

SOCCER LINEUP TAKES SHAPE WITH SEASON ONE WEEK AWAY

Nittany Harriers Hold Fine Record

Lion Cross-Country Team Loses Only One Meet In Past Decade of Competition

By WOODROW W. BIERLY

Few students at this college or sports fans throughout the state realize the fine record that Penn State's cross-country teams have made for themselves in the past years.

During the last decade of dual competition State's harriers have acquired twenty-two victories to match against one defeat. With such a standing, the cross-country squad can claim the honor of being one of the finest athletic teams to hail from the air of the Nittany Lion.

Loses to Syracuse

In 1924 State won three dual meets and lost one. The following season they split even, losing one and taking one. It was in 1926 that it all started. The Lion harriers went to Syracuse and there, in the opening meet of the season, handed the Orange squad their first defeat in sixteen years. It was quite a surprise, and a rather hard pill for the boys from the "salt city," but that wasn't the end of it. It was only the start of a series of defeats for the Syracuse hill-and-dalers. State continued her string of victories until in 1933, she lost with a score of 35-to-20 to Syracuse, her only defeat in dual competition since 1925.

That meet stands out in State's record as her first black mark in seven years. George Harvey '35 was the first man to cross the zone, but the failure came when his teammates were unable to follow him. Five Orange men finished after Harvey before another Lion harrier followed. Harvey led Captain Bateman of Syracuse by 50 yards at the finish to win with

a time of 27 minutes and 58 seconds. Book finished in 7th place with a time of 25 minutes and 58 seconds.

Syracuse Is Stiff Opponent

The freshman team competed on that same day with the first-year men of Syracuse, but came out on the other side of the count, Downey taking first place. The following year State's varsity avenged her defeat with another 20-35 score, when Harvey and Book finished in a first place tie.

Syracuse has always been a stiff competitor in State's cross-country schedule. Pitt, another team that is always listed on the Lions' roster, usually keeps the harriers stepping. The meet last year resulted in a 27-to-28 score in favor of the Nittany cindermen.

Win IC4A Five Times

The intercollegiate record of the Lion harriers in past years might well be noted. In 1926 State won first place at the IC4A. She duplicated her record in 1927, 1928, 1929, and 1930. However, she has not been able to garner better than fifth honors since that time.

Cox's record in the intercollegiate of 1926 showed his time for running the six-mile course as thirty minutes and four seconds. The following year he took first place again with a time of thirty minutes and thirty-six and one-half seconds. The meet of 1930 also proved interesting when State's harriers completed the run in close succession. Dick Detwiler won second place and was followed by Chick Merringer in third, while Captain Paul Reekers placed fifth. King came in ninth and Bill Space, the other man to compete for State, ranked fifteenth.

Lettermen, Veterans Favored To Rate Nod From Coach Jeffrey

By JERRY WEINSTEIN

With one week remaining before the 1936 soccer season begins, Coach Bill Jeffrey has practically decided upon his starting lineup.

Every remaining letterman and most of the other holdovers from last year, have clinched first team assignments. In the few open spots on the lineup now, newcomers seem to have an inside track for the call against Bucknell next Saturday.

The forward line has lettermen in four of the five positions, and a veteran is fighting with two newcomers for the fifth place. The halfbacks are mostly first year men, and it would not be a surprise if three of them got the call. Illness has retarded one veteran half and if he gets into shape by the opening whistle, he may get the nod from Jeffrey.

Al Michaels

(This is the fifth of a series of biographical sketches on Penn State coaches.)

Two years ago Penn State football began to take an upswing, which was climaxed by a stirring game with Columbia, Rose Bowl winner that year. Until the last part of the fast quarter, the Nittany Lions held the Columbia Lions at bay, 7-to-0. In the closing minutes, the National champions pushed over two touchdowns to win, 14-to-7.

Two things kept Penn State on equal terms with Columbia. One was the dogged resistance of the Lion forward wall. What perhaps was more important were the kicks of Al Michaels, who is now assistant varsity coach to Bob Higgins. Michaels repeatedly kept Penn State out of danger with long punts over Columbia's Montgomery's head.

Michaels was varsity quarterback here for two years, doing most of the passing and kicking. He was also a member of the baseball and basketball squads. In his senior year, 1934-35, he was selected as the outstanding athlete of his class.

Last year, he enrolled as a graduate student in physical education and athletics. . . . became assistant backfield coach on the varsity. . . . is still working on his master's along with his coaching. . . .

Between The Lions

By LOUIS H. BELL

(Mr. Bell of the department of journalism is our guest columnist for today.)

Penn State has been playing football for fifty years, come this season, and in that half century thousands of Lion fans and a dozen or more coaches have worried about prospects and prayed for undefeated records.

Prayers have gone almost perennially unanswered, however, for in all those years Penn State has had only two undefeated and untied teams. One was 1912 and the other, 1937, Penn State's first year of football, when only two games were played.

Even the Penn State ripsporters of 1922 that munched through heavy snows to the Rose Bowl game were not untouched by defeat. As usual, the embarrassing little trick was turned by Pitt, 14-0.

This season, it may be appropriate for fans, with customary pre-season optimism, to wish that Penn State's half-century of football ends, as it began, with an unbeaten, untied team.

That wish might come true if Penn State harked to the custom of 1887 and played only two games.

Muhlenberg and Lehigh.

We said "might," sadly recollecting two sore bruises by little Waynesburg and the Muhlenberg incision of 1933.

Newspaper and "yearbook" experts appraise the Penn State present football situation as "definitely returning to its former high position"—if you can believe it.

What basis the experts use for this prediction, we do not profess to know. Often, one writer is obsessed with a hunch, pure and simple, and others, disdaining to be left out in the cold, join in line.

The trouble is that Penn State is not alone in its "march back to the top." Muhlenberg is up and coming. Cornell clicked Saturday. Williams looked powerful, though ragged. Syracuse is driving for the coast bid; and Penn has what Philly sports writers would call a "destiny team."

So what can the poor recuperating Lion do but go back to his sling and crutches and hope that next year, or possibly two years from now, all opposing hands will be down with double pneumonia.

Thiel Urges Frosh To Try Lacrosse

There are few collegiate sports which start from scratch for most college students. At State one of these sports is lacrosse. There are only a few high schools in the state which sponsor the sport on their athletic program.

When candidates report they all have an equal chance of making the team. Coach "Nick" Thiel, former all-American at Syracuse University, has built teams here from boys who never saw or knew the game before entering college.

During the past two seasons the lacrosse team has built itself into a strong opponent against the major teams in the east. This spring's schedule will in all probability include games against West Point, Maryland, Swarthmore, Harvard, Cornell, Pennsylvania, Lehigh, Lafayette, and Syracuse.

Coach Thiel is calling a special fall practice session for all freshmen who may be interested in the game. These candidates may report at any time during the week to the lacrosse room in Rec hall.

From now until Thanksgiving the freshmen will be taught fundamental stickwork and elementary blocking. It is planned to schedule a game against the Maryland frosh.

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Freshmen Need Offensive Drill

Coach Marty McAndrews Notes Loss of Reserve Backs; 24 at Training Table

Knowing the weak points of his squad, Coach McAndrews drilled the freshmen in offensive tactics during the week. After a lengthy lecture on Saturday's game against the varsity, the team practiced in the gymnasium on Tuesday night.

Wednesday the boys ran through their new plays. On the soggy field they were conditioned to handling a soggy ball and keeping their footing. The loss of good backfield reserve material seems to be the squad's deficiency.

From their playing in the game with the varsity it looks as if the following were a few steps ahead of the others—ends: Washbough, Yetter, Alter, and Nocera; tackles: Stravinski, Leslie, and T. Nemeth; guards: D. Nemeth, Antonucci, Pollock, Thompson, and Schwartzendruber; centers: Loye and McCue.

The quarterback prospects include: DeFranco, Valeri, and Silvestri. The halfbacks are: Rollins, Buchan, Bortz, and Ewalt, who is on the injured list. Woolridge and Jekes look good in the fullback post.

The working boys' training table for the week is composed of Alter, Antonucci, Arman, Asbee, Bortz, Buchan, Cicak, DeFranco, Hamilton, Jekes, Janesk, Love, D. Nemeth, T. Nemeth, Nocera, Pollock, Rollins, Schwartzendruber, Silvestri, Stravinski, Valeria, Tate, Toth, and Yetter.

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Soccer Socks

Torrential downpours all week brought smiles from Coach Bill Jeffrey instead of the expected frowns. . . . he says it is good practice for his booters to use a sloppy ball once in a while. . . . On the other hand, the boys went inside one day and brushed up on their technique. . . . by means of soccer volley ball. . . . which is fun to them. . . .

Dave Weddell is still out with his wrenched knee, but will be ready for the opener. . . . Bill Borda had a recurrence of his water on the knee injury and will be out for quite a time. . . .

Rain didn't stop the freshmen. . . . filled with enthusiasm, they stopped the highly touted State College high school eleven, 3 to 2. . . . Schuler Schuler was impressive for the Cubs against the Little Lions. . . . but with the exception of one other frosh, most of the others were not consistent. . . . The class of '40 was behind at one time, 2 to 0. . . . State high is supposed to have the best high school team around here. . . .

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