

Southern Illinois Bothers Rutgers

By DICK COUCH

Associated Press Sports Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — "We're still alive, but each game gets tougher," Rutgers' Bill Foster said Wednesday as the surprising Scarlet Knights prepared to take on Southern Illinois' little giants in the semifinals of the National Invitation Basketball Tournament.

The Scarlet, upset winners over Utah State and New Mexico in their first two NIT starts, meet the Salukis in the second game of Thursday night's semi-final doubleheader at Madison Square Garden after high-scoring Marshall tangles with Marquette.

"I don't even want to think about Southern Illinois," said Foster, who registered his 100th coaching victory as Rutgers stunned the towering Lobos 65-60 in Tuesday night's quarter-finals. "I'll get a good night's sleep first."

The Salukis, who ruled the college division ranks before accepting a bid to their first major college post-season tourney, have reeled off 2 straight victories and take a 22-2 record into the Rutgers clash. They disposed of St. Peter's, N.J., 3-58 and Duke 72-63 on the way to the semis.

"I've seen them twice," said Foster, who came to Rutgers four years ago after compiling a 45-11 coaching record in three seasons at Bloomsburg, Pa., State. "I scouted Duke for three quarters Monday night before I realized I'd better start scouting Southern Illinois. Southern Illinois is so good, so fast. They beat Duke — what more can I say?"

Bob Lloyd, the slender senior who has poured in 65 points for the Scarlet in the tournament and leads the nation in free-throw percentage, will be seeing the Salukis for the first time when he lines up against them Thursday night.

"I never see a team I have to play," he said. "I don't like to. From what I've heard, I should be glad I didn't see Southern Illinois."

While Lloyd and his backcourt partner, Jim Valvano, pose the major threats for SIU, the Salukis will count on team balance and speed, ball control and a tough defense taught by Coach Jack Hartman, a protege of Oklahoma State's legendary Hank Iba.

The Salukis have beaten seven major college opponents, including second-ranked Louisville and '66 NCAA champion Texas Western. But they won't be taking Rutgers lightly. "That Lloyd is a ball club all by himself," Hartman said.

Grapefruit League Baseball Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Whitey Ford, hopeful of regaining a berth on the New York Yankee pitching staff this season, showed some of his old-time form Wednesday as the Yankees beat Boston 6-3 in exhibition baseball.

Ford, a southpaw, yielded four straight singles to the Red Sox at the start of the game in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., but gave up only one run. He faced just 1 more batter in his four inning stint as the Yankees won their fifth of six exhibition games.

Pete Rose, of Cincinnati, playing in his first exhibition game, drove in five runs to lead the Reds over the New York Mets 1-6 at St. Petersburg.

Rose, who had been sidelined with a groin injury, hit two homers. The first came in the seventh with Rose hitting lefthanded against Jack Hamilton and tied the score. In the ninth he batted right-handed against Don Shaw and smashed a three-run homer.

The Chicago Cubs made it four in a row by edging the California Angels 7-6 at Scottsdale, Ariz. Dick Billings' triple followed by Jim French's sacrifice fly gave the Washington Senators a 2-1 victory in 11 innings over the Atlanta Braves at Pompano Beach.

Three bases on balls by rookie southpaw Gary Hart followed by a throwing error by shortstop Larry Brown gave the San Francisco Giants a 3-2 triumph in 10 innings over the Cleveland Indians at Phoenix.

Tommy John, Bob Locker, Paul Edmondson and Wilbur Wood combined for a two-hitter as they pitched the Chicago White Sox to a 4-1 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates at Fort Myers. It was the Pirates' first exhibition defeat.



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