

«« Between The Lions »»

By BOB GRUBB

If you were to tell any Penn State student that college boxing is on the decline, you would be answered with a lusty Bronx cheer. Our Dean of Men, who contributes the Daily Half Column to the Centre Daily Times, recently devoted his pillar to the threatened decline of the sport. And for this statement he deserves no Bronx cheer. For, looking at college boxing outside of Penn State and a very few other schools, one can see that his observation is well backed up.

In spite of the fact that boxing here is just about tops among the school's fourteen varsity sports, it is definitely on the decline in more than one school and the reason that the columnist gives for the decline is that "few colleges have been able to popularize and control boxing as State has done." To our knowledge, no college has been able to popularize and control the sport as is done here, unless it be Wisconsin.

A survey of the Eastern Intercollegiate Boxing circuit, for example, would reveal that the sport is carried on in a style that does not even approach our own. Few coaches have had the professional ring experience that Leo Houck has had. Few schools are able to maintain the sport on a paying basis. And we are safe in saying that no other school is able to stage a dual meet or an intercollegiate tournament with the efficiency and style that characterizes the meets here.

Syracuse, always a leading contender, along with the Lions, for the eastern title, turns out some fine ring teams under the tutelage of Roy Simmons, who boxed in college and also in the pro ring for a short time. But, as far as we have been able to determine, it has neither the equipment and management to run a meet, nor the student support that boxing enjoys here. From Syracuse, one takes a long step downward in the field of college boxing and there are only Army and Navy to add anything to the bright side of college boxing in the east. All who witnessed the National tournament at the University of Virginia last year will agree that the boys down there have a lot to learn when it comes to a dual meet, let alone a national tournament.

While we are on the subject of boxing, we can't pass up Kyle Crichton's terrific plug for Penn

State in his piece, "Suck Brothers," which appeared in Collier's a few weeks ago. Crichton made a detailed study of the college boxing business for his article, attending the eastern tournament here last year besides looking at the picture in other schools. The lack of cheering at college meets evidently amused Crichton, for he took some time and space to describe this "strange custom" to his readers, neglecting to say, however, that there is a rule which prohibits cheering during the progress of a fight. Because he gave no definite reason for the lack of ringside hysteria, many of his readers who are ignorant of the rules may have received the impression that college boxing is a sport for sissies.

Add Geneva to the list of little colleges playing big-time basketball in the manner of Westminster during the Lavther regime there. The Western Pennsylvania eagles trounced Long Island University, a metropolitan headliner for a good many seasons. The latter school has dropped plans for a gridiron comeback this fall, continuing to devote their athletic energy to winning basketball games. . . . The Big Ten conference has its own set of rules. The only way they differ from other college rules is that the winning team takes home the ball. . . . Charlie Prosser may give Solly McHoff a run for high-scoring on the Lion five this season, having scored 19 points in league games to Solly's 28.

Max Dercum is probably saying "Snow use" by now. Two light falls of snow have given the 30 or 40 skiing enthusiasts little practice this year. . . . If and when snow comes, Dercum can rely on Bill Bramble as an assistant coach. Bramble came here from Carleton College, Iowa, this semester and has skied with the best of them in Switzerland. . . . Merchants who had looked forward to a banner year for the sale of skis and accessories have just about given up the ghost. For many are advertising "Sale of Ski Equipment."

When Tom Pontecorvo, Western Maryland ring behemoth who lost his eastern heavyweight title to Izzy Richter here last year, applied for a job on Joe Louis' training staff, he dropped a few letters from his name and is now billed as "Tom Ponte."

MATMEN MEET MIDSHIPMEN SATURDAY

Lions Leave For Academy Match Today

Ex-captain Light Joins Team for Naval Tilt Away

By FRANCIS H. SZYMCAK

With the return of Jack Light to his 145-pound berth and the reappearance of John Calvin and Bob Reynolds, the wrestling team will be considerably strengthened for the Navy meet at Annapolis on Saturday afternoon.

Prospects for a successful wrestling season at Navy are quite bright and in all probability a well-balanced team will face the Lion matmen. The Navy lost its opener to V. M. I., but defeated North Carolina State in its second engagement.

Player To Meet O'Dowd

All weight classes are being strongly contested at the Naval Academy with the exception of the heavyweight position which is filled by Herb Player. Last year, Captain O'Dowd dropped a close decision to Player and followers of the sport believe that Joe will make a strong comeback, especially after a longer training period and his quest for an initial victory.

Freddy Stegmaier, who looked quite competent in the Chicago meet, will be the Blue and White representative in the 118-pound class. He will wrestle Bob Rogers, Navy letterman of last season.

Ray Brooks seems to be the logical candidate for the 126-pound class, but the Craighead twins have been teaming up on Ray and awaiting a chance to slip in for varsity experience. Being more experienced, Ray will probably survive the eliminations to face Navy's George Abel, a beginner in varsity competition.

Zazzi Returns to 135

Bob Reynolds' knee injury has healed and he has been limbering up during the past week. Aldo Zazzi who was moved up to the 145-pound division to replace Light will be facing Reynolds in the eliminations for a chance to meet Kleins, Navy's 135-pound representative. Zazzi has proved himself a real wrestler and should outscore Reynolds who is taking part in his first year of competition.

Jack Light, eastern intercollegiate title holder of the 145-pound championship, will participate in his first meet of the season when he meets Navy's Welles. Light carried a heavy schedule the first semester and decided to wait until the second semester before he participated in athletics.

John Calvin, another of Spidel's injured grapplers, has been responding to treatment for his knee injury and depending on his weight, may take part in the Navy meet. Calvin will have the tough assignment of meeting Navy's Captain J. W. Merzmann in the 155-pound tussle.

Bachman Holds 165 Post

Joe Krupa has returned from practice teaching but finds that he has a period of training to go through before he is ably conditioned to match Don Bachman, sophomore, who has been holding down Joe's 165-pound position. Realizing that Joe needs training and conditioning, Spidel has decided to use Bachman against the Academy's W. D. Smith who has left the boxing ranks to return to wrestling.

Ross Shaffer, Lion dependable in the 175-pound division, will meet Carson of Navy. The Shaffer-Valoiz scrap during the Chicago meet went the limit as far as wrestling is concerned. Suffering a leg injury, Shaffer carried on against his highly-publicized opponent to possess a time advantage of about two minutes in winning the bout.

8 Regulars Resume Ring Work In Preparation For Pitt Meet

Boxers Idle Saturday, Face Panthers Tuesday; Remain Undefeated After Cornell Win, 6 to 2

By JERRY WEINSTEIN

Popular rumors that half of Penn State's impressive boxing team either flunked out or left school for other reasons were proven false this week when all eight varsity performers reported for practice despite registration.

After a week's layoff, Coach Leo Houck's mittmen returned to work in preparation for the Pitt meet next Tuesday in Pittsburgh. The team will be idle this week-end.

Outstanding on Coach Houck's list of things to be done are: 1. Prepare Sopcak and Tapman for the grueling meets with Pitt, Syracuse, Navy, Wisconsin, and Army which come in rapid order. 2. Get the veterans, from Goodman through to Richter, in the same shape that put them among the leaders last season. 3. Have Soose and Kociubinsky primed for heavy duty.

The undefeated Nittany boxers must expect two tough meets next week with Pitt Tuesday and Syracuse Saturday. The former will be plenty hard, and the Orange battle will undoubtedly be the greatest of the year for both teams.

Before the examinations set in, the ring team easily defeated an improved Cornell outfit, 6 to 2, at Cornell. With few exceptions, the Blue and White battlers were none too impressive in their second straight victory.

Nittany boxing fans who read reports of Richter's knockout could not understand how the Eastern intercollegiate champion could be knocked out by an inexperienced heavyweight. The answer is simple. After hitting Cornell's Siemer all over the ring for the first round, Izzy, in an attempt to slow up the fight, was caught in a clinch. The Ithacan raised his head and butted Richter over the eye, causing the fight to be stopped. One stitch fixed Izzy up and after nearly two weeks, he is ready to go again.

Tapman's knockout is another story. In Moe Goldbas, the Lion sophomore met Cornell's outstanding boxing prospect since the sport was founded there, three years ago. Goldbas had Tapman down for the count of nine early in the first round, and after a terrific ten seconds of toe-to-toe slugging, the fight was stopped when Tapman was forced to the ropes.

Alex Sopcak started the State team off to an early lead in the 115-class as he easily outpointed John Leuhi of Cornell. Soapy led through-

Cherundolo Praised By Snavelly, Cornell

Chuck Cherundolo was praised by Carl Snavelly in an interview by a COLLEGIAN reporter with the Cornell football mentor last week.

"Cherundolo," Snavelly said, "reminds me of the old-time football player. He was tough, and I know he played every minute of six games. In the old days, a football player was expected to play sixty minutes all the time."

"I can't understand the so-called experts leaving the Penn State captain off the all-American teams," Snavelly said. "In my opinion, Cherundolo was the best center in the east last year."

Snavelly praised the Penn State team for its performance against his Cornell gridlers. He said the opening game next year for both teams would determine their seasons' success.

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Only men practically sure of entering the ring Saturday are Jametro in the 135-pound class and Quailley in the 175-pound section. Houck will select his other starters from: 115 pounds, Smith and Wilson; 125 pounds, Simkow and Deibler; 145 pounds, Sandson and Hilleman; 155 pounds, Silvestri, Blair, and Koran; 165 pounds, Kolb and Alter; and 175 pounds, Clark and Handler.

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