



Officers of the Football Club are from left: Joe Gibbons, vice president, Steve Krucher, team representative, Pat Baggley, treasurer and Rick Ruby, head coach. Seated is Bill Morley president. (Photo by McDonald)

## New Coach Named Tomcats Set For '68

Bill Morley, president of the Football Club announced last week the appointment of Rick Ruby as coach of the Tomcats for the 1968 season.

The name Ruby is widely known in the Lackawanna county sports circles and in particular with Blakely football. Rick played for Blakely with Ron Dushney, fullback for the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. He went to the University of Delaware where he played for two years and

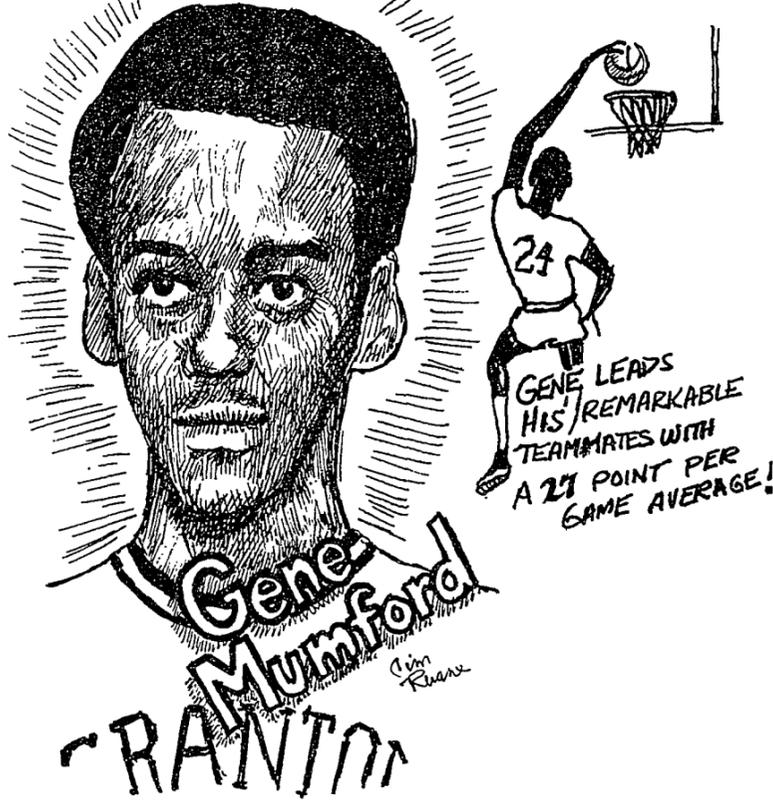
returned to the University of Scranton last year. He played for the Tomcats until the Kings game when he injured his ankle, which sidelined him for the rest of the season. After the resignation of Dr. Kirias, Ruby took over the coaching duties.

He is expected to announce his coaching staff in the next few weeks.

The staff of the Football Club is preparing the schedule for next year. St. Boneventure's will be added to the schedule, facing the Tomcats in their opening game at Olean, N. Y. The rest of the schedule is incomplete but Morley told the AQUINAS that it will be ready as soon as the club receives word from some of the other clubs on open dates.

# Costly Outlay For Freshmen Becomes Bluechip On Court

## SCRANTON'S FLASHY FROSH



## Mumford High Scorer Superstar For Future?

When one thinks of former University of Scranton greats, names such as Les Dickman, Bob Bessoir, Ed Kasakovich, Bill Witacosis, and Rhett Jenkins head the list. Who is

our next superstar? The man stands 6' 3" tall and weighs about 180 lbs. He currently leads the frosh sensations with a 27 point per game average. His name is Eugene Mumford.

Gene started his basketball career in Brooklyn, N. Y. at St. James Grade School. From St. James, he went to a relatively new high school, Bishop Ford, where he averaged 16 points a game as a freshman on the Junior Varsity. In his sophomore year, Gene moved right into a starting position and led the C. H. S. A. A. league scoring at a clip of 20 points per contest. Gene finished second in his third year and recaptured the scoring crown as a senior averaging 26 markers a contest. College scouts began to sit up and take notice of Mr. Moves achievements. Some 40 colleges sent Gene offers. Among them: Providence, Boston College, St. Bonaventure, Kansas, St. John's, Niagara, and Villanova were the most notable. However Gene turned down these offers in favor of the smaller University of Scranton. He chose Scranton because it would afford him the opportunity to study and play consistently in his four year college career.

Gene has the potential to become the brightest star in the University's

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A big wind has suddenly begun to blow through the athletic realm of the University of Scranton. The first cause of this quirk in nature is the opening of the new John J. Long Center. However, the source of this sudden restlessness is the new basketball power that is being built into the new gym.

Last year, Coach Nat Volpe laid the foundation for this new dynasty which will rewrite Scranton record books for many years to come. When Coach Volpe started work on this project, he realized that perfection would have to be achieved if his creation were to work fluidly. First step in this masterplan was to recruit a strong front line. This Mr. Volpe proceeded to do.

Gazing on his blueprints, he sent for materials in the dimensions of 6'3" Gene Mumford, 6'4" Gary Beck and 6'5" Roger Yost. Although the material was costly, Mr. Volpe spared no expense in molding the framework. However, something was still lacking. Two guards were needed to complete the blueprints. Bill McCue and Tom Farrell who are both adept ball handlers and shooters were obtained and became permanent fixtures in the project.

Placing his new design in the capable hands of assistant coach Bob Bessoir who would handle the team for one year, Coach Volpe sat back until the new masterpiece would be unveiled.

With the advent of the new season, Coach Bessoir drilled his charges until all were operating at peak efficiency.

On December 2, 1967, the Baby Royals opened in grand style, pummeling the Falcons from Lackawanna Junior College. This well precisioned unit continued to roll over opponent after opponent. This was a squad that could not be designated a mere basketball team. It operated with the efficiency of an I.B.M. computer. In each contest, the pattern was identical. Roger Yost and Gary Beck controlled both backboards with authority. Bill McCue and Tom Farrell displayed uncanny deadliness from the 15 to 25' range. Complementing their shooting ability, is their great prowess at hitting the open man on the fast break, mismatches, and all situations where pinpoint passing is needed for a score. The fifth and most important element is scoring leader Gene Mumford. Operating as a swingman between forward and guard, Mumford has scored at a clip of 27 points per game.

To date, the freshmen squad has amassed an incredible record, their most impressive victory coming against a strong Drexel frosh contingent. The only loss was inflicted by Philadelphia Textile team. In this loss, however, it was quite evident that the squad was suffering

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## Bowlers End First Half Izzy's Leads The Pack

Of all of the on-campus intramural activities, the best organized and most competitive is the bowling program, which is conducted under the auspices of the American Bowling Congress and the Scranton Bowling Association. The University of Scranton League itself receives excellent leadership from its president, Ron Cronkey, and its secretary, Bob Costello.

Every week, Costello posts the league's official statistics on the athletic bulletin board in the Student Center and every week three or four people read the statistics. Such is the fate of bowling, an entertaining and popular sport for participation but a traditionally unattractive spectator sport. If a man does not bowl himself, he cannot be bothered with a lot of numbers.

And yet, many, many people bowl and some of them bowl very well. In the 48-game first half of the U of S Bowling League, some 58 students participated and ten of them bowled well. Unfortunately for the rest of the league, five of the top ten bowlers were members of one team, Izzy's News Room, which compiled a fabulous won-lost record of 40-8 and captured the first-half title by five games over its closest contenders. The Aquinas and The Old Timers.

Individually, three bowlers dominated the first-half statistics: Adie Casey and President Cronkey of Izzy's and Steve Greenblatt of Owe-Pins. Greenblatt's 667-total for three games

paced the league, while Casey's 661 placed second and Cronkey's 655 finished third. In single games, Casey and Cronkey both rolled 268's and Greenblatt rolled a 267. Greenblatt, whose team finished dead-last with only 14 wins, topped the league with a pro-like average of 194. Without him, Owe-Pins would surely have owed pins.

Besides Cronkey and Casey, who finished the half with the second and fourth highest averages, respectively, the champion Izzy's club was represented by three other members of the top ten, including Ross Runco, who showed third, Secretary Costello, who finished sixth, and Joe Notz, who finished seventh. Not bad.

### VANSTON

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favorite slogans, such as "Stop the Swatting", "Get our boys out of the cellar", and "Make Cheese Not War." Robert the Rebel's favorite cry when he was being chased out of town by the soldiers was, "Serfs up! Serfs up!" (He later went on to quite a successful career in Annette Funicello movies.)

Robert had a great plan. He had heard about a piper who had done a pretty good job of getting rid of some mice in another kingdom, by playing a sweet, peaceful, magical song on his flute. But this guy worked for three pounds of cheese an hour,

which in those days was pretty expensive. (He was also accused of kidnapping, but nothing could be proved.)

So Robert bought a flute and tried to learn a peaceful song, but he just didn't have the talent. Every time he tried to play the notes came out brash and long-haired. Some people thought he was too young to know how to play a good flute.

Eugene, the wandering troubador, could play excellent peaceful songs but nobody listened, because they knew he was only playing the songs that Robert the Rebel wrote.

So Robert, Nell, William and Eugene continued to live in the forest

not too far left of the Main Stream. Lord John, son of the late Lyn Lack-Luster, continued to work on new tactics to beat the mice. (One version of the fable has it that one of the Lord's trusted captains, Sir Mac the Smart, deserted the castle one night, after being pecked once too often by one of Lord John's falcons, and was never to be heard from again.)

As for the mice and the allied rodents in general, they continued to see limited success. Each spring they would open their famous Limburger Monsoon offensive in a crafty, Kraft style. And the serfs, board in hand, continued to swat away in the cellar.

**Beat  
Seton Hall**

# Aquinas Sports

**Tomorrow  
Away**

## Royals Pluck Bluejays Home Record Secure

The University of Scranton Royals scored their fourth consecutive conference win and their eighth straight success at the John J. Long Center when they defeated the playoff-bound Elizabethtown Bluejays, 83-76.

In one of the rarities of the season, the Royals received double-figure scoring from every member of the starting five, including a game-high of 25 points from Charlie Witacnis, who spent most of the evening working from the low post and accepting lead passes from his teammates.

Actually, the Royals gave away plenty of height to the Bluejays, but that was all they gave away. Witacnis, with 25 rebounds, and Ed Moroz, with 18 retrieves, completely dominated the boards and were most responsible for wearing down the Bluejays in the final minutes of play.

This in itself was an amazing feat because, whereas the Bluejays were being shuttled in and out of the game like so many streetcar passengers, Coach Nat Volpe elected to make no substitutions until the last seven minutes of the game, when he replaced Moroz with defensive stand-out Bob Steinberg. And Moroz returned four minutes later when playmaker Bobby Moylan fouled out of his final home game.

Once again playing to the year-long pattern, the Royals started slowly, shooting poorly, and trailed during the first ten minutes of the opening period. However, strong rebounding and the outside shooting of Dennis Melofchik turned things around and, after catching the Bluejays at 23-23, a three-point play by "Chik" gave the Royals the lead which they held through the remain-



Bob McGrath taps in 2 more points as Scranton routed Drexel proving to be invincible on the floor of the new John Long Center.

der of the game.

During the rest of the half, the Royals generated their famous fast break, put into motion by the boardwork of Witacnis and Moroz and activated by the running and passing of Moylan. The result was a good-looking 46-36 halftime lead.

Early in the second period, the Bluejays made several serious bids to regain the lead, largely through the efforts of their speedy, little pointman, Gil Jackson, who, at one stage, scored seven straight points and personally brought his club to within one point of the Royals no less than four different times. The last time

was at the six-minute mark of the period when the Royals' lead precariously stood at 67-66.

Then, the Royals shook off their slump and outscored the Bluejays, 9-1, and, thus, all but clinched the victory. First of all, Moroz scored on a driving layup; Melofchik, who finished second to Witacnis with 17 points, made a long jumper; Moylan converted a foul shot; Bob McGrath scored the fourth of his five clutch baskets; and finally, McGrath made the fifth of his five clutch baskets after taking a pretty pass from Steinberg. For all intents and purposes, the game was over.

## Royal Matmen In Test Match With Keystone

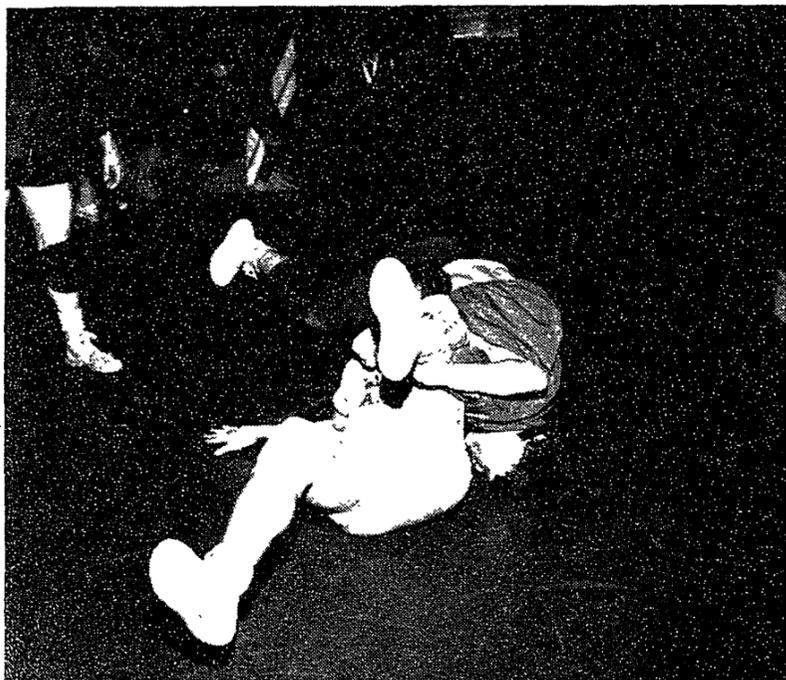
The Scranton University wrestling squad, which is still in the formative stages, engaged in their first informal inter-squad scrimmage with the Keystone Junior College Little Giants last Saturday at Keystone. The Little Giant grapplers are nationally ranked and their formidable opposition is sure to benefit the Royal matmen. The Keystone squad was headed by their national Junior College champion, Dick Keefe.

The Royals, obviously hampered by a total lack of experience, gave their all, and in the words of Coach Hopkins, "did a very respectable job." Tom Miskill, perhaps the man of the day for Scranton, decisioned Keystone's 123 pounder before coming out on the short end of a decision in the 130 pound class. Gene Mattson, a transfer from Penn State where he was intramural champ, lost a close 2-0 decision in his first attempt in the 130 pound class. He then went on to pin his opponent in the 123 pound match. Tom DiMatteo bulldozed his way to a draw with his 160 pound Keystone opponent. Walt Johnston flashed forms of brilliance in dropping strong bouts with Keefe and the 160 pound K.J.C. grappler, Joe Nish wrestling for the first time competitively, also gave an impressive showing against Keefe.

and then proceeded to crush their antagonists without mercy.

Why do we say that Coach Volpe has a dynasty in the making? The answer can be found in any gamet he babies perform before their bigger brothers. If the answer still isn't obvious, we will give it to you in three short phrases:

- 1) Devastating fast break
- 2) Superior Rebounding
- 3) Superior Shooting



U. of S. wrestler, George Miller (on the bottom) makes a gallant effort to avoid being pinned by a 140 pounder from Keystone. Miller eventually lost in a decision. (Photo by McDonald)

### FROSH BASKETBALL

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from a letdown and the prospect of going home for Christmas vacation took the edge off their normally sharp game.

All five starters are currently averaging over 15 points a game. The machine has surpassed the century mark in most of its games. At times, they have toyed with the opposition for as much as ten minutes to a half

## In The Maze

by

ALAN MAZZEI



It happened again the other day. Somebody asked us, "Can't you ever say anything nice about anybody?" We thought it over and replied, "Not really. Wait a minute. Yes, there's one thing that pleases us, one thing that deserves a compliment."

And so, we went on to tell him how much we enjoyed the brand of basketball as played by the Scranton-area high schools. Many people agree with us, but for different reasons. They see good teams. We see good, solid, mature, college-type individuals, of whom good teams are made.

Naturally, to put us on our familiar hot spot, the somebody asked us to name the five outstanding high school players in the area. And so, we did: Jim Casey of Scranton Holy Rosary at center; Dave Canfield of Montrose and Richie Murray of Dunmore at forward; Jeff Steinberg of Scranton Central and Paul Biko of Scranton Cathedral at guard.

True to our form, we elaborated on three of our selections. We said that young Murray, the only sophomore among four seniors, would be an all-stater in his senior year. And, we added that we believed that Steinberg and Biko were the two best players in the Scranton schools since Rhett Jenkins and Steve Vacendak were high school seniors in 1962.

Let's move up a year. From high school seniors to college freshmen. The 1967-68 basketball season has not been a total loss. The Royal Varsity may have had their problems, but the Royal Frosh have been nothing less than brilliant all year, scoring well over 100 points-per-game and arrogantly toying with their much less talented opponents.

Next season, six of the members of the freshman team should join the graduation-thinned varsity and help transform a marginal ball club into a league champion. The reason that we make such a statement is simple: This year's varsity was a good team, as good a team as any in the Middle Atlantic Conference. But, the players themselves never realized how good they were and thus, they performed questionably throughout the year, particularly on the road.

This year's freshman team was a great team and the players themselves recognized that sooner than anyone, with the possible exception of their hapless opponents. They scored almost at will.

However, the freshmen did not like two things: practice and defense. Next year when they join the varsity they'll learn to appreciate something besides their own field goals. Then, there'll be no telling just what they might accomplish. If they do any worse than capturing the MAC Northern Division crown, someone will have to be hanged. And not in effigy, either.

Aside from not winning conference titles, there is one thing that is keeping the University of Scranton basketball program on a small-time basis: Scholarships. Not how many are distributed or to whom they are given, but to whom they are *not* given when they are available.

It is common knowledge that each year more than half of the members of the freshman team are non-scholarship members. To them, playing—or, in the case of this year's team, not playing—freshman ball is an extra-curricular activity, such as participating in the Spanish Club or the Royal Rifles.

Still, every year, several non-scholarship freshmen decide to try out for the varsity squad and every year, a couple of them make the squad, as have Bob Steinberg and Bernie Brosky this year. Whether or not they substantially contribute to the varsity cause (as *has* Steinberg and as *has not* Brosky) is of little importance. The fact remains that they are sacrificing valuable hours of every day from the month of October through the month of February, just as the scholarship players are. And, they are doing it for nothing.

What, if not a scholarship, is to prevent one of these boys or one of their sophomore successors next season from, say, quitting the team any time he wants to, as did Gary Green earlier this year. Remember him? He used to be an unhappy non-scholarship bench-warmer. Today, he's happy in his new role as the school's head jeerleader.

Others who put in gallant first time performances for the Royals were George Roskos, Lou Pilch, George Savitski, Mike Meyers, George Miller and Jack Brennan.

The Scranton matmen, with some valuable experience under their belts,

now have four days to prepare themselves for an even tougher assignment against the rugged East Stroudsburg J.V.'s, the only squad that has beaten Keystone this season. This will be a regular meet at East Stroud on March 5.

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basketball history. He has all the credentials of a superstar and has displayed them quite prominently. An excellent ball handler, shooter, and rebounder Mumford can be designated the complete ballplayer. When he takes off for one of his winding and twisting layups, one cannot help but think of the Great Laker forward, Elgin Baylor. His body control while in the air is something to behold. Gene's characteristic between the leg dribble à la Jim Walker and his short jumper from the foul lane area are devastating. When asked about the greatest influence on his career, Gene relates the story of the famous

Springfield playground near his home. At Springfield, Gene watched for hours as such stars as Willis Reed, Dave Stallworth, and "The Man," Jim Walker display their wares. When he saw Walker execute his under the leg maneuver, Gene states; "that once I saw Jimmy do it, I had to do it." "Mr. Moves" spent a whole summer perfecting the move.

As a frosh, Gene has performed according to all expectations. He is "The Take Charge Guy" of the "Fabulous Five" and the silent but quite obvious leader of this awesome quintet. In all games to the present, it is quite evident that Eugene could score far above his present average.