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Varsity Gridders Improve Despite Major Reverses

Although the Penn State football team of 1926 failed to annex a single major victory, it proved beyond all shadow of doubt that the Nittany institution is on the up-grade of the grid hill after a sojourn of several years in the valley.

Notre Dame, favored by the majority of sports writers for national championship honors, was the first to lower the Lion gonfalon this season, but defeat by Syracuse, Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh followed. The Lions completely outclassed the opposition in the remaining five games.

Auspicious Start

From the very day the first pugilism was inflated the line seemed to be Coach Bezek's biggest problem. Assistant coaches Conover and Bentz, former Lion star centers, were signed in an effort to build up a forward for the 1926 campaign.

A smaller squad than usual reported for the opening sessions September first, but it included Greenshields and Krall, two star players from the 1925 freshman eleven who lined up at tackle and guard respectively. Captain Ken Weston headed a group of sophomore material. Only Delp, Wolff, Monahan and Curry remained of last year's yeasting team.

Seven letter-candidates were available to the backfield, so great offensive power was expected. Sadly enough, it was the backfield and not the line which troubled Coach Bezek before the end of the campaign.

With Delp and Captain Weston at the terminals, Greenshields and Munz at the tackle posts, Krall and Hastings at guards and Mahoney at the center position the line appeared to be potentially powerful. The backfield quartet included Lungren, quarterback, Roepeke and Dangerfield, halfbacks, and Greene, fullback.

Then came the first intimation of impending disaster. Filak was declared ineligible until the Notre Dame game. Delp, Slamp and Captain Weston sustained injured ankles and Dangerfield re-burned a bad shoulder. Slamp, without a peep on the Lion squad and an end was out for the season, while Weston and Delp were on the sidelines until the latter half of the schedule rolled around.

Opening Games Promising

With Lesko and Faulkner subbing at the terminal posts and Munz engaged in the left tackle berth, the Lion eleven showed the greatest scoring punch in years when it ran up an 82-0 score on a reputedly strong Susquehanna team "Cowboy" Greene registered four touchdowns, while Roepeke and Lungren ran wild in enemy territory. The Nittany gridgers piled up a total yardage of seven hundred and eleven, while Susquehanna backs penetrated Bezek's line for a scant two yards.

Away to a flying start in Eastern coaching tribulations, the Blue and White warriors continued their track tactics at the expense of Lebanon Valley the following Saturday, the final score standing at 35-0. Harrington started for Dangerfield in the Nittany backfield, but he and his mates were supplanted by an entire new quartet which included Pritchard, Hannas, Pineura and Wolff.

The newcomers were even more effective than their predecessors. Greenshields, Krall and Mahoney loomed as the outstanding performers in the line, which showed some im-

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Improvement over the Susquehanna game. The one dark spot in the Nittany outlook was an injury sustained by Roepeke, star halfback, who was on the bench until the Penn game with a broken cheek bone.

Marietta came out of the West to furnish the Father's Day entertainment, which proved costly to the Ohioans, 18-0. Two backfields contributed to the Lion scoring, which was heavy during the opening half. Practically every substitute saw action at some stage of the game. In the closing minutes of play the visitors pushed over the first touchdown of the season to be registered against the Blue and White.

The brightest individual flash of the game was contributed by Lungren, who raced ninety-five yards for a touchdown from kick-off. The Bezekians were forced to offset a hundred and sixty-five yards of penalties during the fray. Reif and Laferty starred for "Red" Griffith's eleven.

The Marietta game completed the preliminary season. The Lions had registered a total of one-hundred and sixty-five points and topped all other Eastern teams in scoring. Cowboy Greene was second only to Carr of Syracuse for individual honors, with fifty-six points to his credit.

Irishmen Victorious

Then the Nittany tide broke upon a rock of sterner stuff. Coach Bezek pitted an inexperienced eleven which was not at its full strength against a seasoned Notre Dame squad and lost, 28-0.

Passes by Parisienne to O'Boyle gave the Hoosiers a touchdown in the opening minutes of play. Dahman and Neimec ran wild around the Nittany terminal, and Parisienne's deadly passes made the Irishmen a constant threat. The Lion line—Curry, Greenshields, Krall, Mahoney, Hastings, Munz and Lesko—fought bitterly, but the polished attack of the Rockne-coached legion swept them off their feet. Later Captain Weston, Darragh and Filak were inserted in a vain effort to stem the tide. Harrington and Hannas flanked Greene at fullback, with Lungren directing play, but the touted Lion offense failed.

Pritchard and Greene contributed most of the Nittany yardage, while Neimec and Dahman dashed through the line for many long gains. A touchdown in each quarter completed

the first defeat of the season for the Bezekians, 28-0.

The line development continued, but failure of the backs to launch an effective offense cost Penn State the Alumni Day battle with Syracuse. Captain Hanson and his mates, angered by their defeat at the hands of Army, outplayed the Lions in every department of the game.

"Big Bertha" Barbuti, Orange fullback, was the battering ram of the visiting offense. His great ball-carrying and the defensive work of Hanson and Aichoska were primarily responsible for the Onondagan victory. Leevy shone for Syracuse in the line.

Hastings and Filak played capably for the Lions, as did Dangerfield and Hannas. Delp displayed his wares for the first time since he was injured. Both teams were crippled. The Orangemen played without the services of Baysinger, "Whippet" Carr, Friedman and Goldman, while Penn State missed Weston and Slamp, ends, and Roepeke, halfback.

The ensuing game with George Washington was slovenly in every sense of the word, although it provided a breathing spell for the regulars before the Penn battle. The Lions scored the first touchdown, had scored a fumble and racing seventy yards against the scrubs Weston and Roepeke returned to the Lion lineup. Lungren and Greene were outstanding backfield performers, as was Coleman of George Washington.

Nosed Out by Penn

A field goal by Scurl in the second quarter was the margin of victory of the Red and Blue over the Lions in a pitched battle on Franklin field, 3-0. The Bezekians pushed their way to the Penn one yard mark, but a fourth-down pass failed and the Quakers punted out of danger.

Captain Weston and Delp were stationed at ends with Greenshields and Filak at tackles. Hastings and Krall guards, and Mahoney, center, completed the strongest line put on the gridiron by the Blue and White this season.

Roepeke, playing with a heavy helmet protecting his face, shared honors with Delp and Greenshields. The blond halfback threw long passes which twice might have been converted into touchdowns by clever receivers. His offensive work was of the highest calibre. Delp and Greenshields completely outplayed the opposition, Delp winning a place on the Quaker All-opponent eleven by virtue of his stellar exhibition.

The Lions stopped the famous "huddle-ball" attack with but little difficulty. The Penn backs were never inside the Nittany twenty-five yard line. The pitched battle went to the Red and Blue after a heart-breaking struggle by virtue of Scull's educated toe.

Bucknell, returning to the Lion schedule after a lapse of seven years, succumbed to the agility of the fleet Roepeke in the Pennsylvania Day battle on New Beaver Field, 9-0. A thirty-yard sprint by the like halfback paved the way for the Nittany touch-

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Reading from left to right—Newsh Bentz, assistant coach; Larry Conover, assistant coach; Hugo Bezek, head coach; Dutch Hermann, freshman coach; Bas Grej, assistant freshman coach

down in the second quarter. He also booted the Penn State field goal. Trimmer and Drel scintillated against the varsity, but Bucknell was doomed to disappointment if victory was her goal. The Blue and White warriors completely demonstrated their superiority, although breaks played a minor role in the battle.

With the "Thundering Herd" safely disposed of, Coach Bezek turned his attention to the game of the year, the Thanksgiving Day classic with Pitt. Goaded to desperation by years of unsuccess, the Nittany Lions held the Panthers to a 7-6 score until the final quarter, when Welch raced thru the demoralized eleven. Pitt held the final edge, 24-6.

Adverse decisions and Welch's great play frustrated the last offensive of the 1926 season. Welch ved with Roepeke for individual prominence, although Pineura and Filak were also outstanding. Captain Weston, Filak, Greene, Pritchard, Bergman, Reed and Roseberry played their last game for the Blue and White.

An analysis of the score sheet shows that the Bezekians piled up a total of two hundred points against eighty-three for the opposition. Delp and Greenshields were honored by numerous sports critics for sectional laurels, while Roepeke came in for a great deal of consideration in All-American selections.

The steady improvement of the Blue and White during the season augurs

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Team Play Stressed in Varsity Court Drills

(Continued from first page)

and Von Neida, guards has shown the greatest teamwork. Of this quintet Reilly, the sophomore pivot, is the only player who has yet to earn a Varsity letter.

Page, a member of the squad for two seasons, is also in the battle for the pivot post left vacant by the graduation of McDonald. Then there is Brownstein, a sophomore, to be reckoned with. This trio should make things warm within the middle circle.

"When Steve Hannas and Delp return to practice this squad of boys will be the most promising that I have ever had," said Dutch after Wednesday's workout. This statement, coming from a coach whose court teams went through a ten-year period with but twenty reversals, should carry no little weight.

Coach Hermann will make no attempt to reduce his present squad of

twenty-two men until the return from the Christmas recess. Ed Bar-ron, freshman captain two years ago, is working hard for a guard berth. Koch, McKeown, Peck and Wolslay-er are also in the running with the first-named showing the best form.

Reinhold has attracted more than usual attention with his play at one of the forward posts. Kent is his running-mate while Jacobson, Bel-field and Davis are other forward competitors.

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