

Sports Scoop

Capitolizing

By Kevin Spiegel

Bright sunshine, some quick-picking country music, all the Pepsi you could drink, and a field of 424 runners were just a few highlights of last Saturday's 10,000 meter run at Capitol Campus.

It was the First Annual Pepsi Challenge Race, and it turned out to be a magnificent showing by some incredible athletes. Runners from all over Pennsylvania paid their entrance fees to participate in the qualifying race, with the male and female overall winners to be flown to New York to compete in the National Pepsi Challenge 10,000 meter run. In New York top challengers such as Bill Rogers and Craig Virgin will be competing. Thus, this race was no "rinky-dink" event; it was "big time"!

The race started at 10:00 a.m., when 424 official runners left the starting line with one thing in mind: finishing! After the first mile, Somerdale's Rick Blood had about a one second lead over Tim Waechter. Blood's time was four minutes, 52 seconds. Carol Fridley of Elizabethtown was the first lady across the mile barrier, at a time of 5:43. It had become a two-man race between Blood and Waechter, as they paced themselves through the long and grinding Capitol Campus course.

Going out to view the race from different locations, I saw Rick Blood and Tim Waechter leaving Meade Heights as the majority of the runners was just entering the area. The other runners just couldn't believe how fast Blood and Waechter were running. In fact, Tony Beccone, who had the best seat in the house riding in the police escort car, informed me that the leaders were running at a 13 m.p.h. pace. Sounds slow? Try running it for 10,000 meters. continued on next page...

400 plus Take Pepsi Challenge: Blood's The Real Thing



Rick Blood (above), prophetically wearing number one, captures the grand prize at the First Annual Capitol Campus 10,000 Meter Pepsi Challenge. Another runner (below, left) muscles his way to close the gap at the first mile mark last Saturday.

Photo by Mark Baer
Photo Club

By Joe, I Think We've Got It! Maybe?

By Darrell Reider

"Bring on Temple!" is the chant resounding through State College this week after the Nittany Lions handled the 12th-ranked Nebraska Cornhuskers last Saturday, 30-24, to improve their ranking among the leading colleges and universities across the nation.

For years, the pollsters (namely coaches and media representatives) have blamed Penn State's weak schedule for the school's consistently "biased" low positioning in the Top Twenty. Saturday's game, in which the Husker attack was limited to the middle two quarters, should necessitate a solid spot atop the wire service polls. The win should also alert the big wheels at ABC Sports who, after Nebraska lost its season opener to unheralded Iowa, decided to substitute the Boston College-North Carolina game. (By the way, the Tar Heels embarrassed the BC Eagles, 56-14. You decide which game was worthy of network airtime.)

Running back Curt Warner and placekicker Brian Franco provided most of the offense against the midwest nemesis who had dumped Penn State the past two years on national television. Franco set a new Nittany Lion record for most field goals in one game, five, with consecutive boots of 29, 48, 39, 20, and 32 yards. He surpassed the old mark of four, set by the Bahr brothers, Matt and Chris, during their years at Happy Valley.

Warner, also looking to rewrite some outdated stats in the record book, fell 12 yards short. However, his 238 yards on 28 carries (an 8.5 yards per carry average) did set a personal career high for him. Barring any injuries, Warner should lead the Nittany Lions to a bowl appearance and, hopefully, a national

championship. The junior tailback from Wyoming, West Virginia, must be considered for this year's Heisman Trophy, awarded to the nation's outstanding offensive player. Coach Joe Paterno is really high on his running back, calling him one of the best backs in the country.

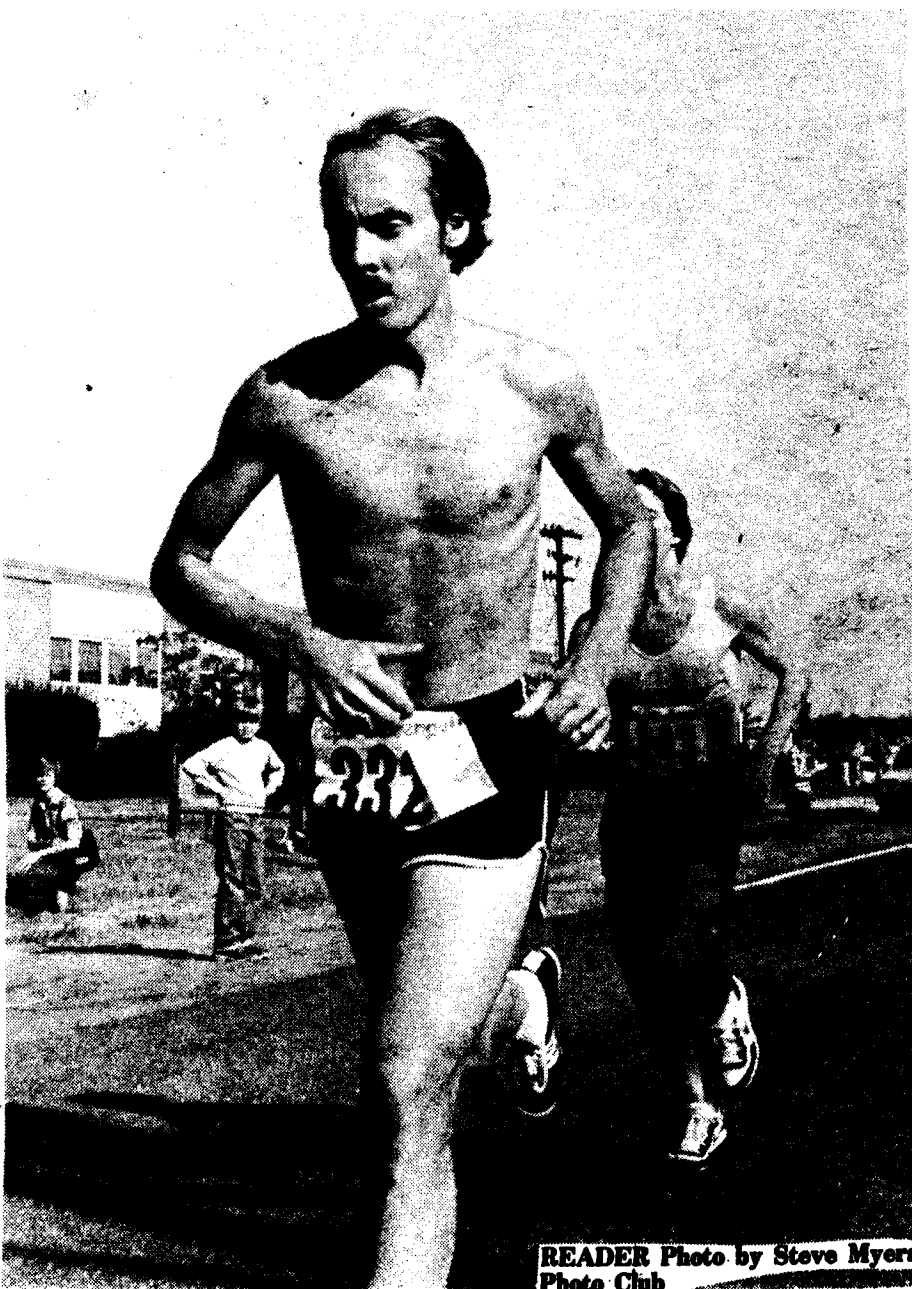
Well, it's time to file the stats in the NCAA record books and look toward this Saturday's contest against the Temple Owls at Beaver Stadium. It's the annual All-U Day game, one that enables students from the commonwealth and branch campuses to join the more than 80,000 fans and cheer the Nittany Lions to win number three. Temple has improved on some weak spots that plagued last year's team by adding some new faces, including a few cross-town transfers from the now-defunct football program at Villanova. Come out and support the number one-bound Nittany Lions, and enjoy the traditional tailgate party as well as the action-packed collegiate football.

By the way, for new readers, this is the bi-monthly column where we do our best to cover Penn State sports, especially here at Capitol, something rarely given in-depth coverage by previous sports editors. We welcome anyone interested in assisting our coverage—just stop in the C.C. Reader office in W-129.

SPORTS TRIVIA

Name the only major college football team to appear in all the major bowl games at least once.

Answer next issue.



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Photo Club