

Between The Lions

WITH DICK PETERS

A Matter Of Rank

Once a week, it's a good thing to take out your imagination and give it a little walk, just to keep it in good shape and running order. Today, I take my perambulating perusal of the Penn State football team's position among the undefeated elevens in the East.

Most recent polls and rating systems are showing the Lions up week by week, until only three or four teams in the East are now on a par or above the Nittany crew; these are Cornell, Boston College, Georgetown, Penn, and Lafayette.

Eliminating Cornell and Penn, the former because we really don't think the State lads are superior to the Big Red, and Penn, because the Quakers have already been trounced, there remains only Georgetown, Boston College, and Lafayette to vie for Eastern honors with the Lions.

Two of them, Frank Leahy's Bostonites, and the Hoyas, are weekly given higher mention than the Higginsmen... ours to wonder why.

The only comparative game score is against Temple which all three, the Hoyas, Boston C. and State, have taken. The Lions won easiest, by three touchdowns. Georgetown beat the Owls by two tallies, and Boston College won 33-20. But, everyone will tell you that comparative scores don't mean a darn thing.

So then, we thought maybe it was the schedules which Georgetown and Boston College tackled that gave them higher ranking than the Lions.

We found that Georgetown has made its history this fall by smashing in succession Roanoke, Temple, Waynesburg, V.P.I., NYU, and Syracuse. Any more a major slate than Penn State's?

Boston College got its backing because Centre, Tulane, Temple, Idaho, St. Anselm, and Manhattan couldn't stop them. Outside of Tulane and Temple, name another football eleven on that lineup.

In case you've forgotten, the Lions have trounced Bucknell, West Virginia, Lehigh, Temple, and South Carolina. We still say that slate is as tough, or more so, than the ones which have gained Georgetown and Boston College the Eastern laurels. But of course, we're just imagining, it couldn't be true.

Kelly Selected

The honor of wearing the lion skin at football games for the remainder of this season and next year has been awarded to Tom Kelly, Beta Theta Pi, it was announced last night.

Syracuse Offers Serious Threat

Orange Hard To Beat In Archbold Stadium

Ordinarily a college football team has one or two crucial games a season, but the Nittany Lions approach each game this year with their undefeated and untied record at stake. With each opponent primed to shoot the works, State faces a crisis every Saturday and the approaching game with Syracuse is no exception.

When the Lion gridders invade the Orangemen's lair in quest of their sixth straight victory, they will be meeting a team that has always been a tough nut for them to crack in Syracuse. State has defeated the Orange only twice in Archbold Stadium in the 18 games played between the two elevens since 1922.

Though defeated three times during its current campaign, Syracuse has met some of the top-notch teams in the country. Blowing hot and cold on alternate Saturdays, Ossie Solems' charges have dropped decisions to Cornell, Northwestern, and Georgetown while garnering wins over Clarkson, New York University and Columbia. If they hold true to form, they should be hot for the State game.

The Lions will complete their home preparation this afternoon and leave for Syracuse tomorrow morning. A big send-off is being planned for the team by campus leaders.

The bitter cold weather handicapped the squad yesterday as Coach Bob Higgins dispensed with contact work for the third straight day. Higgins dressed the third stringers in orange jerseys with numbers corresponding to Syracuse key men and put the varsity on defense. Patricular stress was laid once more on protection against the opponent's aerial attack.

Billy Smith Nears End Of Brilliant Running Career

For four years, between halves of football games, New Beaver Field spectators saw a small, thin runner, looking like a high school youngster, suddenly appear on the track, methodically circle the field, then breast the tape before the next cross-country opponent came into sight.

Now, Captain Bill Smith's last harrier race on Penn State sod is run. But in the memory of Penn State's students, Bill Smith will never stop running; for in their minds, the little Nittany captain is already a tradition.

As the cheers rolling out across the gridiron made his knees lift higher and carried him down the stretch to the tape after his five-mile grind, it increased Smith's quiet, steady determination to win for Penn State.

After the scores of many football games fade into a dim past and the thrilling runs of a gridiron hero have been forgotten, a picture of a lone runner, appearing from nowhere as a "Here comes Billy Smith" shout rends the air, will be remembered.

Lion Hill-and-Daiers Drill For Pitt's Steep Course

In a special practice session yesterday at the Centre County Country Club, where the knolls are shorter and steeper, Coach Chick Werner's harriers ran through one of their toughest workouts this year.

Since Schenley Park at Pittsburgh is one of the hardest courses in the nation because of its sharp grades, Werner sent his runners through a rigid drill for the Pitt cross-country dual meet Saturday. Archy Hyson, Chet Snyder, Pop Thiel, and Captain Bill Smith looked in excellent shape in yesterday's hard run.

Al Bourgerie will not make the Pitt trip because Werner is planning to use him in the IC-4A's which take place November 17.

Bill Jeffrey's Experience Accounts For Success Of Nittany Soccer Team

If the Lion booters win their next three games they will wind up their season undefeated and will have achieved the almost unbelievable record of having gone through eight successive years without losing a game. They have played a total of 58 contests, meeting some of the foremost soccer elevens in the country.

Those who do follow the team know that the real reason for the amazing success of the soccer Lions is Bill Jeffrey and his system of coaching.

"Genial" Bill was born at Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1890. At 14, Bill led his grammar school team to the city championship. For six years after his schooling, he worked as an apprentice at a famous firm of marine engine builders, playing soccer on the company team.

A knee injury in 1912 forced him to quit the game and Bill came to the United States "to forget about soccer." He settled in Altoona, a toolmaker in a railroad shop.

Unable to overcome his love for the sport, he organized a shop team, handling the coaching and managerial duties himself. In 1929 Hugo Bezdek called him to State to assume the duties of head soccer coach. The rest is legend.

Junior Varsity Gridders Aim For Victory Over Pitt

Blocking practice and dummy scrimmage composed most of yesterday's workout for Danny DeMarino's Jayvee gridders as they prepared for Saturday's game with Pitt.

Although four players were injured in the Navy game last week, they should be ready for action by Saturday. Sam Gaels, Jim Hall, and Sam Kopach, all out with shoulder injuries, are back with the squad.

"Danny's Demons" will be handicapped by the loss of Galen Bally, Dave Shrom, and Len Gramly who were drafted for service with the varsity squad for use against Syracuse this week.

The fact that the Pitt game is their last for this year and will be played on home ground should help the junior varsity Lions no little. After losing to Cornell and Navy in very close battles, the team will be on the rebound against Pitt.

A victory over the Panthers, who downed Navy 7-6, would even up the season for the Demons. A tougher, six game schedule looms on the horizon for next year.

Watts Hall Commences Grid Postcard Campaign

"Watch Penn State's football team, with Gajecki, Mori, Petrella, and Vargo at the helm!"

These words were written on a postcard and sent to Grantland Rice, sports writer, yesterday by Watts Hall as the first postcard campaign got under way to give impetus to Penn State's football team in the national rankings.

"Taking the Daily Collegian's advice, Watts Hall has decided to send a postcard to Rice each day until the end of the football season, telling him about our team," Paul Moyer '41, president of the hall, said.

"We hope that other organizations on campus will help in this campaign by sending postcards to other sports writers," Moyer continued.

Yale University has awarded one-year fellowships for street traffic research to 19 men outstanding for work in traffic safety.

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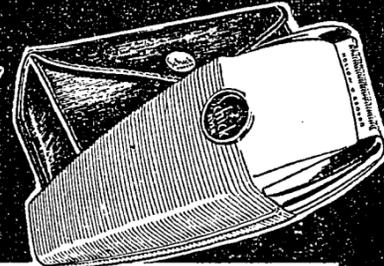


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