

Len Krouse Elected Captain Of 1941 Lion Football Team

Between The Lions

WITH DICK PETERS

Wednesday's rub-drub-drubbing which the Lion hardwood experts handed Bucknell's Bisons may be a good indication that Penn State is headed for one of its most successful seasons . . . A team built largely on a sophomore foundation, which can so completely dominate a game as was done at Lewisburg Wednesday night, can only be painted a sparkling future . . . All of which is just one more tribute to Long John Lawther, coach of the Lions . . . Lawther has given Nittany cage fans a type of basketball they have had to develop an appetite for in his four seasons here . . . And State fans are slowly beginning to see the light and appreciate the slow, deliberate attack of the Lawthermen, the effective sliding zone defense, both of which reached an all-time height of perfection against the Bisons . . . The probable reason for growing support of the "Lawther system" is the fact that it is producing results hitherto unknown to Nittany basketball outfits . . . In the four seasons the present Lion mentor has been tutoring local cagers, he has won more games than all the teams could gather during the seven campaigns before he came here . . . From 1929 to 1936 Penn State basketballers knocked down 43 wins, and since Lawther made his debut in 1936, they have won 53 court battles . . . In the 1929-30 season, the score sheet showed 5 wins in 14 attempts . . . In 1930-31, it was 3 out of 15; in 1931-32, 6 of 15; in 1932-33, 7 of 11; in 1933-34, 8 of 12; in 1934-35, 8 of 17; in 1935-36, 6 of 17 . . . Then came Lawther and the New Regime . . . In his first season, 1936-37, his charges took 11 victories in 17 games . . . In 1937-38, it was 13 of 18; in 1938-39, 13 of 23; and last year, 16 of 23 .

Lawther Expects Tough Battle

In the opinion of Coach John Lawther the Colgate-State basketball tilt in Rec Hall Saturday night won't be any pushover in spite of the Lions' good showing as they ran up a lop-sided 55-21 score on Bucknell.

Lawther pointed out that, although the 1939 Nittany court aggregation subdued the Red Raiders by a 43-25 count, Colgate popped up later in the season and trounced by 10 points the same Syracuse team which had defeated the Lions, 34-29.

"Even John Galloway, the Colgate coach, admits he has a good team," Lawther added. "That's going some and makes me think we'll have a fight on our hands."

The biggest weakness in the team, according to Lawther, is the lack of dependable substitutes. Bob Ramin is not living up to expectations and John Linde, the other sophomore sub who has seen action in the two contests played to date, is "not ready" defensively, Lawther said.

Elmer Gross showed a great deal of improvement in the Bucknell game; especially in his shooting, Lawther said, while Captain Johnny Barr is rounding into form but "he'll have to play still better ball in order to be as good as he was last year."

Scotty Moffatt is not yet in top condition and unable to play a full 40 minutes but Lawther expects him to get into shape before the season swings into full stride after Christmas vacation.

Gridders 48th In 5 Years

Nittany Lion football teams have piled up a .611 winning percentage for games played during the last five years. Ranking forty-eighth in the country, State gridgers have a record of 22 wins, 14 losses and four ties.

Bonham Honorary Freshman Leader

Len Krouse, ace Lion wingback and 1940 high scorer, was elected to captain the 1941 Nittany football team last night at the annual football banquet held at the Nittany Lion Inn.

Krouse, who will take the place of Leon Gajecki as Lion leader, will be remembered chiefly by Penn State fans for his brilliant pass receiving this past season, a department in which he was second in the nation.

Also announced at the banquet was the election of Jim Bonham as honorary freshman captain for the past campaign. Bonham starred at guard for the Nittany frosh.

Krouse becomes the first backfield man to lead a State team since 1937 when Sammy Donato was co-leader with Johnny Economos. The new Lion captain was introduced fittingly by retiring Captain Gajecki.

The banquet was highlighted with speeches by Shorty Miller, ex-Lion grid star and now a nationally-known football official; President Ralph D. Hetzel; and Head Coach Bob Higgins. Casey Jones, prominent Penn State alumnus, acted as toastmaster.

Other speakers were Dean Carl P. Schott of the School of Physical Education and Athletics, and Dutch Hermann.

IM Semi-finals Will End Today

The semi-final round of the Intramural Boxing Championships will be concluded in Rec Hall at 4 p. m. today. Sixteen fighters came through the quarter-final and first semi-final bouts yesterday with 13 decisions, one TKO, and two forfeits.

Chuck Ridenour, Phi Delt wrestler, scored his second TKO in the series by stopping Jack McCloskey, Theta Kappa Phi, with a whirlwind of lefts and rights in the second round.

The summaries:

Fraternity Division

127-pound class: Chuck Ridenour, Phi Delt, TKOed Jack McCloskey, Theta Kappa Phi.

125-pound: Bill Scheabacker, Phi Kappa Sig, won by forfeit from Herb Jennings, SAE; Mort Blaustein, Gamma Sig, decisioned Chuck Beatty, Phi Kappa Tau.

145-pound class: Leo Russell, KDR, decisioned Al Taylor, Sigma Nu; Frank Horpel, KDR, decisioned Tony Decillis, Alpha Phi Delt; Chuck Flock, TKE, decisioned Howard Merrill, AZ.

155-pound: Max Peters, Alpha Chi Sig, decisioned Ed McGinley, Theta Kappa Phi; Irv Jontow, Phi Sigma Delta, decisioned Pat Conlin, Theta Kappa Phi; Joe McCormick, KDR, decisioned Jim Henry, Phi Delt.

165-pound: George Howard, Delta Chi, decisioned Ray Fox, Theta Kappa Phi; Carl Zeigler, Sigma Pi, decisioned John Grey, AZ.

175-pound: Dick Carlton, AZ, decisioned Jack Griel, Kappa Sig. Unlimited: Nick Ranieri, Alpha Phi Delt, decisioned George Purnell, Phi Gam.

Independent Division

145-pound: Jack Krauss decisioned Paul Moyer.

155-pound: Bob Burak won from John Blotzer by forfeit.

Today's semi-finalists:

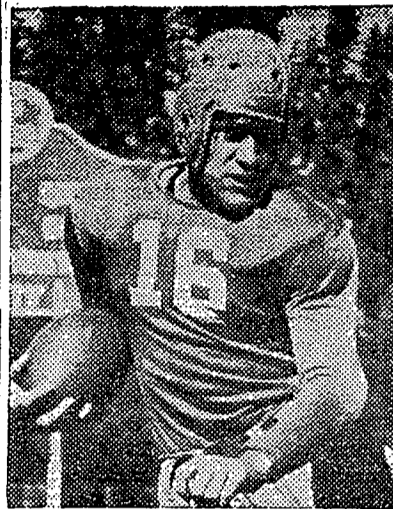
Fraternity Division

120-pound: Bill Knaufl, Sigma Pi, vs. Tom Walsh, Phi Kappa; 127-pound: Chuck Chalfant, Sigma Nu, vs. Chuck Smith, KDR; 135-pound: Leo Konigstein, Beta Sig, vs. Bill Scheabacker, Phi Kappa Sig; 145-pound: Bill Charles, KDR, vs. Leo Russell, KDR.

155-pound: Bob Sullivan, Theta Kappa Phi, vs. Irv Jontow; Phi Sigma Delta; Joe McCormick, KDR.

(Continued on Page Four)

1941 Grid Leader



H. Leonard Krouse '42, above, was named to succeed Leon "Gates" Gajecki as captain of the Penn State football team. The selection of Krouse was made public at the football banquet last night.

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