

# Crippled cagers face uphill road

By NEIL RUDEL  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Inadequate health has turned the Penn State basketball team into a pack of lame ducks.

An emergency appendectomy to transfer Gary Korkowski, a 6-8 center-forward from Minnesota, failure of Rob O'Connor to come back from last year's knee surgery and the fact that the team's third guard, Mike Power, just finished battling mononucleosis have all but created a sick feeling in Lion coach John Bach.

"A lot depends on medical aspects and how fast they recover," Bach, in his ninth year, said. "When they return we will have some depth but right now we're thin."

Returning starters from last year's 11-15 team include frontliners Steve Kuhn, Walt Young and Carvin Jefferson along with guards Tom Wilkinson and team captain Jeff Miller.

Bach says it will be up to Miller and

Jefferson to assume team leadership, especially until late December when the walking wounded return.

"I think our strength will not fall in our freshman but in Miller and Jefferson," he said. "They can't play up and down like freshmen do and sophomores might. They must be constant."

To combat the loss of last year's best player to graduation, Chris Erichsen, and the emigration of freshmen Bob Dulin, a seldomly used guard last year, and Bill Dankos, a substitute forward, Bach landed a pair of 6-8 recruits, Frank Brickowski and Mike Ice.

"They're going to have to play," he said. "But, I don't think we can expect them to turn a program around."

But they will help the board game, a necessary item if the Lions are to hold their own, he said.

The brunt of Penn State's board game will be shouldered by Jefferson who, after two seasons, has reached the 'pivotal' point in his career.

"He's a year older than last year when he had considerable difficulty rebounding against the better teams," Bach said. "I think he's improved but he's far from a powerful center. He gives away height and weight. People have to realize that he's not as physically endowed as an All-American center."

To be effective, though, he'll need help, Bach said, from people like Steve Kuhn.

"He's obviously going to have to help Carvin on the boards," Bach said. "But he's been showing the ability in practice."

Following are Bach's feelings on his other players.

On Young: "He's far and away the best athlete on the squad. We're trying to get Walter to understand how good he is. He hasn't scratched the surface yet of how good he can become. The only people you ask to make position changes are your best athletes." The loss of

Korkowski forced Young from guard back to the small forward spot.

On Wilkinson: "He's our team catalyst. He makes things happen. He played well during that stretch last year when we won seven of ten games. He'll be expected to do more of the playmaking than will Miller. But at 155 lbs. he can be worn down. He's always going to be outsized. He's like a bantam weight in a heavy weight division."

On Ice: "He'll need a lot of time to get acclimated."

On Korkowski: "We'll have the same rebounding problems this year as last year. That's where Gary will help." Bach noted that Korkowski is the first transfer he's ever accepted. However, since his operations he has lost 35 lbs. (now weighs 200).

On recruiting year: "It was sufficient. If we could have only taken it one step further. We need an outstanding player. We need an Albert King. That's when we're going to turn the corner."

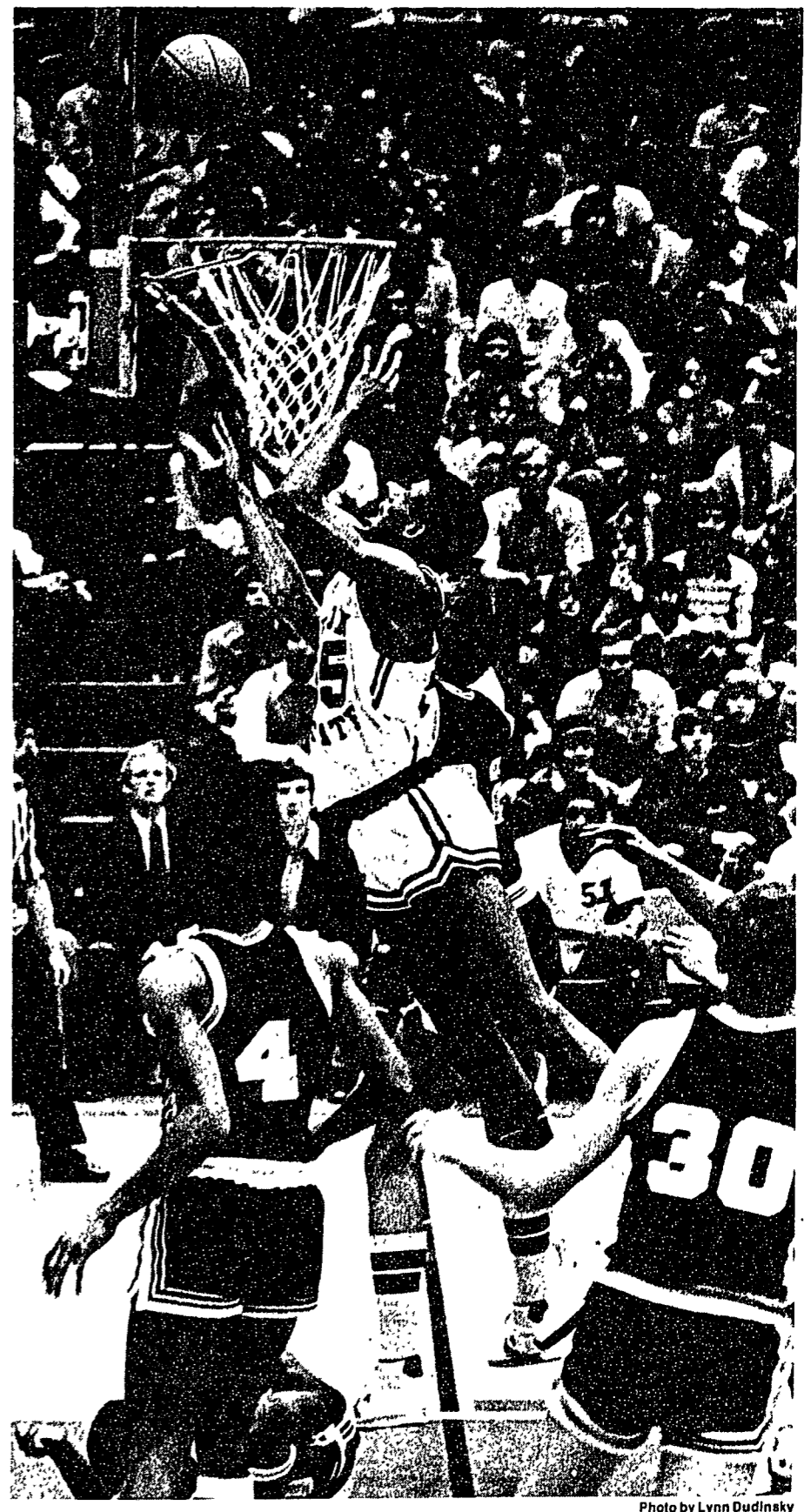


Photo by Lynn Dudinsky  
For the Penn State basketball team to attain respectability, coach John Bach says, Carvin Jefferson (55) above, must improve his rebounding game.

# Terps to give Lions King-sized challenge

By NEIL RUDEL  
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

HERSHEY — The Maryland Terrapins would come no further than here to play the Nittany Lion cagers.

Because of a home-and-home agreement to meet Penn State was made before Terp head coach Lefty Driesell took over at the Atlantic Coast Conference club, Driesell had the power to nullify it.

Penn State journeyed to College Park in 1968, where the Terps dealt the then first year head coach John Bach his initial Penn State loss, 66-56.

But since Driesell runs the show and the Lions aren't looking at the Terps straight across the table anyway, the Arena will be the sight when Bach and his hobbling forces open their season.

The game probably won't go into double overtime, Bach said. It will resemble one like the Philadelphia 76ers versus the New Jersey Nets.

"We're not going to be able to trade baskets with them," he said. "We'll go out at them and see what we can do. There's no reward for being timid."

The Terps are annually known for their basketball. Driesell, Bach says, is a master recruiter. In recent years Maryland has turned out NBA players Len Elmore, Tom McMillen, John Lucas and Brad Davis.

Driesell, who usually conducts an entertaining show himself on the sideline, this year may have reaped his finest prospect ever in the frantically sought-after Albert King.

When King was recruited last year by every major

college in the country he was said to be better than his brother Bernard, last year an All-American at Tennessee and this year the top scorer for the NBA's Nets.

King will be the man to watch but Penn State's problem won't stop with him. Also seeing action regularly for the Terps will be flashy guard Jo Jo Hunter, forwards Lawrence Boston and John Bilney, centers Larry Gibson and Mike Davis Greg Manning, a freshman from Steel High near Harrisburg, also has been getting some playing time.

Driesell rated his club as a unit.

"We can score. So far, I have seen an improvement in our defense over last year, but it still needs improvement. My one single goal for this season is to win the national championship."

# Ticket policy changed for five home games

The addition of several national powers to the Penn State basketball home schedule has created the need for a revised ticket distribution policy for students.

Rud Meredith, Penn State athletic business manager, has announced that the Virginia Tech, North Carolina State, Rutgers, Syracuse, and Marquette games will require students to pick up their tickets beforehand. The tickets will be free, as are all regular home sporting

events in the winter, upon presentation of the student identification card.

"We've printed tickets for the five key games, assuming they are sellouts," Meredith said. "We're asking students to come and pick up tickets on predetermined dates."

Meredith said 5,000 tickets will be set aside for students for each of the five games. If all 5,000 are not picked up on the predetermined dates, students will be notified and tickets will be available at the door. If all the tickets are picked

up, Meredith said a standing room policy would be set up for students only.

The five basketball games for students to pick up tickets are as follows:

| Date    | Opponent       | Student tickets available |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 7  | Virginia Tech. | Dec. 1, 2 and 5           |
| Dec. 10 | N.C. State     | Dec. 6-8                  |
| Jan. 4  | Rutgers        | Dec. 19 and 20 and Jan. 2 |
| Jan. 11 | Syracuse       | Jan. 5, 6 and 9           |
| Feb. 2  | Marquette      | Jan. 27, 28, 30 and 31    |

In unrelated matters, Meredith also announced ticket policies for the Fiesta Bowl football game and the Penn State wrestling Invitational.

Tickets for the Lions' Dec. 25 game at Tempe, Ariz., against Arizona State will go on sale Friday at 8:30 a.m. at 237 Rec Hall. Tickets are priced at \$10 (sidelines) and \$8 (endzone). Meredith said that Penn State students would be blocked together for cheering purposes if possible.

Wrestling tickets are currently on sale at the ticket office. Student tickets are \$3 for all three sessions, with individual sessions priced at \$1, \$1, and \$2.

— Pete Dougherty

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