

Dom Rosselli Is Named 'Ohio Coach Of The Year'

By Ron Vanatsky

Featured in this issue of the JAMBAR is Dominic Rosselli, the man whose teaching, coaching, and fine all-around sportsmanship have brought him the honor of basketball's "Ohio College Coach of the Year" for 1957.

It is a very richly deserved award for Dom, one of the most likeable and interesting sports personalities in the Buckeye State.

Under his skillful and steady tutoring, the Youngstown University Penguins, winningest cage squad in Ohio, have rolled to a berth in the NAIA national championship playoffs at Kansas City, besides spreading a fine reputation for the University throughout the Mid-West with their clean but hard play.

Is Native Ohioan

Rosselli is a native Ohioan, born in Youngstown and educated at Lincoln, Wood Street, East High, and Rayen High schools. Dom loved sports as a youngster, and found active participation in them more exciting than just watching.

He also sold newspapers on the side, and was a familiar hawker at Champion and Federal Streets downtown.

At Rayen High, he was taught the fundamentals of football and basketball by Harold Lansing and Johnny Russ, and was captain of the two sports squads his last two years in high school.

Entered Geneva

Gaining the enormous total of eight pounds, he was a grid sensation, being a fleet-footed, hard-driving, and quick-thinking quarterback who gained a spot on the All-Pennsylvania football squad, while weighing only 129 pounds!

Dom was captain of the basketball and grid squads at Geneva, besides being very active in intra-mural sports. He received accolades of all sorts, gaining championship honors in badminton, paddle tennis, and volleyball.

Ping Pong Champ

He was ping pong champion for four years, and did an iron-man stint with his softball team by pitching every game played for four years and leading them annually to title honors.

The diminutive fellow graduated from Geneva in 1939 with a "B" average and a major in Education. He came to Y.U. soon after and coached the basketball team for two seasons before leaving for the service.

In 1946, after four years of Army duty, he returned to his position here and is now completing his 13th year of tutoring the cage squads, besides head baseball coach, assistant grid mentor and men's intramural sports director.

Has Many Friends

Dom's amiability, easiness, and fine sense of fair play have gained him many loyal friends on the campus, besides a large contingent of followers in the Tri-State area.

If you happen to be around his cozy office, particularly on a Friday, you may hear him answer the telephone, usually ringing every few minutes, with the quip, "Hello, this is Joe's Fish Market," or something of the sort.

Has Favorite Tale

A favorite tale Dom relates goes like this. Upon hearing through various sources that YU has good prospects for a most successful cage season, local friends of Dom's being ardent sports enthusiasts, phone him to get the scoop on the team.

The fans ask, "I hear you have a pretty-good looking team up there this year, Dom. Is that correct?" Whereby Rosselli answers, "You're sure right, we've been getting our uniforms cleaned every week."

Good Team Work

In talking about the story behind the Penguins' unprecedented success this season, Rosselli pointed out the boys' smooth, coordinated, and unselfish teamwork.

He said that high team spirit comes from taking pride in participating and doing your best always.

This year's squad, he said, had that spirit from the start, and it took an influential stronghold in each boy individually, keeping him driving and fighting all the time.

Dom stated that you've got to have this earnestness 100% to win ball games, and it looks like the whole squad has been fully embodied with it.

Stems From Youth

Dom's zeal for coaching and active sports participation stems from his youth, when, although usually with-

out the price of admission to games, he followed the keen rivalry between Rayen and South, the lone football squads in the city at that time.

He usually managed to see the contests somehow, selling various objects as seats to the fans, or using other means of fundmaking, but the main thing is, his eagerness for sports developed enormously through his zeal for seeing some of these great old teams in action.

Then, in taking part in athletics, he began to love "to duel instead of watching." His interest in his teams today reflect this intense feeling.

Lauds Fine Work

In giving credit to others, Rosselli lauded the fine work of Carl Christian-sin, assistant coach who led the reserve squad to a repeat performance

of last season's record gaining a 12-1 mark, Willard L. Webster; University Athletic Director; Bob Suchora, manager; Ed Lariccia, Dom's 14 year-old nephew who assisted Suchora; Ken Brayer, team statistician; and Chuck Perazich, publicity director.

Anyone else who helped the team reach their NAIA state championship status is gratefully acknowledged, as this season has been the greatest in Youngstown University history.

Is Active

Dom takes to carpentry as a spare time activity, expanding this more fully in the off-season by building homes and engaging in other projects during the summer vacation.

Being a very modest type of fellow, Ohio's top collegiate coach continuously tries to pass off to the team any plaudits directed toward him.

When asked how he felt about his "Coach of the Year" selection, he stated, "It's the most wonderful feeling a coach can have." He praised his assistants and said, "The boys made it all possible with their all-around, top-notch play, and sportsmanship."

The former Army captain's family consists of his wife, Constance, and four lovely children. These include three daughters; Roseanne, 14; Mary Louise, 11; Stephanie, 9; and a spry two-year old son, Dom Jr., or "Chipper," as he is affectionately nicknamed.