

# NCAA Accepts Ivy Compromise —Penn Can Win Way to Tourney

Penn's basketball team has the green light for a berth in the NCAA Basketball Tournament. If the Quakers can retain their lead in the Ivy League race through three more games, they'll be going to Blacksburg, Va., to play in the tourney's Eastern Regionals. The light turned green yesterday when the NCAA and the Ivy League reached a compromise agreement on the NCAA's new "1.6 rule," which would require student-athletes to maintain an academic standard of 1.6 on a 4.0 grade system.

"The Ivy League has submitted evidence of conformity under the NCAA legislation as it affects them," said NCAA president Everett D. Barnes in Kansas City, Mo.

**BUT TELEGRAMS** forwarded to NCAA headquarters by Ivy League schools indicated that the "evidence of conformity" was a compromise.

"While Pennsylvania will not comply with the 1.6 legislation," a telegram signed by Penn athletic director Jerry Ford read, "we are forwarding to you . . . Pennsylvania's admissions predictive information plus information on the admission of transfer students."

"All we are doing," said Ford, "is sending the NCAA information that is available to anybody who wants it."

The NCAA's acceptance of Ivy "conformity" removed all doubts that the Ivy basketball champion would be ineligible to

play in the NCAA tourney because of failure to comply with the 1.6 rule.

**IF PENN WINS** the Ivy League title, it will play Syracuse in a first-round game at VPI's gym in Blacksburg, Va., March 8. If Columbia or Princeton win the Ivy, the first

## Harding Innocent— Piston Ban Stands

**DETROIT (UPI).** — Reggie Harding, suspended "bad boy" center of the Detroit Pistons, was found innocent of a loitering charge in a place of illegal occupation yesterday but probably will not be able to rejoin the team this season.

Harding was suspended by both the Pistons and the National Basketball Association on the first day of the current season after being found guilty of loitering in an after-hours drinking spot here. The decision yesterday reversed that ruling.

Detroit Pistons player-coach Dave DeBusschere, however, said from Baltimore that Harding will not be back with Detroit this year.

round Ivy champ-vs.-Syracuse game will be played at the Palestra March 7.

The Middle Atlantic Conference tourney entry (St. Joseph's) will play Providence in another first-round game at Blacksburg March 8. The Southern Conference champion and the Yankee Conference champion will meet at the Palestra March 7.

**OTHER REGIONALS** scheduled:

At Kent State: Dayton vs. Mid-American Conference champion, Loyola vs. Western Kentucky.

At Wichita State: Texas vs. Oklahoma City, Colorado State vs. Houston.

Winners of the Southeastern, Big Ten, Big Eight, Missouri Valley, AAWU, and West Coast conferences draw regional byes.

Meanwhile, five teams are in the National Invitation Tournament which opens at New York March 10. They are defending champion St. John's, Penn State, Boston College, Virginia Tech and DePaul. Temple and Villanova are possibilities for NIT berths.