Beaver Avenue, to its completion at Beaver and Pugh Street. Radio station WRSC will pro-

vide live coverage. Following the parade, the two squads will be honored at private Back The Lions luncheon at the Sheraton Inn. The whole day won't be all fun-and-games for the Nittany Lions, however, as a pre-Cotton Bowl workout has also been set for Saturday afternoon.

The two teams are being honored for their winning 1974 season records. The Nittany Lions won nine out of eleven, while the Little Lions lost only one game, a defeat which ended their 36-game winning streak stretching over the past four seasons.

The Nittany Lions will also be honored at a pre-bowl pep rally, which has been tentatively scheduled for December 19 at Rec Hall. Back The Lions is also sponsoring this event.

Big Five basketball still Philly savior **B**<sup>\$</sup> **RICH CUTLER Collegian Sports Writer** It may be considered just another sport in most parts of the country. But if you're a Philadelphia sports fan — and there are many of you — it isn't just another sport.

It is a phenomena which has kept the Philly sports faithful, well, faithful over years past. It is called Big Five basketball. And it is a unique thing in the City of Brotherly Love. Unique because of the tradition of winning which has been ever so characteristic of the schools that make up the Big Five; (Temple, LaSalle, Penn, Villanova, and St. Joseph's). It is a tradition which has been absent from the Philly sports scene ever since there was a Philly sports scene. After all, the professional sports organizations in town like the Eagles, Phillies, and 76ers haven't particularly lit the city on fire with overabundant success. So the Philly sports loyalist, forced to find

salvation elsewhere, has sunk or swum with the Big 5. They have been swimming most of the time. That Big Five tradition figures to carry over into the current campaign. Particularly

in the form of the Penn Quakers, and the La-Salle Explorers. The two teams are the best the East has to offer, with Penn being a genuine threat to capture the NCAA championship. Led by returning captain and All-America candidate Ron Haigler, the Quakers are

again the favorite to take the prestigious City crown and, of course, the not so prestigious Ivy League. The team, if need be, can attain more depth than the Nautilus was ever able

Fourth-year coach Chuck Daly has practically a complete returning cast of characters, including forward John Engles, a junior who was voted the ECAC Rookie of the Year last season. Engles will use his 6-8, 215pound frame to establish himself as one of the country's strongest inside threats. And unlike that of the last several seasons

the backcourt looks solid. All-Ivy first teamer John Beecroft will man one guard spot. Beecroft, the city's best free-throw shooter, is the owner of a fine outside shot. He'll be joined in the backcourt by Ed Stefanski and soph Mark Lonetto, who led the Penn freshmen in scoring, rebounding, and assists.

Versatile Bob Bigelow will be the other frontcourt man. Bigelow, at 6-7, is the team's best defensive player and has a knack for scoring important points at important times during basketball games.

And if you add to the list such players as 6-Henry Johnson, who has greatly heightened his prowess since last year, and 6-6 jumping jack Larry Lewis — it means another banner season for Penn that could end with a national championship. Quickness figures to be LaSafile's forte.

Charlie Wise and Glenn Collier are the main

reasons. When Coach Paul Westhead goes with the press, LaSalle will be at its best,

Wise, who will improve on a 11.9 points per game average of a year ago, and Collier, who isn't any slouch in the offensive department either will be joined in the forecourt by 6-10 Joe Bryant, who has received pre-season All-America mention and by 6-5 Bill Taylor, who didn't but probably should have.

Bryant, a junior, led the Big Five in rebounding a year ago, grabbing about 11 caroms per contest and also chipped in with an impressive 18.7 scoring average.

Taylor tickled the twine often enough to emerge from his junior year with a 19.7 per game average, which was good enough to top the Big Five. Taylor is as effective a forward as he is a guard.

Donn Wilber (6-10) and 6-6 frosh Jim Wolkiewicz will divide duty at the other forward slot. If Westhead can get a few rebounds from those gentlemen, things will turn out roses for the Explorers. If LaSalle has a weakness, it is that it lacks overall team depth, something that its crosstown rival Penn has plenty of.

Villanova started three freshmen and a sophomore last season and finished the campaign with a 7-19 record. Tough season, huh? Well, when you consider the schedule the Wildcats are up against from year to year — you might be driven to conclude that the 7-19 slate was not really all that bad.

Especially with three freshmen and a sophomore.

The Wildcats, aside from facing such traditional eastern foes like St. John's, Boston College, Providence, and Niagara will also have to contend with the likes of Notre Dame, South Carolina, and Southern Cal. And, of course, there's that competition the Big Five has to offer.

However, under second year coach Rollie Massimino, the 'Cat's have themselves the nucleus of one helluva team. Key returnees include 6-8 Larry Herron, 6-2 backcourt ace Chubby Cox, and 6-7 John Olive. All are now sophomores. And ALL are very talented. Herron was the team's leading scorer (13.1 ppg.) and the top rebounder (7.3) last season. Cox, who burned the cords at an 11.8 clip, played like a senior at times last year.

Massimino considers Olive the backbone of the team. Olive is the most aggressive, fiery Wildcat, the kind of player that can instill the will to win in his teammates. Temple may find the going rough. The Owls

have lost the entire starting team from a season ago and will depend on a couple of freshmen to help replace the lost firepower.

Temple and St. Joseph's figure to run fourth and fifth in the Big Five this season. The Hawks will have their work cut out for them. They lost, aside from Jack McKinney who was the ECAC coach of the year, starters Mike Moody, Gene Prybella, Jim O'Brien, and Kevin Furey.



