

National Basketball Title Won

By Ralph Morgan

Chairman University of Pennsylvania Basketball Committee, Secretary-Treasurer of the Intercollegiate Basketball League

THE basketball season of 1919-20 was the most successful in the history of this sport at the University of Pennsylvania. The University team



CAPT. RAYMOND PECK

won the Eastern Intercollegiate Championship with ten victories and no defeats. In the championship post-season series with Chicago University, winners of the Western Conference championship, Pennsylvania won the national collegiate title with two victories out of three games played. The fact that Pennsylvania was unbeaten in any game of the regular season gave the team as clean a title to the national supremacy as could be earned.

The series with Chicago was an epic. As in 1908, Pennsylvania agreed to play the first game in the West, and, again as in 1908, on the eve of departure for Chicago illness overtook the Pennsylvania squad and eliminated the centre, Bill Grave. Never-

theless, it was a stout-hearted Red and Blue band that boarded the Broadway Limited on Saturday afternoon, March 20, at North Philadelphia. Coaches Jourdet and McNichol figured that by switching Captain Peck to centre in place of Grave, and by substituting Milton Zucker for the captain, a strong combination would result.

There is no space in this narrative to give a detailed account of the trip and of the splendid and whole-hearted welcome afforded by the Chicago alumni. Suffice it to say that the team was met at the station and escorted to the Blackstone Hotel, on the shores of Lake Michigan, by former Captain "Lew" Walton, of the 1912 team, and former Captain "Bill" Griffith, of 1914.

A splendid crowd of nearly 200 loyal Pennsylvanians was present Monday night, March 22, for the first game of the series, in Bartlett Gymnasium. The game began with both teams feeling each other out, and after twelve minutes of play the score was a tie at 6-6. In the closing minutes of the first half Chicago broke through Pennsylvania's defense and scored a series of brilliant goals from the floor, which gave the Westerners a commanding lead of 17-6 at half-time.

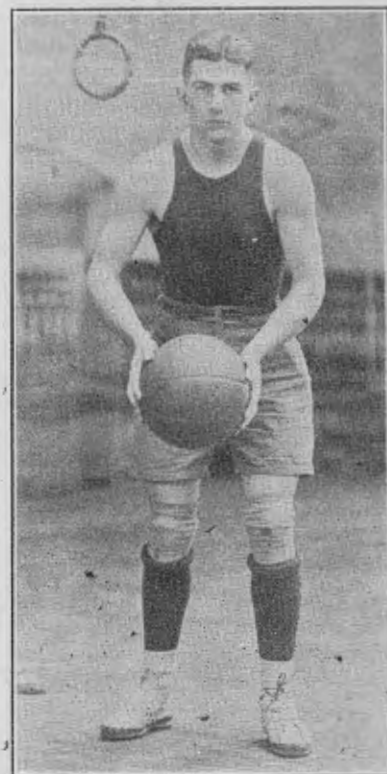
Coach Jourdet shifted Huntzinger to centre shortly after the start of the second half, and the Pennsylvania crowd began to appreciate why the Red and Blue had triumphed in the Eastern League. Never has a Pennsylvania team fought harder or staged a more brilliant rally. Sweeney and Huntzinger bombarded the basket, and Pennsylvania's score rose higher and higher, until Chicago was well-nigh desperate. The game ended with Chicago leading, 28 to 24, but with Pennsylvania fighting strong.

The teams boarded the Manhattan Limited the next morning, headed for Philadelphia and the second game of the series. It was evident to the Pennsylvania coaches that Chicago had a splendid offensive team, but that the Westerners had not perfected a team game as have the colleges

of the East. Consequently optimism ran high.

On Thursday night, March 25, the teams met again, this time in Weightman Hall. Huntzinger started at centre. Barring a rally in the closing minutes of the first half, there was never any question of Pennsylvania's superiority. The short passes of the Red and Blue players were entirely too intricate for the Chicagoans, who were forced to foul to stop the play. The result was a rather one-sided victory for Pennsylvania, 29-18. It was the most loosely played game of the series, Chicago in particular doing a great deal of ragged work.

It was agreed to play the third game on a neutral court, and Princeton was decided upon for the deciding tilt, Sat-



GEORGE SWEENEY

urday night, March 27. Its big gymnasium was packed to overflowing with some two thousand persons, half of whom had come from Philadelphia by

special train and motor. Chicago, of course, had a number of adherents, but the remainder of the big crowd was made up of Princetonians.



DANIEL McNICHOL

The surprise of the series was sprung when the team started out on the floor with Bill Grave at his old post of centre, that completing Pennsylvania's regular line-up. Grave had been for ten days at the University Hospital with a slight attack of measles, but seemed none the worse for his illness during the thirty-eight minutes that he stayed in the game.

Chicago scored first. Then, in a flash, McNichol evened the score, and a foul goal by Sweeney put Pennsylvania in the lead, never to be overtaken. At half-time the lead had been increased four points, so that Pennsylvania had a margin of 11 to 7 when the second half started. Chicago showed signs of a rally at the beginning of the second period, but a splendid exhibition of scientific basketball enabled Pennsylvania to increase its score to 23 points, while Chicago had to be satisfied with 13.

At this juncture, and with eight minutes to go, the Pennsylvania team

decided to play a wholly defensive game. It was legitimate basketball, but the Princeton-Chicago crowd let loose a verbal and "booing" attack on Pennsylvania's players, entirely unprecedented in Eastern basketball. The din was terrific. Meanwhile Chicago was making a remarkable and heroic effort to overcome the lead, and basket after basket rained through the net, three from the floor and two from the foul line during the closing minutes. It was a splendid effort by Chicago, and generous credit must be given for the rally, but there is no doubt in the mind of the writer that the at least unprecedented action of the crowd had much to do with the temporary let-down of Pennsylvania's defense. The game ended in a tumult, after 17 seconds of overtime had been played, due to the inability of the timers to make their whistles heard above the din.

There is also no doubt in the writer's mind that Pennsylvania made a tactical mistake in switching to the defensive game too soon. To be sure, a ten-point lead looks big, but in such an uncertain game as basketball it is always best to carry the fight to the other fellow. Nevertheless, Pennsylvania was able to maintain its lead and win the series.

The games with Chicago were a fitting finish to a glorious season, and all honor is due Captain Peck and his gallant teammates. The series shows that Eastern basketball is more scientifically developed than the Western brand. Chicago's team was one of tall, rangy, fast men, excellent individual players; most of them crack shots; but there was little team play, as we have seen it developed in the East.

Pennsylvania, on the other hand, had a wonderfully balanced team. The short, sharp passes, the power to work the ball down the court by team play, and the ability to "cut" for the basket were much more scientific and more certain to win nine times out of ten than the looser Western attack. Pennsylvania's defense also was much better. Chicago was forced to shoot from 15 to 25 feet out from the basket. Fully 75 per cent. of Chicago's scores were made from long shots, and it is a tribute to the individual skill of the Westerners that they made such a close series of it. A study of the figures of the series is interesting:

	Total Pts.	Field Goals.	Foul Goals.	Fouls Tried.	Fouls Called.
Pennsylvania.					
First Game..	24	9	6	8	9
Second Game	29	7	15	20	14
Third Game.	23	9	5	10	10
Totals ...	76	25	26	38	33
Chicago.					
First Game..	28	12	4	9	8
Second Game	18	5	8	14	*20
Third Game.	21	8	5	10	10
Totals ...	67	25	17	33	38

*Hinkle and Halladay disqualified for making four personal fouls.

The closeness of the games can be seen from the fact that both teams scored 25 field goals in the three games. Pennsylvania's greater proficiency from the foul line can also be seen, though Sweeney marred his record considerably by a let-down in the final game.

In the regular championship series Pennsylvania won some remarkable victories. Probably the greatest game



WILLIAM GRAVE

of basketball ever played was the Princeton-Pennsylvania game of March 13, in Weightman Hall. Princeton came to Philadelphia primed to hand out a surprise to the Red and Blue. Pennsylvania, on the other hand, was, if anything, overconfident and took victory as a matter of course. The

Tigers got the jump and ran up a lead which was not overcome until late in the second half, when Pennsylvania forged ahead to a 17-16 lead. With only a few seconds to play, victory seemed in sight, but a foul gave Legendre, of Princeton, an opportunity to tie up the score, and he made good without hesitation, necessitating an extra period. Both teams scored and the series ended a tie at 19 points each. A second period found the score again tied at 22 each when time was up, and a third period was ordered. This time there was no scoring in the allotted five minutes, so a fourth period was commenced. Huntzinger, a substitute forward, was rushed into the game for Pennsylvania at this point, and when he had been in the play less than a minute he scored the winning basket on a perfectly executed trick play by Grave and himself. The final score was Pennsylvania, 26; Princeton, 23, after a full hour's playing time and a most nerve-racking game for player and spectator alike. It was the longest and closest in the writer's seventeen years' experience in intercollegiate basketball.

Twice in preceding League games Pennsylvania came through with remarkable rallies after games had been seemingly lost. At Princeton on January 28 Pennsylvania started the second half nine points behind, but won out handily after a sensational spurt. At Columbia on February 12 Pennsylvania was outscored 11 to 3, with time nearly half gone, only to win out easily when the team started to play at top speed.

Pennsylvania's victory in the League series brings the Heppe Trophy permanently to Houston Hall, three championships having been won, in 1916, 1918 and 1920. Yale and Columbia each had won two legs on the cup and Cornell one since the present Intercollegiate League was formed in 1910.

The ten victories and no defeats was a League record, no team having previously won with a clean slate, although in the former league Columbia, in 1905, and Pennsylvania, in 1909, had also gone through unbeaten.

Another League record was broken by George Sweeney, of Pennsylvania, when he scored 28 field goals and 93 fouls for 149 points. The previous high-point record was held by Orson Kinney, of Yale, in 1917, with a mark

of 133. In the non-League games Pennsylvania defeated nine opponents, among whom were the Navy, Lehigh, Lafayette, Delaware, Swarthmore and Penn State. The last three games were extremely hard-fought.

New York University was the only team in the East with any claim to championship honors, the New Yorkers being justly proud of their A. A. U. championship won at Atlanta, Ga. However, N. Y. U. was beaten by West Point, and the Navy won from the Cadets, while Pennsylvania, as



EMIL ROSENAST

has been said, handily defeated the Navy on its own floor. It is too bad, however, that New York University was not on Pennsylvania's schedule.

While it is Coach Jourdet's plan to put a five-man team on the floor rather than a one or two-"star" team, nevertheless it must be admitted that this year's five was of exceptional calibre.

George Sweeney has an exceptional eye for the basket and "cuts" well. He is fast on his feet and handles the ball accurately. His loss will be felt next year.

Emil Rosenast, a Sophomore, won his berth at the other forward post by

aggressive play. He absorbed the Jourdet system thoroughly. Rosenast had all the requisites of forward play and put up a splendid, dashing game. He scored an equal number of field goals, 28, with Sweeney in the League competition.

Bill Grave, another Sophomore, made 29 field goals in ten League games, and, barring a disposition to fumble, made an ideal centre.

Captain Raymond Peck was the best guard in the League. His place will be extremely hard to fill. With so many sterling players to confront us, superlatives are perhaps out of place, but the writer cannot refrain from placing the qualification of the "best guard he has ever seen" after Peck's name. This lanky Washington (D. C.) youth, beloved by all of his teammates, played every game at 100-H. P. speed. He was in every game from the start and was the mainstay of the defense. It is a sad day to Pennsylvania basketball that he has turned in his suit—and by the same token it is very fitting and proper that Captain Peck's team should win the highest possible honors.

And now having worked into superlatives, we come to Danny McNichol. Was there ever another like him? Crack shot; past master at handling the ball; cool under fire; game to the core; Danny is another for whom we must use "Best."

We must not overlook the substitutes, particularly Huntzinger and Zucker, both of whom made good when the test came and made success possible for the team.

This season rounds out the sixth year of Lon Jourdet's coaching, and it is a remarkable record:

1915—Fifth Place.

1916—Championship.

1917—Third Place.

1918—Championship.

1919—Led the League—no championship awarded.

1920—Championship and National Collegiate Title.

It will be seen that in four of the six years Jourdet's teams have won the premier honors, and that in one other year Pennsylvania was a contender. It is evident, therefore, that after his first disastrous year Jourdet has qualified as an ideal coach. This statement is made with reference to his influence on his men and to the



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Basketball Statistics.

THE 1920 SCHEDULE.

Dec. 7.	Pennsylvania, 46; Ursinus, 13.
Dec. 13.	Pennsylvania, 34; Muhlenberg, 6.
Dec. 20.	Pennsylvania, 30; Navy, 17.
Jan. 10.	Pennsylvania, 36; Lehigh, 23.
Jan. 17.	Pennsylvania, 34; Lafayette, 10.
Jan. 22.	Pennsylvania, 44; W. and J., 16.
Jan. 24.	Pennsylvania, 29; Swarthmore, 24.
Jan. 28.	Pennsylvania, 27; Princeton, 21.
Jan. 31.	Pennsylvania, 32; Yale, 16.
Feb. 7.	Pennsylvania, 21; State College, 16.
Feb. 12.	Pennsylvania, 37; Columbia, 18.
Feb. 14.	Pennsylvania, 41; Dartmouth, 14.
Feb. 18.	Pennsylvania, 27; Delaware, 14.
Feb. 21.	Pennsylvania, 23; Cornell, 13.
Feb. 25.	Pennsylvania, 31; Columbia, 10.
Feb. 28.	Pennsylvania, 45; Dartmouth, 10.
Mar. 5.	Pennsylvania, 20; Cornell, 15.
Mar. 10.	Pennsylvania, 44; Yale, 16.
Mar. 13.	Pennsylvania, 26; Princeton, 23.

INTERCOLLEGIATE LEAGUE STANDING.

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Pennsylvania	10	0	1.000
Princeton	6	4	.600
Yale	6	4	.600
Cornell	4	6	.400
Columbia	3	7	.300
Dartmouth	1	9	.100

POST-SEASON SERIES.

Mar. 22.	Pennsylvania, 24; Chicago, 28.
Mar. 25.	Pennsylvania, 29; Chicago, 18.
Mar. 27.	Pennsylvania, 23; Chicago, 21.

POST-SEASON STANDING.

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Pennsylvania	2	1	.666
Chicago	1	2	.333

SCORE, SECOND GAME.

Pennsylvania. Positions.		Chicago.	
Sweeney	..... Forward	Vollmer	.....
Rosenast	..... Forward	Birkhoff	.....
Huntzinger	..... Centre	Halladay	.....
Peck	..... Guard	Hinkle	.....
McNichol	..... Guard	Crisler	.....

Score by periods:

Pennsylvania	..... 10	19	29
Chicago	..... 10	8	18

Field goals—McNichol, 2; Rosenast, 2; Sweeney, Huntzinger, Peck, Halladay, 2; Vollmer, 2; Birkhoff.

Substitutions—Curtis for Hinkle, Williams for Halladay, Referee—Joseph Deering, Umpire—Joseph M. O'Shea. Time of halves—20 minutes.

SCORE, THIRD GAME.

Pennsylvania. Positions.		Chicago.	
Rosenast	..... Forward	Halladay	.....
Sweeney	..... Forward	Birkhoff	.....
Grave	..... Centre	Vollmer	.....
McNichol	..... Guard	Hinkle	.....
Peck	..... Guard	Curtis	.....

SCORE BY PERIODS.

Pennsylvania	..... 11	12	23
Chicago	..... 7	14	21

Field goals—Rosenast, 3; Sweeney, 2; Grave, 2; McNichol, 2; Halladay, 3; Vollmer, 3; Hinkle, Curtis. Foul goals—Sweeney, 5 out of 11; Birkhoff, 5 out of 10. Substitutions—Chicago, Curtis for Halladay; Pennsylvania, Huntzinger for Grave. Referee—John Buch, Earlham College, first half; Joe Deering, Manhattan College, second half.

all-around conduct of the game, as well as to the mere winning of victory.

The writer cannot refrain from adding one word more, and this in the nature of an appeal for help to get better and larger playing quarters. Weightman Hall is totally inadequate, and besides is a bad court. Seven games this season were seen by only a fractional part of those who desired to come. At the most, 1700 people is the maximum that can be jammed into Weightman Hall. At some games five times as many would turn out were there accommodations. The basketball committee is at work on the problem of bettering this condition, and is hopeful of working it out. The help of all alumni is solicited.

Basketball Dinner Postponed Until April 12.

Announcement is made that the dinner to this year's intercollegiate and national championship basketball team has been postponed until Monday, April 12. It will be held at the University Club, 1510 Walnut street. Provost Smith has promised to attend.

State Wrestlers Win.

State College won its third consecutive intercollegiate wrestling championship on Friday and Saturday in the University gymnasium. The victors scored a total of 23 points. Cornell was second with 14, and Pennsylvania third with 12. Lehigh, Yale and Princeton tied for fourth place with 10 each. Columbia, the only other entrant, did not score. Pennsylvania produced two intercollegiate champions. They were Ashby, who was first in the 158-pound class, and Gerson, who triumphed in the 125-pound class. Hovies scored the remaining two points with third place in the 115-pound class.

State and Pennsylvania furnished six of the new champions. State had four firsts, Pennsylvania two and Yale one. Cornell was second by virtue of getting so many second places. Following are the complete results:

FINAL PLACES SECURED.

115-pound class—Won by Shirk, Penn State; second Mackay, Cornell; third, Hovies, Pennsylvania.

125 pounds—Won by Gerson, Pennsylvania; second, Ackerly, Cornell; third, Garber, Penn State.

135 pounds—Won by Detar, Penn State; second, Conroy, Cornell; third, Hutchinson, Princeton.