



# Sports



Local campus receives \$3.5 million

## Penn State to get gym

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Correspondent

Penn State's Wilkes-Barre Campus will have funds for a new gymnasium by early 1986.

Dr. James H. Ryan, executive director of the local campus, announced last week that the State will release \$3.5 million for the gymnasium project early in 1986. The project was approved in 1982, but because of other priorities, funds for the gymnasium have not been released until now. According to Dr. Ryan, he received word from Secretary of the Budget Robert A. Bittenbender that the \$3.5 million project is due to be released. After that the first step will be to select an architect and decide on the building design, which is expected to take about a year.

After the gymnasium project is designed, it will be bid by the state which will then award contracts and construction will be expected to take about 12 months. Ryan said the facility which will probably be built on the west end of Wilkes-Barre Penn State Campus by old Route 115 should be completed sometime in the spring of 1988.

The local campus is currently using the athletic facilities of Lake-Lehman School District, which has been the case since the campus moved to the Lehman area campus from Wilkes-Barre in 1968.

Dr. Ryan said that the administration is appreciative of the school district's cooperation but they (the administration) will be glad to have a full service physical education facility and a gymnasium on the campus so the kind of sports program people expect can be run on the campus. He also added that Penn State will work with Lake-Lehman, Dallas and other area school districts, and with College Misericordia and community groups to obtain their suggestions and involvement in design of the building to meet needs of the Back Mountain communities.

Although a design committee has not yet been organized, Dr. Ryan said he anticipated that the gymnasium would include a basketball court, fitness room, racquetball courts, weight room and multi-purpose room for large group use and for commencement.

The gymnasium project is the second step in a three-phase building program to complete the campus. The first step was addi-

tional classrooms and an annex to the Student Commons building, which includes a cafeteria, bookstore, student lounge and offices of student affairs staff, added during the past two years and costing over \$1 million. They were built with University funds.

The gymnasium is the second step and the third step is a Center of Technology building necessary for the university's engineering and technology programs, now being held in rooms in Hayfield House due to lack of adequate space.

The Center of Technology, according to Dr. Ryan, will allow the local campus to offer a bachelor's degree in technology. In the near future, the Advisory Board of Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus will conduct a

community campaign to raise funds for the Center of Technology, Dr. Ryan said.

He emphasized that people not confuse the gym project with the third step. Dr. Ryan said the administration is enthusiastic because, as one student said to him, "who ever heard of a college campus without a gym?" Dr. Ryan said that today the need for the gym is greater than ever because enrollment is at an all-time high. Student housing is adjacent to the campus this year for the first time in campus history and is attracting new students.

The executive director said that with a gymnasium, the school will be even more valuable and, in the process of getting a gym built, will be providing jobs in the area.



### Gym planned

The main entrance to Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus, above, is located along Old Route 115, the same road along which the new \$3.5 million gym will be constructed by the Spring of 1988.

Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon



### Cage game set

Back Mountain basketball products will play a key role on Friday, Nov. 15 at 8 p.m. as the King's College women's basketball plays the Alumni in Scandlon Gym, Wilkes-Barre. Donations will be asked to aid the St. Vincent dePaul soup kitchen of East Jackson St., Wilkes-Barre. Shown here are, from left, first row Assistant Coach Arlene Kozick, Alumni player Kandi Karuza, and Coach Robin Cummins. Back row, Ellen Joyce, Ronda Hudzik, Kathy Walsh and Cheryl Gavigan.

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