

Athletes Conferred Title of 'Dean' On Burrell as Track House Janitor

Setting—Dining room of the Old Track House in the Winter of 1924. Scene—Seated at a long table on which are the remains of a huge Christmas dinner are a dozen or more young athletes. Relaxed, with belts loosened to the last notch for additional room amid sections, they talk and laugh and discuss the 0-0 football game with Pitt of a few weeks ago. Rising from his position at the head of the table, Captain Newsh Benz of the 1921 team, waves for silence and announces a presentation to be made by Joe Bedenk. The all-American lineman and present assistant football coach, rises. Myriads of eyes stand before him. He speaks, and amid unanimous applause, addresses one of the seated group.

"I want to show our appreciation with these gifts to the best janitor of them all, to the Dean of the Track House."

Thus "Dean" Burrell, well-known stock-keeper of athletic equipment in the varsity locker room, received his famous cognomen, plus a set of fur car muff, a heavy cap, a pair of kid gloves, and ten cans of tobacco.

Few of the hundreds of rounded shoulders that crowd the group of the Old Track House, which until last semester, stood in front of the Chemistry amphitheatre. Here, in May 1923, the "Dean of the Track House" became caretaker of athletic equipment, holding that position until the present day. He is reminiscent of eleven years' intimacy with Penn State athletes—past and present.

Always pleasant, ready to take a joke and quick in returning a better one, the grey-eyed, spectacled Dean is remembered by all who know him. Athletes come athletes go, and in going, remember, the square-jawed, tanned face of "Dean" Burrell. Although his three or four years are barely noticed, the slightly rounded shoulders and the white of the grey-haired man crowd noticeably with the able-bodied group to whom he caters. He seems to have acquired the vigor and aggressiveness of "the boys" around him daily.

In a high, hard voice, with a sparkle in his eyes, "Dean" tells stories of the days "way back when." He relates how, in 1923, the boys directed a newly arrived freshman girl to the Track House as "Mae Hall," and how the young lady, after climbing to the second floor, fled on discovering the true nature of the building.

"Back in the days of the Track House "Dean" was one of the most

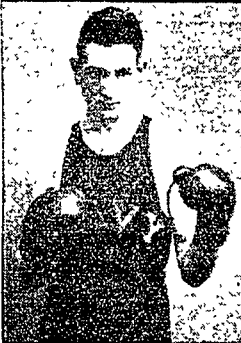
efficient janitors I ever knew." Joe Bedenk remarked when the stockroom man was mentioned. "He was so efficient, that a pair of shoes left in the middle of the floor wouldn't fear of being disturbed. He just scooted around them—saved time."

Names of such athletes as George Snell, Mike Fahn, George Green, and Harry Wilson are all familiar to the "Dean." Among "his boys" are numbered Frankie Hess, Johnny Roepke, Bas Gray, Kenny Weston and a list that extends from 1920 to the present day.

BISON TEAMS MEET ARMY

With Army on its 1931 boxing and soccer schedules, Bucknell university teams now meet West Point athletes in four sports. The Bisons also meet the cadets in basketball and baseball

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MIKE WALLACE

Syracuse, Boxing Coach Began Ring Careers Against Penn State in 1924

Syracuse and its boxing coach, Roy Simmons, began their careers in intercollegiate ring competition on the same day at Penn State seven years ago.

Although inter-collegiate tournaments had flourished at the Hill university for several years, no Orange team ever entered the squared circle against a collegiate rival until 1924. The decision to send a boxing squad against the Lions came only after members of the Syracuse wrestling team had witnessed bouts here and carried the idea of intercollegiate boxing back to New York.

Simmons, who had previously fought in intramural meets at college,

represented the Hill team in the light-heavy weight class. After three rounds of cautious fighting, "Hap" Frank, who was the first Blue and White intercollegiate champion in the 175-pound division, won a decision from the Orange boxer.

Penn State's victory in this first meet, 6-to-1, has been duplicated for six years since the debut of Syracuse in the ring, although the Orangemen have threatened several times to reverse the verdict. In 1926 Albie Wolf was forced to fight in two weights in order to conquer the Hillmen, 4-to-2.

Since their entrance in the first Eastern intercollegiate boxing tournament, the Orangemen have competed in championship bouts every year, but have secured but one individual title. Cordasco, slugging 155-pounder, was the only Syracuse titman to win a championship crown.

In addition to his boxing experience, which began when he served in the Marine corps in 1918, Coach Simmons starred at quarterback on the Syracuse eleven for two years, and captained the Hill gridmen in 1924. After his graduation, he remained at his alma mater to serve in a coaching capacity until the present time.

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