

Paterno Not Tampering With Success At Penn State

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa.—Give Joe Paterno credit for having enough sense to leave a good thing alone.

Paterno, who has a 12-year record of 112 wins, 24 losses and a tie, isn't planning any drastic changes in the Nittany Lions' spring practice routine, which starts this week.

"It is going to be a normal spring," Paterno says. "We will be doing the same things we always do in the spring—trying to find our best players and trying to make everybody a little bit better."

There will be a couple of changes in the routine, both of which have been caused by a construction project that is expanding the capacity of Beaver Stadium to 76,017 for the coming season.

The Lions will play the Blue-White Game, their final spring scrimmage, at Hersheypark Stadium in Hershey, Pa., on May 6 and have cancelled the annual Camera Day event.

"Not having the stadium available will change some things, but our practice schedule will be similar to what we have had in the past," Paterno says.

Filling some holes in the defensive secondary and finding a replacement for tight end Mickey Shuler will be two of the top items on Paterno's spring agenda.

"We have a job to do in the secondary where we lost some good people and we have to find a replacement for Mickey, who was the best tight end in the country last year," Paterno says. "And we have to build depth everywhere."

The secondary was the area hit hardest by graduation. The Lions lose safety Gary Petercuskie, halfback Neil Hutton and "Hero" linebacker Ron Hostetler, who often played as a strong safety.

Other defensive losses to graduation are ends Bill Banks and Joe Diange, All-American middle guard Randy Sidler and linebacker Tom DePaso.

Among the defensive returnees are halfback Mike Guman, end Joe Lally, tackles Bruce Clark and Matt Millen and linebacker Rick Donaldson. Guman, one of the team's best all-around athletes, is passing up spring practice to pitch for the Lions baseball team.

Offensive graduation losses, in addition to Shuler, are guard John Dunn, tailback Steve Geise and flanker Jimmy Cefalo.

Leading the list of returning offensive starters is quarterback Chuck Fusina, who should be a top candidate for All-American honors. Fusina, who will be a senior in the fall, already has broken or tied nine Penn State passing records.

Fusina, who passed for 2,221 yards last year while completing 57.7 per cent of his attempts, will have most of his offensive teammates returning this season.

Among the returnees are running backs Matt Suhey, Bob Torrey and Booker Moore; receivers Scott Fitzkee and Bob Bassett; and offensive linemen Chuck Correal, Eric Cunningham, Keith Dorney, Irv Pankey, Paul Renaud and Marty Sierocinski.

Dorney, a 6-6, 270-pound tackle, was a first team All-America selection last year.

Also returning is flanker Tom Donovan, who missed all of last year with a leg injury. Donovan, who has two years of eligibility remaining, has had 25 catches for 388 yards in his first two years on the varsity.

Fitzkee, who should be an All-American candidate at split end, has handled the punting duties for the last two years and could do so again in 1978 unless Paterno finds someone to relieve him of the job.

Matt Bahr, who handled all of the placekicking and kickoff chores for the Lions last year, will miss spring practice to play professional soccer for the Colorado Caribou of the North American Soccer League. He is expected to return in the fall.

Overall, the Lions will have 12 starters

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SPORTS

Nittany Lions Have Seven Games In "New Stadium"

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa.—Penn State's football team will play seven games in its newly-expanded stadium in 1978.

Coach Joe Paterno's Nittany Lions open the 1978 season against Rutgers on Sept. 9 in Beaver Stadium, which is being expanded from 60,203 seats to 76,017 capacity.

The stadium expansion project, which is now in progress, has caused the Lions to move the Blue-White Game, their final spring practice scrimmage, to Hersheypark Stadium.

Other teams appearing at the "new" stadium this year are SMU on Sept. 23; TCU, Sept. 30; Syracuse, Oct. 21; and three bowl game champions—Maryland, Nov. 4; North Carolina State, Nov. 11, and Pittsburgh, Nov. 25.

The Lions will play four games on the road, meeting Ohio State on Sept. 16; Kentucky, Oct. 7; West Virginia, Oct. 28, and Temple, Nov. 18.

Four of the Nittany Lions' 1978 opponents—Kentucky, North Carolina State, Ohio State and Pittsburgh—were ranked in the final top 20 last year by at least one of the major wire service polls.

Penn State was 11-1 last year, including a 42-30 victory over Arizona State in the

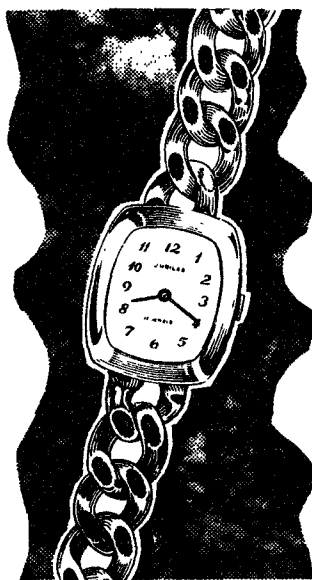
Fiesta Bowl. The Lions were ranked fourth nationally by United Press International and fifth by Associated Press.

The Nittany Lions will have 12 starters and 32 of their top 44 players returning next year, including record-breaking quarterback Chuck Fusina, split end Scott Fitzkee, fullbacks Matt Suhey and Bob Torrey, All-American offensive tackle Keith Dorney, defensive tackles Matt Millen and Bruce Clark, defensive end Joe Lally, linebacker and leading tackler Rick Donaldson and halfback Mike Guman.

"The combination of the potential of our squad plus the challenge of our schedule presents a great opportunity for us," Paterno says. "A lot will depend on maintaining the momentum we have by continuing to work hard. We will need the same kind of commitment, dedication and leadership next year that we had from this year's squad."

1978 PENN STATE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

MAY 6	BLUE-WHITE GAME	Hershey, Pa.	2:00 p.m.
SEPT. 9	RUTGERS	BEAVER STADIUM	1:30 p.m.
16	Ohio State	Columbia, Ohio	1:30 p.m.
23	SOUTHERN METHODIST	BEAVER STADIUM	1:30 p.m.
30	TEXAS CHRISTIAN	BEAVER STADIUM	1:30 p.m.
OCT. 7	Kentucky	Lexington, Ky.	7:30 p.m.
14	OPEN		
21	SYRACUSE (Homecoming)	BEAVER STADIUM	1:30 p.m.
28	West Virginia	Morgantown, W.Va.	1:30 p.m.
NOV. 4	MARYLAND	BEAVER STADIUM	1:30 p.m.
11	NORTH CAROLINA STATE	BEAVER STADIUM	1:30 p.m.
18	Temple	Philadelphia, Pa.	1:30 p.m.
25	PITTSBURGH	BEAVER STADIUM	1:30 p.m.



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