

Cohen-Mintz Is A Cagey Fellow

NEW YORK (NEA) — The world's greatest basketball center showered and dressed hurriedly because he wanted to get a good seat to see Walt Kelly of the New York Knicks play.

The "world's greatest basketball center" is Tanchum Cohen-Mintz.

Or so he is billed in Israel, his country, and in Europe.

"Do not worry about it," Cohen-Mintz said, "I am only called that when we are playing a team that does not have Americans."

"It will be several years before another country can produce a basketball player who is better than the best American player."

Cohen-Mintz plays the pivot on the Israeli team. He stands 6-8 1/2, shoots well with either hand but enjoys the game most when he grabs a defensive rebound and quickly flips a pass that begins a good fast break.

But Cohen-Mintz indeed is a player of international stature, and thus likes to talk about the basketball gap.

"Five or six years ago," he said, "there was no individual phase of the game which a foreign (non-American) player could compare to the average American college player."

"The American could shoot better, had a bigger variety of shots, handled the ball better and generally played the game with more finesse."

"Now basketball is growing so much abroad that the individual difference is narrowing. In my country basketball is second only to soccer in popularity. We have 1,200 courts. And, of course, the only technique is American."

"But there is still a vast difference in the team game, which is why American teams in international competition usually win easily."

"We do not have the coaches. Good coaching, like the individual player, takes time to develop. In Europe, in Asia, in Israel, we run the basic offense and practice the basic defense. Americans are much more sophisticated and have little trouble coping with them."

"In 10 years, the Olympics will not be so easy for you."

Overseas, basketball and the

University of Kentucky are synonymous. So it was that Cohen-Mintz had a "fantastic, beautiful feeling" when Israel played touring Kentucky in Tel Aviv in August.

Cohen-Mintz scored 33 points, grabbed 33 rebounds and the Israeli beat Kentucky, 81-76, using a fast break and patterned offense which must have reminded Adolph Rupp of his own teachings.

At 27, Cohen-Mintz says he will only play a couple of more years. He is an electrical engineer in Tel Aviv.

"After I retire," he said, "maybe I will coach Basketball. It is in my blood."

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Spurrer Voted As UPI Back Of The Year

NEW YORK (UPI) — Helmsman Trophy winner Steve Spurrer capped his triple-threat college career by being named the United Press International back of the year.

Spurrer, who had earlier been named as quarterback of the UPI All-America team, led Florida to an 8-2 season and a berth in the Orange Bowl. He polled 137 votes of a possible 320 cast by sports writers and broadcasters throughout the nation.

Purdue's Bob Griese, whom Spurrer succeeded as All-America, was a distant second with 48 votes, while Notre Dame's speedy Nick Eddy was third with 47 Floyd Little of Syracuse had 20 votes and Mel Farr of UCLA 15.

Idaho's Ray McDonald and Oregon State's Pete Pifer each drew nine votes, while Clint Jones of Michigan and Gary Began of UCLA had seven and four, respectively.

Spurrer was one of the most accurate passers in the nation this past season with 179 completed in 291 attempts for a total of 2,012 yards. His 615 pass completion average ranked among the best in college football.

The 21-year-old son of a Presbyterian minister sports a career total of 392 completed passes, second on the all-time career list only to Jerry Rhome of Tulsa.

Spurrer is expected to play professional football with the New York Giants in the National Football League.

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Eighth Grade Runner-Ups
Pictured above are the Morton Reeves eighth grade runner-ups of the Shady Spring Invitational grade school tournament. The Morton Reeves eighth graders have been runners-up in two other tournaments in the past two years. The coach of all three of the teams is Russell Manns who has done a fine job since coming to Morton Reeves three years ago. The 1966 team knocked off

Bradley, Cranberry and Mabscoot enroute to the final in which they lost to Stanford 37-20.

First row: left to right are Frankie Jones, Elbert Walker and William George. 2nd Row: Eric Belcher, Stanley Smith, Charles Wyner and Larry Patterson. 3rd row: Marcus Furry (all-tournament), Larry Cook, Paul Green and Larry Gray (all-tournament).

The 1966 team knocked off

WVU Experiencing Shooting Problems

MORGANTOWN (UPI) — "We had a couple of boys in foul trouble, our shots weren't falling... our boys could have quit, but they didn't." The traditional West Virginia

comeback spirit pleased Coach Bucky Waters in the 73-67 victory over William and Mary Saturday night in Charleston.

Waters has two days to get the Mountaineers ready to shoot for their third victory here Wednesday against VMI in another Southern Conference game.

Shooting wasn't one of the bright spots in WVU's first two victories.

The puzzling thing is that many of the players who helped set school records last year in field goal and foul shooting accuracy are the same ones shooting poorly this season.

In two games, WVU is hitting 39.5 per cent from the floor and 63 per cent from the foul line. This compares with the record 46.9 per cent and 73.7 per cent racked up in last season's 19-9 showing.

Waters was worried about rebounding power but so far the veteran front court trio has sparked a 99-77 edge over East Carolina and William and Mary.

The Mountaineers had to go an old weapon—the pressing defense—to wipe out a 10-point William & Mary deficit in the second half and capture the 73-67 victory Saturday night in Charleston.

WVU trailed 53-46 when Waters sent the Mountaineers into their pressing defense. Dave Reaser immediately hit a three-point play and Ron Williams, popped in a 54th shot to cut the Indians' lead to 53-51 with eight minutes left. The capacity crowd of 5,800 fans in Charleston Civic Center went wild as William & Mary called time out.

The Mountaineers were so charged up going to the bench that Reaser missed his chair and wound up on the floor.

William & Mary's all-conference forward Ben Pomeroy hit a turn-around jumper, but Reaser countered by swishing another side shot. Ron Panneton made a foul shot for the Indians—then came the crush. Dave Palmer, Carl Head, Williams and Bob Benfield all goaled within 97 seconds and WVU was in charge 61-56 with five minutes to play.

Benfield led the rebounding, as he did in the opening victory. The 6-foot-8 senior grabbed 10. Reaser was top scorer with 19 and Williams tallied 18.

"We had to put our speedy boys in there to get the ball and get our offense moving," Waters said. "We are not shooting well."

SIGN FOR FIGHT
NEW YORK (UPI) — Jose Torres and Dick Tiger are scheduled to sign for their world light heavyweight title bout at 11:30 a.m. EST, Monday at the offices of the New York State Athletic Commission.

Gillespie Named As High School Player Of Year
MORGANTOWN (UPI) — Buckhannon halfback Mike Gillespie was picked West Virginia High School Player of the Year while the Morgantown Touchdown Club named West Virginia University defensive tackle Don Cookman of Romney as recipient of the 1966 Ira Errett Rodgers Award.

Over 400 were on hand for the club's 9th annual banquet, which also honored coaches of various high school and collegiate football championship teams around the state.

Gillespie, halfback and captain of the Triple-A titlist Buckhannon team, has already been signed to a grant-in-aid at WVU. The Rodgers award is for the Mountaineers' most outstanding senior gridders.

Jim Syput, split end from Fairmont, was announced as honorary captain of the Mountaineers. He was elected to the honor by his teammates.

Named most improved WVU lineman was Greg Dragovich of Keystone while John Piscorik of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., was named most improved back.

Features speaker for the annual event was A. M. (Tonto) Coleman, commissioner of the Southeastern Conference.

How The Top 10 Fared
NEW YORK (UPI) — Here's how the top 10 small college basketball teams fared over the weekend.

1. Kentucky Wesleyan at Tennessee St postponed.

2. Southern Illinois was idle.

3. Evansville beat Central Missouri St. 109-90.

4. North Dakota lost to DePaul 82-47.

5. Akron beat Central Connecticut St. 100-87.

6. Cheyney State beat East Stroudsburg 84-57.

7. Grambling beat Dillard 106-59.

8. Indiana St. beat Manchester 71-65.

9. Fresno St. beat UC Santa Barbara 79-59.

10. Oklahoma Baptist beat Central Oklahoma St. 82-60.

Alcindor Breaks Record In 1st Varsity Appearance

By United Press International

The beginning for Lew Alcindor may very well have marked the end for the nation's major college basketball powers.

Alcindor, the highly touted 7-foot, 1-inch sophomore, made his varsity debut for UCLA Saturday night and immediately crushed the school scoring record with 56 points as the Bruins beat Southern California 105-91.

The dazzling performance by a raw rookie, plus strong contributions from a couple of other lower classmen, quickly earmarked UCLA as a super team with the capability of sweeping to the national championship for the next three years.

Alcindor, who left his home in New York to play for UCLA, hit on 23 of 32 field goal attempts and 10 of 14 free throws to break the former school single.

All the other of the top-ranking teams won their games Saturday, with Texas Western and Kentucky, last year's NCAA finalists, showing particularly good form. The second-ranked

WVC record Monday night when Bluefield invaded. Shepherd visits Mt. St. Mary's Monday before playing at Salem Saturday in the conference.

Other conference scores at-urday were Shepherd 93 Alderson-Broadus 89, State 68 Tech 64 and Salem 81 Glenville 73. Wheeling edged John Carroll 91-Emory and Henry 111-102, West Liberty lost to Slippery Rock 98-84 and Davis & Elkins lost to WVU freshmen 91-61.

Here is this week's schedule: Monday—Wesleyan at Glenville, Central (Ohio) State at Fairmont, Bluefield at W. Va. State, Shepherd at Mt. St. Mary's.

Tuesday—Tech at Alderson-Broadus; Beckley at Concord; alem at Davis & Elkins, West Liberty at Waynesburg.

Wednesday — Fairmont at Wheeling, Marietta at Morris Harvey.

Thursday — Salem at Wesleyan.

Friday — Glenville at W. Va. State, Bluefield at Concord, Davis & Elkins at Bridgewater.

Saturday — Glenville at Morris Harvey, Shepherd at Salem, Wesleyan at West Liberty, Bluefield at Beckley, Davis & Elkins at Washington & Lee, Wheeling at Waynesburg.

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