

Lion Gridders Show Promise For Another Successful Campaign

Between The Lions

Dear Frosh—

Each year along about this time, Collegian sports editors beat out their brains (what is left of them after three years of college liveliness) in an attempt to find the unique "first column," directed at you freshmen, and dedicated to the proposition that somewhere there are people who may be molded into regular Between The Lions readers.

Such is my task at the present moment.

Rather than go into lengthy dissertations on the powerful football teams that Penn State produces, the unbeatable soccer teams it turns out, the invincible basketball aggregations which the Lions call their own, etc., I am going to adopt a new plan of attack for my blitzkrieg on the class of 1944.

I am going to tell you about myself. Then maybe you'll better understand what you read in this column in ensuing issues.

I was born and lived my first years like any normal inhabitant of the Skellar. I went through my first three years at Penn State a la Lower Division and found myself in the driver's seat of BTL at the end of my third term. Here I am.

In case any predictions which are made in this column during the year smell of fifth column, let it be understood that I HAVE PICKED THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES TO WIN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE PENNANT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS. That explains a lot.

Also, I am one of those guys who always picks the underdog, no matter how far under he is. I thought Penn State would beat

Grid Chief



Leon Gajecki, Lion captain and candidate for All-American honors, will lead the State gridgers as they attempt to go undefeated through an eight-game schedule. (For story, see column three.)

Cornell last year. That, too, will explain a lot.

In my own inimitable fashion, I draw conclusions. I look at a football and I ask myself whether it is blown up. Usually I say it is or it isn't. Seldom do I make mistakes on deciding such difficult problems.

I hope this all doesn't sound like an alibi, or sound as though I am not expecting much of myself in the future. I hope you'll find it bearable to read me from day to day. All I can say is—if someday I seem to have a journalistic hang-over—you can always turn back and read the women's news.

No matter what I say in BTL, I AM seeking one goal—a BIGGER AND BETTER PENN STATE—ATHLETICALLY. I feel Penn State deserves anything I can give her—no matter how small it may be.

Yours sincerely,
Dick Peters, Sports Editor

Lion Eleven Lacks Left End Reserve

With the wealth of good material on hand after its most successful gridiron campaign since 1919, Penn State's 1940 football edition is already being groomed as one of the East's powerhouse elevens.

The entire forward wall with the exception of Captain Spike Alter is back and it will take a Nazi blitzkrieg to dislodge Tom Vargo, Frank Platt, Wade Mori, Captain Leon Gajecki, Mike Garbinski, and Carl Stravinski. The only doubtful starter in that line is Garbinski who shared the right guard chores with Ted Nemeth last year. Jim Woodward, probably the most improved player on the squad, is pushing Mike hard and might get the nod.

The open left end spot is causing the coaching staff considerable worry. Lloyd Parsons, a rugged 195 pound senior, is the leading candidate at present. Another promising end is sophomore Bob Davis who makes up in crashing and daring playing what he lacks in weight.

No less than five lettermen tackles are back on hand. Walt Kniaz and massive Len Frketch, who at 300 pounds lays claim to being the heaviest college football player in the country, will be ready when Platt and travinski need rest. The fifth tackle is Ben Pollock, a senior, who specializes in kicking extra points.

At center will be "Gates" Gajecki, captain and State's outstanding candidate for national recognition. Chosen on the All-Pennsylvania team in 1939, Gajecki needs only backing by metropolitan papers to take his place as one of the standout football performers in college ranks.

A veteran backfield, barring

injuries, will take the field against the Bisons. Performing the double duty of calling the signals and blocking will be Johnny Patrick, another sixty-minute player. This year he will be given ample support by Paul Weaver, a promising sophomore.

Chuck Peters and Pepper Petrella will hold down the all important left halfback or tailback position. Peters, a dangerous and shifty runner will see the most action with Petrella, the flashy 145-pounder of Penn fame last year, used to run the enemy ragged during scoring threats.

Bill Smaltz, a junior handicapped by injuries last year, who did not find himself until the Pitt game, and Ralph Ventresco, the outstanding sophomore on the squad, will battle it out for the fullback starting post.

In the right halfback spot—Coach Higgins has two veteran players, Craig White, a fixture in the Lion backfield for the past two seasons and Len Krouse, another letterman and fine pass receiver.

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'44 X-Country Drills Await Registration; Two Dual Meets Slated

Freshman cross-country, like practically all frosh sports, is still pretty much up in the air—and will be at least until after registration.

With dual races scheduled with Syracuse and Cornell, the '44 distance men will barely have time to warm up for the IC4-A's in New York early in November.

Coach Chick Werner expects to call freshmen as soon as enrollment is complete. Not until then will he have any definite picture of what this year's team will be worth.

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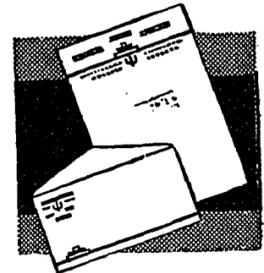


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